

Father Tubbs writes

Observance of what everyone except the Church calls Harvest Festival (the Church calls it Harvest Thanksgiving, reserving the word Festival for the events of our redemption) has changed so much in the last fifty years, like so many other things that involve the Church. Then our church buildings were packed to the doors for this occasion, and people who only came a few times a year – Christmass, Easter and possibly Whitsun – turned out for Harvest Festival. John Betjeman in his famous poem The Diary of a Church Mouse satirises such people:

But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.

However, the memory is still there for many people, so we use our Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday as an opportunity to invite members of our community to join us for what might well be a nostalgic outing. We invite our Member of Parliament, the Mayor, the Chairman of the Council, our local councillors and the officers of the various local organisations and agencies, to enable them to join with us in thanking God for his goodness to us, and the head teachers of our local schools to give us an opportunity to pay tribute to the work which those people do for our local community.

So when they come to that service, they will know most if not all of the hymns; they will see the church decorated in the way they were used to; they will see the gifts which will be offered by a local school and by members of our congregation, and they will know that we are doing our bit for the community as we distribute these gifts in the parish during the next few days. Coming just a week after Back to Church Sunday we hope it will encourage those who returned on 30 September to come again on 7 October.

We can also use our Harvest Supper on Friday 5 October to invite people who don't usually attend church to come and share a very pleasant evening with us with no string attached. This year it will take place in the Parish Church Hall.

Then on a very different matter – or is it? Each year the General Synod debates clergy pay; each year it decides what it shall be; and each year that debate and the figure appears in most newspapers. So you all know how much I earn – or, as the Church prefers to call it a stipend, you all know what the Church gives me to enable me not to have to work at another job! (I know that's a bit convoluted! But I'm not paid a wage or a salary; I receive a stipend.)

So if you follow the news, you will know that my stipend was increased this year. That's good news for me, though of course it's not such good news for you! Because my stipend comes from the Common Fund, which is the amount we are asked to pay to the Diocese each year – and which we have always paid in full, though I doubt that we shall be able to do so this year.

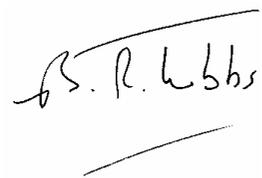
I hope that others of you have also received an increase in your income this year. If you are on a basic pension the amount of the increase is not likely to be very much – sometimes it seems that it is only a matter of pence. Some of you may be receiving less income this year.

All this is why we need to have a Stewardship Campaign each year. I need to increase my giving, because my income has increased. You may need to decrease your giving if your income has decreased. If you are a new member of our congregation we need to invite you to become a regular member of our stewardship, either by taking envelopes or by direct debit; and we need to give you all the opportunity once again to gift aid your donation so that for every £1 you give we receive an extra 28p. That doesn't sound a lot, but on £5 that's £1.40. Last year we claimed £9628 back from the Inland Revenue.

So please be ready on 14 October to complete your stewardship form and increase or decrease or maintain the same amount, depending on your income.

And no, it's not a very different subject! It's about saying thank you to God for all the good things he has given to us over the past year.

Yours sincerely



FRIENDS OF PAIGNTON PARISH CHURCH

The Friends exist in order to raise money for the care of our Parish Church, beautiful but expensive to maintain.

Not a lot has happened recently. Ray Yates reluctantly took over as Chairman, and Terry Pearson just as reluctantly took over as Secretary! We haven't had an AGM for a long time, so we have fixed one for Tuesday 23 October in the Gallery at 7.30pm.

It would be good to find a Chairman who has the time and willingness to move the Friends on. It needs someone with imagination, to suggest ways in which we might heighten the profile of the Friends, persuade more people to join, especially local businesses, and arrange some fund-raising events during the year.

If you would like to know more, please contact me.

BRT

HOW WOULD YOU FANCY WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL?

This is an advance notice! Next May we are hoping to take a party on a Pilgrimage to Cyprus to follow in the footsteps of St Paul.

I haven't finalised the details with the tour company yet, but the provisional dates are 12-19 May 2008. We shall fly from Bristol – I tried to get a flight from Exeter but apparently "they don't do group bookings"!

If you are interested in receiving more information please let me know when I return from holiday in October, and I will make sure you have the details as soon as possible.

Gwyneth Tubbs

And even more advance notice! In 2010 the Oberammergau Passion Play takes place. In 1634 the plague was sweeping across Europe, and the citizens of the Bavarian village of Oberammergau made a vow, that they would perform a passion play every ten years. Apart from the war years, that has happened ever since.

I hope to lead a party to see the play – and have a few days holiday – some time in 2010. More details next month!

BRT

Harvest Supper

This year our Parish Harvest Supper will be held in the Parish Church Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 5th of October.

There will be a choice of Ham, Cheese or Quiche Ploughmans with apple pie and a glass of cider. Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children under 10 years of age. Please see Ray Sellers for tickets.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving and Community Service

Our Harvest Thanksgiving and Community Service will be on Sunday 7th of October at the Parish Church. This will be a Combined Service at 10.30am. Celebrant and preacher: Bishop Andrew Burnham, Bishop of Ebbsfleet. Our Sunday School and Route 11 children will also be combining, presenting their gifts and then going to the Gallery.

The Flower Guild would be most grateful for any gifts of flowers, or donations of money to purchase flowers, to help decorate the church for our Harvest Celebrations. Please see Edna Field. Thank you.

CLUB 2000

Dates for your diary -

Thursday October 4th - An Autumn canal cruise from Tiverton for 2 hours (bring a packed lunch/drinks on barge) on to The Bickley Mill Shopping Centre. Price £13 each inclusive. Pick up Church Street 9.15am/Train Station 9.30am.

Tuesday 20th November - On request a return visit to Babbacombe Theatre for the New Christmas Laughter Show. Price £13.50. Pick up Church Street 7.15pm/Train Station 7.30pm.

Saturday 15th December - Carol Service at Buckfast Abbey. Pick up Church Street 10.15am/Train Station 10.30am. Seating reserved for lunch (choice is yours). Price £7.00 each.

Sheets for names will be in the Church Hall.

Bingo will continue in 2008 on the second Friday of the month - until further notice.

For more details of the above events please telephone Cynthia on 526463.

Sounds from the Belfry

Firstly thanks to all who accompanied the bell ringers on their Bank Holiday trip to Cornwall. The weather was marvellous.

You will find in general that the tower is usually the oldest part of any medieval church and ours is no different. It was built in three stages. As its history is long and varied I will give it over two or three editions.

The first and earliest section stops just under the belfry window. You will notice the stonework is far superior to the other two sections. This section was separate from the main church and was known as "Chapel of the Lady of the Bell House". We know that the tower was there by a will dated 1297 stating that monies were to be left to the altar of St Ruan in the bell tower. So the indication is that it was dedicated to St Ruan. We also know that it housed the ecclesiastical court and the most prominent person being prosecuted was Sir Henry Pomeroy in 1265 who was sentenced to "Greater Excommunication" for trespass and hunting in the Bishop's Deer Park. This was later rescinded.

To access the tower, the stairs are built within the wall hence there are no turrets on the outside. This was a very early idea and practised by the Saxons. A further indication that the tower is early is that the stairs have a left hand spiral whilst ascending, being yet another Saxon tradition. One interesting feature is that all the window casings are different all the way

up the tower starting with the lowest being very “Early English”. The ones in the upper section have Gothic influence thus passing through all the stages of “Early English” architecture and obviously following the stages of construction.

The first report of bells being installed is in 1285 when Bishop Quivill appointed Roger de Ropeford as Campanistarius (bell founder) and he was to be provided with land, a house, tools and vitals whilst employed by the church. The family seem to have been actively engaged in bell founding well into the 14th century providing bells to the surrounding area.

This completes stage one and as you can see there is a lot of history locked into the stones of the church.

The Bat from the Belfry

PAIGNTON PARISH LADIES' GROUP

The Parish Ladies have been deeply saddened by the death of our faithful member, Beth Davidson. Beth had been a member of the group for many, many years, always willing to help, to advise and to be a friend. Even when she moved to Plymouth Beth continued her membership and her enthusiasm for the group. May there be many more like you Beth. We shall miss you.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Roger and to Beth's and Roger's families.

On being told that our visit to Jeff Attwood's budgerigar aviary was impossible because of the floods on Monday 20th of August, we went anyway and enjoyed seeing the variety and colour of his budgerigars. We also realised how important Jeff Attwood is in the world of breeding and judging these beautiful birds. We learned a great deal, and we appreciated the time for discussion and questions. Also we were made to feel most

welcome with a cup of tea, and a dismal day suddenly became much brighter. Thank you, Jeff.

At our October 29th meeting there will be a talk about Shelter Box by Maggie Harwood in preparation for our coffee morning on Friday 30th of November in aid of this charity. Please come to both these notable events.

It is now the time to bring you gifts for our stall at the Christmass Bonanza on the 17th of November. Anything new that can be given as a gift will be most welcome. Please leave gifts at the back of the church in a box marked Parish Ladies (Wives). We shall be most grateful and we hope to surpass last year's total when we sell these gifts in aid of church funds.

Thank you.

Audrey Smith

The Arthur Day Column

“It is wonderful to think that for nearly 100 years the people of Paignton assembled for worship in imminent danger of their lives”.... So wrote a former vicar of Paignton, Revd Arthur Linzee-Giles, in the first guide book to our Parish Church, published in 1911.

The reason for this surprising statement is that, at some time, perhaps 100 years ago, the chancel arch developed a split. To remedy this, two baulks of timber were placed, one on each side of the church, possibly between a pillar and the wall. Had this not been done, it is possible that the building would have collapsed. Around about 1870 a fresh chancel arch was erected.

But what caused the split? The fact that the pillars in the nave were not bolt upright, those in the south aisle were leaning southward while those in the north aisle leant northward.

The reason for this? It was possibly a piece of symbolism. It was an attempt to make the nave resemble the bows of a ship, the meaning being that the Christian Church is the “Ark of Safety” amidst the storms of life. According to a dictionary which I consulted the word “nave” comes from “navis”, the Latin word for a ship, no explanation being given as to why a part of a church building should be named after a ship.

It is an illustration which crops up a few times in the New Testament. The Epistle to the Hebrews, referring to the Genesis story of the Flood, states “By faith Noah prepared an ark for the saving of his household” (Hebrews 11.7), while St Peter speaks of the ark “in which a few, that is eight souls were saved” (1 Peter 3.20).

Similar illustrations occur in some of our best known hymns. Innumerable brides have processed up the church aisles to the accompaniment of “Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us, o’er the world’s tempestuous sea”. “Lord of our Life” contains a veiled reference to the Flood narrative, its second verse begins “See round thine ark the hungry billows curling”. And Charles Wesley, in one of his best-known hymns, “Jesus, lover of my soul” prays to be hidden “till the storm of life is past”.

Whether any of us feel that 21st century life is a stormy business is doubtful we are fortunate in living in an age when we have a reasonable amount of financial security that our great-grandparents a century ago would have envied. But the ship-like structure of our nave is meant to teach us that in our Christian faith we have a security not dependent upon external circumstances. Many features of our church building have a teaching value for those of us willing to observe them.

Recalling hymns which refer to storms has reminded me of a humorous incident which took place in my army days in the Second World War. I was stationed in a village a very long way from here, and which for obvious reasons I won’t name, and during my time there I was in the church choir. The Vicar, a somewhat eccentric character, always conducted choir practice. On one occasion we were practising the hymns for a

lady member of the choir who was getting married. Suddenly the Vicar came out with “If I had my wedding over again, I would have had ‘Fierce raged the tempest o’er the deep”.

Arthur R Day

CHRISTMASS BONANZA GRAND DRAW

Yes, Christmass is coming, or at least the Christmass Bonanza is, on Saturday, 17th of November. Before then I shall be asking you to sell (or buy) raffle tickets as usual. Last year raised the excellent profit of £861.00, so hopefully when you receive two books of tickets shortly you will pull a face but still sell them for me and the Church.

Offers of Christmassy prizes will also be welcome, things like chocolates, biscuits, bottles and the like.

With many thanks.

Ray Yates

Pudding Feast

What a wonderful spread! 20 different delicious, mouth watering desserts to choose from - an almost impossible task. Thank you very much to Sheila Sharp for making them all and her team for serving them.

About 50 people attended and all went away very fortified (and a few pounds heavier!). Thank you also to Ray and Jenny for serving the drinks, those who helped to clear up and all who came. A most enjoyable occasion.

Mavis Hawkins

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2007

2	Tue	7.00pm 8.00pm	Planning Committee: Gallery Baptism Preparation: Gallery
3	Wed	10.00am 7.30pm	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Parish Church Committee
4	Thu	7.00pm	S Boniface Committee
5	Fri	7.30pm	Harvest Supper: Parish Church Hall
7	Sun	10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm 8.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving & Community Service: Parish Church Sunday School & Route 11: in church Harvest Evensong & Benediction S Andrew's@8
9	Tue	7.30pm	CTIP Business Meeting
11	Thu	7.30pm 8.00pm	Organ Recital: Parish Church Evening Mothers' Union
14	Sun	6.00pm 8.00pm	Evening Worship: S Boniface S Andrew's@8
15	Mon	2.30pm	Hall Committee
17	Wed	7.30pm	Parochial Church Council Meeting
18	Thu	9.00am 7.30pm	Magazine articles to Vicarage please Sung Mass at S Luke's Milber
21	Sun	6.00pm 8.00pm	Wholeness & Healing: Parish Church S Andrew's@8
23	Tue	7.30pm	Friends of Paignton Parish Church AGM
26	Fri	7.30pm	Wine & Wisdom: Parish Church Hall
28	Sun	2.30pm 6.00pm 8.00pm	Holy Baptism: Parish Church Evensong & Benediction: S Andrew's S Andrew's@8

1	Mon	S Teresa of Lisieux	All study groups
2	Tue	Holy Guardian Angels	TAP into Faith
3	Wed	Feria	Parish Church Committee
4	Thu	S Francis	All Franciscans
5	Fri	Feria	Our Harvest Weekend
6	Sat	Of Our Lady	The People of S Andrew's
7	Sun	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	Thankful hearts
8	Mon	Feria	Federation of Catholic Priests
9	Tue	S Denys & Comps MM	The Church in France
10	Wed	S Paulinus B	The Archbishop of York
11	Thu	Feria	Our Evening Mothers' Union
12	Fri	S Wilfrid B	All missionaries
13	Sat	S Edward KC	Our Queen
14	Sun	TRINITY 19	Our Stewardship Campaign
15	Mon	S Teresa of Avila D	The Deanery Clergy
16	Tue	Feria	Our Church Wardens
17	Wed	S Ignatius BM	Our Parochial Church Council
18	Thu	S Luke Ev	The Medical Profession
19	Fri	Feria	The Church in Arab countries
20	Sat	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
21	Sun	TRINITY 20	Our Parish
22	Mon	Feria	The Faithful Departed
23	Tue	Feria	Friends of Paignton PC
24	Wed	Feria	An end to terrorism
25	Thu	SS Crispin & Crispinian	Orthopaedic surgeons
26	Fri	SS Chad & Cedd BB	All monks and nuns
27	Sat	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
28	Sun	LAST AFTER TRINITY	Those to be baptised
29	Mon	Feria	Our Schools
30	Tue	Feria	Paignton Hospital
31	Wed	Feria	The Sick

INTERCESSIONS FOR OCTOBER 2007