

Father Tubbs writes

Someone once remarked that you have to watch young people who don't lapse from the Church – they make them into vicars! Well, that's not universally true, but it probably does contain more than a grain of truth.

What we do know is that very large numbers of adults have lapsed from the Church. It is estimated that about 40% of the population of this country used to go to church, but at some stage in their lives they stopped.

Of that 40%, the experts (I wonder who these people are?!) reckon that 20% of them will never come back. They were so badly upset – by the vicar or church warden or some other member of the congregation, or they had such an unpleasant experience - that they have been put off church for life.

However! The same experts(!) reckon that 20% are actually open to coming back to church. If they fell out with the vicar, it was the one before last; but more likely they became too busy, or moved house and never got around to finding their local

church or became bored with the same old hymns and prayers. This 20%, say the experts(!), could be persuaded, with just a little effort, to return.

So Back to Church Sunday was invented! One Sunday in the year when those who have stopped coming are invited to come back and try it again.

What are the mechanics? Well, first of all you will be given a two-part piece of card. On one half is an invitation to come back to church on September 30. On the other half is a prayer card. What happens is that you think of someone you know, someone you think might have a church background, or someone you think might be encouraged to attend church. You give the invitation to the person in question, then use the other half to remind yourself to pray for that person every day between the time you are given it and 30 September.

There will be local and national publicity to bring this 'Back to Church' Sunday to people's attention, and the hope is that others who have not had a

personal invitation will also be attracted by the thought of coming – or coming back – to church.

So please begin to think about someone you could invite, someone who you know used to go to church, or a friend or neighbour that you think might respond to an invitation.

Invitations will be available at all three of our churches. We can only invite people to our morning service or services – the evening service on that Sunday is a CTIP combined service.

How many are likely to respond? The experts(!) say, not hundreds. Not even dozens. But some will – and we need to make sure that they are made welcome, that the service is inspiring and friendly, that they are given the opportunity to come to coffee afterwards, and that is when we need to talk to them! Not cross-examine them, not ask them where they have been for the last twenty years, but talk to them, show an interest in them, answer any

questions they may have – and say how much you look forward to meeting them again next week!

September 30 is Harvest Thanksgiving at S Andrew's and S Boniface, which is a very good day to invite people because they will know all the hymns and enjoy the harvest service! The Parish Church will have to work extra hard to make sure the service is warm and welcoming, and sides men and women, and members of the congregation, will have to be especially friendly!

S Andrew's and S Boniface are having a Harvest Lunch on that day, which is another opportunity to engage with people. Whether that can be mentioned with the invitation we shall have to see, but it is certainly worth a verbal invitation.

Good luck with your invitations and your prayer for them!

Your sincerely

ST ANDREW'S

At 10.30am on Saturday 28 July, Douglas Mounce of BBC Radio Devon opened our Flower Festival in front of about 40 people. The theme was children's stories. During the day a steady flow of people came through the doors to enjoy the different displays. Teas and light refreshments were served in the lower hall.

At 2.30pm for children and the young at heart, we were entertained to a puppet show by the Goodrington Sea Life Centre.

In the evening we were treated to over an hour of music by Concordia.

On Sunday evening we hosted a CTIP Songs of Praise, with a congregation of 230, a choir of 30+ and musicians under the direction of Andrew Maries.

A very big thank you to all who contributed to this weekend, from the organisers to the tea makers. At the time of writing a total of £1139 has been made.

At Andrews@8 - may I commend this service to you all. We start with a hymn, prayer and discussion all over a cup of tea or coffee.

Paul Siviers

St Andrew's @



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ST BONIFACE

We at St Boniface are so sad to hear that Father Mike is retiring. He has been a wonderful priest and will be greatly missed by us all. We will also miss Wendy and the children, we think they are a lovely family. When you move and things have settled down we hope you will come back and see us. "Please."

Saturday 1 September: 2.30pm Jumbo Jumble Sale.

Friday 7 September: 7.30pm. We are so sorry but we cannot have a Fish & Chip Supper as they could not arrive until 8.30pm, which by the time our supper was cooked, we felt it would be too late to eat. So let's still have a fun evening.

Fancy Dress from a Show (optional). Bring a plate of food to share. We will provide drinks and entertainment, you just come and enjoy yourselves.

Wednesday 26 September: Prize Bingo starts at 7.30pm. We hope to see you there.

Anne

Jackson



PUDDING FEAST

Don't have a pudding after your Sunday lunch on 16 September – come to the Parish Church Hall instead between 4.00 – 6.00pm for a wonderful selection of homemade deserts.

Tickets £4.00, available from Sheila Sharp or Mavis Hawkins, entitles you to a wide choice of two puddings each. Proceeds to the Parish Church. Hope to see you there.



Free: Two matching Charnwood reclining chairs. Heather floral pattern. (Donation to church if desired). New owner collects and transports.

For Sale: New (unwrapped) garden lounge. Green frame, padded cushions. £10.

Does anyone need a piano? If so please contact to negotiate.

Ring 550582 for further information on the above.

CLUB 2000

The next coach trip is on Thursday 4 October to the Tiverton Canal for a 2 hour autumn cruise. Bring a packed lunch. Drinks on the barge. Then on to Bickley Mill Shopping Centre.

Pick-up times: 9.15am Church Street, 9.30am Train Station. Inclusive price - £13 each. A sheet for names will be in the church hall.

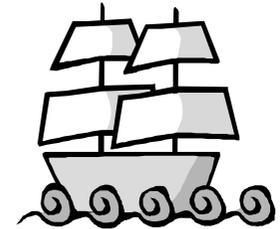
For further details please ring 526463.

Cynthia Borrill

THE ARTHUR DAY COLUMN

“John Brown’s body lies a-mouldering in the grave” and you know the rest. And the rest had a topical interest in this bi-centenary year of the abolition of slavery throughout the British dominions. John Brown (1800-1860) was an American abolitionist. A reference book published nearly a century ago says of him “He was said to have descended from a ‘Mayflower’ pilgrim, and certainly displayed a stern religious spirit, which at times bordered on the fanatical”.

Whether or not he was descended from those Puritans who, in 1620, emigrated to America on the ‘Mayflower’ which sailed from Plymouth because their beliefs rendered them liable to persecution I am not able to say. But among John Brown’s ancestors was a Puritan who is often – somewhat loosely – described as “Paignton’s Pilgrim Father”, Samuel Chapin, who was the subject of last month’s article. Chapin, baptised in our Parish Church in 1598, and married in our church in 1624, went to America about fifteen years after the ‘Mayflower’ voyage, and was certainly active in Puritan circles when he got there.



John Brown must have had a fanatical streak in him. So wrapped up was he in the anti-slavery campaign that he organised and carried out a night raid on an arsenal with the object of arming the negroes for an insurrection. The led to his trial and execution.

As mentioned last month, the reredos behind the Parish Church’s High Altar is in memory of Samuel Chapin. At the Dedication of that reredos on 31 July 1927, the then Bishop of Exeter (Lord William

Cecil) who performed it, said: “The Puritans, with their strong faith, their deep conviction and real belief that God was present with them ... made many mistakes. They could never stop in the middle; they must get over it it was that great strength born of God, to put God so high that country, family, nothing weighed against it; to leave their home and go across the ocean to worship God”. So – was it from our Samuel Chapin that John Brown inherited that “stern religious spirit which at times bordered on the fanatical” and led him eventually to the gallows?

Active opposition to the slave trade has characterised other descendants of Samuel Chapin. One of them, Harriet Beecher Stowe, wrote “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”. Harriet’s brother, Henry Ward Beecher, a Congregational Minister, acquired a high reputation on account of his active interest in the anti-slavery movement and other public matters.

Samuel’s descendants have also included two Presidents of the United States. One of them, William Howard Taft was President from 1909 to 1912; the other, Stephen Grover Cleveland was President twice (1885-1887) and (1892-1897). During his second term of office there arose a controversy relating to the State of Venezuela in which Cleveland’s views were so strong in holding – and presumably expressing – the “Monroe Doctrine” that the United States should refuse to be influenced or dominated by Europe, that he nearly involved the States in a war with Great Britain! What would Samuel have thought of that!

And Samuel’s descendants include the famous compiler of a dictionary – Noah Webster, who published his dictionary in 1828, so it may be that he is regarded in America much as we in England regard Samuel Johnson.

The Chapin family are well-known in America, and the name is borne by streets, squares and banks – in fact, a visitor to our Parish Church many years ago – (I think he may have been a descendant of Samuel) – told me that somewhere in America is a village named after the

family. Let us hope that some day someone – either our Council or perhaps the architect or builder of a new road in Paignton – will be moved to perpetuate his name in that way.

Arthur Day

LAST NIGHT AT THE PROMS!

Thursday 13 September - "The Organ's Last Night of the Proms!" featuring Gareth Perkins and friends with audience participation. Come along with your choice of Union flags, toy "hooters" (or anything else that makes a noise!) and bottle of wine and enjoy a fun evening's entertainment with popular items including Jerusalem, Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia and fun works for organ. An evening not to be missed! Starts at 7.30pm and admission is only £4.



ARTICLES FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Please give any articles for inclusion in the October magazine to either Ginny Piper or Kathy Mosedale by 9.30am on Sunday 16 September. I shall be away and someone has kindly agreed to type up the magazine but she will need the copy by 1 September.

The email facility will not be available for the month so please let the churchwardens have hard copy only. Also, please don't send your article(s) to the Vicarage - they will stay there unread

MOTHERS' UNION

Six members attended the Mary Sumner Day Celebration Service at Marlton Church. The speaker was Jenny Buckle. Afterwards we enjoyed the fellowship of a bring and share tea. We were pleased that Joyce Buhler's daughter joined us for the occasion.

Holiday vouchers are once again being published in the local press. The Mothers' Union will gratefully accept any unwanted ones. Thank you.

Corporate Communion: Wednesday 5 September.

Susan O'Brien

PAIGNTON PARISH LADIES' GROUP

(Note the new title)

The Wives' Committee met on Sunday 29 July and prepared your new programme which we are confident you will enjoy.

We also, as requested at the AGM, voted on the new name for the group. The vote was almost unanimous, and we hope that you will approve of the result.

Unfortunately our croquet evening was a "washout", but it was so popular that we plan to reschedule.

Our next event is our registration evening on Monday, 24 September at 7.00pm in the hall. Registration cost is £3. At 7.30pm there will be a talk on bee keeping by Reg Williams.

Ladies, did you realise that it is less expensive to register as members than to pay the extra cost when you come as guests? In addition we would love to have you as members. We are welcoming, supportive of each other and a lot of fun.

Audrey Smith

SOUNDS FROM THE BELFRY

Many of you may have heard the appeal on Radio Devon for more people to take up and learn the ancient art of bell ringing. It is predicted that in 10 years 90% of Devon's towers will be silent. This may be exaggerating but in my own opinion I think they are near the mark. I cannot imagine the disappearance of the iconic vision of the village nestling in the valley with the sound of church bells drifting from it. Our own tower is appealing for ringers and it is no secret that it would not operate without the generous assistance of ringers from nearby towers. This situation is not unique to Paignton as in the local area almost every tower around struggles to fulfil ringing duties for weddings and services. In our own tower the average age of the ringers could be over 60 so as father time swings his scythe this tower could also be another statistic in the 90% of silent Devon towers.

Bell ringing has a long and unique tradition. It is interesting and a sociable hobby for all ages from 10 years upwards. It has a free gift for the middle aged upwards as it is good exercise for the spine. That alone has to be far cheaper than the chiropractor. For younger ringers, it has discipline, teamwork and a good social life where new friendships will be made. It is not unknown for some of the older bell ringers to involve the local village pub. Another added bonus is that ringers visit places that you never knew existed and are seldom visited by the general public. I can vouch for this, as being born a Devonian, and since starting to ring, I have visited villages in Devon I had never even heard of. If you are interested in church architecture you will already know that Devon is the county with the largest number of

medieval churches. As a bell ringer you will see all styles of medieval churches decorated in all styles from medieval wall paintings to intricately carved wooden church furnishings.

The Bat from The Belfry



PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms: 26.8.07 Annaliese Marie Jones
Anna-Mae Tucker

Wedding: 11.8.07 Jason Rain & Kara Boraine

Funerals: 1.8.07 Hilda Margaret Smith 91
14.8.07 Anthony Gilbert Jopson 52
15.8.07 William Edward Lloyd 84

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

2	Sun	6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction: Parish Church
5	Wed	10.00am	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
7	Fri	7.30pm	Fancy Dress St Boniface
9	Sun	6.00pm	Evening Prayer: S Boniface
13	Thu	7.30pm	"Last Night at the Proms": Parish Church
16	Sun	9.30am	Magazine material to <i>Churchwardens</i> please
		4.00pm	Pudding Tasting! Church Hall

		6.00pm	Wholeness and Healing: Parish Church
18	Tue	7.30pm	Deanery Synod: S Andrew's
23	Sun	2.30pm	Holy Baptism: Parish Church
		6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction: S Andrew's
30	Sun		Harvest Thanksgiving: S Boniface & S Andrew's
		6.30pm	CTIP Fifth Sunday: Paignton Baptist Church

INTERCESSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

1	Sat	S Giles Ab	Friars and Sisters
2	Sun	TRINITY 13	Our Evening Mothers' Union
3	Mon	S Gregory BD	The Bishop of Ebbsfleet
4	Tue	S Cuthbert B	Those asking for baptism
5	Wed	Feria	Our Mothers' Union
6	Thu	Feria	Our Church Treasurers
7	Fri	Feria	Our parish social life
8	Sat	Birthday of the BVM	Thanksgiving for Our Lady
9	Sun	TRINITY 14	Retired clergy
10	Mon	Feria	Paignton Hospital
11	Tue	Feria	Our Diocese
12	Wed	Feria	Our Young People
13	Thu	S John Chrysostom BD	All Preachers
14	Fri	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	The Parish of Crediton
15	Sat	Our Lady of Sorrows	The Bereaved
16	Sun	TRINITY 15	Our Sunday Schools
17	Mon	S Hildegard Abb	FSJM at Posbury
18	Tue	Feria	The Deanery Synod
19	Wed	S Theodore B	The Archbishop of Canterbury
20	Thu	S Andrew Kim Taegon	The Church in Korea
21	Fri	S Matthew A	Jewish Christians
22	Sat	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
23	Sun	TRINITY 16	Those to be baptised
24	Mon	Our Lady of Walsingham	Walsingham
25	Tue	S Sergius Ab	The Russian Orthodox Church

26	Wed	SS Cosmas & Damian M	Ordination candidates
27	Thu	S Vincent de Paul pr	The Poor
28	Fri	S Wenceslas KM	The Church in Eastern Europe
29	Sat	S Michael & All Angels	Thanksgiving for the Angels
30	Sun	TRINITY 17	Back to Church Sunday

