

## FR TUBBS WRITES

So here I am, almost at the end of April, and we still haven't had that last letter, that final piece of paper, which says, You've got the house! We are slowly downsizing, but still don't know the exact size of the rooms in our new house, so still don't really know what we can take with us and what we must leave behind - or rather, get rid of (I don't think the Diocese would approve if we left anything behind!)

All this waiting takes place during the great Fifty Days of Easter. I love the season of Advent, though it is so often taken over by Christmass. I love the season of Lent - yes, I love Christmass and Epiphany too. Yet it is Easter which gives me the greatest spiritual uplift. Paul talks about fighting wild beasts (1 Cor 15.32) which, of course, he doesn't mean literally. Many of us face wild beasts during our lives. Illness, redundancy, divorce, unemployment, childlessness, bereavement, disappointments great and small. These are our wild beasts. They are bereavement situations. Yet for us as Christians these wild beasts, these bereavement situations, are not the end. They do not have the final hold on our lives. The resurrection had to be preceded by the crucifixion. It was out of the betrayal by one of his companions, the abandonment by all his close friends, the betrayal - with a kiss - the pain, the suffering, the agony, all preceded the resurrection. It was in his death that Jesus conquered. It is finished! was a great shout of triumph, not an expression of failure.

All our wild beasts, our bereavements, our sufferings, our pain physical, mental, spiritual, cannot compare with the sufferings of Jesus, which were so bad that he wonders whether God has in fact forsaken him. Yet out of that suffering comes the triumph of the resurrection.

The funeral service now contains a prayer which begins,

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death

It goes on to pray for those who mourn and asks that God will give them patient faith in times of darkness and that he will strengthen them with the knowledge of his love.

I would not want to diminish or trivialise anyone's suffering; many of you have borne great pain at times during your lives, and some of you are bearing it now. At the same time I would be failing in my duty as your parish priest if I did not remind you that as death is not the end, so suffering and pain, from the least to the greatest suffering and pain, is not the end. The resurrection is not over and done with; it is a miracle that still takes place every day, in your life and in mine. We meet with the risen Lord every time we say our prayers, every time we make our communion, every time we read the Bible - and every time we relieve the suffering of others.

The risen Jesus still bore in his body the marks of the nails and the spear. Indeed, it is the definitive way of recognising him. Luke tells us

that the risen Lord says to the disciples on that first Easter Day, Why are these doubts coming up in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet, and see that it is I myself. John tells us that the risen Lord invited Thomas to put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand in the wounded side. Yet he is risen, conquering sin and death, for you and for me.

So continue to enjoy these great Fifty Days, and in the midst of your tribulations great and small, give thanks for your share in Our Lord's passion, and for his promise of sharing in his resurrection.

Yours sincerely,

### **Ascension Day**



**Ascension Day is on Thursday 21 May. It is a great and important feast, largely ignored by the majority of Christians, which is a pity.**

**On that day there will be a Eucharist at the Parish Church at 10.00am and a Sung Mass at St Boniface at 7.00pm.**

**BRT**

**St. Boniface**

All through this month of May we continue to celebrate Eastertide, Christ's resurrection from the dead - as we do every Sunday. As is the theme of Easter Sunday, it remembers and celebrates the very foundation of Christianity, those who believe and are baptised share in this resurrection to new life. It was natural that the very first followers of Jesus would hold this moment sacred. It was the anniversary of that wonderful time when they experienced him risen and still among them. His death had occurred on the most important of all Jewish feasts, the Passover. His resurrection fulfilled all that the Passover had meant to them as Jews. It was an exodus, or passage, from the old times and the oppression of slavery to spiritual freedom. Jesus was the Paschal Lamb, slain to achieve this freedom.

Eastertide comes to a close this year on the last day of May, the feast of Pentecost. This is the day that Fr. Tubbs has chosen to complete his ministry among us, and I hope that we will all join together for the service at 10.30am to give thanks for his and Gwyneth's ministry to the parish of Paignton.

Forthcoming events at St Boniface -

Every Tuesday - Mass 9.30am followed by Coffee Morning, with Table Top items for sale 10 - 12.

Thursday 21st May, Ascension Day, Sung Mass 7.00pm.

Wednesday 27th May - Prize Bingo

Fr Bob.

**St Andrew s**

We have a Coffee Morning every Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

St Andrew s Fellowship are holding a table top sale on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Refreshments available.



At St Andrew s we have a lunch every Wednesday after Mass why not come along and join us?

Everyone welcome to all of the above, please come and support us, all proceeds to church funds.

Anthea Siviers

**An Apology and A Thanks!**

On Boxing Day, which is a long time ago now, Natasha Robinson, a member of the Alternative Service, who was confirmed on February 8, went for a bathe in the sea! Absolutely mad, as I told her! But she raised £60, half of which she has given to our New Hall fund.

Thank you Natasha! I m sorry it has taken so long to say thank you. I hope you are going to go in to the sea during the summer, when it will be a bit warmer!

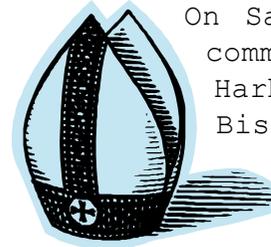
BRT

**MOTHERS UNION**

Four of us travelled to South Brent on March 25<sup>th</sup> to join with other members of the Deanery to celebrate Lady Day. The communion service was

followed by tea and cakes and an opportunity to chat to fellow members.

We recently hosted the Spring Deanery meeting at the Parish Church.



On Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> there is to be a commissioning service open to all at Harberton Church at 2.30pm. The Bishop of Plymouth the Rt Revd John Ford is to commission a Mothers Union branch and any new members from other branches at this service which will be followed by a bring and share tea. Please contact Doreen Nicholson (555602) to arrange a lift.

Corporate Communion - Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Susan O Brien



**OUTLOOK**

HELP NEEDED!



We are now in the third year of trading at our Charity Shop in Palace Avenue and apart from the obvious benefit of raising over £22,000 for our three churches, feel that we do provide a Christian outreach to the Parish.

We are fortunate to have many of our original volunteers still committed to keeping the shop trading but have lost some helpers through

illness etc and are now at the point where we cannot continue to trade without more help. We have 11 sessions of 3 hours per week and while we only need two people for each session, it would be advantageous to have three people available for each session which would allow for illness, holidays etc. The volunteers on each rota could then decide which of them would be available to man the shop on a weekly basis allowing more flexibility for all.

Please consider whether you might volunteer 3 hours help, even once per fortnight, to enable us to keep trading and fundraising.

Please contact Rene Adams (10803 407214) or Carol Haggett (01803 698038)

### **Parish Ladies Group**

Our last meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March when Jeff Beare talked about his work as a magistrate. We were somewhat fearful when he told us that we would be called on to participate but actually it was fun, as we were asked to judge various court cases, and, as you can imagine, we did not all agree. So we enjoyed a lively and successful evening, and we thank you, Jeff.



Our meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May was to have been a visit to the Palace Theatre, but the show has been cancelled for want of a leading lady. Any volunteers? We are looking for an alternate activity and will let you know the results.

Our first snack and chat meeting is at the Palace Hotel on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of May at 12.30pm.

All members of the group wish Fr Tubbs and Gwyneth a happy, healthy and active retirement, and we thank Fr Tubbs for his participation in the activities of the Parish Ladies Group.

Audrey Smith

### **CLUB 2000**

Dates for your diary.

Friday May 8th Bingo in the Hall 7.15pm

Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> Coach trip to Homeleigh Garden Centre combined with a trip on a steam train. Price to be arranged. Please put your name on the list in the Hall if you are interested. For any other details contact Cynthia on 526463.

Cynthia Borrill

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

I am planning to collate a Memory Box for a local nursing home. These have proved to be of great benefit for dementia patients, stimulating the mind and creating a talking point. I would be grateful for any items and documents from the

past. I can photocopy them if you want them back.

Doreen Nicholson

**PARISH LADIES GROUP**

GET ACTIVE

FOR

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10<sup>th</sup> - 16th MAY 2009

Many of us are feeling the pinch because of the recession, fewer meals out, buying cheaper alternatives. How much worse is it for people in developing countries, the recession is hitting them as well and they had less to begin with. Please get active. Help to raise money for clean water, sanitation, education, medical care, fair trading. Give support to people trying to work for a better future.

Help with house to house collections. Take the Red Envelope for friends and neighbours. Give what you can afford and return the envelope to the Church Wardens or Sidesmen

Come to the Coffee Morning

On

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

10.30am to 12 noon

including

Bring and Buy Stall & Raffle

Test your brains and enjoy Hot Pasties and Wine at the

PARISH QUIZ

Friday 15th May 7-30pm

Susan O'Brian is still happy to receive money for her Sponsored Silence.

PLEASE GET ACTIVE FOR CHRISTIAN AID.

Jean Kitson

**Sounds From the Belfry**

On Good Friday if you heard the Parish Church bells ringing you may have noticed that the bells were rung in a different fashion with a haunting sound to them. That was because the clappers that swing inside the bells were covered on one side with a leather cap. The bells had two different sounds, one was the normal (open) louder sound and the other is a softer sound, this is the side that is muffled and it gives an echo-like sound.

This type of ringing can be on solemn occasions and often people request the muffled sound on the death of someone. Traditionally the bells were rung muffled at the passing of the old year and on midnight the bells were rung open to welcome in the New Year.

For those who may feel that ringing church bells could be too strenuous, there are 65 steps to the ringing chamber, you may wish to consider ringing the hand bells. We have a budding hand bell team who collect for charity. The performances are mainly in the run up to

Christmas but we practise throughout the year. The hand bell team has also rung at fetes and other festive occasions. The ringers do take bookings and have been asked to ring at weddings, the last one being at Forde Abbey. If you would like to learn more or wish to participate, the hand bell practice night is from 7p.m. on every Tuesday and lasts for 30 minutes. For any information concerning hand or church bells please contact John Kelly on 01803 556 208.

The Paignton Church Bell team came first place in the Deanery in October and qualified to ring with the best two ringing teams from six other deaneries. That competition was at Chudleigh on 18 April and Paignton came a commendable 9th position. The marking was very close and the ringing was very enjoyable and even the weather was pleasant with some beautiful sunshine for the whole of the day.

Michael Webster

#### WHOLENESS AND HEALING SERVICE



Have you someone for whom you wish to pray? Maybe they are sick, have problems with relationships, or concerns for their future.

This is a service which provides opportunities for private prayer, entering a short list of those in need, and, or Laying on of Hands, combined with a short sermon, prayer, praise and blessing.

I have been privileged to be a member of this Wholeness and Healing team since its introduction by Fr Tubbs. Like so many who have attended regularly I have been encouraged and helped by this invaluable part of Christian Ministry.

Do come and join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month at 6.00pm - you will be very welcome.

Betty Knapp



I received with thanks my gift voucher on completing a number of years in sacristy. As I didn't expect anything it was a lovely surprise.

Lyn Broughton

Thank you to everyone who supported my Swimathon in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. With your help I raised £120. Thank you. I swam 5000 metres in 1 hour 51 minutes 31 seconds.

Jean Kitson

#### PARISH REGISTERS

<b>Baptisms</b>	29.3.09	Gracie Claire Radmore Ruby-Rose Frances Harwood
	26.4.09	Giovanni Alessio Luciano Livio Thomas James McLoughlin Taylor Stevens



