



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

## September 2017 – 41<sup>st</sup> edition

- All enquiries 01491 875651 or stthomasmaryandrew@gmail.com



Price per printed copy

### ● Welcome to the forty-first 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 Jenny Hall at [jandjh2@btinternet.com](mailto:jandjh2@btinternet.com). We aim to produce the on-line and printed versions of each issue by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.



### Pastoral Letter

After just a very few weeks of ordained ministry (see the shiny new L-plates on my back!), one thing that has struck me is the huge variety of things going on at the same time. I don't just mean all the activities that happen in our churches and communities, I mean the things happening in our lives. Already I have had the privilege of walking alongside couples in the joy and excitement of preparing for their weddings next year; I have also spent time with people who are suffering great trauma and loss. This is not something peculiar to ordained ministry of course. As the Body of Christ we are all called to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15), just as Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus and also made sure that the wine didn't run out at the wedding at Cana in Galilee.

But how do we sustain ourselves in all the ups and downs of life?

I draw strength from and take great comfort in the Psalms, the prayer book of the Church, indeed the one Jesus would have used. It's all there; the full range of human emotion from deepest lament to overflowing praise and joy that the psalmist can hardly contain. Whatever we might be feeling, it finds its expression in the psalms, and we can use them in our own prayers. We can enter-into them ourselves, or use them to help us understand how others might be feeling.

Psalm 23 is probably the best known and best loved of all the Psalms. Its beautiful poetry and imagery of a shepherd leading the flock to where it can find food, water and refreshment for both body and soul gives a picture of God's care and provision for us. And in the dark valleys he is there too, to protect and to guide us. The psalmist expresses complete confidence in God. As the refrain in Stuart Townend's hymn based on Psalm 23 (and sung at my ordination service) says of the Lord "I will trust in you alone."

A few years ago, the mother of a three-year-old told me that she had been telling him the story of Noah's Ark. She finished by saying to him: "Remember, when you see a rainbow, God keeps his promises." "No," the child replied, "God keeps his promises all the time."

 Wendy Middleton



### Arrangements for Harvest Festival on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October

8.45am	St Thomas'	Breakfast for all the Church Family
9.30am	St Thomas'	Harvest Festival Family Service, with the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, taking part
11.15am	St Mary's	Harvest Communion Service, with the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher
4.00pm	St Thomas'	"Come and sing" Evensong



### Harvest lunch on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Due to a previous booking, we have had to postpone the Harvest lunch by one week. This will now take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October in the Morrell Room, following the 11.15am Service.

Tickets will be £7.50; under 10s are free. Please bring your own wine. Sign-up sheets will be placed in each Church, and everyone is most welcome.

Offers of help and food would be gratefully received; please contact Marigold Jamieson (telephone 872229).

 John Rogers



### Update on works on St Thomas' Tower

Following a rather slow start after Easter with the scaffolding, the work on the Tower is progressing well. We are very impressed by the experience of the contractors and the quality of their workmanship. The re-roofing should be complete in the next couple of weeks and the high level pointing and repairs are well underway.

The scaffolding has enabled a detailed look at the stonework and walls of the whole Tower. This has confirmed the need for repairs to the parapet and revealed a certain amount of weather damage to some of the quoins (corner stones) as well as all the areas needing re-pointing and replacement flints. As the scaffolding has proved so difficult to design and erect as well as being very expensive (about a third of the original cost for the whole project), the PCC has decided to ask the contractor to undertake stonework repairs and re-pointing to the middle level as well. The lower levels may be reached by ladder thus avoiding the need for external scaffolding again.

The repairs will continue through September and it is not yet clear when it will be possible to ring the bells again. We are very grateful to church members and all those who use the church buildings, for their patience and good humour during these works which hopefully will secure the Tower for the next few decades.

 Brenda Kerr Muir and David Beddall, Churchwardens



Goring Chamber Choir presents

### **A night at the theatre**

Dramatic, storytelling scenes from opera,  
musicals and more...

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm  
St Thomas' Church, Goring



Vocal solos, ensembles, choruses and descriptive piano music, painting the stories of life. Accompanied by Olivia Canolle, who will play Debussy solo piano pieces.

Tickets £12 and £10, obtainable from Inspiration in Goring, from a choir member, or on the door. <http://www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk/>

 Graeme Pearce



### **FoSM concert: Images of England**

At 7.45pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September in St Mary's Church, Friends of St Mary's is staging a concert entitled *Images of England: an evening of choral music and poetry*.

The format will be similar to that of a concert held in 2014 to mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. Directed by Christopher Burrows, choral pieces include Elgar's *As torrents in Summer*, Rutter's *Look at the world*, Howells' *Mine eyes for beauty pine*, Stanford's *O for a closer walk*, Attwood's *Teach me O Lord*, Greene's *Thou visitest the earth*, and Purcell's *Thou knowest Lord*.

The concert will be followed by refreshments in the Morrell Room. Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions including paid-up FoSM members). These will be available on the door, and in advance, from Inspirations in Goring.

 John Rogers



### Friends of Music at Goring

Friends of Music at Goring will present their last concert of the 2017 season on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, at 1.00pm in St Thomas'. This will be given by the young Polish pianist, Anna Szalucka, who will play music by Bach, Szymanowski and Ravel.



Anna began her musical training at the age of seven. She studied first at the Academy of Music in Gdansk, and subsequently moved to Vienna for two years at the Universitat fur Musik, in the piano class of Stefan Vladar. She finally came to London for further study at the Royal Academy of Music, working with Ian Fountain. She has won prizes in many international competitions, and has taken part in piano masterclasses with distinguished artists. Anna has given concerto performances in major music centres in Europe and the UK, with the Polish Radio Orchestra, Sinfonia Baltica, Pomeranian Philharmonic, Gorecki Chamber Orchestra and the Worthing Symphony Orchestra, and has broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4 and Radio Gdansk.

Tickets £12 at the door or £10 in advance from *Inspiration* in Goring, or from Joan and Nigel Fountain (phone 873341) or email: [nigelfountain@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nigelfountain@tiscali.co.uk)



### Summer recital by Janet Pound

Janet Pound delighted an informed and enthusiastic audience in St Mary's church during the afternoon of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July with a piano recital entitled *A Fantasia of Flowers* to celebrate the summer season. Her performance embraced flower themed music from Mozart, Mendelssohn, Chopin and Schumann together with later composers McDowell, Mayerl, Joplin and Debussy.

Such was the outstanding quality and beauty of the performance an encore was loudly called for and played, following which Janet was presented with a very well deserved and given the recital's content, appropriate, summer flower bouquet.

A highly enjoyable afternoon was completed with delicious homemade cakes, tea and coffee in the Morrell room, graciously served by Graham and Pauline Harvey on behalf of the Friends of St Mary's. All proceeds of the recital and refreshments will go to St Mary's and to the Friends of St Mary's.



Derrick Lello



### St Mary's autumn spring-clean

Streatley church clean will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October from 9:30am. The church wardens would appreciate as many parishioners as possible to help with this, as "many hands make light work!" Tea and coffee will be available. Some cleaning materials are available, but extras are welcome.

 Diana Fenton



### Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

The United Benefice choir of St Thomas' in Goring and St Mary's in Streatley sang Festal Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August on the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Conducted by the Benefice Organist, Michael Howell, and ably accompanied by Bryan Almond on the organ, the choir rose magnificently to the occasion with some splendid, well-rehearsed singing. Notable highlights included Charles Wood's setting of the *Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis in E flat*, their voices effortlessly soaring above the organ. The *Introit* was by Gibbons and the *Responses* by Sanders. The anthem, suitable for the day, was *The first good joy that Mary had*, English traditional music, arranged by Stephen Cleobury.

It was good to share this lovely service with a capacity congregation, who listened intently in the peaceful and prayerful atmosphere of the Cathedral on a beautiful sunny afternoon.



Choral Evensong can be heard in St Thomas' church, Goring, on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm. Everyone welcome.

 Joan Fountain; photo by Robin Middleton

# United Benefice of Goring & Streatley with South Stoke



## Benefice Calendar - September 2017

		<u>Goring</u>	<u>Streatley</u>	<u>South Stoke</u>
Sa. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Marriage of Adam and Debbie	11:00		
Su. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trinity 12 Holy Communion	8.00	11:15	
	Family Service breakfast (Canterbury Room)	8:45		
	Family Service	9.30		11:15
	Evening Prayer	16.00		
Tu. 5 <sup>th</sup>	South Stoke Prayer meeting @ Crossways			14:30
We. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Midweek Holy Communion and coffee	10.30		
Sa. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ride and Stride for churches see <a href="http://www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/">www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/</a>			
Su. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 13 Holy Communion	9.30	8.00 & 11.15	11.15
	Baptism		13:30	
	Organ recital by Andrew Patterson Followed by tea and cake in the Canterbury Room	15:00		
	Stillness on Sunday – "Be Still"		17:30	
We. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		
Su. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 14 Holy Communion	8.00	11.15	
	Good News Service	9.30		
	Mattins			11.15
	Baptism			15:30
We. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		
	South Stoke Coffee Morning			10:30
Th. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pick-a-Flick & Lunch - 'A United Kingdom'	10:30		
	Parenting Children Course (Canterbury Room)	19:45		
Fr. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Come on Board Scrabble (Canterbury Room)	15:00		
Sa. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Friends of St Mary's concert – 'Images of England: An evening of Music and Poetry' followed by refreshments in the Morrell Room		19:45	
Su. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 15 Holy Communion	9:30	8.00	11:15
	Sung Mattins		11.15	
	Baptism			16:00
We. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Midweek Holy Communion	10:30		
Sa. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee & Cake (Canterbury Room)	10:30		

We will continue to study the Apostles' Creed during our sermons at the 9:30 and 11:15 services.

**Morning Prayer:** The ministry team pray the service of Morning Prayer together three times each week on Monday, Thursday and Friday at 8am during term time and 8:30am during school holidays.

For more details call the Vicarage (875651) or look at the Website [www.thomandmary.org.uk](http://www.thomandmary.org.uk)