

PARISH NEWS

July 2012 St Cuthberts, Wells and St Mary Magdalene, Wookey Hole

When storm clouds gather, Lord, show me your way, that I may walk in your truth



Women and the Church's Future

by the Rev'd Preb. Alastair Wheeler

Sorry – this is complicated but ever so important!

Forty two of the Diocesan Synods of the Church of England – the gatherings of Bishops, clergy and laity – have voted to support proposals for a system for women to become Bishops. General Synod has already approved the principle, the discussion is supposed to be about how to do it.

If you didn't know about the convoluted processes of the Church of England, you might be forgiven for thinking that the argument is done and dusted. It isn't.

For, despite the proposals being so massively approved, and representing a fair and balanced approach that tries to please as many people as possible, the House of Bishops bowed slightly to pressure from one faction and slightly tweaked one of the provisions in what was called a 'clarification'.

Now from 6th to 10th July in York, General Synod meet to consider the issue again – remember it is supposed to be now only a debate about the process of how to make women Bishops!

But the Bishops' "clarification" made provision for Parishes who never, ever, want to recognise that a woman can be a Bishop – and in a few cases are still even unwilling to recognise the ordained ministry of woman at all. The Bishops' tweak allows them to opt out and be a sort of sect within the church, always undermining the "normality" of men and women ministering together, and the authority of women who are Bishops.

That in itself is causing a lot of agonised discussion amongst those who want to see the Church of England move towards treating men and women equally and openly.

But there is a further time bomb ticking away! This goes back to when the present membership of General Synod was elected a couple of years ago. At that point many people were elected who were opposed to women being made Bishops, and determined to sabotage any progress by any means, even though some of them – in my view in a morally unacceptable way – disguised their true views until safely elected.

Now, the General Synod is not bound by how the Diocesan Synods voted, and those two year old elections mean that there is a substantial minority in General Synod (who are far more powerful than actually represent views in the pews) who are committed to stopping the legislation at all costs.

There is likely to be a majority in General Synod – but this significant change in practice needs a two thirds majority of each section of Synod – Bishops, clergy, and laity.

The great majority of (male!) Bishops are in favour.

The majority of clergy on General Synod are in favour – probably enough, although some formerly in favour may now vote against because of the tinkering with the proposals.

But the years of debate, discussion, balanced listening and compassionate concern, can still be wrecked by the vote in the House of Laity, which is teetering on a knife edge.

There is now real doubt whether that two thirds majority will be reached. If not, the whole process will be wrecked and have to go away for at least another five years.

The effect of such a procedurally engineered snub could be massive on those women who are already serving as clergy in the church, and the effect on the morale of the clear majority of the church at all levels, and of both genders, who are convinced that this is the way to go. The clearly expressed and prayerful will of the vast majority of church members could be thwarted by minorities using a complicated system to defeat their expressed wish.

There has already been huge damage with press coverage confirming the common view of the Church of England as an out of touch institution that perpetuates attitudes to women that are patronising or worse.

The press – understandably – find the nuances and complexities impossible to deal with, and go with simplistic headlines. Don't believe all you read in the papers! I wonder what they will say, and what the first few days of July 2012 will mean for the future of our Church.

Alastair

Fighting the long defeat

A sceptical sporting pundit recently reflected that we are about to embark on “the losing season”. We would, he said, ‘lose’ Euro 2012, Wimbledon would yet again disappoint British players, and there would be a raft of excuses as to why our athletes had not performed better in the Olympics.

As I write this, the England team has not played its first game in the European Cup, Wimbledon has not begun, and the Olympics is still weeks away. By the time you read this, these predictions will have been founded, or confounded.

But what is it about winning and losing that matters so much? A friend tells me of her ten-year-old, whose football team manager encourages them to cry when they lose a

match. The effect, sadly, is that the boys associate losing with something bad, to be grieved over, rather than learned from.

“I have fought the long defeat all my life,” writes Dr Paul Farmer, a tireless campaigner for ending malaria, measles and other diseases which kill so many people around the world. “I have brought other people in to fight the long defeat, and I'm not going to stop because I keep losing. I don't dislike victory. We want to be on the winning team, but at the risk of turning our backs on the losers? No, it's not worth it.”

Jesus reflected, “Whoever would save his life, will lose it. But whoever loses their life for my sake, will find it.” No-one likes to lose. Yet in loss we can find new motivation, tolerance, forbearing, we can re-imagine possibilities which did not seem to be there before. Paradoxically, it is the loss of Jesus' life that saves us. It enables us to see the possibility of new things like forgiveness, reconciliation, peace-making, the struggle for social justice and much more.

The ‘loss’ of Jesus made the resurrection possible. The hope of the resurrection makes it possible for us to risk ‘losing our lives for Jesus' sake’, by tasking ourselves with healing broken relationships, seeking peace and pursuing it, searching for the lost and alone in this ‘naughty world’, as the ordination service has it.

Losing can provide us with the inspiration, courage and determination to ‘fight the long defeat’.

+Peter Bath and Wells

Vicarage Viewpoint

Sitting here at my desk, preparing to write this article, I am looking out of the window at the rain teeming down. Yet, we are about to depart on our summer holiday. The rain acts as reminder of many holidays past where we have hoped for fine weather only to have plans dashed by inclement weather.

While on holiday in Cornwall one October, the weather was pretty atrocious, the winds blew and it certainly wasn't ideal weather for long country walks along the Coast Path—more conducive to curling up with a good book in front of the wood-burning stove, (except the stove kept going out!)

But from time to time, we did venture out, and what do clergy do on their holidays? Why, go and look round freezing cold churches and churchyards, of course.

At one delightful ancient church, I noticed a tombstone recording the name of the deceased as Uriel. Now, that's not a name you come across very often, and it set me thinking about the accents local to the south-west.

As the memorial dated from the early 1800's, before everyone could write or read, I wondered if the name was really Uriah; but said in the accent local to the stonemason, it could



have sounded like Uriel—try saying it and you'll see what I mean.

I pointed it out to Alastair, who confounded my theory by saying that it was the name of an archangel. That put an end to my nice theory, and made me feel duly ignorant!

When I got home, I started looking up Uriel in our Bible dictionary, and sure enough the name appears. As well as being the name of an archangel, "Uriel" appears in the Book of Chronicles as a helper in bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. (From the same period in time as "Zadok the priest" of Coronation music fame.)

The next query to arise was why do the archangels names end in "el" ? Michael, Gabriel? And lots of other biblical names also end in "el"; think of Daniel, Ezekiel, Joel, Jehiel, Aziel (showing off now with those last two—just found them in the passage about Uriel!).....Israel itself..... What does it mean? Oh, the questions just keep coming. Back to the dictionary again. "El" is one of the three main words used to describe God in the Old Testament, the others being "Elohim" and "Yahweh" (Jehovah), each having its own specific usage to describe God. And all of the above knowledge arose because I mistakenly thought the stonemason spoke with a local accent.

Have you ever tried being a tourist visiting St Cuthbert's? Have you ever had a good look round, not just upwards to the amazing ceiling, but also observed the stones you walk on? I did just that recently while researching Royal connections for the Jubilee.

In the north transept, there is one delightfully decorated epitaph:

"Here resteth the body of Valentine Tryme in the year 1660

Worne out with busnesse and disease heres one layd downe to take some ease.

That what ins (*in his*) life hee scarce could have

hee might at length finde in the grave.

Faithfully dilegant ins (*in his*) trust lesse to himselfe than others iust

A faythfull friend husband deere a carefull father lyeth here.

If any or all these move thee friend give a teare to his memorie."

Having noted the important date of 1660, in the era of the Civil War and the Restoration, further research soon led me to information about Valentine Tryme.* It appears he was a Royalist, living in the Liberty, acting as under-sheriff for the Royal government of Somerset, and he led a fascinating life in this era of turmoil.

So, although I fervently hope any holiday may be dry and fine, don't despair if it is a wet one; there is much of interest in our places of worship if we only take the time and effort to look.

Bid

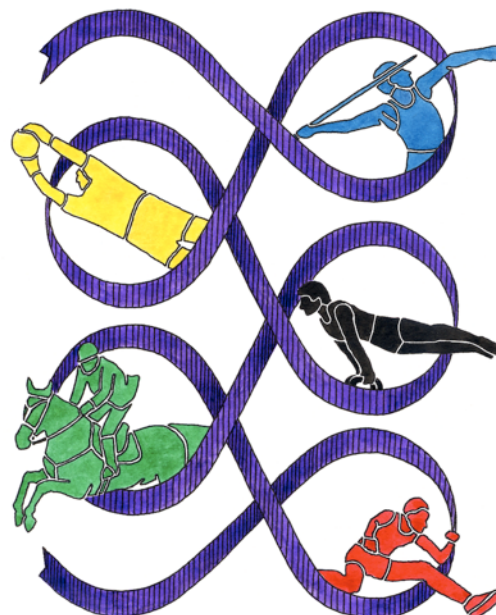
(* Under God's Visitation – a study of the City of Wells from the Civil War to the Restoration by Anthony Nott. ISBN: 0-9565835-0-5)

The way I see it: Welcome to the real Olympics!

Just to set the record straight, the Olympic Games - yes, the events that will bring much of London to a standstill this month - were founded in 776BC in ancient Greece. They involved athletics, poetry and music and were held at Olympia (hence their title), a centre for the worship of Zeus. You may recall that mount Olympus - the highest point in Greece - was the dwelling place of the gods and goddesses of Greek and Roman religion.

Once the Christian faith prevailed in the Roman Empire the Games were abolished, in the fourth century AD. What we have this month is a modern revival of the Games, the brain-child of a Frenchman, Pierre de Coubertin. It was he who memorably declared that the object of the Games was not the winning but the taking part.

The ancient Olympic Games had no element of international competition, no rankings, no flags or national anthems. The youth of the world were invited to Olympia to test their prowess against others - not just athletically, as we have noted, but artistically.



By contrast, the modern Games have become a celebration of national triumphalism, a notion far removed from the original Greek model, but also foreign to the vision of de Coubertin. He would have deplored medals tables, anthems, flag-raising and all the media hype that surrounds perceived national success or failure. Patriotic pride has attached itself to the accumulation of gold medals - many in Britain will write this year's Games off as a failure if Team GB does not win more of them than we did last time.

The ancient Games are conspicuous in the New Testament, especially in the letters of St Paul. He must have been a bit of an athletics fan, because time and again he reverts to the Games for illustrations of Christian pilgrimage. The marathon was the greatest of all the contests, and that provided him with the perfect picture of the faithful life, from the starting line to the distant finish.

The Christian competes, but not against the other runners. Our contest is with all the things that will distract us, slow us down, divert our eyes from the ultimate goal. And at the end

of the marathon of life there is the prize, the 'crown of glory' - not just for the winner, but for everyone who completes the course.

'I have fought the good fight', he writes. 'I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.' Not won, you notice, but *finished*. And for that, he says, he will receive the crown - 'and not only me but all who have longed to see him' (2 Timothy 4:8). The apostle and the founder of the modern Games would agree on one thing for sure. The prize is not for winning, but for taking part.

Canon David Winter

From a spear that brought about the demise of a milk-drinking dragon to a gold weathervane that survived a WWII blitz to a swift struck by lightning - Church treasures have arrived at The Bishop's Palace to form a major exhibition for visitors.

The **Church Treasures Project**, a volunteer-led initiative has created this year's major exhibition, *Treasures* at The Bishop's Palace, Wells.

Opening until Sunday 25 November, *Treasures* showcases over 50 fascinating objects and artefacts that have been found in churches across the Diocese of Bath & Wells.

Expect the unexpected as this isn't a usual display of what may be considered a treasure; the exhibition delves deeper behind the physical object to reveal fascinating stories, facts and surprises that span the 13th century to the present day.

Some objects have survived centuries, hidden from image-breakers and vandals. Others simply lost, and it's their accidental discovery that makes them precious. Others were crafted by artists using valuable materials to celebrate the defining rituals of the church. There are even connections to past kings and bishops. Objects on display include:

The Spear of Aller,

For many years this object was displayed as the legendary 'Spear of Aller', used to kill a dragon which terrorized Athelney Fen.

Maquette, 2007.

Detail of a maquette that was designed by Paul Fletcher. It forms part of a frieze of 12 angels that are placed along the top of the new acoustic quire screens in Bath Abbey.

Dragon weathervane, 1846, St James, Bath.

A magnificent large dragon weathervane which once topped the tower of the Church of St James in Stall Street, Bath.



Swift, 1906, St Matthew's, Wookey.

Somerset's churches are full of monuments, but one of the most unusual has to be this. On 13th May, 1906 a violent storm struck the church just as the evening service was

underway. Remarkably, nobody was seriously injured and services resumed shortly afterwards! The only death that night was a little swift, found in the rubble the next morning. The congregation have preserved it ever since, as an expression of thanksgiving.

Chalice, mid-nineteenth century

Richly embellished with semi-precious stones and champlevé enamels.

Bishop Ken's chalice, 1711

This chalice is from Bishop's Ken's travelling communion set, with which he could perform communion wherever it was needed.



Funerary helmet c.1527.

This helmet possibly belonged to Sir John Rodney who died in 1527 and is buried in the family crypt at St Leonard's Church, Rodney Stoke.

Charles II bearing cloth c.1660;

Made of coral-silk and edged with silver metal lace it was used to wrap around infants for baptism who were 'bourne' to the church, hence the name. It was used by four generations of the St Audries Family in West Somerset.

and a Fragment of Reredos, c. 1470.

Reredoses or altar screens were mutilated and destroyed by Protestant reformers during Edward VI's reign. This head from a statue, still with its original paint, is from an elaborate stone reredos at St Cuthbert's Church in Wells. 33 statues of saints were reduced to rubble, which was then used to fill the niches they had occupied.



The **Church Treasures Project** is a volunteer-led initiative to create and sustain exciting exhibitions at the Bishop's Palace and is part of the Palace Trust's wider development project. *Treasures* runs until 25th November, 2012 and it is hoped the exhibition will attract thousands of visitors. It is open 10:30am – 4pm and is included in the price of admission. Treasures may occasionally be closed for private functions. Please call The Bishop's Palace ahead of any visit to avoid disappointment.

Our breakfast

Time was, when Bernadette and I would settle down to the odd boiled egg, a bowl of muesli, maybe some toast and marmalade and a cup of coffee, and think nothing more of our breakfast. Sure, it was a time for conversation, a peep at the day's headlines, a stab at the crossword, but more than that was not to be expected.

Now it's different. We are used to sitting at a table laden with milk, margarine, pepper, salt and the occasional jar of Marmite, but now our artistic senses daily throb with pleasure to survey some additional delights -- stunning ceramics in mottled greys, soft blues and varied whites, all artistically crafted into beautiful shapes, bold angles, sensuous curves. Whence these domestic ecstasies? Why, our very own Mike and Rosemary Bailey, who together made (I think) more money on their Church Fete stall than any other by selling things made in their very own cottage factory. Cups, saucers, jugs, mugs, pots and bowls and

dishes of all kinds, all products of the potter's wheel and the hot kiln.

Just thought you and they would like to know that our breakfasts have been transformed.

David Green

Chapter 2 Book Fair

29 September 2012

You've read **Chapter 1**. Now it's time to get into **Chapter 2**. The second Town Hall Book Fair is just three months hence, and we are still in need of your book donations. Remember that Chapter 1 (October last year) made £1,001, and we may all be forgiven for hoping that this year -- Chapter 2 -- will be an even bigger success. We currently have about 2,000 books 'ready to go'; however, it would be good if we could entice customers by promising them, say, 3,500. Can we do it? Yes, we can! But only with your help.

So please bring your books to church, in bags or boxes: leave them at the back of the church or in the cupboard behind the Church Office. What kind do we want? It's easier to suggest those we **don't** want -- please, no Readers Digest books, magazines, big encyclopedias, multi-volume works, Mills and Boon, dated scientific and technical books. But everything else is saleable, from Art to Archaeology, from Humour to History, from Children's to Cookery, from Paperbacks to Poetry. We are particularly looking for a few first editions and older books that might be considered special or collectable. Please make sure the books are clean, with no bent covers, no dog-eared pages, no coffee-cup stains.

When you've donated them, we'll price them, sort them and box them ready for the Fair. (Then, of course, we'll sell 'em!)

You'd like to help on the day? Click on the 'Contact Us' tab to email the Parish Office - your message will be passed to the organisers below. We shall need car drivers, cashiers, pricers and sorters.

David Green, Rosemary Willott, Peter Lloyd, Sarah Sheldon, Sheila Young



'Narcissus' - please...

St Cuthbert's Ladies Group

Our outing is on Tuesday 17th July for those who reserved seats. Let's hope for fine weather!

Our August event is on Tuesday 21st, when we are having our sponsored walk, raising funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. If you haven't yet got a sponsor form, please consider joining in the walk. Starting at 2.15pm from church, the route goes up High Street, through the Market Place and Penniless Porch. Walk along the West Front of

the Cathedral and turn right through the Chain Gate to the traffic lights. Cross the Liberty here, turn right and walk the short stretch of St Andrew's Street to the bottom of St Thomas Street. Cross St Thomas Street carefully, and continue along Tor Street until you arrive at the end of the walk around the Moat on your right. Cross Tor Street here and walk around the moat to the Bishop's Eye, return through the Market Place, down High Street to St Cuthbert's Church, where a welcome drink and cake will await you. Distance 1¼ miles. Think of all the wonderful places we'll pass in such a short distance; the London marathon runners will have to run 26+ miles to pass by a Palace, a cathedral, the London Eye, and moat of the Tower of London!

Please report in to the Start desk at church before you set off; this will enable your sponsor form to be marked, and return to the desk on your return to have it signed off that you have completed the walk. It is possible there will be another monitoring station en route to prove you've walked the complete route!

It is not a race; it is our way of offering support to Edna Hopkins who is no longer able to walk, through raising funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association which is supporting her and her family through her illness.

Volunteers to Bid please for preparing tea or to be on the desk would be most welcome, especially from those who feel unable to do the walk itself. Don't feel that you are unable to help if you can't walk the distance.

Please enlist the financial help of friends and family for our undertaking, which, whilst not a long walk, is hopefully suitable for most ladies of our members age! And four-legged friends can also be sponsored of course!

Do try and encourage family and friends to sponsor, reciprocating the many times you have helped them no doubt. Further details in August.

Bid

Wookey Hole Ladies' Club

On June 5th several of our members visited The Cheddar Chocolate Company at Winchester Farm. We were shown the process of chocolate making and all allowed to fill up some of the chocolate moulds!

The main product produced is small chocolate squares which are sold to hotels and restaurants to go with your cup of coffee at the end of a meal. We all enjoyed tasting the different flavours of white, milk and plain chocolate.

We were also shown a very large computer controlled machine which wrapped each individual chocolate and which could print any logo onto the wrapping.

After taking off our hairnets and aprons we went into the shop and bought some delicious treats. A good time was had by all.

Just to re-cap: Our outing on July 7th will be a conducted tour of the Jurassic coast. We will leave the Wookey Hole caves car park at 9.00 am.

Although there is no meeting in August some of our members are opening their gardens in Milton Lane on 5th August from 2 - 5pm. Tea and Cake plus a raffle. All proceeds to the Air Ambulance.

Margaret Baddeley

Bird and snake

There is a story told of a man who was out in the forests of South America, when he saw a bird chirping and fluttering in great distress. He soon saw why. Creeping along the branch of the tree towards her nest was a great venomous snake, intent on taking her fledglings, who were still helpless in the nest. Suddenly the bird flew away, and the man thought she had abandoned her chicks.



But no, a few moments later she was back, with a small twig covered in leaves in her mouth. The bird placed this twig over her babies in the nest, and flew to a branch nearby, to watch for the snake's arrival.

Sure enough, the snake glided along the branch, and paused in front of the nest. It reared its sleek head, eyes glittering, its tongue darting here and there, ready to strike. Suddenly its tongue came into contact with the twig that the bird had laid across the nest. The result was dramatic. The snake veered back and away, as if it had been stabbed by the little twig. It swayed for a minute, and then slid quickly off and down the tree, disappearing into the long grass.

The man was fascinated, and carefully lifted the twig off of the nest, wrapped it in a bit of cloth, and took it home with him. He showed the twig to a native friend, asking what it was. His native friend explained that the twig was from a bush that was poisonous for the snake, and which it was known never to touch. The little helpless bird had used the small twig as her strong defence from attack.

Satan in scripture is known as 'that old serpent' He is intent on the destruction of people. But God has told us in his Word that there is a tree which is poison to our enemy, and which offers protection for all of us, old and young alike. It is the cross of Jesus Christ. On the cross Jesus died for our sins. We need no longer live under evil dominion.

Doughnuts for your Dough!

On Saturday 21st July our stalwart churchwardens Vera and Graham (suitably protected from the elements) look forward to greeting you outside the south door of St Cuthbert's Church between 10.00am and 12.30pm. They will give you a hearty welcome, and a tasty doughnut (generously dough-nated by Burns the Bread) in exchange for your gift to St Cuthbert's; in the church we will be serving coffee and tea, accompanied by musical entertainment.

Yes, it's time for St Cuthbert's Gift Day 2012, and we hope you will be at least as generous as in past years with your giving. Enjoy your doughnut.

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

AN EVENING GROUP on WEDNESDAYS in July in St Cuthbert's

After the successful series in May, we are going to continue with three sessions in July starting at 7.30 pm (entry into church via the small door).

The theme continues be *ENCOUNTERING JESUS* - using the ideas from Scriptural encounters to see how meeting with Our Lord brings both healing, peace and challenge; and is relevant to our lives now!

11th July (Luke 8)	The Woman with a haemorrhage <i>in the church</i>
18th July (Luke 22)	Judas Iscariot <i>in the Old Vicarage</i>
25th July (Acts 9)	St Paul on the Damascus Road <i>in the church</i>

We will begin each evening with a brief time of quiet prayer and end with reflection followed by a short act of worship; the whole thing lasting just over the hour.

Each week stands alone, so feel free to come for one or two weeks if you cannot make the whole lot.

I look forward to *Encountering Jesus* afresh with you.

Graham Hendy

Letter from Wookey Hole

What a month this has been, both nationally and in our little village! We have been celebrating like mad on a wide spectrum with a baptism of Sophia Grey on May 20th, and the celebration of Tom's 90th birthday on the 13th. Both of these were lovely joyous occasions.

Christian Aid week in mid May which was always so ably managed by Neill, who is much missed, was organised this time by Juliet Davey and raised a wonderful sum in excess of £600. Thanks so much to all our intrepid collectors and to all those who responded so generously.

The flower beds in front of the church were looking extremely neglected with a few dead shrubs. The WI spotted this and offered to fund replanting which has now been generously organised by Gillian Moore with David Scarth's help. Our grateful thanks go to all those involved.

I (Elizabeth) for a long time have been deeply distressed by the swinging board adorned by silver duck tape and held up by old shoe laces and it has now been beautifully restored by Brenda Wilkinson's son Steve and we all feel our public face is a little more groomed!

Our main summer event was the Jubilee Fête; yet again in this wet and uncertain summer we were blessed with wonderful weather. Many of our villagers were away on holiday but the rest came and one or two even changed their holiday dates to be there.

The Arts Group, formed since our fête 2 years ago, had been very busy under the leadership of Jenny Lewis preparing and creating a village quilt, portraying scenes from our village life. The superb result was to be unveiled at the Fête and Alec Lewis had made and decorated a huge frame to display it. The mayor of Wells presided over the

unveiling and Alec talked about it, explaining how it was made. The quilt is very beautiful indeed and was much admired by everybody and a book compiled to accompany it was carefully studied. The group is to be congratulated on a wonderful community initiative and a stunning work of art.

The church was beautifully decorated by the flower ladies with red white and blue flowers, under Edith's expert eye. Elizabeth Rennie demonstrated formidable decorative icing skills to many interested onlookers and sold tickets to raffle off a beautifully iced cake. Many art works were on display in the church itself and attracted interest and attention. Our village choir and orchestra, slightly augmented by our curate Elizabeth and two Wells musicians provided a programme of patriotic and appropriately Somerset folk songs. The choir sang lustily, the orchestra played with commitment and the large audience joined in at the end with a our Jubilee round, words composed by Joanna Davey. Thank you to everyone involved and especially to Juliet Davey who worked like a trojan to prepare us all.

Outside in the grounds Nicky Davy organised a rota so that good live music entertained us throughout most of the afternoon. Juliet Wallace Mason and Jenny Lewis provided materials to make crowns and flags for the children who then paraded proudly around in their crowns and waved their flags. There was a historical perspective, provided by Dave Hudsmith who brought along a fascinating collection of old photographs and post cards of Wookey Hole which attracted a lot of delighted interest. Rosemary Blackford helped by Gillian Moore had for weeks been preparing a magnificent selection of gifts for the tombola, and on the day they were joined by Christopher, Rosemary's husband, who all ran it with pleasing lucrative results. The biggest fund raiser of the afternoon was the supply of cream teas led by Beryl and her team of ladies and washer upperers. These had to overcome electrical problems which we hope to avoid in future. We apologise for this difficulty.

Dot King, mercifully better after a long spell in hospital, showed her paintings and made some sales and we are so glad to have her with us again and contributing to village life. Frances Fraser, Alex's young daughter, filled a jar of sweets and most enterprisingly asked us to guess the number and raised £7.50 for our funds.

Luckily the weather remained fine for the gallant team who assembled and disassembled our huge gazebos.

To all who contributed in any way to this very happy and successful village Jubilee event our very grateful thanks.

Elizabeth and Lucy

HIGH DAYS AND HOLY DAYS

11th July: Benedict (c.480 – c.550), author of the famous Rule

Benedict was an abbot and author of the famous Rule that bears his name. Because of his Rule, Benedict is also the Patriarch of Western Monasticism, and Patron Saint of Europe.*

Surprisingly little is known about his life: born at Nursia, Benedict studied at Rome, which he then left before completing his studies to become a hermit at Subiaco. After a time disciples joined him, whom he organised into twelve deaneries of ten. After an attempt on his life, Benedict moved on to Monte Cassino, near Naples, where he wrote the final version of his Rule.

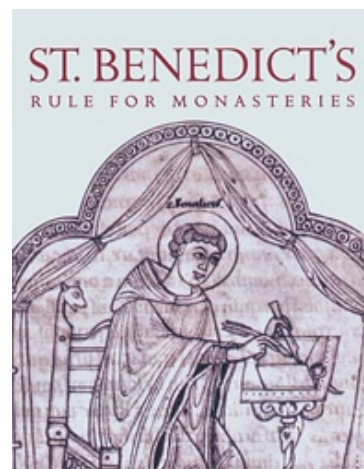
Benedict's Rule is justly famous and respected: not only did it incorporate much traditional monastic teaching from revered monks like Basil, but Benedict went on to modify this in a way characterised by prudence and moderation within a framework of authority, obedience, stability and community life*.

Benedict's great achievement was to produce a monastic way of life which was complete, orderly, and workable. The monks' primary occupation was liturgical prayer, which was complemented by sacred reading and manual work of various kinds.

Benedict's own personality shines through this Rule: wise, discreet, flexible, learned in the law of God, but also a spiritual father to his community.

Benedict's Rule came to be recognised as the fundamental monastic code of western Europe in the early Middle Ages. Because of his Rule, monasteries became centres of learning, agriculture, hospitality, and medicine. Thus Benedict came to influence the lives of millions of people.

* *The European Union might benefit from applying Benedict's Rule – Ed.*



Over the Hills and Far Away 2012

There were grey clouds and a ferocious wind; the day looked threatening, and then suddenly 22 keen walkers along with 2 dogs and rain gear appeared in the car park at South Cadbury.

We set off south towards the site of the medieval village of Whitcomb, passed through the farmyard and climbed the gentle slope to the beacon, some 196m high. We had a photocall here and then went along the ridge towards Corton Denham, facing a wind of some 45 knots or more, a real challenge. Our descent to the village led us right into the Queen's Arms, where we were able to take our lunch time sip of ale and a tasty morsel of fine Somerset food.

On leaving the village we had a look around the church and proceeded westward across grass fields to the escarpment, before heading northwards to Parrock hill and down into the lovely orchard at Sutton Montis. Leaving the village we found ourselves under the dark heights of Cadbury Castle, once an island in its own right where Arthur first saw his sword Excalibur, and then proceeded up the ramparts to the very top, some 18 acres - to an area steeped in history; now whether indeed Cadbury was Camelot, who shall say? Back down the east side and yes, here we were some four hours later, all 22 of us safely home.

All agreed that it was a great and interesting walk. Our St Cuthbert's walkers raised over £1000, so we say a sincere thank you to our sponsors and thank you to all the walkers for taking part.

Bill Oke



Up and up...



On the Beacon



Mid-June, and it's gale-force 9 up here!

Bountiful God

I asked God for a flower,
He gave me a garden.
I asked for a tree,
He gave me a forest.
I asked for a river,
He gave me an ocean.
I asked for a friend,
He gave me you.

BIBLE BOOKS

Can you unscramble these letters to find books in the Bible?

1. ashjou
2. imythot
3. hurt
4. kuel
5. brosprev
6. tonslaminate
7. chaimal
8. theres
9. chainstroin
10. himereaj



With her fear of spiders and heights,
Sister Kate should never have joined the
bell ringing team.

FROM THE REGISTERS 2012

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

3rd June Lewis Jack Whelan
24th Lexi Jean Guise

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Samantha Fairgrieve and Joseph Hurley
(Wookey Hole)

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

15th June Vivienne Kerns
21st Evelyn Nellie Brock
27th Sheila Esain
Sheila Jenkins

Start the day right...

Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say "Good morning, Lord ", and there are those who wake up in the morning and say "Good Lord, it's morning."

Breakable

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country... "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.