
LETTER FROM THE VICAR

My Dear Friends,

January has proved to be a very busy month as we have held interviews for some key posts both within the clergy team and for the Development Project.

I am delighted to announce the appointment of a new Assistant Priest, The Rev'd Dr Paul Overend. Fr Paul comes to us with a wealth of experience; Ordained in 1993 he served his curacy in the Diocese of York followed by a chaplaincy at the University of Wales and the Welsh College of Music and Drama. Fr Paul was subsequently a tutor at St Michael's College in Llandaff. In 2005 he joined the Diocese of Salisbury as Vice Principal of the Ordained Local Ministry Scheme. He is currently Academic Tutor in Theology for the Southern Theological Education Training Scheme. After so many years in academic life Fr Paul is very keen to return to the parochial and pastoral ministry which will be the mainstay of his responsibilities here.

Fr Paul is married to Sue who is currently researching for a PhD at the University of Bristol. It will be a great joy to have them among us and I hope they will be able to join us in May when they will be moving to the Curatage in Back Lane.

The Development Project (now known as "The Abbey Experience") continues apace and we have appointed to the first of several key posts – that of Procurement Officer. As I write interviews are being held for the post of Client Representative and this will be followed by

further appointments in the areas of design, conservation management, activity planning and funding. All of these, funded by our initial award from the Heritage Lottery Fund, will help the steering group to prepare our detailed second round bid, hopefully, by the end of this year.

These are exciting times for our community. Do, please, remember all those involved in your prayers. Ultimately we achieve nothing by our own efforts alone but by God's Grace and Blessing and it is to Him we must give priority, not least in the holy season of Lent.

With every Blessing

Fr Christopher

May I on behalf of the Choir wish him a happy retirement, and I am delighted that he will remain close by and continue to perform on the Abbey organ from time to time

Ronald Buxton

PCC MEETING 25 Jan 2012

At the PCC meeting on 25 Jan we heard that the finances of the Abbey are substantially better than we had originally feared, and thanks go to Mike Williams for his work in keeping us on the correct financial tracks. The building works that need doing – and for which faculties have been applied - are progressing. Some things we are able to do immediately, but for one item we have to get permission from the Queen! The Development of 'The Abbey Experience' is also progressing with the appointment of a Procurement Officer who will assist in the appointments of other development personnel, all with a view to getting full approval from the HLF at the next stage. Spooner Row Church has had an excellent year, contributing not only to their own financial commitments, but also to those of the Abbey. More importantly they continue to hold services every other week, and are actively involving their immediate community.

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Mrs Betty Hale

Elizabeth Hale or Betty as she was known, was born in Balsham, and was the elder of two daughters born to James and Gladys Pratt.

Her working career was in Nursing, principally at Addenbrook's. This was continued through the war when she did war service as a Reserved Nurse under the Red Cross.

She married Peter Hale in 1944 but they divorced in the early 50's leaving her to look after her two daughters aged 7 and 4.

Life cannot have been easy in those days when divorce was not as accepted socially as it is today, and Betty worked as a Teacher at Lyndhurst School, where she had formerly been one of the original pupils. She subsequently acquired the school and moved it to Bridewell Street, until selling it in 1970, but continued to teach there. Betty's interest in Teaching continued after Bridewell Street, when her qualifications enabled her to allow the registration of a new School at Wicklewood where she also moved to teach the younger children, until she retired.

She loved Wymondham, and her Historian mantle also came into play in that she had a vivid memory of a huge number of what many may consider comparatively minor or even unimportant details: who had Fred Standley's shop before he took it over, who ran the Army and Navy Store, details about the Ironmongers, what sweets were in Shannahan's store, the bagwash, and the Tiffy being damned to enable the first By Pass to be built, Hall and Palmers Auction sale, The Blacksmith in Fairland Street, Myhills shop, the Public Toilets under the Market Cross, The Kings Head being demolished, the swimming pool, and The surgery in Market Street. I could continue this list for a lot longer, but I hope I have also revived a few memories for many of you, which in future, may also remind you of her.

She also loved Ogden Close and enjoyed seeing her many friends there. We hear that the Residents already miss her frequent, resounding, chorus of Onward Christian Soldiers.

Which brings me to the greatest influence during her life, which was her love and commitment to Christianity, and in particular to Wymondham Abbey.

She absolutely loved the Abbey, but I don't mean just the structure, she loved everything about it...the bells, the Choir, taking Mass, and those under whose Ministry it has flourished, and whose careers she followed in the Church Times, but also those who worshipped here, together with the Stewards, and those who looked after the shop, and so on, she loved its entire being.

She had numerous Church Activities, including delivering the Magazine, ordering the Bible Reading Notes, being on the Flower Rota and numerous others.

Her most notable role was that of Sacristan, which position she held for around 34 years from 1971 serving six different incumbents until she retired in 2005. Few people realise the importance of this work, which essentially means preparing the Church for worship, and she also attended for all Funerals and special services, but Betty immersed herself in this role.

Amongst the numerous cards and letters we have received recently, one small phrase about her is repeated a few times, and to me accords a perfect summing up...

A well respected Lady.

Neville Warnes (Son-in-law)

The full text of the tribute is on the Stewards Desk if you would like to read it. Ed

Services at the Abbey in February

5th February

8:00 am
9:15 am
10:30 am
6:30 pm

The Presentation of Christ

Holy Communion (BCP)
Informal Communion
*Sung Eucharist
Choral Evensong

12th February

8:00 am
9:15 am
10:30 am
6:30 pm

Second Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion (BCP)
Informal Communion
Sung Eucharist
Evensong

19th February

8:00 am
9:15 am
10:30 am
6:30 pm

Sunday Next before Lent

The Eucharist (BCP)
Informal Communion
Sung Eucharist
*Evensong with Benediction

22nd February

9:15 am
7:15 pm

Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion
*Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

26th February

8:00 am
9:15 am
10:30 am
6:30 pm

Lent One

Holy Communion (BCP)
Informal Communion
Sung Eucharist
Evensong

Incense used *

At Holy Trinity, Spooner Row

12th 11:00 am Holy Communion

26th 11:00 am A Service of Worship and Prayer

Weekday Services in the Abbey

Morning Prayers are said at:

8:30 am Monday to Friday

9.30 am Saturday

Evening Prayers are said at:

5:30 pm Monday to Thursday, Saturday

5.00 pm Friday

Tuesdays: Pram Service at 10:00 am

Holy Communion at 7:15 pm

Wednesday: Holy Communion at 9:30 am

Thursday: Holy Communion at 9:30 am



From the Registers

Baptisms

14 January Megan Rose Buckoke

Funerals

Funerals held and funerals scheduled at time of publication:

12 January David Robert Singleton (66) [Earlham Crem.]

17 January Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Seaber Hale (88)

20 January James "Jim" Henry Williams (88)

PARISH MATTERS

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Wednesday 28th March 2012 at 7.30pm in the Abbey Hall

ADVANCE NOTICE: There will be an informal meeting of Stewards and Shop Helpers on Wed 18 April at 7:00pm and on Sat 21 April at 10:00am

PRAYER GROUP: The next meeting of the Prayer Group will be on **Wednesday 1 Feb** at 7:30pm. If you would like to join us you will be most welcome – whether you want to pray for something or someone special, or only say ‘Amen’ in support of the prayers of others. Please ring Elaine on 604224 for further details.

If you have a Facebook page – or even if you don’t, but have access to the internet – do have a look at the new Wymondham Abbey Facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wymondham-Abbey/148046908628683> or go to the website and click on the link.

DEADLINE: Please note that the deadline for material for the next edition of the magazine should be passed to the Editor by **SUNDAY 19th FEBRUARY**. Hard copy should be left at the Parish Office; emailed material to **abbeydiana@gmx.com**, may be submitted up to 24 hours later. Please try to make longer articles between 300 (one page with headings) and 600 words in length.