

Dear Friends

Well that is Christmas over but certainly not winter over. We have had the coldest weather for many a year. I measure it by the number of times I have to scrape the ice from the car, and it seems to have been every day for the past few weeks. The pond in the garden has been really frozen over as has the marina where I keep my boat.

Often people will say well you come from the north so you should be able to cope with the cold. Well not really, I felt cold in the north just as I feel cold in the west. Put on another layer is still the best thing to do although I do remember the snow and the blocked roads.

I am writing this is at the beginning of the week of prayer for Christian unity, which when I was Vicar of Burnopfield in County Durham in the 1980's, the main service of the week was always cancelled because of snow. The village was over 600ft above sea level and so was affected every year when the weather turned cold. Although a small village it did have other denominations with active congregations.

Here in our united benefice there are no other active mainstream churches, indeed some of their buildings were converted into houses many years ago. It means that we Anglicans meeting at All Saints, St Leonard's and St Mary's must not forget that there are other Christians meeting at Churches outside our area and there other Christians who struggle to find a place of worship which suits their needs. The Gospel Hall provides for some from quite a wide area.

Christian Unity is the idea of accepting unity without uniformity. Of realizing there is a place for many different types of worship under the great umbrella of the Christian faith. Whilst working in prison it was my responsibility to find a minister for inmates of many denominations, both Christian and non-Christian. I came across many Christian leaders who helped me to understand spiritual needs of others as they ministered to those in prison.

The Christian message of love was always paramount, no matter what the denomination or the offence, and through this acceptance and understanding we could continue to at least try to love our neighbours as ourselves and to 'do His will' here on earth. Can we try to do the same?

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

God be with you all

Clive R Murrie

From the Parish Register of St Mary's Church, Compton Dando

Baptism

19th October Michael GREGORY

Funeral

21st November Peggy Joyce CARPENTER

From the Parish Register of All Saints', Publow

Baptism

23rd November Orla Marguerite HAUSER

Holy Matrimony

20th December Thomas Rupert HEMMINGS & Victoria May JAMES

From us all at Stanton Drew & St. Thomas a Becket Tower

Pensford PreSchool we would like to say Thank You everyone who came and supported the school's Christmas Fayre, it all went well and with your help we managed to raise £280.00 towards the PreSchool

Saturday November 8th seems a long time ago but still important to thank everyone who helped and supported the Christmas Sale at Chelwood. The event raised £312.00 for St Leonards.



Pensford Primary School's PSA would like to thank everybody who came along and supported our Christmas Fair. It was so lovely to see so many people there. We managed to raise a fantastic £1000 which will directly benefit all the pupils at the school, so thank you!

Please keep a look out for our future fundraising events. We look forward to your company.

WANTED ANY UNWANTED XMAS GIFT OR BRIC-A-BRAC

The Bristol League For Cats are desperate for any of the above items for their charity shops, to help pay towards Veterinary Bills, Food etc If you can help in any way or would like to become a member from £7.00 per year please contact Mandy on 01761 490952.

Many of you will know that prolonged negotiations have been going on with the Churches Conservation Trust, who has responsibility for St. Thomas a Becket Tower, in an effort to get building work carried out on the floor area at the base of the tower to make it safe for access and use.

I am delighted to let you know that this work is about to commence. It is not possible, for financial reasons, for the Trust to have this work completed in one session, but a start is being made. Disruption along Church Street will be kept to a minimum, but those using this area may have to be patient on occasions.

If anyone has any concerns or queries, please contact Judith Hillman, 490324 or Jane Flower, 490234.

The students of the Old Vic Theatre School preseted their Nativity Play

in the Village Hall on Friday 28th November. This has become something of an annual event so we were all taken by surprise to find a completely new production with a more 'modern' approach. As with all changes some of the audience were excited whilst others were less enthusiastic. What hasn't changed however is the amazing talent of the students in conveying the real message of Christmas.



PUBLOW WITH PENSFORD MU

A very happy and blessed new year to everyone from Mothers' Union. Our last meeting in November was a sad occasion with the recent death of a very dear member, Gill Williams and also of a great friend of many, Peggy Carpenter. A number of us attended both of these funerals in the same week, the Thanksgiving Service for Gill at Publow Church and the Funeral Service for Peggy at Compton Dando. We all have many happy memories of both of these ladies and they will be missed very much. The wonderful Summer Ploughman's Lunches at Nutgrove Farm run by Peggy and Jack have very happy memories for a great many of us.

In December we enjoyed our Christmas meal together at The New Inn Farnborough. We were delighted to have

several husbands with us for this festive occasion. The following day the Benefice Lunch was held in the Memorial Hall. It was superb, absolutely first Class, and we all congratulate all of the working party who organised and provided such a lovely Christmas Meal. So much hard work went into this very happy community 'get together' yet again, all greatly appreciated by everyone.

On the morning of Christmas Eve a couple of us helped the Sunday School Children to make the Christingles for the afternoon Christingle Service. It is always lovely to see so many children in church, families, and four generations of one family there together!

The AGM was held at the Rectory on 9th January and the next MU meeting in The Church Rooms will be Thursday 12th February, 2.15pm. Come and join us this New Year.
Mary Thomas

The first meeting of this year for the Evergreen Club will be on 5th March 2009.

This will be the Annual General Meeting followed by refreshments and entertainment. During 2008 members enjoyed a variety of entertainers, including speakers, pianists, choirs, & brass bands. Throughout the year day trips, a spring holiday and also a Tinsel & Turkey weekend in November was organised for members and their friends. The Christmas dinner was enjoyed at Cameley Lodge. Meetings are held every Thursday at Pensford Memorial Hall from 7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. New members are always welcome but must join in March, or, come along as a guest to any of our meetings. If you would like to know more details, please 'phone Jo or Geoff Beedell on 01761 490371. We look forward to meeting our old friends and look forward to greeting new members!

Bold Brass Christmas Concert

The committee would like to express their sincere appreciation to all who helped in making our first (but not our last) Christmas Concert such an enjoyable occasion.

The tow course dinner organised by Janet Smith was superb (how does she do it?) and the brilliant Bold Brass were in top form playing a mixture of traditional and Christmas music.

A special word of thanks to Brenda Stone for making all the beautiful table decorations, which were later auctioned raising £100.00 Thanks also go to all who donated raffle prizes. A grand total of £1,000 was raised which will be paid directly into the new roof appeal fund.



Neighbourhood Watch

You may be aware of the recent spate of house break-ins around Pensford and might be wondering what you can do to improve the security of your home.

It's been proposed that a second Neighbourhood Watch scheme should be set up in Pensford alongside the existing scheme on Station Approach. A number of residents, particularly in the High St and Old Road areas, have already said that they will take part. There is no reason, however, why the scheme cannot be extended.

A public meeting to answer residents' questions about the scheme has been arranged for 7.00 p.m. Monday, 9th February in the Memorial Hall Pavilion Room. It will be attended by the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Neighbourhood Watch Administrator and our local Beat Manager and Police Community Support Officers.

Establishing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme will help us deter crime in our neighbourhood through signs displayed around the area and by closer liaison with the Police through advice and information about incidents and crimes in our area. Taking part in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme does not cost anything but does rely on us acting as good neighbours, for example, by advising others when we're away, keeping an eye on our neighbours' property and reporting anything suspicious – things we probably do already.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to join the scheme anyway, please contact Chris James on 01761 490392 or Alan Ford on 01761 490440 or Geoff Beedell 01761 490371 to get your free information pack and to be included on the contact list to be informed of incidents in the area. If you are not sure you want to join at this stage, you can always join later. For further information contact Chris, Alan or Geoff



Supporting disabled children, young people and their families

www.time2share.org.uk

Thanks to the generous support of the people of Pensford at the Mummers Play, where £180.00 was raised for local charity Time2Share. We supports families with disabled children and young adults aged 0 to 25 in Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset. We link up people who can spare a few hours a week with a young person, which gives parents and siblings a few hours respite. Volunteers do all sorts of things from having a young person round for tea once a week to cycling, swimming, arts and crafts. Time2Share runs a group for disabled young adults aged 18 - 25 in Bath & North

East Somerset and the money raised will be used for a special trip for the group in the springtime. The group meets up twice a month to do social activities with the support of volunteers. The aim of the group is to enable disabled young adults to do similar activities to those of their non disabled peers, to increase their independence and self esteem.

We would all like to say thankyou again ! and we will keep you posted on what the group does.

If anyone is interested in getting involved with Time2Share or would just like some more information please contact Maryanne Parnell on 0844 3575 192.



The Chew Valley Support Group would like to thank everyone who attended the illustrated talk given by mountaineer and public speaker Stephen Venables at Chew Valley School on Friday, 21st November.

Over £1,610.00 in total was raised for St Peter's Hospice and our sincere thanks go to Stephen and also to the many local businesses and individuals who generously supported this event.



Chew Valley U3A has a monthly meeting on the third Monday of the month at Ubley village hall. Meetings start at 10:30am with refreshments beforehand. February's meeting will include a talk by Mary Payne on "Growing for Gold". At the March meeting Jane Chamberlain will speak about "Women in the Ministry". As well as the monthly meetings Chew Valley U3A has over twenty differing interest groups which meet regularly. U3As are self-help, self-managed, lifelong learning cooperatives for older people no longer in full time work. They provide opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning, not for qualifications, but for fun. For more information visit the national or local websites or phone the Secretary, Christine Evans on 01934 832841.

Chelwood Lucky Draw November/December

£15 - G. Dagger £10 - S. Waite
£ 4 - T. Jones £ 2 - M. Godfrey
£15 - A. Grant £10 - M. Harrison
£ 4 - J&S Casselden £ 2 - M. Cox

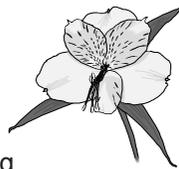
Monday Luncheon Group at the Travellers Rest

Every other Monday throughout the past year several local pensioners have enjoyed a delicious meal at The Travellers Rest, Pensford Hill, and would like to show our appreciation to Sue & Steve and staff who have always been helpful and considerate. We meet any time after 12 midday in the sunny conservatory with a fantastic view over the countryside, and enjoy a two course meal, with tea or coffee served at around 1.00pm

We are a friendly group and if you think you would like to join us, please give us a ring;

Linda 490080 or Jo 490371

Chew Magna Gardening Society



Chew Valley Gardening Club's next meeting is on the 12th February at 8.00pm at the Old School Room, Chew Magna. Our speaker is Chris Smith from Pennard Plants. He will be talking on Hellebores, Chris has visited us before and is an entertaining and informative speaker. The nursery in Somerset is well worth a visit and exhibits can be seen at a number of the shows, including Chelsea and more local venues. The web site www.pennardplants.com gives a list of all the shows and is full of interesting items including links to "potato days". In the last couple of years I have grown a selection of tomatoes from their heritage seed collection including a black Russian variety (far more exciting than moneymaker). Chris will bring a selection of Hellebores and seeds for sale. The talk is followed by tea, coffee and a chat with new members and visitors always welcome.



Fairtrade Fortnight 23rd February - 8th March Make It Happen, Choose Fairtrade

Chew Magna's fairtrade group will be celebrating the 2009 Fairtrade Fortnight with a brunch in the Millennium Hall from 11.00am-1.00 pm on Saturday 28th February.

As we are determined to participate in fairtrade both locally and globally the brunch will consist of locally bought fresh produce accompanied by beverages and cookies made from fairtrade produce. The local butcher's bacon meant that our butties were in great demand last year.

The Benefice Choir Rides Again!

In the words of the old carol, there was "sweet singing in the choir" at our Benefice carol services, which were enjoyed by singers and congregation alike. So much so that the choir has decided to re-unite and sing at Easter as well.

All Saints at Publow has in the past offered a meditative service during Holy Week, so this year the Benefice Choir will perform Schubert's Mass in G on Wednesday 8th April at 7.30pm. This beautiful work displays Schubert's melodic and emotional gifts to the full, employing soloists and orchestral accompaniment. The Benefice Choir will be joined by the Ammonites singers from Keynsham for this event.

The Benefice Choir is made up of people from all three villages who enjoy occasional choir singing; if you would like to join in for this event and sing, or if you can help swell our orchestra, please contact a churchwarden or David Brunskill (01761 490449) for more details.

There will also be an opportunity to buy goods that are fairly traded and see our information about the links our small community already enjoys with Ghana, Zambia and Tamil Nadu. Your support for all these links and our maintained fairtrade village status is much appreciated. Come and enjoy brunch and great company after shopping in Chew Magna where you will find an ever increasing opportunity to buy local and fairtrade goods. The variety is expanding each year and there is something for all tastes. We know that there is lots of interest throughout the valley and in the Mendips so please come and make it happen with us.



On November 21st Three Men's Company performed before a very appreciative audience in a packed Ubley Village Hall. Not only was it a very sociable and enjoyable evening, but the princely sum of £617.25 was raised for Arthritis Research.

Our grateful thanks go to the Three Men's Company for their generosity in giving their services free and to those of you who came along to make the evening so successful.

Thanks also to everyone who came along to the Quiz Night on 17th October. Fourteen teams entered and spent an enjoyable evening raising £345 for ARC. Many thanks to Camely Lodge for their continued support.

Advance notice of our next quiz! This will take place on Friday, 20th March 2009 at Camely Lodge, when we will be able to accommodate more teams than in October due to the completion of redecoration at the Lodge.



Questionnaire success!

The response in all five villages to the recent questionnaire was fantastic! Every household in the parish was contacted and between us we managed to achieve an excellent 82% response rate across our five villages, higher than our target of 80%. Thank you again to everyone who filled in their form and especially to the many volunteers who gave their time delivering and collecting the questionnaires. Now comes the big task of analysing all

the responses and building, in consultation with relevant partner bodies and agencies, an action plan for the parish. This will be based on the findings from the questionnaire, which will be made available for everyone to see once the analysis is complete.

If you have a particular interest in any of the topics raised in the questionnaire please do get in touch. Interest groups will be looking into the most popular topics and everyone is welcome to join in. Please contact Elizabeth Brealey, secretary of the Steering Group, on 490600.

Avon Wildlife Trust The Plants of Folly Farm- Local Wildlife Trust talk

On Thursday 26th February 2009 by local ecologist Rupert Higgins, in Chew Magna Millennium Hall. 7.45pm, £2.50, members £2. Folly Farm, Stowey is Avon Wildlife Trust's largest reserve. The meadows are of a type now rare in Britain. Unspoilt by pesticides and fertilisers, in summer they are brimming with flowers such as betony, ox-eye daisy and heath spotted orchid. In late summer, they are covered with drifts of black knapweed and devil's-bit scabious.

Tuesday 10th February
Working for mental health
Lorna Howarth
7.30pm
Compton Dando Parish Hall



Would you like to spend a couple of hours in the sunshine, surrounded by beautiful countryside? Come along and help marshal the Pensford 10K, Sunday 26th April '09. We would love your company and support. Please ring Jane Garner 01761 490422. It's fab day and lots of fun!!

Pensford Local History Group

Dr Alan Dodge
18th Century
agricultral labourer
and his family
Church Rooms - 8.00pm
Monday 2nd February
£2.00 including Coffee/Tea

CHURCH MARKET

SATURDAY 7th February

CHURCH ROOM : PENSFORD

10.00 – 11.30am

**HOME BAKING : MARMALADE
BOOKS**

BRING & BUY STALL

Proceeds towards Church Funds

Admission 50p to include coffee and biscuit



Market Report – December

A lively and enjoyable time was had by all those who attended our Christmas Market on 6th December. Thank you to everyone who came and bought and all those who baked and helped. A total of £262.10 was donated to Church funds.

In addition £108.00 was raised from the Hamper Raffle which was won by Sheila Cobb. Our next market will be on Saturday, 7th February, when the new season's marmalade will be on sale. We hope to see you there!



PENSFORD WITH PUBLOW

Mrs Baber welcomed members to the December meeting. She was pleased to announce that we had won the skittles match and look forward to the next round. The new committee was announced, with some new members joining for the first time. We were pleased to note that we had won a cake in the Yorkshire Tea competition. After the business was dealt with, Mr K Taylor entertained us with stories, songs and poems. This was followed by an enjoyable tasty buffet. Mrs Baber wished everyone a Happy Christmas and said the January meeting would be a talk on the "History of Bedminster".

At the start of the January meeting Mrs Baber wished everyone a Happy New

Year. Birthday cards were presented to two members.

Subscriptions at £29 for the year are due. Maureen informed us that we had a 'bye' into the next round of the skittles competition. Names were taken for the Indoor Games, Kurling and EGM. A Coffee Morning has been arranged for Saturday, 14th February in the Church Room.

After the rest of the business and Avon News had been dealt with we had a talk by Mr Anton Bantock who spoke on the History of Bedminster and said that at one time Bedminster had been more important than Bristol.

The next meeting, on Monday 9th February, will be an insight into 'Farming and Village Life' through poems, stories and monologues given by Mr Paul Evans. The competition will be to make a 'Scarecrow'. Visitors welcome.



Pensford with Publow W.I

Coffee Morning

Saturday, 14th February

10.00am – 11.30am

Church Room, Pensford

Cakes, Bric-a-Brac

Raffle, Books



Coffee Morning

Cakes : Preserves : Raffle

Saturday 14th February

10.00am - 12noon

Chelwood Village Hall

Annie Sherborne - 01761 490341

BARN DANCE

Celebrate Valentines Day

Saturday 14th February

Pensford Memorial Hall

8:00 pm – late

£12.00 per ticket to include Buffet Super

For tickets please call;

Debbie & Alan on 490409 or
Alan & Jan 490753



All proceeds to Pensford Memorial Hall

Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool Playgroup

Near as New 50/50

Of Childrens clothes, toys, books,
bedding and much more...

Saturday 7th March 2009

2.00 till 4.00 pm

Stanton Drew Village Hall

Admission 30 pence



To sell items – for information packs call:

Laura 01761 492552/Sandra 01275 331820

Packs also available directly from Pre-School by 1st March

February 09

- Mon 2 History Society. Church Rooms. 8.00pm
 Tue 3 MU Wave of Prayer Service, Keynsham Parish Church. 2.30pm
 Sat 7 Publow Church Market, Church Rooms. 10.00am - 11.30am
 Mon 9 Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.
 Pensford Memorial Pavilion Room. 7.00pm
 Tue 10 Working with Mental Health. Lorna Howarth. CD Parish Hall. 7.30pm
 Deanery Synod 7.30pm
 Wed 11 Mobil Library
 Thur 12 MU meeting. Pensford Church Rooms. 2.15pm
 Fri 13 Pensford Cardboard & Garden Waste Collection
 Sat 14 Pensford with Publow WI. Coffee Morning. Church Rooms
 10.00am-11.30am
 British Heart Foundation Coffee Morning. Chelwood Village Hall
 10.00am-12noon
 Compton Dando Valentine's Supper & Dance. Parish Hall. 8.00pm
 Barn Dance. Pensford Memorial Hall. 8.00pm
Sun 15 Compton Dando Litter Pick
 Mon 16 Chew Valley U3A. Ubley Village Hall. 10.30am. Growing for Gold
 Tue 17 Coffee Morning. Free to all CD residents. Parish Hall. 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Thur 19 Compton Dando CA meeting. Parish Hall. 7.30pm
Sun 22 The Ammonites Choir. St Mary's Church. 3.30pm evensong
 Mon 23 Ladies Group AGM & Social. Church Rooms. 8.00pm
 Wed 25 Mobil Library
 Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion. All Saints, Publow. 7.30pm
 Thur 26 Trouble at the OK Corral Panto. Memorial Hall. 7.30pm
 Avon Wildlife Trust. Chew Magna Millennium Hall. 7.45pm
 Fri 27 Pensford Cardboard & Garden Waste Collection
 Trouble at the OK Corral Panto. Memorial Hall. 7.30pm
 Sat 28 Fairtrade Brunch. Chew Magna Millennium Hall. 11.00am - 1.00pm
 Trouble at the OK Corral Panto. Memorial Hall. 7.30pm
 March
 Sat 7 Quiz & Curry Night. Pensford Memorial Hall. 8.00pm start
 Sat 14 Tutored wine tasting & wine tasting evening

VALENTINE'S SUPPER



SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

8.00pm

Compton Dando Parish Hall
Includes
supper & dancing



Tickets £10 from
Liz 490487 or Alison 490903

PANTO 2009
"YEEHAW HAH"

TROUBLE
AT THE
OK CORRAL



Pensford Memorial Hall
Thursday 26th February
Friday 27th February
Saturday 28th February

Tickets available at
Pensford Post Office

Prices from
£2.00 Child/ £3.00 Adults

