

## Leaves from the Rector's Diary

**15 February** A proper coffee morning today. Being priest for three separate communities does stretch one's abilities from time to time. First stop at Pensford for the Mothers and Toddlers Coffee morning, where I could do little more than wave the flag, swig a cup of coffee, and then set off to Compton Dando for their open coffee morning. More coffee, and cream cake, the latter firmly resisted. This gathering is a good way of bringing people together in the village and I enjoy being present. Galloping away from that to do a pastoral visit and to be met by "More coffee, Vicar?"

**17 February** *More consultation about Pensford churchyard. The Publow PCC has decided to apply to the Home Office for a closure of this churchyard, and at the same time safeguarding the rights of those who wish (one day) to be buried in existing family graves. The churchyard is full, and therefore the maintenance of closed burial grounds passes to the Local Authority. Before this happens, the PCC will spend a large amount of money on restoring the stone wall along the southern boundary. The reason for this move? The churchyard is full. Quite simply it is fast becoming beyond the ability of Publow PCC to care for two churchyards. There is no money provided for this: all has to be funded from the weekly offerings, and it will be beyond the pockets of 50 or so regular subscribers.*

**18 February** After a trip to Basingstoke, we called at Winchester on the way home. I had not been to the Cathedral for some years and thought that the Visitors' Centre erected at the west end of the Cathedral was splendid. After Evensong we spent time chatting with the Dean, who moved there from Suffolk a few years ago. Carol and I had enjoyed a Nile Cruise he and his wife had organised, and he was now trying to persuade us to join a group he is to lead to Jordan later this year. Some hopes.

**21 February** "Happy Smiling Chimneys" – yes the firm is called that – arrived to dismantle the ugly, ineffective, past-its-sell-by date, gas fire in the Rectory Lounge. "Disgruntled grate" has now given way to a small wood burner.

**27 February** A weekend spent child minding in Hale, Cheshire. It was good to take the grandsons to the morning Eucharist, where they were well cared for in the church hall before returning for the Communion. Stepped into a potential hornet's nest in the Parish Church, where all the pews have been removed, a new floor installed and ready to move the altar from the east wall to a free standing table at the chancel step. "What did I think?" I started by stating my absolute delight in what was happening, and then realised it would be prudent to say nothing more. I have care of three churches 180 miles away; that's enough.

**1 March** Return from Manchester via Norwich to visit the dentist, then into Suffolk to collect the new puppy, calling on the way home to the grandchildren in Caterham. Part of the reason for wanting to move to Somerset was to make it easier to visit the family, and so, surprisingly, it's proving to be. All this however has taken its toll on the car, what with fuel leaks, a clapped out clutch and whatever, has left me £1,800 poorer. Cars are not cheap to keep and run.

**15 March** The Diocesan Bishop called this morning for the best part of an hour's chat. I appreciate the pastoral care that is offered.

**16 March** *The Bishop's Council has appointed me to membership of the Diocesan Advisory (DAC). This body meets monthly to discuss applications for faculties to repair church buildings, pass them on to the Diocesan Chancellor for approval or otherwise, and generally to advise churches on maintenance, rebuilding and re-ordering schemes. It's not always a popular committee as far as parishes are concerned, but it is essential if we are to continue "ecclesiastical exemption", which means that usually the Local Authority does not have to be consulted for building and furnishings consent. I have served on Norwich DAC for 14 years and am a glutton for punishment. Enjoyed the first meeting today.*

From the Parish Registers of All Saints' Church

Memorial Service

4th March John BOWES

## Local History Group

Michael Horseman gave a lively and entertaining talk about the Kennet and Avon Canal, taking us on a journey from Reading to Bristol. With historical detail and anecdotes about the canal's construction and usage over the past 200 years, he whet our appetites for walks along the tow path and the variety of refreshment stops along the way. Our next speaker will be Hugh Norton. The title of his talk is "The fight for Everest 1924", when his father, Edward Norton, led the team on their attempt to ascend Everest. This was the expedition that George Mallory and Sandy Irvine lost their lives. We will be meeting at 7.30 in the Church Rooms in Church St on Monday 4th April.

**Pensford Primary School** The Pensford School PSA

has raised an amazing £319 by providing refreshments at the Chaos Productions performance of Pompei. We would like to say a huge thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets – this alone raised a staggering £163.00. First prize went to Jean Parfitt, 2nd to Janet Dando and 3rd Prize to Mr Reis, a friend of Alan Ford's.

This money will go towards some educational trips/resources and will be very much appreciated by the children. A big thank you to everyone who did some baking for this event, to those who served in the kitchen and lastly everyone who came along, without your support, this could not have happened.

**Helen King and Dawn Humphries, Joint Chairs of the PSA**

## Service Changes from May

**Publow** Each Sunday at 9.30am, except 4th Sunday when at 6.00pm.

**Compton Dando** Each Sunday at 11.15am, except 2nd Sunday when at 6.00pm.

**Chelwood** No change.

## JOHN BOWES

Barbara and the family were touched by the care and sympathy shown by so many, and by your presence at John's Memorial Service. We appreciated it so much and send our grateful thanks to you all.

## PENSFORD EVERGREENS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 16th April, at Pensford Memorial Hall, 10.00am - 12noon. Please come along and support the Evergreen Club which has now been running in the village for 50 years! There will be a superb cake stall, lots of books, interesting bric-a-brac and a grand raffle. Your support will be much appreciated. Any donations for any of the stalls: please contact Jo Beedell:490371.

The Club offers a variety of entertainment, brass bands, folk groups, singers, guitarists and speakers on a Thursday evening 7.00pm. Visitors welcome £1.50 inc refreshments. What value for money!!

## POLITE MESSAGE!

Can the person who allows their dog to foul along the High Street please clear up the mess behind them – its not nice when your child stands in it on the way to school. Please be reminded that there are signs up stating that there is up to a £1,000 fine for dog fouling.



Let us take up God's invitation to live life courageously. When my children were much younger they couldn't work out why it wasn't possible to have Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday,

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday all in the same week! I have to say there were moments in my time as a Parish Priest when I wished that could have been the case. But think what I might have missed. Those forty days of Lent are when we're invited to pay attention to the things of God within us and around us because so often in the rest of the year we don't. We are all familiar with the story of Moses and the burning bush, but reflect on it again just for a moment. The bush wasn't right in front of Moses. It was over to the side somewhere, because when Moses saw it, he said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight'. Because he turned aside and didn't rush on, he saw God. I hope that, during these forty days, we try to find some time to turn aside and pay attention to the God who is at work in us, at work in the people we meet and at work in the communities where we live and work and serve.

If all these days were compressed together, I'd have also missed the experience of Holy Week. I often wonder whether 'holy' is too religious a word for this deeply significant week in our faith story. Perhaps it would be better described as 'courage week', because we all need courage to be steadfast in the face of suffering and death, in the face of disappointment, heartache or lack of hope. Much of the time we struggle to do it, but courage, writes Kierkegaard, 'is not the absence of despair and fear, but the capacity to move ahead in spite of them.' Courage is what the resurrection calls us to; the courage to insist that even in the midst of suffering, or conflict, or despair, not all is lost; the courage to hold to the hope we have in Christ no matter what.

What I don't want to miss is God's invitation to me and to you to live more courageously, standing up for what is life-giving in our world, and standing against all that brings death, destruction and despair. Will the joyous conclusion to Holy Week that is Easter Day encourage us to live more in kindness and compassion, more in hope than in fear, resisting safety and security and embracing the risk of the adventure of life that God is inviting us to make?

**Peter Taunton**

## ALL SAINTS', PUBLOW - ANNUAL MEETING

The Vestry meeting and Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held in the Church Room, Pensford, Wednesday, 13th April, 7.30pm.

Before the meeting the revised Electoral Roll and the Annual Report and Accounts for 2010 will be displayed at the rear of All Saints' Church. In addition there will be lists inviting nominations for the following:-

Two Churchwardens to serve for the

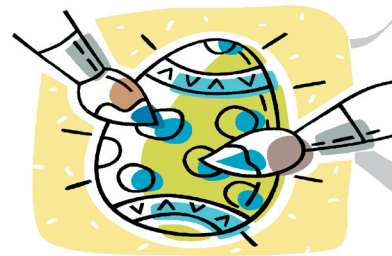
coming year; Three Deanery Synod representatives to serve for three years; and One elected member of the Parochial Church Council to serve for three years. All parishioners are encouraged to attend to vote for their representatives in the parish and to examine and comment on the accounts for 2010.

Judith Hillman, 01761 490324, Secretary to Parochial Church Council

## GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

ALL WELCOME  
(Children under 5 must be accompanied)

Hear the Easter Story  
have fun making Easter Garden's  
Cards, baskets, Egg Decorating  
and much more



All Saint's Publow  
Friday April 22nd  
10.00am - 12noon

For information  
Revd sue Stevens 01761490898

### Pensford Toddlers

In January the members of Pensford Toddler Group were treated to a delicious lunch prepared by Janet Smith and her band of helpers. We all enjoyed a superb cooked meal with a wonderful pudding and the children much enjoyed their sausages and chips. It was such a treat to be given a cooked lunch and with no washing up! Thank you very much Janet and all your helpers.

Our Coffee Morning held on Tuesday 15th February was a resounding success. Thank you to all who came and helped us drink tea and coffee and eat cake. Through your generosity we have raised £180 in aid of NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at the RUH, Bath. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, with the added bonus of raising money to help very ill newborn babies. Thank you.

Finally, we have another fundraising

initiative in May. It is called 'Bag 2 School'. This company is interested in collecting quality second hand ladies', men's and children's clothing, as well as bedding, curtains, soft toys shoes, belts and handbags. All items are for re-use. No Bric-a-Brac please. Pensford Toddler Group will be paid a certain amount per kilo of goods.

If you would like to help us with this (a good opportunity for a spring clearout!) please contact Helen Harper 490808. Special bags will be available for filling from 4th April. The collection will be made on Friday 6th May from outside Pensford Memorial Hall.

**P.S** We are always on the lookout for new members, if you look after a child 0-5 years please come and join us. We meet every Tuesday 9.45am-11.30am, in the Memorial Hall during term time.

**Helen Harper**



Chew Valley Choral Society

presents

# JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

St John Passion (in English)

St John the Baptist Church, Keynsham

Saturday 16th April

7.30pm

Soprano - Naomi MacLeod-Jones

Alto - Rob Waters

Evangelist and Tenor - Mark Hounsell

Bass - Christopher Sheldrake

The Pfretzher Ensemble

Musical Director - David Beadnell

Tickets from 01275 333014

or choir members - £10

# PENSFORD EVERGREENS COFFEE MORNING

PENSFORD MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 16th APRIL  
10.00am - 12noon



There will be a superb cake stall,  
lots of books  
interesting bric-a-brac  
and a grand raffle



ENTRANCE 50p  
INCLUDING TEA/COFFEE &  
BISCUITS

## Easter Eggstravaganza!

If you would like to try painting your own hard-boiled eggs for Easter, decorating Easter themed biscuits, making your own Easter card or having a go at making an Easter bonnet - or if you would just like to enjoy some homemade simnel cake and a chat, then come along on Tuesday 12th



April to Compton Dando Hall. Everyone is welcome - men, women and children. The event is organised by Compton Dando Social Group and people from all the local villages are especially welcome. It starts at 7.30pm and the cost is £2 (£1 under 12s). For more information ring Pam (490488) or Nel (490715)



# MARJE AND BRYAN'S

## COFFEE MORNING & SALE

Saturday 21st May  
10.30am to 12.30pm

Venue as last year  
Lodge Farm, Chelwood  
By kind invitation of  
Mrs E Jones and family

Plants  
Cakes, Jams & Pickles  
Gifts: New & Nearly New  
Books & Puzzles  
Raffle

50p Entry  
includes Coffee & Biscuits

Proceeds to  
St Leonard's Church



## Publow with Pensford MU

Our meeting on 10th March was most interesting and entertaining for all of us. Our Rector, Canon John came and talked to us. God, Childhood and Friendships were among the subjects and he also gave us a clever Palindrome to sort out. This required us to put our "Thinking caps" on and there was much discussion, amusement and amazement. The carpenter Jesus came in the talk and we tried to imagine the kind of woodwork he would have done, probably everyday requirements around the villages and

perhaps some wood carving. John then told us of a woodcarving created by a former assistant of his. A beautiful hand-carved wooden hand holding a tiny baby in its palm. Intricate and painstaking work indeed. We all very much appreciated this talk, a very nice afternoon.

Our Mothers' Union are so sorry to hear of the death of one of our former members, Betty Silkstone. She moved with her husband rev. Harry Silkstone from Winford to Clare, Suffolk some years ago. Harry had predeceased her by a number of years.

We will be making the posies for Mothering Sunday, 3rd April and our next meeting is 14th April. Do join us, a welcome awaits you. **Mary Thomas**

## Extracts from Publow with Pensford PC Meeting

**Defibrillators:** The adoption of the kiosk has been held up due to the confusion of the ownership of the power supply. Western Power own the supply. Clerk and Mrs Stephenson to review the adoption. Leaflets have been distributed for the Demonstration & Awareness of the defibrillator on Wednesday 30th March 2011. Replies confirming attendance have been received.

**Changes to 376 Bus Service:** Somerset County Council have announced substantial reductions in their supported services to this bus service. Contracts for evenings, Sunday and Bank Holiday journeys on the 376 have been cancelled with effect from the 17th April 2011. B&NES consider it important to retain this service and have invited bus operators to bid for contracts. Clerk to contact B&NES and clarify the times for the when the bus will stop on an evening. Clerk to also point out that to date no notices have been put up on the Bus Stops.

**The Sidings:** Reports of shooting near to the footpath have been reported to

PC Simon Glanfield. A reply is awaited.

**Telephone Kiosk:** Application form has been completed to adopt the kiosk at Hillcrest.

**Grit Bins:** Clerk has obtained prices from the internet regarding Parish Council purchasing their own grit bins. A request for Station Approach to be re-assessed has been made to Wayne Honey at B&NES..

**New Post on Pensford Hill:** Highways report that the new post was installed and they are now awaiting the utilities company to come and re-tarmac around the post.

**Potholes:** Highways were asked to attend to pot holes at Priestdown and Publow Lane from the Memorial Hall as far as Priestdown. Highways report that an order is already in for these. Confirmation has been received from B&NES that Woollard Lane Publow, Priestdown Lane Publow and Parsonage Lane Publow have been added to the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme for carriageway Surface Dressing 2011/12



## PENSFORD TENNIS CLUB

On the court front the contractors have completed the preparatory work and are now waiting for a weather window to start in earnest revamping the courts. The plan is to complete one court at a time so no one will be denied their morning/daily constitutional game of tennis! If all goes according to schedule the work on the courts could be finished by the end of March. Details on the progress of the courts will be displayed on our website. Coaching continues apace for both juniors and adults on Tuesdays at 6.00pm and 7.00pm respectively. If you want to brush up your skills, irrespective of level, please contact Peter Evans on 07580 004963 or email him at coaching@pensfordtennisclub.co.uk

[www.pensfordtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.pensfordtennisclub.co.uk)

## The Vale of Grace: Publow

*A country lane pursues the land  
Slicing through fields where  
cattle graze*

*Winter wears that forlorn look  
Ice licks hungrily at the brook*

*Hedgerow naked bared in shame,  
Where buds will grace when  
Spring appears.*

*Rises the spire on All Saints Church  
A landmark where the birds will perch.*

*And all around the Countryside  
The hills, the fields, the trees, the sky.  
Cross the bridge by winding road,  
That's never sure which way to go*

In loving memory of Pat Reeves, who would have been 86 years young on 11th April 2011. Thinking of you always,  
**Julie & Martyn Bragg & Family**

## Chew Valley Gardening Club

Our Meeting on Thursday, 14th April is entitled Borders with Bounce. Our Speaker, Neil Ross, has a wealth of experience; after a degree in horticulture he trained at Sissinghurst with the National Trust, followed by 12 years in New Zealand. Neil will talk about how to design a border looking at principals of scale, topography, etc., he also writes for National gardening magazines. So do come along to the Old Schoolroom, Chew Magna. We meet upstairs at 8.00pm and we welcome visitors and new Members. The Competition in April is 3 Flowers from Bulbs.



Chew Valley U3A has a monthly meeting on the third Monday of the month at Ubley village hall. Meetings start at 10:30am with refreshments beforehand. At the meeting on April 18th Mrs Penny Weir will talk about Great Western Air Ambulance. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 16th May. As well as the monthly meeting we run over 20 different interest groups and there are five different pub lunch groups. There are no monthly meetings at Ubley during June and July. However many of the interest groups keep running throughout the summer. We organize trips to interesting places or for interesting experiences and our motto is; "Learning For Pleasure". Nationally U3A runs many residential study schools in various parts of Britain and the two main Summer Schools are held at Cirencester and Telford, both in August. For more information visit our website [chewvalleyu3a.org.uk](http://chewvalleyu3a.org.uk) or the national website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or phone the Secretary, Christine Evans on 01934 832841.

Children's

Compton Dando Village Fayre 2011

# Poster Competition

Design a winning poster for this year's 'Right Royal' Village Fayre and win yourself a free pass for all the games on the day!

Your design should be submitted on A4 or A3 size (portrait format) card or paper, on a 'Right Royal' theme, and must include the words: **Compton Dando Village Fayre Saturday 2nd July 2-5pm**

Please deliver your entry (not folded) to: Steve Rendell 'The Byre' Court Hill Compton Dando (490419) or any Fayre Committee Member by the end of April.



## Pensford with Publow W.I.

Sylvia Baber welcomed members to the March meeting. Audrey was thanked for her table decoration of early Spring flowers, which were a delight. One birthday card was presented. Correspondence and Avon News were dealt with. A thank you card had been received from Irene, who celebrates her 90th birthday but was unable to attend as she was spending it with her family in Cyprus. An invitation to Stanton Drew WI for an evening with Lady Morris Dancers and supper was announced. An invitation from the Stroke Association had also been received suggesting members hold a Coffee Morning or Tea Party in aid of their funds. There is an exhibition

for all craft lovers to be held at the UWE Exhibition and Conference Centre, Filton on April 1st – 3rd.

Our speaker this month was David Fry, who came in his full regalia as a Town Crier. When he started this role, after retirement, he had no idea what it entailed but soon discovered that there were local, European and world-wide competitions which he went on to compete in, taking him all around the world. He told of many humorous encounters. He had a very full voice which seemed to need very little effort. He gave us a rendition of the "Oh yea's" in song. He ended with a "Cry" of God Save the Queen. A very enjoyable speaker. The competition was 'A Bell', which was won by Avril Ford, second Sheila Rice, third Janet Dando. Next month "A Fair Cop" with Mike Rowland. Visitors always welcome.



**Publow Church Fete  
&  
Open Garden**



**Sunday 8th May 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
The Old Vicarage, Publow Lane, Pensford**

By kind permission of Mrs E Woodford  
in aid of All Saints' Church, Publow &  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Cream Teas & Ice Creams ~ Cakes ~ Preserves  
Plants ~ Cards ~ White Elephant  
Fairground Organ ~ Garden Ironwork  
Raffles & Tombola ~ Book Stall ~ Craft Bags  
House of Soap ~ Niche Ladies Accessories  
Novelty Stall ~ Splat the Rat ~ Craft Bowls  
Guess the weight of the Cake



Horse & Carriage Rides



Jewellery ~ Tower Tours

Entertainment at 3pm in the Church by  
The Ammonites Choir

Garden Entrance £3 per adult, children under 14 free

**All Saints'  
Market Report - March**

The March market was an extremely busy and cheerful one. As well as the usual home-baking and preserves stall, which specialised in this year's marmalade, the Brownies had an exciting stall of cakes and goodies and Vivien Lee came with Phoenix cards. Steve Collins also had a wonderful array of plants for sale outside. The magnificent sum of £225 was raised for All Saints' Church. The Brownies made £73 for Pack Funds. Our next market event will be on 2nd April, when Traidcraft goods can be bought from Debbie Forge. We look forward

*Saturday*  
Church Rooms, Pensford  
10.00am - 11.30am

for  
Publow  
Church  
**HOME BAKING  
TRAIDCRAFT  
STALL**  
Raffle Tickets  
for Hamper  
Proceeds towards Church Funds  
Admission 50p to include coffee and biscuit



*Compton Dando Community Association*  
**Thursday 14th April  
Coffee and Chat The Parish Hall  
10.30am - 12.30pm**

Come and join us for complimentary  
coffee/tea and cakes -Bring your family & Friends  
A chance to meet up and spend some time  
getting to know each other



If you need a lift call  
Alison 490800 or Steph 492500



*If you appreciate the building in which you worship and like visiting other churches  
in the county you would enjoy being a member of the*

**Friends of Somerset  
Churches and Chapels**

FSCandC is a non-denominational charity established to raise awareness of this county's wonderful church heritage and to raise funds for church and chapel restoration. In ten years we have given £400,000 to over 200 church projects in Somerset.

[www.fscandc.org.uk](http://www.fscandc.org.uk)

Further info : [fscandcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fscandcinfo@gmail.com)  
or Membership Sec, 3 Glastonbury Rd,  
Wells, Somerset, BA5 1TW



**Annual Meeting St Swithin, Walcot, Bath Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm**

Come and see how this beautiful Georgian church has been re-ordered, converted for multi-use and saved from closure. John Crockford-Hawley will amuse you with a few tales of "potty parsons" and convivial music will come from a popular Wells trio. Teas available in the café. ALL WELCOME

