

Editorial Notes

It's official, we have a Rector ! As you will read on page 3 Ana was Inducted at a restricted service on 20th October. After an opening song on a C.D. The Rev'd Diana Greenfield read Luke 10 v1-12 after which Ana gave the sermon, then the Area Dean David MacGeoch presented Ana to the Archdeacon The Ven Anne Gell, and the official proceedings began. Towards the end Rev'd David Hatrey led the prayers of intersession. We all listened to the Hymn 'Be thou my vision on a C.D. after which Ana, David M and Anne processed out of the main church for the bottom picture on the back page, the top picture is of Ana at the door during the induction and installation, and then the bell (see page 3). The front cover shows Ana receiving the Deeds of Institution from the Archdeacon. We are all now learning the rules and guidelines as we worship in our churches, following arrows for communion, and silently leaving afterwards for a quick 'hello' to the service leader outside, while the order of service is left on chairs to quarantine along with bibles, chairs and other objects. However it is good to see some of our friends even if the chatting is limited to outside. Details of our churches Remembrance Services can be found on page 12 after the months service list on the centre pages. I do hope you are able to attend one of the services, but please remember to 'book in' as instructed as for any service even if you are leading preaching, reading, leading intercessions, or any other activity during the service. Thank you. Finally please note that any articles for the December 'Life' magazine should be sent to me (or Bernard) by Sunday 8th November and the deadline for the January magazine will be the first Sunday the 6th November so they are delivered before Christmas.

Roger.

One more step

As a vicar one thing I really enjoyed, even though it seemed to come round rather quickly, was writing the letter for the parish magazine. I know that not all parishes are able to produce a parish magazine and some find a website is a better way to communicate with people, however, I do still appreciate reading them when I can. So I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in writing, editing and producing parish magazines. They are often still an effective way to share what we are doing in our churches and to share with others the good news of the gospel. Recently I was reading one which had an article by someone recalling a visit made to the north west of the USA some 40 years ago. They spoke about the warmth of their welcome and the joy of being invited to preach in the church. What caught my eye, was that they remembered visiting Lake Wallowa where it is said: 'the air is so pure and the sky so clear that one can see the dawn of the day after tomorrow!' What a glorious expression. Of course, the truth is that we don't know what the future holds and at the moment things are challenging and uncertain for all of us and indeed for the world. One night recently when I was in hospital, unable to sleep and waiting for the dawn to break, I found myself singing the words of 'One More Step Along the Way' I go which has the chorus: 'And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you'. Maybe as we look to the future, with the joys and challenges that it will bring, that should be our prayer – Lord help us to travel with you wherever you may be leading.

With my warmest greetings, Bishop Peter.

My Induction. It was a joy and privilege to be formally inducted, installed and collated as your Rector at a service in the

Mission Church on Tuesday 20th October. Normally these occasions see a packed building full of church members from here and my former parishes, representatives of the community, family and local clergy. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, numbers were restricted and I am sorry that not everybody who I would have liked to have been there could attend. Nonetheless it was a joyful occasion and I am looking forward to all that God will do in this place as we journey forward together. When restrictions finally lift and things return to a version of normality, I am looking forward to finally holding a service of celebration (and a party!) for everyone - we won't need much of an excuse to do so! Many of you will know that, traditionally, the number of times the new Rector rings the bell indicates the number of years they plan to stay. To scotch any rumours surrounding my efforts at my induction, I'd like to assure you that my pathetic bell ringing attempts were entirely down to my campanological ineptitude rather any lack of commitment to serving here in the years to come.

So, who on earth are we then?

Dear Friends,

Over the past few weeks at our Sunday services, we have been exploring the question “who on earth are we?” From ‘we are chosen’ to ‘we remember’, this preaching series has been an opportunity to step back and reflect on our calling as Christian people. As the series draws to a close in the middle of this month, it would probably be safe to assume that we still have more to learn as we unpack our Christian identity. But how do we do this? There are a number of ways we can discover more of God and his purposes and plans for ourselves, the church and the wider world. Here are three opportunities available across the

benefice in the coming weeks: Firstly, prayer. Prayer is simply talking and listening to God. Whether you feel you are a beginner or a seasoned pray-er, God loves to hear us bring our needs and requests to him. As a benefice we have recently started Tuesday morning prayer meetings at 8am for 30 minutes via zoom, do join us, if you're able. Secondly, study. Whether at home or with others, it is good to dig into God's Word through studying the bible or learning more from other Christians. We currently have 4 house groups meeting across the benefice with more details to be found on our website. In addition, from the 4th November, we will be running the 'Bible Course', an 8 week online interactive and informative way of learning and engaging with God's Word. Thirdly, worship. Worship brings us into the presence of our loving heavenly Father. Now our churches are open again we can worship together on Sundays and midweek on Wednesday mornings. However, for those unable to make it, there are a huge variety of other resources from zoom church to the Church of England 'Daily Hope' phone line; from broadcast services to printed material. If I had to summarise in one phrase who on earth are we, I would describe us Jesus' followers. My prayer for us all is that we continue walk in the footsteps of the master in the weeks and months to come. Blessings and Peace Ana

PS. If you are looking for more prayer, study or worship resources to help you become a better Jesus follower, please get in touch, I'd love to talk to you.

Walton Matters

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you are called in one body; and be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
Colossians 3. V's 15-17. NKJ.

Harvest Festival.

At the beginning of October we celebrated harvest and the Church looked beautiful with flowers and hedgerow greenery. It was thanks to an amazing team that worked at social distancing to clean and do the flower arrangements. A big thank you to Brenda and Liz who joined me to clean the Church and the brass. Thank you to the wonderfully skilled arrangers comprising of Ruth, Jane, Bridget, Gill, Sue, Jane(2), Brenda and Liz who managed the new restrictions beautifully.

Our harvest service was taken by Kevin Lawrence and it was lovely to welcome him to Walton and to hear his word to us. Thanks also to go to so many of you that gave generously to the food bank, Mfuwi and the Church.

God our Father is such a generous God and it is wonderful to show our generosity to those who don't have as much provision as us. Bless you all.

Operation Christmas Child.

The shoe boxes have been in all our churches for the past month. We just have another week and a half to fill a box and deliver it back either to your own Church for collection or the Mission Church. I am also happy to collect boxes or fill a box for

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you if you give me a call on 446211. Particularly in this difficult time of pandemic the world over, it is wonderful to give joy to the less fortunate children in different countries. Please pray for this amazing outreach and pray over your box for the child who receives it. Closing date is 16th November.

As things are still not back to normal, if you are aware of anyone who can't get back to Church, or is still in need of shopping or

prescriptions collected, please let us know and we will arrange a phone call or a delivery. Thank you to all of you who have been watching over folk in their isolation, illness or any other need.

It is with sadness we share the death of Fred Smith in September. Dear Fred will always be remembered for his beautiful garden filled to overflowing with flowers every summer and amazing Christmas lights through December. He and Eileen worked tirelessly in their garden and shared it with us all, not just in Walton but from further away. He spent the last few years in a care home as both he and Eileen had failing health. His funeral was a tribute to a kind and loving husband, father and stepfather. Our love goes to Eileen and the family at this difficult time. Sandra.

The Big Tearfund Quiz

On 14th November on Zoom Please let me know if you would like to join the quiz. The questions have been set with individuals in mind but teams welcome too. I have set up a just giving page which you can pay into. Suzie Williams 07928921129

Compton Dundon Harvest

One of the adverse effects of the current pandemic is the financial hardship it has brought about for some of those here in our own Benefice. So it was with joy and thankfulness that we were able to offer gifts of food and money during the recent Harvest celebration to support people in need. The Salvation Army in Street were very pleased to receive our gifts. Others suffering financially are those in our link parish in Zambia. Their economy is heavily dependent on tourism, particularly the local gamepark. Covid19 has led to closure of the park, with job and income losses. We were pleased to be able to make

donations to support them and during our Harvest service we raised £170. We give thanks that as stewards of your goodness we are in a

position to share with those who are not as fortunate. We continue to pray for all those in need in our own parish, in our country and in the wider world. Pat.

Congratulations!

To Tim and Hannah Hindle on their licensing as Lay Worship Assistants in the Mission Church on 25th October. Following a period of training, Tim and Hannah are now accredited by the Diocese to lead services in our churches and we look forward to their ministry. To Helen and Hugh Thomas from Compton Dundon on becoming grandparents in October.

If you have good news or congratulations to share with the church family, please send details to the editors.

Bible Course comes to the Benefice

We will be running the Bible Society Bible Course on Wednesday evenings via zoom starting on 4th November. This 8 week course offers a fantastic and interactive overview of the world's best selling book and whether you are a bible scholar or a scripture novice, I would highly recommend joining us, the course will run throughout November and conclude in the New Year, taking a break for Advent, when we will do other things. Please contact me for more details. Ana.

Operation Christmas Child

Walton Church are once again collecting Christmas boxes for distribution to some of the neediest children in the world. To get a box and for more details, please contact Sandra Gristock (number elsewhere in the magazine). Filled boxes should be returned to the Mission Church by 16th November at the latest. Thank you.

Remembrance

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, our churches will have to mark Remembrance Sunday differently this year. Whilst what we do may not be the same, let's continue to give thanks for those who sacrificed much in times of conflict. In order to try to ensure that all who wish to can come to church we will offer an additional service in the Mission Church at 10.30am on Sunday 8th November. This will be a Morning Worship with a short act of remembrance. Details of other services can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

This month we also remember...

It is 30 years this month that D'ovidio builders completed the building of the Mission Church and we had the first service which was packed, no covid restrictions then thankfully! Those of us who have been here worshipping all those 30 years have happy memories of all that has taken place in our lovely church. Looking back at the Life magazine cover of five years ago I see a poppy adorned 'Arthur' the teddy bear who now lies isolated from us all, with no celebrating for him either. So we thank God for the Mission Church and we remember all those we no longer see who played a big part in making it what it is today. Here's to the next 30!!

MAY GOD BLESS ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE. Roger.

THE EVOLUTION OF MY PRAYER LIFE.

"If you are there, SHOW ME!" Does shouting at God when you are 12 and in a very rebellious mood, count as PRAYER?

That was in 1958... There seems to be a bit of a time lapse after that, and I can't honestly say, that I felt God had shown Himself,

but in 1965 I was persuaded to be Confirmed, and subsequently found myself attending church and was married therein. Our Curate and his wife ran PRAYER meetings and at one in particular, Jean Darnall, an American Evangelist spoke very powerfully, and offered the laying on of hands. I'll have that I thought. I'd like what she's got! I didn't feel any different though. I started to do all the right stuff in church. Sent the children to Sunday School etc. I did PRAY but only on my terms and special occasions. Daily? I don't think so. I was really very keen to feel 'chosen' and to speak in tongues – a sort of proof that God knew me. It wasn't until 1970 that I realised I was a churchgoer/doer and that something was missing in my life. I PRAYED long and hard and then one day, when I was stoking the fire actually, it suddenly hit me. Jesus said 'You must be born again'. Oh! I get it! Physical first. Spiritual second. I invited Jesus to indwell me with His Spirit. From that very moment my PRAYER life changed, I think it went from my head to my heart. I WANTED to pray. I found myself talking with God all the time. Him and me. So PRAYER became a PERSONAL relationship with God, through Jesus with His Spirit in me. What a change. Obviously I get low or rebellious sometimes, and still have it out with God, but He listens and understands and I feel secure in His love. Then, only three weeks ago I was asked to lead intercessions in church. Panic. I had never done that. It led me on another PRAYER journey. I had spent over 60 years talking with God. PRAYING one-to-one with people. Ministry Teams etc., So what was the difference? Well Jesus said that when two or three agree on anything in His name, His Father would grant it. I realised that CORPORATE PRAYER is Powerful. So here I am still learning. Did God hear me shouting at Him after all? What do you think?

Linda Wilson

£2 Coins

Please let us have any £2 coins
that you have been saving for
Street Holy Trinity and Mission Church Funds, by
Sunday 29th November.

Thank you to those who have already donated over £500
during the year. The coins have even been trickling in during
the Lockdown months.

There will be no get together this year, but,
who knows what 2021 has in store for us.

Thank you!!

Pam Harmsworth

U.C.B.

Stop Fighting in Your Own Strength

'... WE DO NOT WAGE WAR AS THE WORLD DOES.'

2 Corinthians 10:3 NIV

During World War II, Allied bombers carried machine guns in the nose, under the belly, on top, and in the rear. B-17s, better known as 'flying fortresses', carried thirteen .50 calibre machine guns. At one point scientists suggested the planes might actually be safer without them. Without the extra weight needed to operate the guns, they could fly faster and higher, increasing their odds of survival. The pilots, however, thought differently. They

wouldn't even consider embarking on a mission without guns to shoot back and defend themselves.

With that thought in mind, Jon Walker says: “We make the same choice when it comes to fighting our own battles.” God says we don't need the guns ... we can soar higher and faster with Him. “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.” The weapons He gives “have divine power to demolish strongholds”; we don't need the 'weapons of the world' (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).

But we say 'No thanks', we have to shoot back and defend ourselves with arsenals of angry words, demanding attitudes, manipulative manoeuvres, excessive excuses, and bombs of blame. It takes courage to stop using weapons of the flesh, 'take up the shield of faith', and arm ourselves with the weapons of God (Ephesians 6:16). It's the kind of faith David showed when he [told] Goliath, 'You come against me with sword and spear ... but I come against you in the name of the Lord ...' (1 Samuel 17:45).

Stop fighting in your own strength and let God's spiritual arsenal defend you; '... He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him' (Proverbs 30:5).

MANNA.

A time to remember

With All Soul's, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice all falling in November, it is a time to look back, to mourn, but also to look forward with hope. And, despite the challenges of Covid, church communities will still gather, either online or in person, to remember loved ones lost recently and those who lost their lives in service to their country.

This year in particular, All Souls can offer a space for grieving for those who may not have been able to say farewell in the way they would have chosen; may not have been able to grieve alongside family and friends at a funeral or held a service to give thanks for a life well-lived.

Space to grieve is important as those who sent the names of loved ones to be included in the recent 'From Lamentation to Hope' service at Wells Cathedral said. They expressed their gratitude for the service which one person said, 'went some way towards beginning to heal the pain of inevitably sparsely attended services." This service remains available to watch or share with others. Go to [YouTube.com/BathandWells](https://www.youtube.com/BathandWells).

You can also find an All Souls or Remembrance service on the Church of England website www.ChurchOfEngland.org on 1 and 8 November. Alternatively you can find details of more local services at AChurchNearYou.com.

News in brief

An 'a-moosing' way to make a difference

Pupils, parents and teachers at Cutcombe and Exford Church of England First School have been having an 'a-moosing time raising money for their Send a Cow Harvest Appeal.

They have been drawing, painting, sticking, colouring and photographing to create a Cow Gallery. There are more than 80 pictures of fat, thin, tall and short cows in all colours of the rainbow. As well as having lots of fun, they have raised £210 to fund a real cow through the charity which will support a family in rural Africa.

Bishop Ruth, patron of the charity, said: "A lot of thought and creativity has gone into this joyous project. A cow will make a huge difference to a family's lives."

‘A beautiful occasion’

Nine new Readers were licensed by Bishop Ruth last month. As lay people authorised by the bishop, they can now return to their parishes and lead certain parts of worship, to preach and to carry out pastoral and teaching duties. Always a special occasion, this year Covid restrictions meant that instead of one large celebration at Wells Cathedral, there were two services at the Bishop’s Palace Chapel. Reader Mary Udale-Smith said that even though plans been changed, the service was still very moving; “It was really special, a really beautiful occasion and I felt God’s Holy Spirit really present in the Chapel.”

An unexpected blessing

The villages of Wiveliscombe, Milverton and Wellington have some new chaplains to walk alongside them. Chaplaincy Adviser, Mike Haslam says, “They are all people who would never have imagined taking on the role but are now making a real difference in villages, schools and more.” [Email Mike Haslam](#) to find out more about chaplaincy.

INTERVEIW Serving with the force

Andy Paget has been chaplain to the Avon and Somerset police for almost 25 years. He is also a pastor at Trinity Tabernacle, central Bristol.

Why did you become a chaplain?

I feel if we are not where people are, how can we be relevant? By being a chaplain people can see I am serving them unconditionally and that is my passion.

How do you support the police?

We support all police staff and their families with any issue that is important to them. If there is a major incident we also head to the scene and offer support to officers on the ground and at times can be a bridge between the community and the police force.

How have recent events affected your role?

I circulated a force-wide message assuring staff that we were still there for them and affirming how much we value the work they do. That's important for them to hear. Police officers have to make decisions quickly, without the benefit of hindsight. When their actions are being reviewed, as they were recently following the Black Lives Matter protests in Bristol, we can affirm them in their role and be there for them.

Any advice for a potential chaplain?

Like many things, the more you put into the role, the more you will get out of it. It requires a real commitment and it is only through that will you see the benefits.

