



Notes from the Riverbank

The newsletter for St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Goring,
St Mary's Church in Streatley and St Andrew's Church in South Stoke

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• **Welcome to the first issue of "Notes from the Riverbank."**

This is a temporary replacement for "From the Riverbank" during the interregnum so please bear with us as we try to find our feet. All contributions should be sent to the editors, Toria and Robin, by the 17th of each month at the usual email address webcontent.thomandmary@gmail.com. The on-line versions of the calendars are maintained by Glenn Cooke using the same email address. Bookings for the church or Canterbury Room should be made by contacting the UB Parish Secretary Sue Melsher at suemelsher@parkway.co.uk

• **Pastoral letter: Life-long learning...**



Whether it's five or fifty years since we left school, we're all aware of the significance of the beginning of September. For me it's the sight of the first ripe conker, or the particular smell of cooler mornings, that brings memories of returning to school flooding back.

In our Christian lives, we're encouraged to continue learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Why not use this time of year as a trigger to learn something new about the Christian faith? During September there are many opportunities to do this through 'Operation SatNav' (see programmes in all the churches and the website). There really is something for everyone, whether that be listening to one of a host of gifted speakers and musicians or spending time soaking up Paul Hobbs' thought-provoking artworks - there's even a clown and an illusionist. What will you try and, very importantly, who will you invite to share that experience with you? Happy learning!

'Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.'
Proverbs 1: 5.



Revd Luci Heyn

● News from St Andrew's



I am very glad to say that the Faculty from the Registry arrived in the nick of time so Boshers started work on Monday (19th August). So far they have been building a screen around the organ and across the back of the Church; all the work in the Vestry for a disabled WC and for the new Servedy will be to the west of this screen. It is anticipated that the work will take 12 weeks in all; we pray that this is so! Many, many thanks to all the people who worked so hard to raise the funds, all the people who donated so generously and to all the institutions who so kindly helped us to our total so that work could begin.



Although many events have had to be held elsewhere, our Sunday services will continue as usual. Don't forget our Flower Festival on Sunday 25th August and Bank Holiday Monday 26th August, and the Open Gardens Day on Bank Holiday Monday.



Sally Horton, Churchwarden, St Andrew's

● News from St Thomas'



On September 22nd the collection at St Thomas' will be for **Us** (the new name for USPG), a missionary charity that works with Anglican churches around the world to improve education and health and to fight discrimination.

● Upcoming events



Operation SatNav RG8 2DR September is a month of inspiring Christian events at St Thomas' Church, Goring. See the calendar for more details.

● Email satmisout@gmail.com



Saturday 14th September 2013

Last year this event raised a remarkable £120,000 in total, of which we contributed £393. The Bishop of Dorchester, Colin Fletcher, is planning to participate this year and will visit St Thomas' at about 10am. Many of us will be busy with SatNav events, but it would be good if we could offer a welcome to the Bishop and others riding or striding on the day -- there is a Welcomers' list in church. You could be sponsored as a Welcomer and if you do have the energy to ride or stride I have the sponsorship forms. Half the money we raise always comes to our own Church funds and OHCT has promised us a grant towards the repairs to the Tower.



Brenda Kerr Muir; see also www.ohct.org.uk



Leading your Church into Growth

The Diocese would like our feedback about this initiative and the *Living Faith* leaflets which arrive in Church. Take part in the on-line survey:

- <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/congregation>



To learn more about the Christian Faith

come along to "Christianity Explored". This course will run on Thursday evenings for six weeks starting on 10th October until 14th November at 7.30pm in the Canterbury Room at St Thomas' Church, Goring RG8 9DR. A light supper will be provided.

- Contact stthomasmaryandrew@gmail.com for more details.

● Fun at the Regatta

💧 Thanks to a kind invitation from the Braham family, members of Discoverers took the river again at the Regatta. Sadly no trophies were won but a lot of fun was had. A post-race water fight with one of their competitors (which the Discoverers team certainly did win!) seemed to be the highlight of the day!



And hospitality too...

Thank you to all who assisted in the United Benefice tea tent at the Regatta; it was a great opportunity to offer Christian hospitality to the community. It was interesting watching people's reaction to being offered a free cup of tea or coffee; some looked for the catch, some felt compelled to give a donation, others just received and gave thanks. Plenty of material for sermon or two!



Revd Luci Heyn

● Christian Haigh concert



Christian's second concert continued our series of Music at St Mary's on 10th August, which saw a sizeable audience enjoying a varied selection of styles, including music by J.S. Bach, Vaughan Williams and Elert.

Christian's playing was illuminated to great effect by the wide range of musical colour he coaxed from the Robin Jennings organ, through his imaginative use of the available stops. The evening raised a reasonable sum towards the piano fund; we look forward to welcoming Christian back for a third time sometime next year when time permits during his studies at Harvard.

Thanks are due to Stella Robinson and to everyone who made the evening such a great success.



John Rogers

● And finally...



Details of the Blamey family's last Sunday with us at the end of June and of the farewell lunch were reported in full in the Goring Gap News. We hear they are settling into life in Jersey, and wish them well for the future.



Having now had the experience of maintaining the web for a month and producing the first newsletter, we would like to thank everyone who nudged us along and answered questions at all hours of the day (and sometimes the night). We have also become convinced that there must be a time warp in The Vicarage because that's the only way Caroline could have done everything she did!



Toria and Robin