

Fr Tubbs writes .....

There are very few people living in England who have never heard of Sunday Schools. At the turn of the century numbers attending Sunday Schools – usually on a Sunday afternoon – were enormous; five and six hundred in some urban parishes. In 1951 this parish still had a Sunday School of three hundred children, though after the Second World War things began to change. More and more other attractions began to open; more and more families had a car, so Sunday



lunch still being popular with most families, an afternoon trip to the beach or to some other

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amusement place meant that churches moved their Sunday Schools to the morning. This was not altogether a bad thing, as the complete divorce of Sunday School from church meant that children often stopped going to Sunday School yet didn't transfer to church. The new pattern meant that more and more churches began to do what is so common now: have a Sunday School that met at the same time as the main Sunday morning service, with the children and their teachers coming into the service for the final part. Though this now meant that Sunday School

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teachers who had attended the morning service, made their communion if it was that kind of church, and heard the sermon before taking Sunday School in the afternoon now attended only half or even a quarter of the service and rarely heard the sermon, at least the children were made aware that adults did go to church, and that Sunday School was a preliminary to worship on Sunday in church.

In fact two things happened. First of all, fewer and fewer children attended Sunday School. Things now happened on a Sunday morning – all kinds of sports, school activities – which gave children so many other options. Secondly, education of Christians in the faith virtually ended with leaving Sunday School – and whereas that had happened in the mid-teens, it was now happening much earlier. Adult education now consisted of a ten-minute sermon on a

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Sunday morning (someone commented 'Sermonettes make Christianettes!') and a twenty-minute sermon on a Sunday evening – but after the Forsythe Saga Evensong itself disappeared from many churches. So it was ten minutes a week, and if you went less than every Sunday, which more people began to do, you can see the result.

It is not surprising that so many adult Christians confess to having a pretty basic understanding of their faith. In Lent courses, discussion groups, house groups, confirmation groups, people admit again and again how little they know – yet at the same time they are usually very interested and so often seem to want more. So why doesn't the Church provide it?

There are all kinds of reasons, of course. The shortage of clergy; constraints of time, both on clergy and people. However, it remains true that you can take



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a horse to water, but you can't make it drink! House groups, Lent courses, teaching weeks – yet so many people can't find the time, for good reasons or bad, to make the effort to be there.

In America, so I am told, it is much more usual for churches to run Sunday Schools not only for children but also for adults. Someone commented that everyone knows the expressions 'high church' and 'low church' (though very few people actually know what they mean!), whereas America has 'long church'! You go to church not for an hour on Sunday morning, but for three hours. Worship, teaching, fellowship – not necessarily in that order – are provided by churches of all denominations, and as about fifty per cent of the population go to church every Sunday in America, Sunday Schools for adults are not only very common, but very well attended.

I don't know what the chances of doing such a thing in this

country are. I don't know any churches who do so at present, though evangelical churches often provide more teaching than catholic ones – especially those churches where the sermon lasts 40 to 50 minutes (though I'm not myself convinced that this is the best way to teach the Christian faith to adults, so you can heave a sigh of relief!).

We hope to follow up the TAP into Faith teaching week with something for young(er) people in February, and there

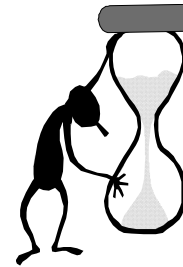


will be a Lent course as usual.

Let me know what you think

about 'long church'!

Yours sincerely



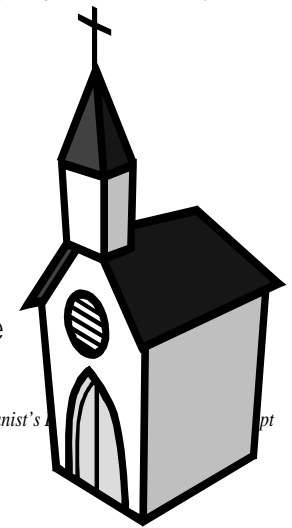
FR BOB



It is an enormous pleasure to me, and to the people of S Boniface, that Fr Bob and his wife Brigid have moved into their house in Dartmouth Road, and that Fr Bob has been licensed as associate priest in the parish. The people of S

Boniface have worked so hard, led by their acting wardens Ann Jackson and Mavis Greet, to keep things going, and we really do thank them very much indeed. Fr Bob will find a small core of very loyal people.

Now he has the task of building up the congregation. This he will do, as the Bishop reminded us at his licensing, not on his own but in cooperation with those same people who have the welfare of S Boniface so much at heart. He will also be very much involved in the project which



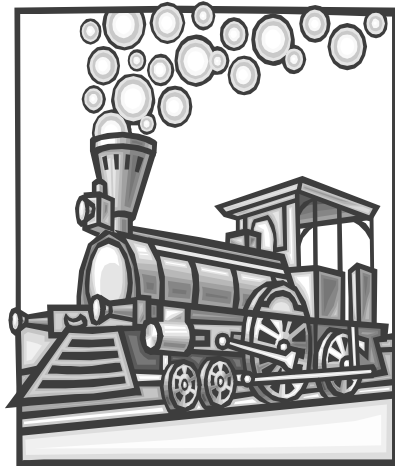
is going to provide a new house and a new church on the S Boniface site, plus other houses which will pay for the project. It is for this reason that for the foreseeable future Fr Bob will be living in S Andrew's House in Dartmouth Road. This is a pity, because any priest would want to live as close to the church and community as possible, but we very much hope it will be a temporary measure – though we are talking months, not weeks!

Please help to make them feel at home, whether they are at S Boniface, S Andrew's or the Parish Church! I know they will very soon become familiar members of our parish and its churches.

**BRT**

FR BOB

I come from an engineering background, having been involved in the manufacture and refurbishment of railway vehicles for most of my working life, but also having spent 6 years at Rolls – Royce, the aero engine manufacturers. I also spent many years working behind a bar in the evenings in my younger days!



I was brought to the faith and prepared for Confirmation at the age 12, and have been a practising Christian since then, holding most positions within the parochial system along the way. I was ordained Deacon in July 2000, and Priest a year later, serving in the parishes of St. Anne & St. John, Derby, as a Non Stipendiary Priest.

I have been married to Brigid for 31 years, and we have two children (Rebecca and Thomas) and a lovely grandson, Tobie Oliver, whom some of you have already met.

We would like to thank you all for the very warm welcome we have received on our arrival in Paignton. A special thanks to those who attended the licensing and who worked so hard to make it a very memorable day, despite the weather.

We are both very much looking forward to getting to know you, and being part of the Christian family here in the Parish of Paignton.

*Fr Bob*

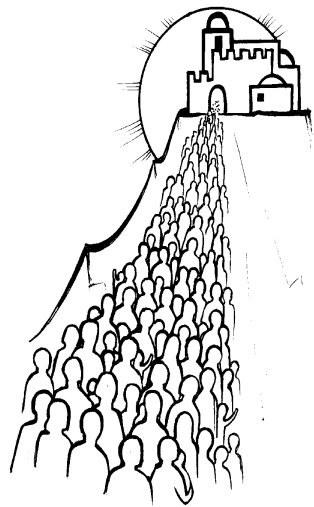
WELCOME

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Many of you will remember the Billy Graham Crusades which took place in this country back in the 1960s and 70s. Thousands attended them, many were converted at them. The advertising for these crusades was phenomenal – newspapers, hoardings, churches. In the research that was done with those who were converted it was discovered that the vast majority of those who attended a rally did not do so because of the advertising; they went because someone invited them; someone asked them to go.



The heading at the top of this article is the title of a book written by a religious researcher and sociologist called Leslie Francis. He claims that his research shows that of those who have stopped coming to church – which is over forty per cent of the population of this country – about half are open to coming back. But they need an invitation! They need someone actually to ask them; to invite



them – and then, of course, to come with them or at least to be there when they come.

This is what lies behind Back to Church Sunday. An initiative of the Diocese of Manchester, it was been taken up by many dioceses and parishes, and we did it for the first time last year. We found that people responded! A good number of people accepted the invitation and came to the Parish Church on Back to Church Sunday last year. I don't think many

of them came again – though we know that some did, so it was worth doing.

So this year we are doing it again – all three of our churches! There will be invitation cards for you to give to someone you know who used to go to church, or who you think used to go to church, on which you write the place, date and time of the service you are inviting them to. You give this to someone. When they come to church you can invite them to record in a word or two what they thought about the service – what was good, what wasn't so good; and that should make interesting reading!

The date for Back to Church Sunday is 28 September. This is Harvest Thanksgiving for S Andrew's and S Boniface, and the week before Harvest for the Parish Church. So please look out for the invitations at your church, take one, fill it in and invite someone to

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come back to church. Then pray for them that they might respond to the invitation.

## **BRT**

### PARISH LADIES' GROUP

On Monday, 28 July three generations of ladies from the parish enjoyed instruction in the gentle art of croquet at Oldway Mansion, followed by dinner at the Half Moon Inn.

Our thanks go to Maureen Bashford and Pam Pilcher for running our tombola at the Summer Fair. One hundred and eighty-eight pounds was raised, a magnificent total. Also thank you to those who gave such wonderful and generous gifts for the stall. Anything that was not won on the tombola will be placed on our stall at the Christmass Bonanza.



On 22 September we hold our registration evening at 7.00pm, followed by a Bring and Share buffet supper, and social evening.

If you have not yet signed for the food you will bring please look at the list as you enter the parish hall.

*Audrey Smith*

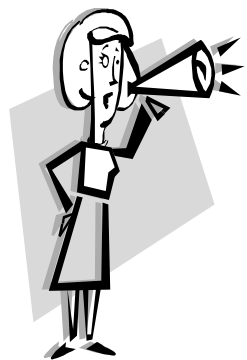
### CHRISTMASS BONANZA

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Yes, I know what you are going to say! But events such as the Christmass Bonanza are only successful if there is proper preparation, and we need to begin that now.

No one came forward to organise the Summer Fayre, and so, despite the fact that it raised over £1600, it was a pretty pathetic affair. If we had charged people to come in, they would all have demanded their money back! Now Cynthia Borrill has volunteered to organise the Christmass Bonanza — and we are enormously grateful to her for this.



But! Cynthia likes things organised, and she wants to start on the Bonanza now! She has called a meeting in the church hall on Friday 19 September at 7.30pm, which is for all those of you who are prepared to run stalls, plus anyone who would like to help in any way. There are all kinds of minor jobs which need to be done, which don't mean that you have to be there all day or that you have to be lifting tables and chairs.

So please come along to the church hall on that date. If you really can't be there but want to help, please speak to Cynthia and let her know.

## **BRT**



## **SUNDAY SCHOOLS**

For eighteen years Teresa Noblett has been the Sunday School leader for what was originally the only Sunday School in the parish, and then became the 9.30am Sunday School. Throughout that time she has been so conscientious and reliable, always there every Sunday, the care of the children her first concern.

Sadly for personal reasons Teresa has decided that the time has come for her to hand over the baton to other people to take on this important task – I believe the most important task in the life of a church. So thank you, Teresa, very much for all that you have done – as Sunday School leaders and as a helper for Confirmation preparation. We know that we haven't lost you, but hope that you will be less tied than you have been for eighteen years!

So what to do next? Sunday School leaders, prepared to give up every Sunday morning are not easy to find, and in fact I haven't tried to find one. I have written to five people and asked them if they would consider taking on this job on a rota basis – once a month. Thanks to the hard work of Moira Devonport and Denise Morris the syllabus is all worked out, in a folder for every week, so though it will need some preparation, the bulk of the work has already been done. I have also written to some of our older teenagers to ask if they would serve on a rota as helpers – strictly speaking adults should not be on their own with children, and if there are practical issues that need to be dealt with – going to the toilet, for instance! – help is on hand.

At the time of writing I have had a reply from one adult and two young people, though I think we might be able to persuade others to take this on. The alternative, of course is to cancel the 9.30am Sunday School, and the small numbers attending might encourage some to think this would be a good idea. But let's see whether we can keep it going.

This is perhaps a good occasion to say thank you to Moira Devonport, who is equally loyal in supervising the 11.00am Sunday School week

by week. I know she would appreciate the occasional chance to attend the 11.00am service, so I shall be looking out for some others to help with that Sunday School, not on a one-a-month rota, but certainly often enough to give Moira a break.

## BRT

### THE ORGANIST S LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

Thursday 11 September  
7.30pm at the Parish Church

Admission: £5

(to include a complimentary glass of wine or orange juice)

Including all the usual favourites such as  
"Land of Hope and Glory",  
"Jerusalem", "Nimrod" etc

Soprano Christine Marsden will join us for the  
concert to sing Rule Britannia and some other  
fun stuff

An evening of immense fun! Bring along your  
Union Flags to wave  
and something to make a noise



## MOTHERS' UNION

We were sad to hear of the deaths of two our out staunch members.

Joan Silley held office for several years at St Michael's Young Wives' Group and subsequently as a Mothers' Union committee member, becoming Secretary and Branch Leader for six and five years respectively. Her wise counsel was an inspiration to us all. She will be sadly missed. We send our sympathy to John, Peter and Anne.

Lily Ryles was a faithful member, firstly at St Michael's Young Wives' Group, their Mothers' union and latterly a member of IMPC. She was always a capable and willing helper at our various social events. We send our sympathy to Anna, Rob and their family.

Our sympathy also goes to June Crane on the death of her husband, Albert.

Many thanks to all who gave cakes and donations to our Mothers' Union cake stall at the Summer Fayre. Your support was much appreciated.

It was a pleasure to welcome members of the Deanery to our Corporate Communion last month to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. Over forty people attended and enjoyed the fellowship of coffee afterwards.

Buckfastleigh branch is celebrating its centenary on Thursday, 11 September with a service and entertainment at 2.30pm followed by tea. Contact Doreen Nicholson (555602) if you wish to attend.

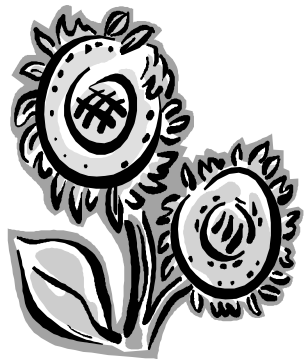
We are pleased to welcome Margaret Maycock who comes to us from St Marychurch Branch. We hope that she will be happy with us.

You are reminded that subscriptions of £7.50 are now due for Families First (previously Home and Family).

Corporate Communion – Wednesday 3 September.

*Susan O'Brien*

## ST ANDREW'S



A big thank you to all who contributed in any way to our flower Festival which made it the success it was. Thank you to all who attended especially Councillors Matthew Phillips and Nicole Amil who officially opened the event.

10 September 7.30pm Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary Guild Office followed by refreshments.  
 27 September 7.30pm Brixham Orpheus Choir. Tickets £3.00 available in church on the night or

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telephone 01803 856999.

28 September 11.00am Back to Church Sunday and Harvest Festival mass (bring a friend) followed by a buffet lunch.

Every Tuesday 10.30 to 12.30 Coffee and chat.

Every Wednesday After mass buffet lunch. Come to mass and enjoy lunch and fellowship after.

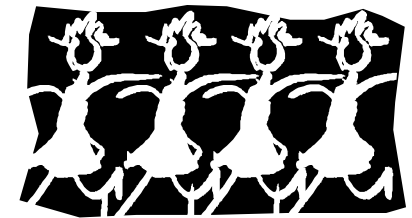
### *Paul Siviers*



## CLUB 2000

Monday 1 September: "Time Out" Coffee;  
 Friday 12 September: Bingo 7.30pm;  
 Wednesday 17 September: Line Dance Evening 7.30pm (for the new hall fund);  
 Thursday 25 September: Exmouth River Trip;  
 Wednesday 8 October: Tavistock Goosy Fair;

For details on any of the above telephone 526463.



### *Cynthia Borrill*

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## NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

I shall be away during September so please give all magazine material to the Churchwardens by 18 September. Please don't post it to the Vicarage or use the email address if you want your article to be printed! Many thanks

## PARISH REGISTERS

<b>Baptisms:</b>	24.8.08	Camron John Lohead Liana Kay Williams Michael John Kilbee-Brett Tyler Nathan Kilbee-Brett Summer Louise Earnshaw	
<b>Funerals:</b>	30.7.08	Lily May Ryles	91
	30.7.08	David Samuel Bourgault	76
	8.8.08	William (Wullie) MacDonald	55
	18.8.08	Roger John Matthews	54

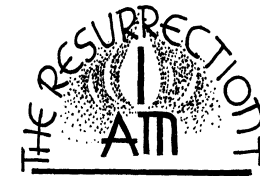
**Lily Ryles** was a faithful member of the S Michael's congregation, and then when it closed, of the Parish Church, and of the Mothers' Union. In her element in the kitchen, she loved to talk and catch up on the news! We pray for her soul and offer our sympathy to her daughter Anna and her family.

We also offer our sympathy to June Crane on the death of her husband Albert.

**Charlie Lewis** was a candidate for ordination who was to have gone to theological college this month. While waiting he was sent by the Diocese on a placement to our parish, where he worshipped for a few Sundays with his wife and two children, and preached on one occasion. However, early on in his placement his illness was diagnosed, so that he did far less than we had planned together. Sadly he died in August.

Despite the fact that he was with us for such a short time he did touch a number of people, and some of us went to his funeral. We shall pray for his soul, and we offer our deepest sympathy to his wife and to his parents.

**BRT**



**THANKS from:**

**Margarite Thomas** wishes to thank everyone from our three churches for their prayers, cards and kindness, especially a big thank you to Father Tubbs for his many visits, communion and support.



**Sadie & Ray Yates:** Grateful thanks to all our church members who supported the Open Garden Day we held on 9 August, either by attending on a miserable wet day or by making a donation.

We are delighted to be able to report that we raised £700, a really memorable and worthwhile sum towards the fitting out of the new hostel for Factory Row.

### CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

2	Tue	8.00pm	Baptism Preparation: Parish Church
7	Sun	6.00pm	Sunday Schools begin Evensong & Benediction: Parish Church
9	Tue	7.30pm	Friends of Paignton Parish Church Committee
10	Wed	7.00pm	Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary: S Andrew's
11	Thu	7.30pm	Organ Recital: Parish Church
13	Sat	1.30pm	Wedding: Parish Church
14	Sun	6.00pm	Evening Prayer: S Boniface
18	Thu	9.00am	Magazine material to CHURCHWARDENS!
20	Sat	2.00pm	Reaffirmation of marriage vows: Parish Church
21	Sun	6.00pm	Wholeness & Healing: Parish Church
26	Fri	12 noon	Reaffirmation of marriage vows: Parish Church
28	Sun	6.00pm	<b>BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY</b> Evensong & Benediction: S Andrew's
29	Mon	7.30pm	S Boniface Harvest Supper

### INTERCESSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

1	Mon	S Giles Ab	Parish priests
2	Tue	Feria	Those asking for baptism
3	Wed	S Gregory B	The Bishop of Ebbsfleet
4	Thu	S Cuthbert B	The Diocese of Durham

5	Fri	Feria	Nursing & retirement homes
6	Sat	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
7	Sun	<b>TRINITY 16</b>	Our Young People
8	Mon	<b>Birthday of the BVM</b>	Thanksgiving for Our Lady
9	Tue	Feria	Friends of Paignton Parish Church
10	Wed	Feria	Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary
11	Thu	Feria	All musicians
12	Fri	Feria	The Housebound
13	Sat	S John Chrysostom	Those to be married
14	Sun	<b>EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b>	Thanksgiving for the life-giving death of Jesus
15	Mon	Our Lady of Sorrows	The Bereaved
16	Tue	SS Cornelius & Cyprian BB MM	The Diocesan Clergy Conference
17	Wed	S Hildegard Ab	Women Religious
18	Thu	Feria	The Armed Forces
19	Fri	S Theodore B	The Archbishop of Canterbury
20	Sat	S Andrew Kim Taegon	The Church in the Far East
21	Sun	<b>TRINITY 18</b>	Our Sunday Schools
22	Mon	Feria	Those on holiday
23	Tue	Feria	Christians Together in Paignton
24	Wed	Our Lady of Walsingham	Walsingham: for those who will appoint a new administrator
25	Thu	Feria	Our Schools
26	Fri	SS Cosmas & Damian	Those persecuted for their faith
27	Sat	S Vincent de Paul pr	The poor and disadvantaged
28	Sun	<b>TRINITY 19</b>	Back to Church Sunday
29	Mon	<b>S Michael &amp; All Angels</b>	Thanksgiving for S Michael's Church and its people
30	Tue	S Jerome pr D	Biblical Scholars

