

Fr Tubbs writes

This month my letter consists mainly of thank you's!

Thank you first of all to Ginny Piper and Kathy Mosedale for their management of things in the parish while I was away. Summer fayres, people wanting their banns called urgently, intruder alarms going off and the state of the churchyard, and I'm sure many other things, were all dealt with quietly and efficiently.

My thanks to everyone who took part in any way in the Summer Fayre, and raised the magnificent sum of £2480 before expenses. Barclays Bank is also set to make a contribution, so the final figure will be even higher. Thanks particularly to Lisa May who did far more than the lion's share of the organising, and is largely responsible for such a magnificent total.

Before the Summer Fayre there was the Jazz Evening in the Vicarage Garden. Not everyone likes jazz, and there were the inevitable complaints that it should have been something else. In the end it was a very pleasant evening – and if

you've never heard 'Waltzing Matilda' played by a jazz band you haven't lived! Once again, thanks to everyone who helped to make that a success, raising £529, and especially to Carol Haggett who was the main organiser.

Thanks to Gareth Perkins and Stephanie Green, for the concert of melodious music which so many people enjoyed and which raised £260 for church funds.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to our young people's residential. They had a whale of a time, and your contributions made sure that added to the cost of £35 each to the children, the event paid for itself.

Thank you too to all of you who made our fortieth wedding anniversary so enjoyable. We had lots of cards from so many of you. Some of you ignored our instructions – so what's new?!- and gave us presents – thank you. Thank you for the card from the church and for the vouchers that accompanied it; and thank you for the cake – what a way to celebrate just an

hour before setting off for Australia!

We returned just in time for our Parish Church Dedication Festival and Gift Day. This was the first time that we had had the Gift Day on a Sunday, and the first time for many years that we didn't have a visiting preacher. Canon Neil Collings, the Treasurer at Exeter Cathedral, and a Paignton lad, was due to come and preach, but was then appointed Dean of S Edmundsbury Cathedral so had to withdraw. In fact it was a really good act of worship, we sang 'Happy Birthday' to our Parish Church, and the Gift Day total was £3315, which will be considerably increased by the gift aid contributions. This was a wonderful response to my various appeals for financial support, both in church and through the parish magazine, and will go a long way, with the other amounts that have been raised, to help us get back in the black with our accounts. Thank you all very much indeed.

Money is vitally important – none of us can survive without it. Jesus in the Gospels has a lot to say about money. When we

come to our Stewardship Campaign in the autumn I hope that we shall make the connection between money and spirituality, between what we do with our worldly wealth and how we respond to God. The Bible takes it for granted that there is a connection. The Old Testament sees that connection in terms of the tithe – God has been so good to us that we should give back to him one tenth of all that he has given us. So the good Jew tithed his income, including even the herbs he grew in his garden (see Matthew 23.23). Jesus doesn't make that requirement; he seems to expect that we treat everything as belonging to God and to deal with it accordingly.

The fact is that what we put in the plate or in the weekly envelope or give by direct debit is what we think God is worth. Many people give God an amount that would be scorned if given as a tip to a taxi driver.

Glastonbury and S Clether gave us opportunities for spiritual growth. Let's continue to look for such opportunities in church, in our personal prayer life, and in the world around us.

Yours sincerely

THE ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

The Alternative Service was started in an attempt to draw those – possibly mostly but not entirely young people - whose musical tastes were more Radio 1 and 2 than Radio 3. Thanks to the members of the Music Group it has attracted a younger congregation and provided a spiritual home for many people who would not be at home at the Family Communion.

Now we are struggling very hard to maintain this service. We have lost a number of our musicians, and those who remain are finding it increasingly taxing to do all that is necessary, both in preparation for the service during the week – choosing hymns, locating midi disks, attending the weekly practice, setting things up before the service, taking everything down again after the service and many other things.

So we need two things – or perhaps three. We need more musicians – guitarists, keyboard players, wind or string instrument players. We ideally need a music group leader who would co-ordinate all these things, and ideally we would pay him – after all, we pay the organist who plays for the Family Communion. At the moment, of course, we can't afford to pay anything – and it is a big commitment. And we need members of the congregation to help with the practical steps of setting up and taking down.

I hope to advertise for musicians and a music group leader in the diocesan news, and I'm hoping the local paper might do a sympathetic article about our situation. In the meantime, if you know of any musicians who might be willing to join us, perhaps not every week, but say on a rota basis, or if you know someone who would love to exercise their gifts of leadership and musical talent, please put them in touch with me – as soon as possible! And please pray that we may find a solution to these problems. I think it would be a great pity if we had to stop this service.

In the meantime, thanks to those who have kept the service going over the past few months.

BRT



A CHARITY SHOP??

I suspect the first question you will ask yourself is, Can Paignton support yet another charity shop? And the second might be, Why would Paignton Parish Church want to open a charity shop? And the third might be, Who will man it?

The answer to the second question is to do two things. First of all, to raise some much-needed money. We have had a tremendous response to the news that we are in financial difficulties (see my letter above), and Fr Mark Bate, who is the Diocesan Stewardship adviser for our area is quite confident that we can increase our regular giving through our stewardship campaign planned to start on 8 October.

However, extra money is always useful because it enables us to do things we couldn't do without it. Even if we manage to get ourselves back into the black, we have a long way to go to build up our reserves – and we need those for our new lighting, heating and sound systems which we so badly need. I have no idea how much a charity shop can raise each year, but I have always hoped that could raise enough money in the parish to pay a youth worker – now that would be really good.

So money is part of the reason. There is a second reason, not less important than the first. The Parish Church is the most important building in Paignton. Its historicity, its architecture, its place in this community for over seven hundred years, means that no other building can match it in importance, in interest and in significance. Yet it is tucked away, off the beaten track, only obvious to those who look for it. 'Just' picking up a parish magazine, 'just' glancing at a weekly news sheet, 'just' looking at the events, daily, weekly and others, is not something that happens. A charity shop, in the middle of the town, would provide a church presence there, with the opportunity for people to pick up a parish magazine, see what's on offer and so on. Assuming that the majority of helpers are members of the Parish Church (and of course we will not be stopping others from helping!) there will be a first-class mission opportunity to tell people about the

Christian faith and to let them know what goes on at the Parish Church.

Carol Haggett has already done an enormous amount of work on this, finding out the rules and regulations, checking out rents and rates, even looking at possible properties. She and I know every well that there are all kinds of conditions and responsibilities if we decide to go ahead with this venture. I am grateful to Carol for all this work.

On Monday 17 July we held a meeting in the Gallery for anyone interested in this project. About thirty people turned up. Some wanted to warn us of various dangers (most of which we were well aware of), some wanted to give us advice (most of which we already knew), but all of whom were willing to help and most of whom were very supportive of the whole idea.

Setting up the project will be expensive. Paying a premium of perhaps £2000, doing the physical work on the building to make it into a charity shop, providing all the things which will be necessary, will require a considerable financial out-lay. If we go ahead, the initial lease would be short-term, and then, if (actually, I believe when) the project began to make money we could decide how long to extend the lease for.

Assuming we open six days a week (and no, we are not going to open on Sundays!), we need at least three people on at any one time for each session – a morning or an afternoon. Monday to Saturday means twelve sessions, that's thirty-six people. Some have already offered to do more than one session – some have offered to do two days! – but thirty plus helpers will be needed.

BUT! The one *essential* thing we need at this moment is someone to act as the manager, someone to take charge of the whole business of setting up, getting started, working out rotas, supervising helpers – in general, making the thing work and establishing it as a going concern.

This post would perhaps usually be a paid one, or one with at least a pretty substantial honorarium. We don't have the money for that! We need a volunteer! Obviously, if such a volunteer were to set things up, then when the money was available it might be possible to offer pay of some sort.

Is this something for you? Could it be the plan that God has for you? Is it the challenge that you need? Would it be fulfilling for you to set up such a project?

A second meeting has been arranged for Monday 31 July at 7.30pm in the Parish Church. By that time we shall have answered some of the questions that were raised on 17 July: Do we need a licence of some sort? Do we need to check volunteers? Shall we need to apply for change of use for the shop? I hope that at that meeting we shall decide to go ahead. That will mean calling a special meeting of the Parochial Church Council to authorise the project and to provide the necessary funding. Please come along to that meeting if you are interested in helping in any way.

And what about being the manager? Help and advice is available, not least from another parish which has successfully run a charity shop for some years. Just whisper in my or Carol Haggett's ear that you want to know more, and we will explore the possibilities with you.



BRT

ST ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

Due to other commitments I have had to give up Tuesday Coffee Mornings. Many thanks to all who have given their support over the years. From next Tuesday Ann Watts will take over.

Anthea Siviers

WIVES' GROUP

Our last meeting was held on 27 June when we visited the Princess Theatre in Torquay to see "Summer Holiday". This was an excellent and lively performance and most of us, though not quite all, as we had some young people with us, enjoyed an excursion back into our youth.

Thank you to Jean Kitson for organising this for us.

On 21 August we have our annual daytime event. We are taking the Round Robin trip by train, boat and bus – Paignton, Dartmouth, Totnes, Paignton, though not necessarily in that order. Details will be given nearer the time.



Our coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses is on Friday 4 August in the hall. Please buy a ticket or make a donation even if you are unable to attend. We shall have a raffle, a cake stall and a goodies stall. Donation for all these will be most welcome. Please bring cakes to the hall on Friday morning before 10.00am. Thank you.

Audrey Smith

MOTHERS' UNION

Mary Sumner Day, Wednesday 9 August. There is a service in the Parish Church at 3.00pm for the Totnes and Torbay Deaneries. This will be followed by tea.

Change in catering arrangements: Everyone is asked to bring a contribution for a "Bring and Share" tea.

Susan O'Brien

THE ARTHUR DAY COLUMN

In last month's article I quoted a passage from the first guide-book written of our Parish Church, by the then Vicar, the Revd Arthur Linzee-Giles and published in 1911, in which he expressed the view that the church which was built in Norman times to supersede the wooden church which the Saxons built, was probably a very fine, dignified building. Little of it remains now, but the north and south walls of the chancel have survived. He goes on to give us an imaginative reconstruction of what he thought that the church looked like. So, if his speculations are correct, if you had wandered into the church sometime in the 1100's, this is what he thought you would probably have seen:

"Picture to yourself the old church of Paignton, the long gloomy chancel probably with three circular-headed windows only, the East end shut off from the nave by a thick wall pierced with an arch, not much larger than the present West doorway: a nave somewhat shorter and narrower than the present, with shallow transepts lighted with these same round-headed windows, a plain roof – its timbers supported on a row of corbels formed of heads – the jambs red (for the Normans whitewashed all the stonework and then picked it out with colour), the walls plastered, with two small doors – one on each side towards the West, where the present North and South doors stand, and with the present West door at the end of this building, and you have some idea of Paignton Church at the end of the 12th Century. Whether it had a Tower or not it is now impossible to say, as no trace whatever can be found of it. If there was a Tower, then probably the present West door was at the South side of the nave.

You will ask what right have you to re-construct a vanished building in this way? My answer will be – the evidence of the West doorway is perfect; a part of another doorway, with portions of windows which are at the top of the Tower, and now used as the crestings of the battlements.

The Parish Church has been unfortunate in having a rich patron, the Bishop of Exeter, a rich Rector until 1292, and the Squires of Collaton and Goodrington, to provide for its wants, for because of their anxiety to 'restore' their Parish Church, this interesting building was almost entirely swept away, leaving only the North and South Chancel walls. Had Peynton been a poor place, this building would have been preserved and modified to suit the change which was coming over English Church Architecture. That the Chancel did receive very considerable modification early in the reign of Henry III there is abundant evidence." (This would be about 1216.)

"Two sets of Early English windows, each of double lights were inserted in the North and South Walls of the Chancel: of these the South-Easternmost alone is perfect." - (The window over the vestry door.) - "It was blocked up at the building of the vestry, and was discovered at the time of the restoration of the chancel, 1864 and was opened by Dr Trelawny Ross" - (Vicar 1892-1908).

Mr Linzee-Giles' description of the Parish as "unfortunate" in "having a rich patron" and other prominent individuals "to provide for its wants" sounds ironic when one considers the financial position today. But it is true that our Parish Church has suffered what can only be described as "legalised vandalism" by well-intentioned, but insensitive, attempts at improvement. Not only in the Middle Ages, but in the 18th and 19th Centuries glaring mistakes were made. On the other hand, had the Norman Church remained unaltered, we should certainly have had a very interesting church from a historical angle, but should we have had such a beautiful church? To answer that question convincingly we would need H G Wells' "Time Machine"!

But I think there is one aspect of the matter on which we can be sure. Much as we may grumble sometimes about planning legislation, historic buildings are now "listed" and there is, therefore, some machinery to protect them against unsuitable alterations.

Arthur Day

SUMMER FAYRE

Many thanks to all those who helped us make the Summer Fayre a great success this year, and to all the local companies for donating prizes for the event.

We raised over £2000 and are hoping that Barclays will take us up to or close to £3000 (watch this space!).

A big thank you to all those who helped in the set up on Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday. Especially Carol and Bernie, Pat Searle and family, Fr Mike, Ron and Ray, Chris and all the many helpers and entertainers from all three churches.

Congratulations to all those talented parishioners who entered the competitions. If you have not received your entries back or the winners received their prizes please contact me on 559280.

Lisa May

CREAM TEAS FOR FACTORY ROW

The Friends of Factory Row, the hostel for the homeless in Torquay, invite you to have a cream tea at 1 Sandringham Gardens on Saturday 19 August, 2.00 – 4.00pm. There will be the usual stalls and a raffle. Offers of cakes or buns for the cake stall will be welcome. Admission to include the cream tea is £3.00

Ray Yates

THANKS

Dear Friends – may I thank you all for your kind support during the last few weeks since I've had my knee replacement. Also thank you so much for those Get Well cards – you helped a deal. As you know I'm on the mend now – but won't be able to do the Highland Fling yet!

Pat Wilby

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN PAIGNTON

A meeting was held recently at Southfield Methodist Church. New members were welcomed. The group continues to meet regularly and has a new President, the Rev P Saunders from Palace Avenue Methodist Church.

The 5th Sunday service is on 30 July at the Sacred Heart Church.

Peg Partridge

PARI SH REGI STERS

Wedding: 15.7.06 Lee Blowers & Billie Jo Edwards

Funerals:

3.7.06	Patricia Ann Russ	68
11.7.06	John Douglas Morrison	85
19.7.06	Gordon Davis	78
21.7.06	Leonard Sidney Kemble	85

DIARY FOR AUGUST

1	Tue	8.00pm	Baptism Preparation: Gallery
2	Wed	10.00am	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
4	Fri	7.00pm	Prayers around the Cross: Parish Church
5	Sat	12 noon	Wedding: Parish Church
6	Sun	6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction: Parish Church
9	Wed	3.00pm	Mothers' Union Deanery Service: Parish Church
13	Sun	4.00pm	CTIP Songs of Praise: Paignton Green
		6.00pm	Evening Worship: S Boniface
17	Thu	9.00am	Magazine material to Vicarage please
19	Sat	1.00pm	Wedding: Parish Church
20	Sun	2.30pm	Holy Baptism: Parish Church
		6.00pm	Wholeness & Healing: Parish Church
27	Sun	2.30pm	Holy Baptism: Parish Church
		6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction: S Andrew's

INTERCESSIONS FOR AUGUST

1	Tue	Feria	Those asking for baptism
2	Wed	Feria	The S Boniface project
3	Thu	Feria	Those on holiday
4	Fri	S John Vianney pr	All parish priests
5	Sat	S Oswald KM	Those to be married
6	Sun	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	Our own transformation
7	Mon	Feria	The Faithful Departed
8	Tue	S Dominic Pr	Our Mayor & Councillors
9	Wed	S Teresa Benedicta	The People of Europe
10	Thu	S Laurence Dn	Those in prison
11	Fri	S Clare	Women religious
12	Sat	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
13	Sun	TRINITY 9	Paignton Regatta
14	Mon	S Maximilian Kolbe PrM	Persecuted Christians
15	Tue	ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM	Thanksgiving for Our Lady
16	Wed	Feria	Those recently confirmed
17	Thu	Feria	Our Bible Study groups
18	Fri	Feria	The Housebound
19	Sat	Of Our Lady	Those to be married
20	Sun	TRINITY 10	The People of S Boniface
21	Mon	Feria	Paignton Hospital
22	Tue	Our Lady Mother and Queen	Devotion to Our Lady
23	Wed	S Rose of Lima	The people of Peru
24	Thu	S Bartholomew A	Our Bishops
25	Fri	Feria	TAP into Faith
26	Sat	Of Our Lady	All parents
27	Sun	TRINITY 11	S Andrew's People
28	Mon	S Augustine BD	All theologians
29	Tue	Beheading of S John Baptist	The Parish Church people
30	Wed	Feria	Our church wardens
31	Thu	S Aidan B	Our spiritual growth

