



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

March 2014 – 6th edition

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Price per printed copy

● Welcome to the sixth issue of "Notes from the Riverbank."

All contributions should be sent to Toria, the editor, 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. We aim to produce the on-line and printed versions of each issue by the 25th of each month.

● Pastoral letter: When less becomes more



During the last three months the evidence of climate change has come uncomfortably close in our three villages, with the Thames at its highest level for many years. How much we as human beings are to blame for the catastrophic events we have witnessed on our television screens is still a subject of debate, but one thing is clear: we cannot continue to consume the world's resources at the rate we have been doing in the West. Our comfortable lifestyles are unsustainable in the long run and future generations will probably have to manage with much less.

The season of Lent is almost upon us -- March 5th is Ash Wednesday -- so this is a good time to be thinking about moderation, about how we can live with less. It won't be easy. As one writer put it: 'From grocery shopping, to eating, to going to new shops it is difficult to eat and purchase only what is necessary without splurging on a little more here and there.' But we can take our lead from St Paul who learned to be content in all circumstances, whether he was feasting or starving, whether he had many possessions or none: 'I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation... whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.' *Philippians 4: 12-13. NIV*

An excess of things and food requires time and energy to organise and maintain and can clutter up our lives. Living simply can free us up and give us more time to concentrate on our relationship with God.



Judith Aguda, Lay Minister

● Baroque and Modern with Frances and friends



St Mary's had a magnificent afternoon organ recital from Frances Brewitt Taylor on Sunday 26th January. Frances played both Baroque and Modern organ music to a packed house and also explained some interesting background details to the pieces. Suzanne Smith also joined her to sing Handel's *Rejoice Greatly* from the Messiah and Christine Richardson joined to play some enchanting flute and organ pieces by Colin Mawby. The concert ended with a delightful arrangement of *On Ilkley Moor*.

Everyone enjoyed tea and cakes afterwards which were provided by Jenny Boyd and her team of voluntary caterers. We would like to thank everyone involved for brightening up a dark and wet winter's afternoon for us. The splendid size of the audience (94 people!) also meant that a lot of money was raised for both the Stroke Association and for St Mary's Church.



Stella

● Ecumenical Lent Course



This year's Ecumenical Lent Course will start in the week of Monday 10th March and sign-up lists are now in all the Churches. The course is entitled "Build on the rock. Faith, doubt... and Jesus" and the booklet costs £6.00. The course will run for five weeks, followed by a combined Celebration after Easter on 1st May. These Lent Groups provide an opportunity to meet people from all the Churches in our Parish and Benefice and to share the journey through Lent towards Easter. Everyone is welcome!



Judy Crawford

● Message from Luci Heyn



At her leaving service, our Curate Revd Luci Heyn mentioned that she had decided to make a donation to the Mityana Charity in thanks for her time at Goring, Streatley and South Stoke. She recently sent this message about how the money is being spent:

Dear Luci

Thank you very much for your gift for the sponsorship fund. We would very much like to use it to help one of our university students. He is called Semakula Eric and is studying for a degree in Biomedical Laboratory Technology. He has very generous sponsors but they cannot afford to pay any more than the fees and upkeep first estimated. Unfortunately the university failed to tell us that he would need to travel to clinics all over the region for his practical experience. This cost him an extra £350 last year which we had to take out of our emergency fund. So it would be wonderful if we could use your generous gift for Eric's expenses this year. He has no support from family as both his parents are dead and he has only one aunt who took him in and who lives in one room with six children and no husband. We have no idea how he managed to do so well in his A-levels!

Thanks again

Jo

● Gifts for the Churches In Reading Drop-In Centre

 During Lent there will be a basket at the back of St. Mary's church so that we can send much needed gifts to CIRDIC. Due to the dreadful weather this winter their need is greater than ever. Tins of meat or hearty soups are top of their 'wish list' as well as warm socks gloves and scarves. There will be a list of other suggested gifts by the basket. Thank you.

 Tina Farr

● Trombone and organ recital from Stephen Parkinson

 Stephen Parkinson will be giving a 45-minute trombone and organ recital at St. Thomas' Church at 3pm on Mothering Sunday, 30th March. Stephen will be playing a variety of pieces including Rimsky Korsakoff's *Trombone Concerto*, Holst's *Duet for Trombone and Organ*, and Boellmann's *Menuet Gothique*. There is no charge for the recital, but donations towards 16-year-old Stephen's expedition to Borneo this summer and Church expenses would be appreciated. Tea and cake will be served in the Canterbury Room after the recital.

● Upcoming concerts



St Mary's Concerts present

A Musical Miscellany on St David's Day

St Mary's Church, Streatley on Thames
7:30pm on Saturday March 1st

A host of performers present a wide selection of cheerful songs, music and poetry, both classical and traditional, including songs in Welsh, and ending with *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*.

In aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Tickets £5
Advance bookings
stmarysconcerts@hotmail.co.uk
or text to 07762339853.

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 Steventon Choral Society



Karl Jenkins
The Armed Man:
A Mass for Peace
(choral suite)

Schubert
Mass in G

Saturday 5th April 2014
7:30pm St Mary's Church, Streatley

Steventon Choral Society

There will be a concert by Steventon Choral Society at 7:30pm on Saturday 5th April in St Mary's Church, Streatley, in aid of the piano fund. (This was previously announced as Benson.) They will be performing Karl Jenkins' "The armed man: A mass for peace" and Schubert's "Mass in G".

Tickets £10 or £8.50 for concessions (over 60 or under 18; under 12s are free), which can be booked in advance by email: stmarysconcerts@hotmail.co.uk or by texting: 07762339853.

Tickets £10 / £8.50, including refreshments
Concessions – over 60 or under 18 (under-12s free)
Proceeds to the piano fund

Tickets available from:
stmarysconcerts@hotmail.co.uk or Inspiration, Goring

● Friends of St Mary's AGM



The Friends will hold its second AGM at 12.00 noon on Sunday 23rd March in the Morrell Room. Proceedings will last about an hour, and light refreshments will be available. Please come along and hear about the progress which has been made in the last year in raising funds for the repair and maintenance work needed by the church. All are welcome.

The usual business agenda of the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports, and election of trustees and officers will be followed by a proposal to apply to the Charity Commissioners for full charitable status. We have also invited a speaker to tell us about the development of the Streatley Parish plan and how it is relevant to the Friends of St Mary's.



Graham Harvey

● Church Membership of St Thomas' Church, Goring



Now is the time to consider becoming a member by having your name entered on the Electoral Roll thereby indicating your commitment and giving you a chance to say how things should be run. Membership is FREE! Forms are available at the back of Church by the door, or by request from me.

To be eligible to vote at this year's annual Church meeting on April 6th you must return your application form by Friday March 21st. Existing members do not need to complete a form this year but it would be helpful if those who have moved house or changed telephone number could let me know.



Judith Aguda, Electoral Roll Officer (871493)

