



# 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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- All enquiries 01491 875651 or [stthomasmaryandrew@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasmaryandrew@gmail.com)



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## ● Welcome to the ninth edition of "Notes from the Riverbank."

All contributions should be sent to Toria, the editor, by the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month at the usual email address [webcontent.thomandmary@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:suemelsher@parkway.co.uk). We aim to produce the on-line and printed versions of each issue by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## ● Pastoral letter



Dear Friends:- Those of us able to attend the Induction of Paul Boughton as our new Vicar were challenged and uplifted by the whole service. It gave responsibilities to Paul as our new incumbent, and challenges to us to support and encourage him as we seek to extend Christ's Kingdom in our three villages. The task is far too great for one man and we are re-discovering one of the great themes of the Reformation, namely the 'Priesthood of All Believers'. It is a doctrine but it must be practically worked out if we are going to see growth.

Some years ago, I remember seeing on TV the then Moderator of the Church of Scotland addressing the General Assembly. The theme of his address was drawn from some words of a hymn, "Change and decay in all around I see." However he changed the words to "Change OR decay." His challenge to the Assembly was to make an inventory of all they were doing to see if it was relevant to the 1980s, and we have moved a long way since then. There is less nominal belonging and the gap between the church and the world has increased significantly. If we are to bridge that gap we have to face the need for change. Not change for change's sake, but change to make our worship and witness more accessible to those we are trying to reach.

Supermarket religion, where everything is dictated by what I like rather than what will help the church move forward, will not cut the mustard in the 21st century. Change is always difficult and needs to be handled sensitively but let us welcome change when it does come. Of course, change has come in the person of our new Vicar, which reminds me of the elderly warden greeting a new incumbent. "You must

have seen a lot of changes over the last forty years," the Vicar said. "Yes, I have, and I have resisted every one of them." Poor man. Please do not let us react to Paul like that.

In the meantime, let us continue to welcome him, Liz and the family. They also face change, particularly the girls, after seventeen fruitful but challenging years at Fetcham. The way change can be effective for them is the warmth, friendship, love and understanding that we can give. They will greatly value our prayer support for all the ministry and challenges that lie ahead. The slogan I like is one I heard many years ago: "The Church that prays together, stays together." Let us not fail in this great responsibility.

 Peter Downham

### ● Photos from the Licensing of Rev Paul Boughton





Photos Adrian Turner

### ● A few words from our new Vicar



Thank you for your wonderful welcome! Liz, Sophie, Alice and I have so appreciated your gifts of flowers, cake a-plenty and delicious food and drink which supplied us through nearly a week until our cooker arrived. What wonderful gifts; thank you so much! It was great to hear the removal men say how impressed they were with your welcome; and thanks to the maker of the fruit cake, which we shared with them.

For me, the highlight of your welcome was the induction service. For the bell ringers' quarter peal announcing the occasion (to which we listened as we had supper in the Vicarage garden), for the care taken with arrangements for the service, and the gusto with which you participated (thanks to the Scouts, I won't be up a creek without a paddle!) and for the party afterwards, thank you. You welcomed us with such warmth and generosity. It was exciting to have a sense of God being with us as we listened, made promises and prayed together.

I was particularly struck by Bishop Colin's reminder from the words of Jesus (Luke 4), not to become absorbed by the benefits and comfort that wealth affords, which could

be so easy in glorious Goring (*et al.*), but to use what God has so generously entrusted to us, to help everyone in our community to discover the love and grace of God for themselves.

Already, I have met a variety of people who are working imaginatively to share the Good news of God's love effectively here. I am especially pleased to see the enthusiasm for welcoming children, young people and families into the Christian community. This is going to be an exciting challenge for us, as we learn together to express the gospel afresh to a new generation.

I am looking forward to meeting you all over the next few weeks, do please introduce yourself (perhaps more than once, as my memory isn't perfect). My priority is to get to know you and discover what God has in store for us as we follow him together.



Rev Paul Boughton

### ● 'Come and Sing' Evensong



All singers are welcome to join us for a 'Come and Sing' Evensong Service on Sunday 1st June in St Thomas' Church. There will be a practice starting at 2pm (arrive at 1.45pm latest to sort out music etc). After the practice, there will just be time for tea and cake before the Evensong Service at 4pm. You are also welcome to join the choir for an additional practice from 7.30pm to 8.30pm on Friday 23rd May.

We will be singing Ireland's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in F*, Smith's *Responses*, Tippett's *Steal Away*, and Vaughan Williams' *Let all the World*. Michael Howell is directing, with Bryan Almond on the organ.



parkinsonfamily1@btinternet.com

### ● Calling all carers



The carers group will meet on Thursday June 19th at 11am in the Community Centre. The speaker will be Jeremy Hutchins, chair of Goring and Woodcote Medical Practice Patient Participation Group. Everybody welcome.



Ann Hart

### ● Prom Praise 2014



On Saturday 26th April, 20 singers from Goring and Streatley travelled down to London to sing in the choir for Prom Praise 2014. Taking part in the 400-strong choir accompanied by the 100+ orchestra and singing to a packed Royal Albert Hall was an

amazing experience – particularly for the eight young trebles aged between 8 and 11. They said:

- *I really enjoyed singing in the Royal Albert Hall. I liked going up to the gallery --- and after a while I could look down at the amazing view. My favourite part was practising because it was such a great sound to be part of.* Honor
- *I loved the harpist and seeing the harp.* Beth
- *I enjoyed just being there in that beautiful building and singing and the sound of singing.* Stella
- *I really enjoyed the violin soloist, she was brilliant.* Abi
- *I enjoyed singing the final 'Shine Jesus Shine', because even the audience was singing and swaying. I will always remember that.* Eve



Elizabeth Parkinson

### ● Retiring collection: Second Sight



This tiny charity has no administrative expenses and every penny given pays for the secondment of western eye-surgeons to remote hospitals in India to train and operate, mainly cataract surgery. Rural India has more cases, frequently from birth, than anywhere else on earth. This simple and relatively cheap procedure changes lives of children and adults alike. In terms of value for money, supporting this charity at St Thomas' on Sunday 8th June is probably the best investment you will ever make. Please give generously. <http://secondsight.org.uk/>



Garry Alder

### ● Christian Aid week



On Saturday 3rd May the smell of freshly baked cakes filled St Thomas' as the Discoverers group had their cooking afternoon in the Canterbury Room. Everyone was kept busy making cupcakes, decorating cookies and cutting out biscuit shapes. We also watched a short film about the work of Christian Aid in South Sudan and talked about Jesus' command to love our neighbours as explained in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The following morning a cake sale was held after the Family Service at St Thomas' which raised £80.30. The Discoverers worked out that this is enough to buy over 2000 bricks to help a family in South Sudan build a new home.

Thank you Discoverers! And thank you to everyone who generously supported them.



Thank you, also, to everyone who supported Christian Aid in May. The total raised this year currently stands at £4224, with just a little more to come in. Ann Moody's bread and soup lunch raised £485, the Discoverers then continued the good work with their cake sale and a total of 34 people collected house-to-house.

Christian Aid have sent the following message: *'Every penny you raise, action you take and prayer you speak makes a real difference to people living in poverty. You are helping people all over the world to become fear-less as hope is realised amid conflict. Thank you.'*

 Wendy Middleton