LEAVES FROM THE RECTOR'S DIARY

22 March Having collected my car following a routine garage service, I made my way to the Crematorium at Haycombe. As I turned into the Crem. the SatNav in the glove compartment suddenly burst into life and announced, "You have reached your destination: you can get out now." Good opening for a sermon there.

30 March *Had occasion to visit Winchester, and was a bit perturbed to find an admission charge to go into the Cathedral. I would not want to be Dean of any Cathedral these days for the cost of maintenance of buildings and Ministry is enormous. Voluntary offerings from tourists are not realistic and just do not meet the needs. At St Paul's, I believe the admission charge is £13.50. At Wells we do not charge, but visitors are warmly welcomed and invited to contribute and the same happens at Norwich. It seems to work well.*

1 April Holy Week begins well at St Mary's. I used our new puppet donkey to read Chesterton's poem "The Donkey". The puppet is to be used to tell the story of Holy Week and Easter to the children on Good Friday. Perhaps we ought to get a real donkey next year and have a Palm Sunday procession.

3 April *The Chrism Eucharist at the Cathedral today where the clergy renew their ordination vows and the oils are blessed. People may not know that these oils are kept in the aumbrey at St Leonard's, together with the Reserved Sacrament. Oils are used for Baptism, Confirmation, and for anointing the sick. In this Benefice they are used fairly regularly; people do not have to be dying to receive the sign of the cross in oil on their forehead for healing. I happened to be Chaplain on duty at the Cathedral today and therefore responsible for presiding at the midday Eucharist, which was held in the Close chapel. I had not been in that building before and it was a very special location for me. It reminded me of T.S. Eliot's line: "This is a place where prayer has been valid."*

4 April I had wondered why the Maundy Thursday evening Communion had been rather poorly attended, so we held a mid morning service at St Mary's which was better. In the evening there were few, and it clocked. We clashed with the Evergreens who meet on Thursday evenings. I am not complaining, just need to be reminded not to book anything for a Thursday evening. And a tinge of conscience too. I realise that I would be welcomed if I looked in on the Evergreens one night and this I have failed to do. Free evenings have become rather precious after a life-time of church evening meetings.

5 April *Good Friday at All Saints was probably the best for a long time; many children and parents were there with willing helpers.*

6 April Two weddings on the day before Easter Sunday. Fellow clergy who knew told me that they never take weddings on Easter Eve; there is far too much going on already, quite apart from flower arranging. They were lovely weddings nonetheless. I have already one booked for next Easter.

7 April *Marvellous Easter worship. The enhanced choir at All Saints and the enthusiastic singing of the congregation really was inspiring. I thought it quite the best that could be offered in a village church, and I came away really encouraged by the large congregation. In these days of supposed secularism it was quite amazing to find so many meeting to worship in the name of the Risen Christ.*

15 April It's been a real family week with grandchildren visiting, my brother and his wife making their first appearance at the Rectory, and ending with a weekend in Cambridge to see Paula and family in their new, temporary home. Went to High Mass at Little St Mary's this morning. Plenty of incense, which I love, and 35 candles in the sanctuary, 22 of them on the altar itself. It was all rather OTT, but enjoyable and worshipful. What do they do at Candlemass I wonder?

16 April *There can be fewer things more confusing to the general public than what to call clergy – Rector, Vicar, Reverend, Canon, Prebendary, Very Revd, Rt Revd, Most Revd, Venerable, Monsignor, Father, Pastor, and so the list goes on. So when a couple called to see us today with their young children, one of the boys was keen to speak to Can. Who was Can? My wife. They had called to see Can and John. Obvious really.*

Last month, Bobby Williams came to give us an update on the Inspirations School in Kenya. The school opened in 2001 with one classroom and teacher. It now has 600 pupils and 12 classrooms. Twenty former pupils have gone on to College. One boy has been accepted to join the air-force and another is a qualified electrician. A group who learnt how to use sewing machines have passed their skills on to others and are now producing all the school uniforms. This is all happening in a village which formerly had no education facilities at all.

Linda Greenland from Bristol set up the Maji Safi Project to help them ('Maji Safi' is Swahili for 'clean water' - see www.majisafi.co.uk). The charity has many supporters and sponsors in our local area who provide all the money for the school buildings and teachers. The school now has a borehole for fresh water, and systems to collect rainwater. They cook a hot meal for the children and recently have gained electric lighting, which is very unusual in this dense jungle region. The project has also provided mosquito nets for all the school families.

The Inspirations School has now formed a Global Schools Partnership with Ashton Park School. Teachers and sixth form pupils have been out to Kenya to work at the school – a truly life-changing experience. It is amazing what a lot has been done by a relatively small, locally based charity. They have a lot of really enthusiastic helpers and keep a very close eye on the money. ***Anne Hall***

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PENSFORD DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

20 12

MONDAY 4th JUNE, from 2pm
at PENSFORD MEMORIAL HALL

Childrens Party & Games, Entertainment
Childrens Fancy Dress (Kings & Queens)
Cream Teas, Bar & Barbecue,

Followed By an Evening Family Party

(The Evening Party will be admission by ticket only. Adults £1,
Children Under 16 Free BUT must be accompanied by a Parent/Carer.)

More info and ticket availibility to be confirmed,
LOOKOUT for posters and info at School and P.O

From the Parish Registers of St Mary's Compton Dando

Holy Matrimony

7th April Steven ENGLAND and Tracy DEAN

From the Parish Registers of All Saints' Publow

Holy Matrimony

7th April Ben Alan CULLINANE and Mandy ROPER

Interment of Ashes

30th March Edna May TOVEY

Mobile Library

Route **M**

Wednesday Fortnightly

Compton Dando	Fairy Hill	13.55
Hunstrete	Phonebox	14.25
Pensford	Bridge	15.00
Pensford	Hillcrest	15.50
Publow	Church	16.25
Woollard	Brisge	16.45

Local History Group

The first walk of the summer programme is on Wednesday 9th May when we will have a guided walk in Burnett led by local historian Rosemary Turner. Meet by Burnett Church at 7.00pm. There will be a small charge of £2.50 per person.

Many thanks to our own local chronicler of Pensford's recent history, Robert Bailey, who at short notice rustled up a fantastic photographic history of the Pensford floods of 1968 for our April meeting.

CHELWOOD LUCKY DRAW

March 2012

£12 - D.Weston : £8 - G. Dagger

£5 - M.Harrison : £3.50 - G&L. Wellery

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

This year we have managed to raise just over £850 for the work of the Children's Society. This is not quite as much as in 2011, but is still a magnificent total. The money will go towards the Society's projects working with vulnerable children in towns and cities throughout the country. My grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed.

There are thirty five households throughout the Benefice who have a collection box. If anyone else would like to join our group, please contact me – Judith Hillman, Hon. Local Secretary 01761 490324.

CHRISTIAN AID - Further to the entry in last month's magazine about the yearly collection for Christian Aid, The UK Department for International Development has agreed to match the first £5 million of money raised by supporters, pound for pound. This is in association with UK Aid Match which was launched last year to match public donations to appeals made by not-for-profit organisations focusing on reducing poverty in developing countries.

Programmes to help some of the world's poorest communities to find their own solutions to poverty will receive the additional funding. Seven countries, including Burma, Sudan and Sierra Leone will benefit.

Even the smallest amount you could give would help towards the total for the Benefice and Christian Aid and their partners on the ground all over the world will put it to good use.

Currency from countries other than our own will be gratefully received as well, so anything left over from holidays abroad could find a place in your envelope. ***Jackie Young***

Embracing the true meaning of Jubilee - At 10.30am on 20 March in the Great Hall of Westminster, a cohort of Yeoman of the Guard marched through the assembled crowd of Peers and Members of Parliament and took their place on the steps upon which were set two thrones. At precisely 11 am as Big Ben struck, Her Majesty the Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, entered to a fanfare from the trumpeters. Speeches were made, the Queen revealing her wit and humour, as she received the congratulations of the two Houses of Parliament on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.

It was an historic moment and I was honoured to be there. I was also amused by the reflections of one or two parliamentary colleagues commenting that, while they were not great believersin God or the monarchy, "didn't we do things well."

In these coming months, we shall all experience the celebrations of the Royal Diamond Jubilee. Without question, Queen Elizabeth has served her nation and the Commonwealth with extraordinary commitment and loyalty. The Queen has seen the monarchy go through some rocky patches in her sixty-year reign, butshe herself has remained constant to the well-being of the nation.

In straightened times celebrations are always a good idea. Street parties and other community events have with marked national milestones, particularly the longevity of kings and queens, for centuries. They bring neighbours together, creating a sense of belonging and of community, which often lasts long after the bunting has been packed away. As I sat in Westminster Hall, I began to think about the meaning of jubilee. It's to do with setting free; restoring relationships; returning what has previously been taken; giving people another chance. What needs setting free, restoring or returning in our time? The Queen gave some pointers. She spoke of the importance of neighbourliness, of having a care and respect for one another, of returning to the values of loving, caring.

Our society is one where there is great diversity. Our neighbours may be strangers to us because of their ethnic origin or religious beliefs, and much else besides. Jesus spoke of jubilee happening when we welcome the stranger, care for the vulnerable, set people free from whatever imprisons them. We might not all make it into the Great Hall of Westminster to see the Queen, but we can all celebrate something of that Christian faith tradition which she embraces as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and join with all others of different faiths and none, by 'loving our neighbour as ourselves', and joining in the fun of the Jubilee. ***Peter Bath and Wells***

HMS Heron Volunteer Band

All Saints Church

Saturday June 16th

7.30pm

Dial a Ride Service

A new weekly minibus service will be available from Tuesday 1st May to collect residents from homes in Pensford, Publow and Woollard and take them to Chew Magna for shopping or the surgery in Chew Stoke for 10.15am. Appointments with Doctors, a Nurse and a Healthcare Assistant are available for those who arrive by minibus so patients don't have to make an appointment. Passengers do have to book a seat on the minibus by 12 noon on Monday. On the way back from Chew Stoke there will also be a short stop for patients to collect shopping before the return journey. This transport will be provided by Keynsham Dial a Ride and cost £4 for the door to door service. To book your seat and for more information please call the booking line on 01225-395321.

Christian Aid Week MAY 12 th – 19th

If you feel able to contribute to the work Christian Aid does for people who are less well placed than we are in this country, envelopes for donations will be inserted in the May Parish magazine. These will be collected in some areas by your usual magazine distributor or their representative. All collectors carry an identification badge and if you are in doubt please do ask to see this. If ,however, your envelope is not collected it may be left at any of our churches, with Maureen Ford 490440, or Jackie Young 490614.

If anyone who usually collects cannot do so this year, please let me know as soon as you can.

Chew Valley Gardening Club

We are looking forward to welcoming Neil Ross to talk about Sissinghurst on Thursday 10th May. If you have never visited Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, it is an impressive ruin of an Elizabethan manor house but it is justly famous for the garden which was created by Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicholson in the 1930s. The property is in the care of the National Trust who are carrying on looking after the gardens in the spirit of its creators.

We meet at 8.00pm upstairs in the Old Schoolroom, Chew Magna, the talk is followed by a friendly chat over coffee and biscuits - we welcome visitors and new members.

HOLIDAY CLUB

Pensford Primary School

Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th June

8.00am - 17.00pm

£16.00 per child per session or £28.00 for 2 children per session

(Children to bring their own packed lunch)

Please contact tel:01761 490470 school office

or 07861750575 Dean to book a place or for more detail

Pensford Primary School

PENSFORD TENNIS CLUB

It had to happen sometime during the Mixed Winter League matches - Pensford was well and truly thrashed by Central IV at St Andrews so much so that we will just not mention the score!! Fortunately it has not put our players off and we have entered two teams to compete in the Avon Summer League which starts in May - Men's Division 9C Captained by Peter Evans and Ladies Division 6B Captained by Selena Gray.

Membership Forms for 2012 are now available - please see the Club's website www.pensfordtennisclub.co.uk for details as there are various membership categories which we hope will entice new members.

Also on our website are details of the Club's coaching programme run by our coach Peter Evans p.evans@efot.co.uk or on 07580 004963.

Club play for adults is on Tuesday evenings 7.00pm - 9.00pm with the first hour devoted to coaching (£5 per person) Junior coaching starts earlier finishing at 7.00pm.

ALL SAINTS', PUBLOW ANNUAL MEETING

The Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held on Wednesday, 18th April. Janet Ogilvie and Linda Quinn stood down as Churchwardens. Janet was thanked for her 14 years of dedicated service.

Andrew Hillman and Janet Smith were elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

The Annual Report and Accounts were received. The Accounts showed a further loss during 2012 of £3,116. The majority of expenditure is "fixed" and is covered to the extent of approximately 70% by committed income each year. The PCC will be looking at further ways of increasing income.

Reports on church activities were received and Janet Ogilvie, on behalf of the meeting, thanked Canon John for all that he achieved in the parish.

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01225 331669
www.alidehire.co.uk

TOWER TEA PARTY

Sunday 17th June

ST THOMAS a BECKET PENSFORD

2.00pm - 5.00pm

Please join us again for the Annual Tea Party
...climb to the top! Morris Dance at the bottom!
and enjoy a friendly wonderful tea...

We should be very grateful for offers to help
...make cakes ....or wash-up!
THANKYOU

Jane Flower 01761490234 or Barbara Bowes 01761490285

Pensford with Publow W.I

Members were welcomed to the April meeting, which was sparsely attended due to the Easter break and holidays. Correspondence and Avon News were discussed. Arrangements for the receiving of the Avon Olympic torch are in hand, but no date has yet been set.

Four members attended a meeting, with other institutes in our group, with Jean Sims our advisor for the Chew Valley Group, to discuss the setting up of group meetings. There was positive feedback. Members expressed their interest in the idea and the possibility of appointing a Group Secretary was discussed. Another meeting has been arranged, hopefully to go forward. Linda was the new representative on the Memorial Hall committee. Names were taken for the kurling competition.

Sylvia gave a report on the Federation Spring Meeting in Weston-super-Mare. A speaker from an organisation called Al-anon, associated with A.A, had given a moving account of their work. There was also a speaker from Riding for the Disabled, based in Kingsweston. The main speaker Mirander Krestovnikoff of TV Coast programme, gave a video presentation of her diving around the British coast and this was quite amazing.

The speaker for our meeting in April was Chris Cudliff, who gave an illustrated talk on the island of Madeira, showing gardens which included many exotic plants. He showed us pictures of the Annual Floral Parade, with the floats of flowers which were very attractive, and scenes of the island's volcanic landscape. The competition, an item from Madeira, was won by Daphne Seymour, 2nd Janet Ogilvie, 3rd Margaret Bailey. The next meeting will be a discussion on the National Federation resolution, followed by a Silent Auction, Beetle Drive and a Ploughman's supper.

Visitors always welcome.

COMPTON DANDO PLANT SALE

Compton Dando Hall on Saturday 5th May 2012, 10.30am-1.00pm.

Vegetable, perennial, annual, wild flower, and indoor plants!

Refreshments available

All profits go to the Parish Hall funds.

Hall Management Committee

Compton Dando Village Fayre 2012

Sat 7th July

Marmalade & Jam Competition

There will be a jam, marmalade, chutney & preserves competition again at the Compton Dando Village Fayre, Saturday 7th July, 2pm - 5pm

There is a trophy for the winners and selected jars will be auctioned off at the end of the day

Thus, if you are so inclined, start chopping those citrus fruits and when the early summer produce appears make those jams. Or for those enthusiasts, who were busy in the Autumn, reach for a jar and put it aside for the competition.

Please bring your entries to the Parish Hall 9.30-10am on the day & make sure your entry is registered by a steward.

Entries are free

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

in Compton Dando

Compton Dando Community Association

date for your diary

Celebration Picnic

to be held on the front lawns of

The Old Rectory

by kind permission of Roger & Chris Piercey

Lunchtime Saturday 2nd June

More details will be circulated in the coming weeks

Compton Dando Village Fayre 2012

Sat 7th July

We need your unwanted

Bric-a-brac Books & Toys

Please leave in the telephone Kiosk opposite the Compton Inn from where donations will be regularly collected, or deliver to/put in the front porch of 'The Byre' Court Hill (only 20 steps up - the exercise will do you good!)

Pensford Memorial Hall Management AGM

The last year has been a particularly satisfactory one, with the Hall being completely redecorated, new tables and chairs purchased and new stage curtains ordered from Curtainflair, Keynsham for delivery in April. A huge vote of thanks to the following: Geoff Beedell and his team of volunteers for the decorating.

The Parish Council for their financial help in the purchase of the chairs and the stage curtains.

Chaos productions for their financial help in the purchase of the curtains and we must not forget the lottery fund for their contribution towards the tables and the curtains.

The year has also seen some sad changes. We were all considerably shocked and saddened by the death of our friend and fellow committee member, Brian Watson. Brian, as representative of the Parish Council, served this committee faithfully for many years and could always be relied upon to voice his opinion on all matters raised at committee meetings. He is sadly missed.

The year also seen changes of committee personnel. The resignation of long standing Booking Clerk, Janet Gore early in the year, was followed by the enforced resignation (due to university studies) of our licencee Laura Gale. I wish to place on record the committee's thanks and best wishes to both of them, for all their hard work whilst serving on the committee. We were extremely fortunate in replacing both positions very quickly. Judie Smith has swept into the position of Booking Clerk with much enthusiasm and has completely transformed the manner in which the Hall is booked. Steve and Marie Rose of KR Mobile bars have agreed to become our licencees at least for a six month trial period and we all hope this will be extended.

Fund raising for the Hall with social events continued in the same vein as the previous 12 months, with heavy reliance on the Craft Fair, the Salmon & Strawberry Sunday at the Grange and the Christmas Dinner. The Salmon & Strawberry Sunday and the Craft Fair together made over £1600 for the Hall and we are extremely indebted to Meg & Stephen Thomas for helping to organise and allowing the Grange to be used for the S & S and Jane Stenner for her hard work in organising the Craft Fair. We have also had donations from Jo & Geoff Beedell from the profits a staging a Tea Dance and from Alan & Debbie Hunt, and Alan & Janet Volwes from profit made from the Bavarian Evening. Our grateful thanks to them all.

The Christmas Dinner this year is to be held on Friday 14th Dec and the entertainment this year is the well known comedian, Tank Sherman ably supported by singing star, Lindsey Collard.

The Hall moved into the 21st Century during last year with the arrival of our own web site. Our thanks to Steve Grimes for setting it up for us.

In closing I would once again like to place on record my sincere thanks to all fellow committee members and in particular, Geoff & Jo Beedell, Sally Brain, Jane Stenner and Judie Smith for all their hard work in ensuring the Hall continues to prosper. ***Terry Phillips***

www.publow-with-pensford-pc.gov.uk/memorial-hall

Saturday5th May Church Rooms, Pensford 10.00am – 11.30am

Coffee Morning & Market

for Publow Church

Home Baking
Traidcraft Stall
Plants

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

Spring Fair
Saturday 12th May
Stanton Drew Village Hall
2.00pm til 4.00pm

Have the afternoon off and come and visit the village Fair

50p Admission all proceeds to village school

May

Wed	2	Mobil Library
Sat	5	Publow Church Market Church Room 10.00am – 11.30am
		Plant Sale Compton Dando Parish Hall 10.30am. - 1.00pm
		Marje & Bryan's Plant Sale and Teas 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tue	8	Bishops' Visitation at Keynsham 7.30pm
Wed	9	Publow Church PCC Pensford Church Room 7.30pm
		Local History Group Walk Meet at Burnett Church 7.00pm
Thur	10	Mothers' Union Pensford Church Room 2.15pm
		Evergreen Club at Pensford Memorial Hall 7.00pm
		Horizon Folk group
		Chew Valley Gardening Group Old School Room 8.00pm
Sat	12	Stanton Drew Spring Fair 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Sun	**13**	**Christian Aid week**
Mon	14	Publow with Pensford PC Meeting The Church Room 7.15pm
		W.I meeting Memorial Hall Silent Auction & Beetle Drive 7.30pm
Wed	16	Mobil Library
Thur	17	Ascension Day Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Compton Dando, 10.30am
		Evergreen Club at Pensford Memorial Hall 7.00pm
		Ali Norse & Friends
Mon	**21**	**Teatime Madness Pensford School 3.30pm – 4.45pm**
Thur	24	Evergreen Club at Pensford Memorial Hall 7.00pm
		Classis FC Due
Sun	**27**	Pentecost Whit walk to Maes Knoll Tump starting at
		Norton Malreward Church 2.30pm Families especially welcome
Tue	29	CD Parish Hall Management Committee AGM 7.00pm
		Deanery Pastoral Plan Meeting Church Hall Pensford 7.30pm
Wed	30	Mobil Library
Thur	31	Evergreen Club at Pensford Memorial Hall 7.00pm
		Adrian Jay Remember the Shadows

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MARJE AND BRYAN'S

PLANT SALE & TEAS

Saturday 5th May
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Venue as last year
Lodge Farm, Chelwood
By kind invitation of
Mrs E Jones and family

Bedding Plants
Geraniums : Perennials
Hanging Baskets
Cake Stall
Jewellery : Gifts & Nearly New
Books : Toys & Jigsaws
Raffle

50p Entry
includes Coffee & Biscuits

Proceeds to
St Leonard's Church