Leaves from the Rector's Diary

20 October Visited Gloucester Cathedral today for the remarkable "Crucible" exhibition of contemporary sculpture. I find it very difficult to pass criticism on any work of art; I do not find myself sufficiently qualified, but I know what I like, and particularly what stimulates or excites. Carol and I found here works of art that did these things, but also some that were disturbing or simply mystifying. Like all good worship, I believe the chief aim is to honour God, but also it is to inspire.

24 October *Baptism during this Morning's Family Service at Publow today. As you know I am discouraging Baptisms during our usual Sunday worship because the large numbers attending with the Baptismal party are usually for the most part unfamiliar with church let alone its worship. Today's service went off well because it had already been booked and Angela Fraser our Deanery Youth Worker was with us to add her exuberance to the address she gave. But that's it now, except for regular church members' children. Now, what to do about the fourth Sunday at 11.00am as most people, according to the registers, stay away? I suggest an All Age Eucharist and we will see how that goes.*

29 October Grudgingly went to the Driving Course at Chewton Keynsham this morning. I and about 25 fellow offenders who had been caught doing between 33 and 39mph within a 30 mph limit were there, not to be told how naughty we were or to allow us to try to defend our action in breaking the law. Actually I enjoyed the session, and as I had not really looked at the Highway Code since 1958 it was enlightening.

31 October *All Saints and All Souls weekend. The choir certainly enhanced this morning's Eucharist We could have done with a few more present especially at the evening Memorial Service. It went very well; it was new, and I should have remembered the advice given when I was ordained, "Don't count the numbers in church, John." Having said that, I found today's services encouraging. I should have taken more time to explain what the Memorial Service was about. We lit night lights to remember our departed loved ones, we heard comforting words about Resurrection hope. And above all we faced the fact of death as a reality, which most people today are loathe to do. Many funeral services are dire and sentimental just because we believe that what has happened is unreal. So there are the requests for banal CD music and "All things bright and beautiful" It's a hymn which people think is bright and jolly, and it helps to mask the reality of death. I know: I have been there. I am sympathetic.*

1 November The Bishop of the Diocese entertained at The Palace all the newcomers to Bath and Wells during the past year. It was good to meet up with a number of fellow priests and to be introduced to the staff of the Old Deanery. The food was good too.

8 November *Summoned to Wells once more, this time for a day of training on Child Protection. Most of what were given was already familiar to me, but I did find that a presentation about abusers was both informative and quite alarming.*

10 November Our discovery of Westonbirt Arboretum has provided us with a perfect Retreat centre. The walks certainly meet the dogs' requirements as well as ours. I often ask people what aspect of Sunday worship finds resonance for you in the middle of the following week. Perhaps this week for me the autumn leaves at Westonbirt just echoed the rows of people at Publow on Sunday as they knelt in the sunlight to receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. It is an inner transforming which makes you want to cry, "Yes God is good, in earth and sky."

12 November *I've been asked politely to keep my contributions shorter, because the more I write the smaller the print which makes it difficult for some of you to read. The Archdeacon tells me he always reads my diary which tells me that he has good eyesight and also that I must be careful not to record here all that I do.*

PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

with the Fabulous Jane Lilley Singers

Two course evening dinner

Pensford Memorial Hall

Saturday 11th December

7.00pm

Price £12.50

FULL BAR -WINE- SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE

Tickets available from

Terry: 490426 OR Geoff: 490371

Mummers Play

A Chew Valley Tradition in Pensford

Sunday 12th December

Rising Sun 6.30pm and The George & Dragon 6.45pm

Mulled Wine - Come and join the fun

From the Parish Registers of St Mary's Church

Baptism

7th November Reuben James BOX

From the Parish Registers of All Saints' Church

Baptism

24th October Malakai Tony COMERFORD

31st October Harry William DALTON

Holy Matrimony

5th November Adam James GOODWIN and Naomi Lisa RAMSEY

13th November Matthew Colin WHATLEY and Louise Anne SESSFORD

Funeral Service

25th October Frances Elizabeth WHITING

Fund Raising Success!

Saturday 16th October saw the return of the 60's tribute band the Mersey Beat Legends to Pensford Memorial Hall with Joker as support band.

It wasn't long before people were up on the dance floor enjoying the "fabulous" music that these two groups produced.

A BIG thank you to the 130 people who supported this event and helped to raise £500 which has been donated to Pensford Primary School who are going to use the money to purchase equipment for the School playground.

Thanks also to all 3 Public Houses who in their own way supported this event.

Debbie & Alan Hunt

I would like to thank my friends and neighbours for the lovely cards, flowers and gifts I received on my 80th Birthday, it really made my day. ***Jean Parfitt***

Caring at Christmas

The Benefice supports 'Caring at Christmas' at Julian House, St Pauls. This Charity rely completely on donations and volunteers to run this shelter at Christmas and we are collecting for them again.

Here are some suggestions of goods needed:- Food : New underwear and socks : Hats & Scarves : Good quality coats : Warm casual clothing for 18 – 40 year olds, as most of the guests are in this age range.

Please leave your gifts in your respective Churches. We will make our last run to Julian House on Monday 20th December.

Thank you for reading this and a merry Christmas to all. ***Richard & Ann Hunt***

PENSFORD TENNIS CLUB

Winter to the plucky and doughty Pensford Tennis player only means that maybe a hat and a pair gloves might be needed! In the evenings the excellent floodlighting ensures Club play and coaching can continue throughout the year. This winter the Club has received sponsorship for junior coaching from Western Power and the money has gone towards the equipment required for these sessions. For information on coaching both junior and adult please contact Peter Evans on 07779 977918 or email coaching@pensfordtennisclub.co.uk On 30 October the Club shared in the success of a Mouse Racing Night at the Druid Arms with the proceeds divided between the Pensford Tennis Club and the committee organising fireworks for Stanton Drew Bonfire night. Real mice were used! If you are interested in joining the Club we can be contacted via our website or at Club play/coaching on Tuesday evenings. ***All abilities welcome.***

Who will join your table this Christmas?

It was foggy last Christmas Eve as I made my way to Bath Abbey for Midnight Service. As so often at a Christmas Mass I wondered who might join us at the Lord's Table. There is something very moving about watching people come to receive Communion, particularly on occasions such as Christmas and All Souls Day. I often wonder about their stories, and why they have come. I wonder too, about the table that they might sit down at later on Christmas Day, and with whom they will share this feast that is at the same time both material and mysterious.

In my address that Christmas Eve, I had spoken of the regard that Muslims have for Mary the Mother of Jesus. Mary plays an important part in Muslim tradition, particularly for women, many of whom in different languages, are named after her. At childbirth a Muslim mother is given sweet dates, because tradition has it that such gifts were given to Mary on the birth of Jesus. I spoke of Mary providing a place for dialogue between Christians and Muslims.

In the line of people who came forward to receive the sacrament, or a blessing were a small group of visitors from Pakistan. I prayed for them, making the sign of the cross on their foreheads. Later when the service ended and we stood in the Abbey Square bidding one another Happy Christmas, the group surrounded me, smiling and offering enthusiastic season's greetings. 'We are Muslims from Pakistan,' they said, 'Thank you for your Christmas message about Mary. We wanted to come to worship tonight.'

Their host, graciously and kindly told me that he was something of a nominal Christian, but had come because his Muslim friends had been so anxious to come to worship the gift of the Christ child to the world. For me it was the best Christmas present of 2009.

Later that day as we sat down with new born grandchildren, lots of noise and chaos of a family dinner, the first away from home in nearly forty five years, I thought a lot about my Christmas gift of the night before. I recalled some words of Henri Nouwen when he spoke of 'the table as being one of the most intimate places of our lives. It is there we give ourselves to each other…We invite friends to become part of our lives. We want them to be nurtured by the same food and drink that nurtures us, and it is the place where we want to become food for each other; a place which can become a time of growing communion with each other.'

For me that says much of what Christmas is about. A time to receive the unexpected gift; a place to acknowledge that strangers are only those who have not yet become friends; and the table provides not only food to share, but a place where God becomes food for us; and we become food for one another. A happy material and mysterious Christmas. ***Peter Bath and Wells***

St Augustine's Medical Practice

4 Station Road, KEYNSHAM, BS31 2BN

0117 986 2343

NHS General Practice covering Pensford, Compton Dando and surrounding villages. New patients welcome

Pensford Gospel Hall

You will find us in Old Road, Pensford. (top of High Street). There are services in the hall on Sundays and Wednesdays and we would love to have you join us. Why not give us a visit on a Sunday evening at 6.30pm for an hour, when we hold our gospel service, or our ladies' meeting at 2.30pm on a Wednesday afternoon. The ladies' meeting is followed by the inevitable tea and biscuits!

These services follow a routine pattern including prayer, hymn singing and a bible-based address. You will get a warm welcome.

You may not know that the Gospel Hall has been a place for Christian worship in the village since 1924. Initially this was in a temporary hall in Stanton Drew Lane near the viaduct and, since 1959 at its present location. Many village residents have attended meetings as children and some continue to support the women's meeting into later life. Our core congregation is made up of a small number of committed Christians from all walks of life who live in surrounding villages. Come and meet us.

For further information call:

Philip 470943 p.veater@mypostoffice.co.uk
Roy 01275 332475 roy@royhill.com
Maurice 01761 470846

Please note there will be no Sunday evening service this Boxing Day.

HELP NEEDED

Would you care to join a team of volunteers to help keep our Memorial Hall and surrounds tidy, possibly on a Monthly basis. We need help with weeding, painting, minor repairs and general tidying. Contact Terry 01761 490426 or Geoff 01761 490371

Extracts from Publow with Pensford PC Meeting

Defibrillator Update: By the time the magazine has been printed Publow with Pensford Parish Council will have taken delivery of the two newly purchased Defibrillators. Further information will be in the Chew Valley Gazette.

Training: Training will be undertaken and a leaflet drop to all residents seeking support will be carried out.

Electricity Supply: There will be a need to obtain three quotes for the installation of the power supply to both defibrillators. Contact has been made and advice sought from electricians who have been involved with the installation of defibrillators. Further discussion will be undertaken regarding location of defibrillator in Pensford. The location by the noticeboard outside of the Post Office was not thought to be the best location. The bust stop on the bridge will be looked at after the meeting.

Due to the cost of the electrician it is thought that further fundraising events will be necessary. Two guardians will be required to check the defibrillators once installed.

Blue Recycling Bags: Clerk wrote to B&NES reporting that most residents in Woollard and all of Publow had not received their blue cardboard recycling bags. Mike Robinson of Waste Services went out to observe the presentation of card in the two villages where it was noted that some residents are using the blue bags others are presenting card without it being in a container. B&NES do not think that a bulk delivery of blue bags will help as many residents are happy with how the system is working. B&NES therefore recommend that individual residents contact Council Connect should they need a blue bag, or alternatively the Parish Council could make a list of those needing blue bags and submit it to B&NES. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact Clerk to Parish – Mrs J Bragg.

Date of next meeting Monday 13th December 2010.

Pensford with Publow W.I.

Mrs Baber welcomed members to the November meeting. Janet Ogilvie was thanked for her table decoration. Two birthday cards were presented. Correspondence and Avon News were dealt with. Names were taken for the Kurling tournament in March 2011. Unfortunately, we were unable to have a table at the School Christmas Fair this year.

As this was the AGM meeting, Sylvia gave her report of the year. She said that although we were a small group it had been a successful year with many interesting speakers. We had enjoyed outings and many outside activities. She thanked members and especially the committee for all the support which makes her job easy. It would be nice if we could encourage new members to join us (no age limit!). The annual financial report was circulated. Linda said that the joint Jumble Sale with the Pensford Guides had been a huge success. The many fundraising activities this year were positive which enables us to have good speakers as these are increasingly more expensive.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Robert Bailey as our speaker, who showed us a great many of his local photographs, depicting Pensford old and new, with some dating back to the late 1800s. This was a very enjoyable evening. The competition was 'An interesting photo of old Pensford'. First Sylvia Baber, 2nd Sylvia Box, 3rd Maureen Ford.

The December meeting will be a 'Hands On' with Avril, who will show us how to make marzipan sweets. This will be followed by an American Supper. Visitors always welcome.

Publow with Pensford MU

In November, Rev. Christopher Penn amused us with five "Little stories for an autumn afternoon". These had originally been written by him as epilogues for the Keynsham Talking Newspaper. They were entertaining but each had a serious side as well. The one about the camels kept me puzzling for several hours! An Advent Service is being planned for Tues, 30th November at Clutton, starting at 2.30 pm.

In December, we shall celebrate with a pre-Christmas lunch at Woodford Lodge on Thursday 9th December, at 12.30 for 1.00pm. We aim to depart from the Church Room by 12.15 pm, if any member would like a lift.

Our AGM will probably be a week earlier than normal on Thursday, 6th of January to avoid a clash with the Bishops' visit.

We were delighted that our anagram quiz raised £50 for MU work in our link diocese in Mozambique. We had several correct entries, and the winner drawn from the hat was Vicky Harman. The answers are on the church notice board for anyone still puzzled. Thank you to everyone who supported us and especially to Margaret who did all the hard work. ***Anne Hall***

Arthritis Research UK

The Chew Valley Branch of Arthritis Research held another of its popular book sales at the Chew Valley Fruit Farm, Bishop Sutton on Friday 29th October. Undeterred by the gloomy forecast, plenty of book lovers arrived, and the excellent sum of £200 was raised. Customers were able to take advantage of shopping for their fresh fruit and vegetables, and enjoying coffee and cakes all under the same roof, when they had finished browsing.

The committee would like to thank everyone who gave their support, both by buying and donating books, which ensures a good turnover of items to sell. As usual thanks are also due to Julie and Ed Le Valliant for finding space for the books and to Julie, Ed, Dean Haddrell, Alan Morris and Norman Henderson for helping to transport the books.

There are jigsaw puzzles for sale as well, and thanks go to Shirley Crawford for patiently checking them for missing pieces. Julie has found space to keep a small selection of books and jigsaws permanently in the shop, so if you missed the sale you can see if there is anything there that takes your fancy.

The next sale will be in the spring.

U3A

Local U3As are learning co-operatives which draw upon the knowledge, expertise and skills of their own members to organize and provide interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership. Chew Valley U3A runs over twenty different interest groups. As well as these groups there is a regular meeting held on the third Monday of the month, at 10:30am at Ubley Village Hall. Refreshments are provided before the meeting. At the meeting on December 20th Peggy Scott will entertain with, "Humour and Song/ This Is My Life". This will be followed by a Christmas buffet lunch for members. January's meeting will be on the 17th when there will be a speaker from the Royal National Institute for the Blind. To find out more about your local U3A and the opportunities provided by the Third Age Trust contact the Secretary, Christine Evans on 01934 832841, visit our website chewvalleyu3a.org.uk or come along to a monthly meeting.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 4th December
Church Rooms, Pensford
10.00am – 11.30am

for Publow Church

HOME BAKING
Brace Stall
Xmas Cakes & Puddings
Mince Pies plus Hamper Draw

Proceeds towards Church Funds
Admission 50p to include coffee and biscuit

All Saints' Market Report

In November we hosted the Traidcraft stall. We also had a good variety of baking and preserves, and made £150.10 for church funds. It seemed to be a really busy morning and it was good to see so many people.

On 4th December we shall have the BRACE stall, also Christmas cakes and puddings, mincemeat and mince pies and all our usual stock. There will also be the draw for the Christmas hamper and other seasonal prizes. Don't miss it!

Pensford Toddler Group

Fundraising Coffee Morning
Pensford Memorial Hall
Tuesday 15th February
10.00am - 11.30am
Coffee/Tea and Cake
Everyone welcome
Please come and join us

Teatime Madness

The Benefice After School Club

for primary school children
Crafts & games : Snack tea
Music : Praise & Bible Story

Monday 13th December
Thursday 13th January

3.30pm - 5.00pm
Pensford Primary School

Pre-school children welcome accompanied by a parent
Older children come along as helpers
There is no charge for the club
For more information
Revd Sue Sevens 490898

ChurchArmy
www.churcharmy.org.uk

Church Army is a society of evangelists linked to the Anglican Church, yet working beyond church buildings. It has been meeting the challenge of sharing faith through words and action for nearly 125 years and has over 300 evangelists in the UK and Ireland.

Church Army is about communicating the unchanging message of an unchanging God to a fast-changing culture and its evangelists continue to reach out and make church effective by meeting people where they are and by creating fresh and relevant expressions of Christian community in the 21st century. Church Army is about building communities of transformed lives.

Church Army evangelists can be found reaching out to people in diverse and challenging situations across the UK, including working with women involved in prostitution, as nightclub chaplains, in homeless projects, on housing estates, working with self harm victims, reaching younger people through music, drama and other creative activities, reaching older people through drops in centres and lunch clubs, ministering in supermarkets, prisons, schools, adventure centres, bus projects, café style churches and engaging with people via the Internet. Church Army equips and works in partnership with the local church and other organisations in rural, suburban and urban settings to develop appropriate and relevant forms of Christian community.

Jade Watson is a Church Army Evangelist in Winchester Prison. She reaches out with the Good News of Jesus Christ to prisoners and ex-offenders. Her duties include visiting prisoners and sharing the gospel, running courses like Alpha, organizing fellowships groups, providing bible studies to interested inmates and leading chapel services. Her work also involves working with other groups like Prison Fellowship, Caring for Ex-offenders and other ministries. She is involved in building key relationships with local churches so as to ensure that ex-offenders have a place of worship to attend.

Glyn was in prison and Jade befriended him and shared her story and also how Jesus is important in her life, he became a believer, took a correspondence course in Theology from his cell and is today an Anglican minister in Brighton.

For more information on Church Army, telephone 020 8309 3575 or visit www.churcharmy.org.uk

---

Raising funds for St.Mary's Church

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
COMPTON DANDO

INVITES YOU TO A

CHRISTMAS CRACKER

OF A CHRISTMAS PARTY!

FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER

6.30PM-8.30PM IN THE CHURCH
(NOTE NEW DAY AND TIME!)

with a special appearance by
Father Christmas who will be taking your Christmas orders!

HOT FOOD * MULLED WINE * CHRISTMAS MUSIC * SEASONAL STALLS

Chew Valley Choral Society

Ralph Vaughan Williams
HODIE
A CHRISTMAS CANTATA

With more beautiful Christmas choral music and carols for all to sing

Soloists

Naomi Marshall (Soprano) Sophie Gallagher (Soprano)
To be announced (Tenor) Niall Hoskin (Baritone)
Ian Ball (Organ)
Conductor and Musical Director: David Bednall
St Andrew's Church, Blagdon
Saturday 11th December
7.30pm
Tickets £10 each from members on the door
or telephone 01275 333014

Compton Dando Community Association
Wassail Celebration

Saturday 15 January 2011
6.00-10.00pm Parish Hall

Come and join us for a parade and buffet supper with folk music

See Compton Dando Noticeboard for details on the format of the evening's celebrations

Tickets are £10 per head for adults
£5 for children 6-14yrs
Available from Alison ter Haar 490903
acterhaar@gmail.com

December 10/January 11

Thur	2	Pensford Evergreens Annual Christmas Meal for members at CAMELEY LODGE 7.00pm
Fri	3	St Mary's Church Christmas Cracker. 6.30pm Stanton Drew & Pensford Pre School Christmas Disco. 6.30pm
Sat	4	Publow Church Christmas Market. Church Rooms 10.00 - 11.30am
Thur	9	Mothers Union Christmas Lunch. Woodford 12.30 for 1.00pm Pensford Evergreen Club - Memorial Hall 7.00pm GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW & BUFFET
Sat	11	Pre Christmas Social Evening. Memorial Hall 7.00pm Chew Valley Choral Society - A Christmas Cantata
Sun	**12**	**Mummers Play Rising Sun 6.30pm. George & Gragon 6.45pm** **CD Parish Plan Meeting, Compton Inn 7.00pm**
Mon	13	*Tea-Time Madness. Pensford School 3.30 - 5.00pm* Publow with Pensford Parish Council meeting, Church Room 7.15pm
Tue	14	School Carol Service 6.00pm
Fri	17	Benefice Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch. Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sun	**19**	**Benefice Holy Communion. St Leonard's Chelwood 10.00am** **Gospel Hall Carol Service 4.00pm** **Carol Service. St Mary's Compton Dando 6.30pm**
Mon	20	U3A Ubley Hall. 10.30am Last run to Julian House
Tue	21	Carol Service. All Saints, Publow 7.30pm Compton Dando Parish Meeting, Parish Hall 8.00pm
Wed	22	Crib Service. St Leonard's 6.30pm
Fri	24	Christingale Service. All Saints' Publow 3.00pm Midnight Communion. All Saints' Publow 11.30pm
Sat	**25**	**Family Communion. St Leonard's Chelwood 9.00am** **Celebrate Christmas Together with Communion.** **St Mary's Compton Dando 10.30am**
Sun	26	Benefice Service. All Saints' Publow 10.00am
January		
Mon	3	Publow with Pensford Parish Council meeting, Church Room 7.15pm
Thur	6	Mothers Union AGM. Pensford Chruch Rooms 2.00pm
Thur	13	*Tea-Time Madness. Pensford School 3.30 - 5.00pm*
Sat	15	Compton Dando Wassail Celebration. Parish Hall 6.00 - 10.00pm
Mon	17	U3A Ubley Hall. 10.30am
Tue	18	Compton Dando Parish Meeting, Parish Hall 8.00pm
Wed	19	Publow Church PCC. Pensford Church Rooms 7.30pm
Sun	**30**	**Benefice Service. St Mary's Compton Dando 10.00am**
February		
Tue	15	Pensford Toddler Group Coffee Morning. 10.00 - 11.30am

Pauline, Yvonne & Kate wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas & New Year

Thank you to all the very hard working distribution team and all our advertisers

ALIDE HIRE SERVICES

Tool Hire - Diggers & dumpers - Toilet Hire

0845 205 2002

www.alidehire.co.uk

BENEFICE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Rector and Churchwardens invite all Senior Citizens associated with the Benefice

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER

12.30pm

PENSFORD MEMORIAL HALL

If anyone requires a lift, please phone Ann Hunt 490244, or Fiona Gregg-Smith 490323

Christmas Services 2010 The United Benefice of All Saints' Publow St Leonard's Chelwood and St Mary's Compton Dando

Dec 14th School Carol Service 6pm

Dec 19th Benefice Communion 10am. St Leonards
Carol Service 6.30pm. St Marys

Dec 21st Carol Service 7.30pm. All Saints

Dec 22nd Crib Service 6.30pm. St Leonards

Dec 24th Christingle Service 3pm. All Saints
Midnight Mass 11.30pm. All Saints

Dec 25th Family Communion 9am. St Leonards
Celebrate Together with Communion 10.30am St Marys

Dec 26th Benefice Communion 10am. All Saints