

Fr Tubbs writes....

I said last month that the future of S Andrew's was under serious discussion, and that the Parochial Church Council would need to consider the situation at its meeting in January.

At that meeting it was explained to the PCC that the S Andrew's Committee, meeting in November, had agreed to ask the PCC to support them in their attempt to turn things around at S Andrew's, and to give it twelve months to do this. S Andrew's members stated that stewardship pledges would increase once it was known that S Andrew's was not closing in the near future, and that there would be much more of an incentive to do things to reach out and increase the congregation.

Closing a church is a very big decision to make, and it has an impact not only on the church in question and its congregation, but on the Church in the locality, and indeed on the local community. A church building is a symbol of the Christian faith; closing it will be seen as a symbol of failure – though it does not necessarily mean that, of course. The Church in this country, in all the main denominations, is shrinking in numbers. That's a fact which we don't like, but which is true. If eventually there is not the number of people to support a church, then there is little option for it but to close.

S Michael's was a very flourishing church in a tight-knit community. It did an enormous amount in the years that it was open. When it closed it seems that the congregation transferred to the Parish Church without any problems, and many of them are still worshipping there today.

S Andrew's Committee have asked for this twelve month period, and have agreed that if at the end of that time the church is not viable, its Committee will propose its closure. This puts the onus for growth – financial and numerical – firmly on the S Andrew's Committee and the present congregation.

So what is going to happen? We are fortunate at the moment because Fr Mike is coming back to work, and Fr John Lee has agreed to work formally in the parish, doing the kind of things that Fr Paul did, and on

the same kind of time commitment. This means that Fr John will be taking both the Sunday service and the weekday service at S Andrew's, and I hope – and I have not discussed this with him yet – will be involved in the plans for the future.

I have spent ten years asking people not to talk about S Andrew's closing, without very much success. People – including S Andrew's people – have talked about it a great deal. Recently it seemed to me that the time had come for us to talk about it, and indeed to do it.

The Parochial Church Council has agreed to support S Andrew's for the next twelve months – not financially, but morally and where possible in practical ways as well. Everyone will need to get on board this attempt to ensure that S Andrew's has a future. Lots of prayer will be needed; lots of money will be needed; lots of effort will be needed; lots of commitment will be needed. Nothing will be achieved unless everyone at S Andrew's supports the decisions of the S Andrew's Committee when they have worked out what is to be the way forward.

In the meantime, don't talk about S Andrew's closing! Don't mention it! Don't think it! Do the opposite. Talk about it staying open. Talk about the way forward. If you are a member of the S Andrew's congregation, then think what your part has to be in all this. When was the last time you asked anyone to come to church with you? What could you do to encourage someone you know to join the congregation at S Andrew's? Elections are coming up soon. Could you stand for the S Andrew's Committee? Could you suggest ways forward for S Andrew's? Could you support S Andrew's financially during the next year so that the money is available for the things that need to be done?

Reaching out is not easy at the moment. The Christian faith is under attack. People are so busy. So many things happen on a Sunday. It is not going to be easy. But let us go forward in faith and see what God wants us to do in the parish this year.

Yours sincerely



CANDLEMASS

Or The Presentation of Christ in the Temple; or the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All titles of the fortieth day after Christmass. What is it about?

The story of the Exodus, Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea, the death of the first-born of the Egyptian families, was celebrated every year by the Jews at the Passover. However, just in case that wasn't enough, every first-born Jewish male had to be redeemed, by offering a sacrifice on his behalf in the Temple. So the death of the Egyptian first-born was remembered at the birth of every Jewish boy.



The story of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple on the fortieth day after his birth is told in S Luke's Gospel in chapter 2 verses 22-38. In that account the old man Simeon prophesied that Jesus would be 'a light to lighten the Gentiles.' So eventually the Church celebrated this prophesy by blessing candles and processing holding these lighted candles – so the feast became known as Candlemass.

So we shall do the same thing on Friday 2 February at the Parish Church. At 7.00pm we shall bless candles, go in procession around the church, tell the story of the presentation and the part played by Simeon and Anna on that occasion.

Candlemass is in one sense the end of the Christmass season. We turn now to face the cross, and within three weeks Lent begins. I hope that we shall turn out from all three of our churches to celebrate the Light to lighten the Gentiles, to carry our candles in celebration, and to offer the Eucharist in thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus to the world which he came to save.

BRT

CONFIRMATION 2007



As is our custom, the Confirmation this year will be on the feast of the Birthday of S John the Baptist, which is 24 June and which this year falls on a Sunday, which is a rare and wonderful treat! Bishop John Ford will be with us on that day for what is an important day in the life of our parish.

Confirmation groups for young people will start soon, those for adults in the not too distant future. Please let me know if you are interested.

I think it is important to stress that the groups are to find out about Confirmation, and that the decision to be confirmed or not comes at the end of the course, not at the beginning!

BRT

LENT 2007

Most parishes take Lent seriously, and I think in our parish most of you take Lent seriously. Many of you give up some luxury, many of you take on something extra – more prayer time, more Bible reading time, attending a weekday service, visiting a neighbour, reading a book – and I hope you feel that something spiritual happens as we follow Our Lord on his way to the Cross throughout these forty days.

We shall start Lent, as usual, on Ash Wednesday, with the ceremony of the imposition of ashes, something which I find very impressive, and which makes it clear to me in no uncertain terms that something important is happening. The sign of the cross marked on my forehead with ash, with the words Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, focuses my mind wonderfully.



This year we shall have a Lent Group meeting on Friday mornings, after the service. We shall also have Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7.00pm. The number of people attending this service has dropped dramatically over the last few years, mainly because people have either moved away or died. It is a dramatic service, during the course of which we visit each of the fourteen stations and spend a few moments meditating on the event which that particular station represents. I hope a few more of you might be prepared to come and find out whether it could be spiritually helpful to you.

There will also be an opportunity to order a magazine called Lent Extra, a glossy production with some lovely photographs, which has a short reading for every day of Lent. Each week's readings are based on a painting, which is reproduced in the magazine, and makes, I think, a very interesting and different approach to Lenten reading. The magazine costs £2.35, and unfortunately I have only been able to obtain one inspection copy, which will be at the Parish Church. You will need to sign up if you want me to get you a copy.

I'm assuming that we shall all observe some kind of self-denial during Lent, either by giving up something which we enjoy or by doing something extra, which might be devotional, like going to an extra service, or might be equally devotional like visiting an elderly neighbour or undertaking something practical for a friend or a neighbour. There will be the usual Lent Boxes for you to take.

On Saturday 24 February there will be a Quiet Day at the Barn Church at Galmpton from 10.00am to 4.00pm. This will include a celebration of the Eucharist and three addresses. Most importantly, it will include space and time to relax, reflect and consider the addresses as part of your Lenten discipline. Bring your own lunch, drinks provided.

Please sign the list in your church and indicate whether you can offer a lift or whether you need a lift.

BRT

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?



That's what Bob Dylan used to sing. Our question is rather, Where do all the flowers come from? Sunday by Sunday throughout the year, except during Advent and Lent, our churches are decorated with flowers. Where do they come from? They are bought by our flower arrangers! Sometimes they are given, especially at major festivals, and sometimes greenery is given, but usually the flowers have to be bought. So our Flower Guild have a Coffee Morning on Friday 9 February, and all monies raised will be used to buy flowers for the Parish Church.

It is always possible to provide flowers in memory of a loved one who has died, perhaps near their anniversary, though if that occurs during Advent or Lent that is not possible, but they may be provided at any other time of the year, and they would carry a small note saying in whose memory they were given. It is possible to provide flowers in thanksgiving for the birth of a child or a grandchild, to celebrate a wedding anniversary or just because you would like to provide the flowers!

Later in the year we hope to have a Flower Festival at the Parish Church. We hope this will encourage people into our church, and we also hope that it will raise some money. We shall need all kinds of people to make this happen. We shall need flower arrangers; we shall need someone to co-ordinate publicity; we shall need someone to co-ordinate catering and we shall need caterers; we shall need someone in charge of stewards and we shall need stewards; we shall need someone who will write to local firms and charities asking them to sponsor a display.

There will be a meeting for all of you who are interested in helping in any way on Monday 12 February at 7.00pm in the Gallery of the Parish Church. Flower arrangers welcome, but also those willing to help in the kind of categories I have listed above.

S Andrew's are also hoping to have a flower festival later in the year, so it may be that we can kill two birds with one stone! At least, lessons learnt from the first one may help the second one.

BRT

THE ARTHUR DAY COLUMN

One feature of church life today which many churchgoers regard with mixed feelings is the revision of our church services. It is the culmination of a movement which has been going on for nearly a century. Attempts were made in 1927 and 1928 to adopt a Revised Prayer Book, but were defeated in Parliament. Nevertheless, several bishops took it upon themselves to authorise or permit the use of certain parts of it, especially the Baptism, Marriage and Funeral Services and copies were made available to the general public, but containing an admonition that its publication did not imply that it was authorised for general use. Officially the old Prayer Book continued to be our church's only authorised service book.

The Old Prayer Book has been unaltered, save for a few minor features, since 1662, but its tercentenary in 1962 had the effect of making thinking church people feel that the time had come for a revision. Accordingly, in the 1960's, there were published, and authorised, booklets of experimental services, notably two proposed revised Communion services.

If I may be so bold to state my own personal views, revision of that service was obviously needed. One only has to look at what is certainly the oldest account of the institution of the Holy Communion – in St Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians chapter 11 verses 23-26 where he says that “the tradition came to me from the Lord Himself that the Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and, after giving thanks to God, broke it and said: ‘This is my Body which is for you: do this as a memorial of me.’ In the same way he took the cup after supper said: ‘This cup is the new covenant sealed with my blood, whenever you drink it do this as a memorial of me’. For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes”.

In the old Prayer Book we “take bread” (ie offer it to God when members of the congregation bring the bread and wine up to the Chancel step) and then follows the long Prayer for the Church and the Confession and Comfortable Words before we move in as Our Lord did at the Last Supper – to the “giving of thanks” (“Lift up your hearts” etc which leads on [via the Proper Preface] to the “Holy, Holy, Holy” and “Blessed is He”) Then before we go to the actual climax of the Consecration (the priest breaking the bread and reciting “This is my Body” and “This is my Blood” there comes the prayer “We do not presume”. Eucharistic action (ie those acts which Our Lord

performed and the words he said as he performed them) at the Last Supper are split up.

In the new services these actions, with their accompanying words of Our Lord, are brought together – an obvious improvement.

Our Prayer Book was first issued in 1549. Before that many Dioceses had their own Prayer Book. Next, after the Preface at the beginning of the old Prayer Book is an article entitled “Concerning the Service of the Church” – if you read this fifth paragraph you will see what I mean. And before 1549 all services were in Latin – to have a service book in English was a sweeping change.

But that first Prayer Book in 1549 had one great merit – the various Eucharistic actions were all put together rather as they are again in the new services, though the prayers which accompanied them were far too wordy – they must have taken ten minutes to recite! Three years later - in 1552 – there was published a revised Prayer Book in which the Communion Service was put into the form which is now in the old Prayer Book with which we “oldies” have been so familiar, ie with the “Canon” or “Eucharistic action” split up in the way I have described above.



Despite its merits, the first Prayer Book of 1549 was thoroughly disliked in some parts of the country. To have the Latin services which had been familiar to Englishmen for centuries so suddenly superseded by services in English was too drastic a change for a good many people to stomach. Those in authority had no idea of public relations in those days! Rebellion broke out in the south-west and it seems that the country came near to having a civil war. The revisions of recent years did not provoke quite such a dramatic reaction! In any event, Parliament had several years ago delegated to our Church's General Synod the ordering of its public worship.

Although the main objections in 1549 came from Cornwall and East Devon, where the objectors felt so strongly on the matter that they actually formed armies which they intended should march on London to defend the preservation of the old services, there are several links in this district with those troublous events and my next few articles will be devoted to them.

Arthur Day

ANDY'S BAND



Regretfully we have disbanded as we are no longer a viable group. Recently three members have moved away from the area, Barbara Mead a few weeks ago, Derek and Karen Lawman went unexpectedly just before Christmass, so we are now leaderless.

Andy's Band was formed in 1984 to play guitars and sing music in church, all of us learning to play from scratch (taught by Derek), using hymns and songs from Mission Praise.

We were introduced to Taize music at the end of 1992, and led our first Taize service on 7 January 1993 at Churston Church, since when we have played Taize at many different churches within a 10 mile radius, which included a Catholic Church. Monthly Taize at Paignton Parish Church developed from our first one here on 5 December 1997. It had been a great joy to us all and is what we shall miss most.

Short services for the patients at Paignton Hospital, led by Sadie Yates, and the Carols at Christmass were also a big favourite. Carols at the hospital was the last thing we did before disbanding.

In 1984 we also developed a general entertainment programme. We were asked to entertain a variety of Over 60's clubs, blind clubs, retirement and nursing homes, doctors' caring groups, and many other charities, hospitals and voluntary organisations within a 20 mile radius of Paignton. We made no charge, but were happy to receive donations, these we donated to charities, chosen by band members. The £274 left in the kitty, which we have donated to the Goat/Cow Appeal for Africa, has been handed over to Paignton Parish Church. Our account is now closed.

Ruth Kenyon - On behalf of Andy's Band

I would like to thank the members of Andy's Band who have led the Prayers around the Cross service every month in the Parish Church since 1997, and which has been much appreciated by its small but committed congregation. I hope that we shall be able to have the occasional service, if we can find suitable music/musicians.

BRT

MOTHER'S UNION

We send much love and congratulations to Lily Ryles one of our IMPC members who recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Joan Morrell one of our own IMPC members who had been in Southwater Residential home for a while. We send our sympathy and prayers to Joan's family. Three members were able to attend her funeral.

Corporate Communion: 6 February.

Susan O'Brien

PARISH CHURCH STEWARDS

Happy New Year and a thank you to the stewards who opened the Church during 2006.

Many people were able to come in for private prayer, quiet meditation or just to admire the Church building.

It would be wonderful if the Church could open for an hour morning and afternoon every day, but to do that we need more stewards. No special knowledge is necessary, just a friendly smile, although interesting guide books are available.

If you could spare an hour on a regular basis, weekly or monthly, please contact me after the 9.30am service or on 401198.

Could we all have a chat over coffee in the Hall after the 9.30am service on Sunday 11 February.

Jean Kitson



SPOILT FOR CHOICE!

Social Events at St Boniface:

- 13.2.07 Tuesday - Coffee Morning at 10.00am
- 17.2.07 Saturday – A Table Top Sale at 2.00pm
- 28.2.07 Wednesday – Prize Bingo at 7.30pm

Social Events at The Parish Church Hall:

- 9.2.07 Friday - Flower Guild Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Raffle, 10.30am to noon. To raise money for Easter flowers.
- 28.2.07 Wednesday – St Trinian’s & Greyfriar’s Bash at 7.15pm in the hall. With Donna’s Disco. Admission £3 to include light refreshments. Proceeds to Hall Fund. 526463 for info.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Christingle Service

I was, sadly, unable to attend the Christingle Service this year, but I understand it went extremely well with, once again, the youngsters taking the main parts.

I must offer my sincerest thanks to Maureen, Pam, Heather, Anne, Jean, Jill and Mavis, and various family members who so willingly and wholeheartedly agreed to prepare the Christingles and be there on the day, when I could not. My thanks also to Teresa and Moira and both Sunday schools for, again this year, their keenness to be involved.

The collection from the service raised £112.50 with also an extra donation of £10.00.

Children's Society Annual Boxes.

I would be grateful if you could start bringing in your boxes to church if at all possible. Ginny, Kathy and Mavis are prepared to receive these. Don't worry if this is not possible, because I hope to be truly mobile early February, so will come and collect. But not on my bike this year – YET!!

Pat Kerswell

WIVES' GROUP

The location of our annual dinner has been changed from the Palace Hotel (advertised in the programme) to the Harbour Light Restaurant. The date is Monday 26 February. The time is 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The cost is £15.

If you do not have a menu by the time you read this article and you wish to come, please contact Valerie Stephens or Audrey Smith with your payment by 18 February. Their 'phone numbers are in the magazine (last page).

We look forward to an enjoyable evening.

Audrey Smith

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

Every few years, usually six, the Church Electoral Roll has to be completely revised. This is such a year so that, before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 29 April, everyone has to re-register to be on the new Roll. This article is the official notification of the process. Simple forms will be available in each of our three churches very soon, please make sure you fill one out and return it to your Electoral Roll Officer or one of the Churchwardens. The Electoral Roll Officers are:

Ray Yates for the Parish Church
Paul Siviers for St Andrew's
Anne Jackson for St Boniface.

The new Roll must be completed by 1 April and ready for inspection in church on Sunday 15 April.

As well as being a record of our church membership, only persons on the Roll can vote at the Annual Meeting or stand for membership of their Church Committee and Parochial Church Council.

Ray Yates

THANKS



I Thank you for the lovely cards and good wishes send during my recent illness. Your support and loving care meant so much to me and my family. I am recuperating after a successful operation and feeling optimistic about the future.

Joan Silley

I would like to thank everyone who cushioned me and our families after Joe's death. Knowing so many people were holding us up by their prayers was a silent but strong comfort. I know he is in God's safe keeping till we meet again.

Cynthia Borrill

Could I please take this opportunity to extend my thanks to everyone who visited, sent cards, and phoned to enquire how I was recovering after my hip

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms: 31.12.06 Eliot John Noblett
28.1.07 Sarah Alicia Law

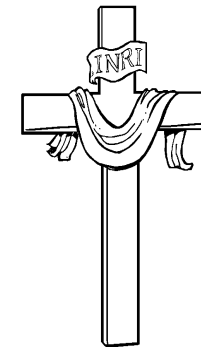
Funerals: 20.12.06	Charles Anthony Martin	67
17.1.07	Ronald Joseph Borrill	84
18.1.07	Leslie Frederick Smaridge	95
22.1.07	Christine Susan Grist	49
24.1.07	Donald Wood	

Joe Borrill had a full-time job during his working life, but he also had a very full career as a musician! He built his own electronic organ, started a band and gave pleasure to many.

Leslie Smaridge was a faithful member of the Parish Church congregation with his wife Mary until they moved nearer to S Andrew's which then became the place where they worshipped. Following the death of Mary he lived for a time on his own, but then moved into a residential home, where he continued to receive communion.

Donald Wood was a member of the Parish Church choir for many years, then he too moved to S Andrew's. Following the death of his wife he continued to live on his own, though his health deteriorated. Nevertheless he was in church Sunday by Sunday.

We pray for the souls of these men, and offer our sympathy to their families.



DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2007

2	Fri	7.00pm	Blessing of candles and Sung Eucharist: Parish Church
4	Sun	12.30pm 6.00pm	Parish Lunch Evensong & Benediction: Parish Church
6	Tue	6.30pm 8.00pm	JC's Gang-stars Baptism Preparation; Gallery
7	Wed	10.00am 2.30pm	Mothers Union Corporate Communion Hall Committee meeting
9	Fri	10.30am	Flower Guild Coffee Morning
11	Sun	6.00pm	Evening Worship: S Boniface
12	Mon	7.00pm	Flower Festival meeting: Gallery
13	Tue	7.00pm	S Andrew's Committee
15	Thu	9.00am	Magazine material to Vicarage please
18	Sun	6.00pm	Wholeness & Healing: Parish Church
20	Tue	6.30pm	JC's Gang-stars
21	Wed	7.00pm	Imposition of ashes and Sung Mass: S Boniface
24	Sat	10.00am	Quiet Day: Galmpton
25	Sun	6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction: S Andrew's
26	Mon	7.30pm	Wives' Dinner
28	Wed	7.15pm	S Trinian's & Greyfriars Bash

Remember you can make a donation to the Parish Church at any time by using the 'Make a Donation Now' button on the Parish Web Site
www.paigntonparishchurch.co.uk
 Credit and Debit Cards Accepted. This is a secure system operated by our Bankers.

INTERCESSIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2007

1	Thu	Feria	The witness of lay people
2	Fri	PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD	Thanksgiving for the Presentation
3	Sat	S Blaise BM	Those working in the clothing industry
4	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	Our Parish Lunch
5	Mon	S Agatha M	Persecuted Christians
6	Tue	SS Paul Miki and Comps	The Church in Japan
7	Wed	Feria	Our new hall project
8	Thu	Feria	Our Schools
9	Fri	Feria	Christians Together in Paignton
10	Sat	S Scholastica	Women's Communities
11	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	Our Flower Guild
12	Mon	Feria	Our Time Out mornings
13	Tue	Feria	S Andrew's Committee
14	Wed	SS Cyril & Methodius	The Unity of Eastern & Western Christians
15	Thu	Feria	Authors & Composers
16	Fri	Feria	Parish Clergy
17	Sat	Of Our Lady	Those on retreat
18	Sun	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	The congregations of our three churches
19	Mon	Feria	Federation of Catholic Priests
20	Tue	Feria	An awareness of our sin
21	Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY	Our Keeping of Lent
22	Thu	The Chair of S Peter	The Pope
23	Fri	S Polycarp BM	Our Young People
24	Sat	Feria	Our Quiet Day
25	Sun	LENT 1	Those to be baptised today
26	Mon	Feria	Our Wives' Group
27	Tue	Feria	Hymnwriters
28	Wed	Ember Day	Those to be ordained