

# THE PALS MAGAZINE

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Issue No. 22

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## FROM THE EDITOR

We offer you the latest edition of our magazine for the Roman Catholic and wider communities of Axminster, Lyme Regis and Seaton. Many thanks to all our contributors who sent in more articles than we can print! We will be preparing the spring edition, so please consider writing a short half page article of general interest. With an accompanying photo, it should run to between 200 and 300 words and in Word if possible.

In this issue, we have strengthened our connection with St Mary's RC Primary School. Mrs Elaine Mannix, the Head Teacher is running a Good School. We are proud and grateful to her for what she has done to create such a happy and high achieving primary school in Axminster.

With regret, we hear Lym Zim will close in 2020. Jo Enright has worked tirelessly for it for many years and has created an extraordinary link, particularly with Emerald Hill. We include several images taken over the years of the achievement.

Our next edition will focus on our church of SS Michael and George in Lyme Regis. This church is in need of significant repair. Over the coming year, we will hear more from Fr. Anthony through the weekly bulletin and the website on what needs to be done.

Jeny Butler and I give particular thanks to Claire in the parish office for help with managing the advertising and collecting the money to make it 'break even'. The magazine still needs a volunteer to act as liaison with our advertisers so if you think you can help, please contact Claire.

Peter Porteous

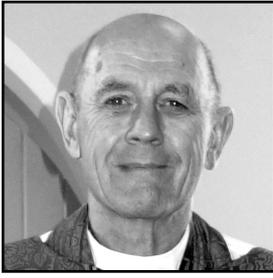
Parish information and Mass times are listed on pages 34- 35 or as shown at:-

<http://thecatholictpn.org/>

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*Cover picture:*

*From a Christmas Card and some help from a field of sunflowers using Paint Shop Pro*



## FATHER ANTHONY'S PAGE

As I write these words the church's year is approaching its final few weeks, and already we are beginning to think and plan for Christmas!

Sunday 9 December 2019 is not far away and apart from it being the second Sunday of Advent, it's also the day when the Catholic Church celebrates Bible Sunday. You will probably know that in the years following the Second Vatican Council, the Church's appreciation of the importance of the written Word of God in Scripture grew enormously; a fact which points us to the truth recorded by the author of the letter to the Hebrews when he wrote "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword." (Heb 4:12)

Jesus was thoroughly versed in the Scriptures of his people and often quoted them in his teaching. The story of his appearance on Easter day to the two disciples who were travelling to Emmaus tells how he explained the words of Scripture to them, and in so doing transformed their whole outlook. If we want meaning and direction for our lives then the Lord will also give them to us through his inspired word.

The Apostle Paul also advised his friend and pupil Timothy to cherish Scripture when he wrote:

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16-17).

So there we have it. We really do have to take our involvement with Holy Scripture very seriously indeed, and yet this is often a difficult thing to do.

In recent weeks several people have told me that they are trying to read the Bible from cover

to cover, beginning at Genesis and ending with the Book of Revelation. Now this is commendable but it probably isn't the best way to read God's word. You see, we all need to have the Scriptures explained to us. We all need to be aware of the interpretations which the Church teaches, and so we are always helped when we use a commentary; and the commentary doesn't need to be a huge complex set of theological volumes. Such works are fine if we are studying for a degree in theology, but for most of us something like "Bible Alive" is just what we need. This small publication comes out each month and costs £25 for a year's subscription. Each day devotes one side of A5 to a reflection on the Gospel reading for the day. It also contains articles which help us avoid some of the common mistakes which critics of the Faith delight in suggesting we make.

For example a non-Christian friend of mine recently told me that if the entire Bible is not literally true in every respect, then it shouldn't be relied on. I think he was surprised to be told that the Bible doesn't stand or fall by the accuracy of its information, because it isn't a text book of science or history or archaeology, but that it stands or falls by what it has to say about the purpose of life, the meaning of the world we live in, and the reality that lies beyond it. I don't think he was able to come to terms with the two creation accounts which are told in the Book of Genesis, and I don't think he was able to engage with the truth that because Moses was dead before some of the events recorded in the Book of Deuteronomy took place, that it would be difficult to ascribe its contents to Moses.

He was also well aware that truth can be carried in accounts which are not historical fact, and he accepted that many folk tales contain truth taught through story. He wouldn't deny the

validity of those stories because their historical setting was sometimes fanciful but he was just not able to accept that the same kind of analysis could be applied to at least some of the genres of writing that we find in Holy Scripture.

You see, there's no doubt that the Bible contains literature of several different genres. Many Biblical scholars have no religious persuasion at all and study the Scriptures for different reasons, but there is total agreement between them and their theistic colleagues on this point. The Bible contains much historical narrative, but it also contains aetiologies, fiction, theological reflection and other types of literature. And if we are to engage with it properly then we do need to know the kind of literature which we are reading at any particular time.

It's fascinating to look at the sources for both Old and New Testament writings, but we must avoid the popular misconception that the Bible cannot be relied on because it was written by

human hand and contains some stories which are historically false according to 21st century standards. Professor Dawkins fell into that trap and I believe he was soundly beaten in debate by scholars who were better informed than the great man himself, at least on those points.

We can see this as a great victory in the continuing struggle with those men and women who are determined to champion their atheism by using the fact that many Christians haven't engaged with the Scriptures as they should. And we can also see it as a modern and continuing opportunity to bear fruit for God as he continues to draw all of his children home.

Perhaps this year we might all make Bible Sunday the day when we determine to read Holy Scripture for all its worth.

May God bless us all to this end.

Anthony



Please see  
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Lyme Regis  
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on page  
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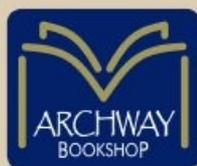


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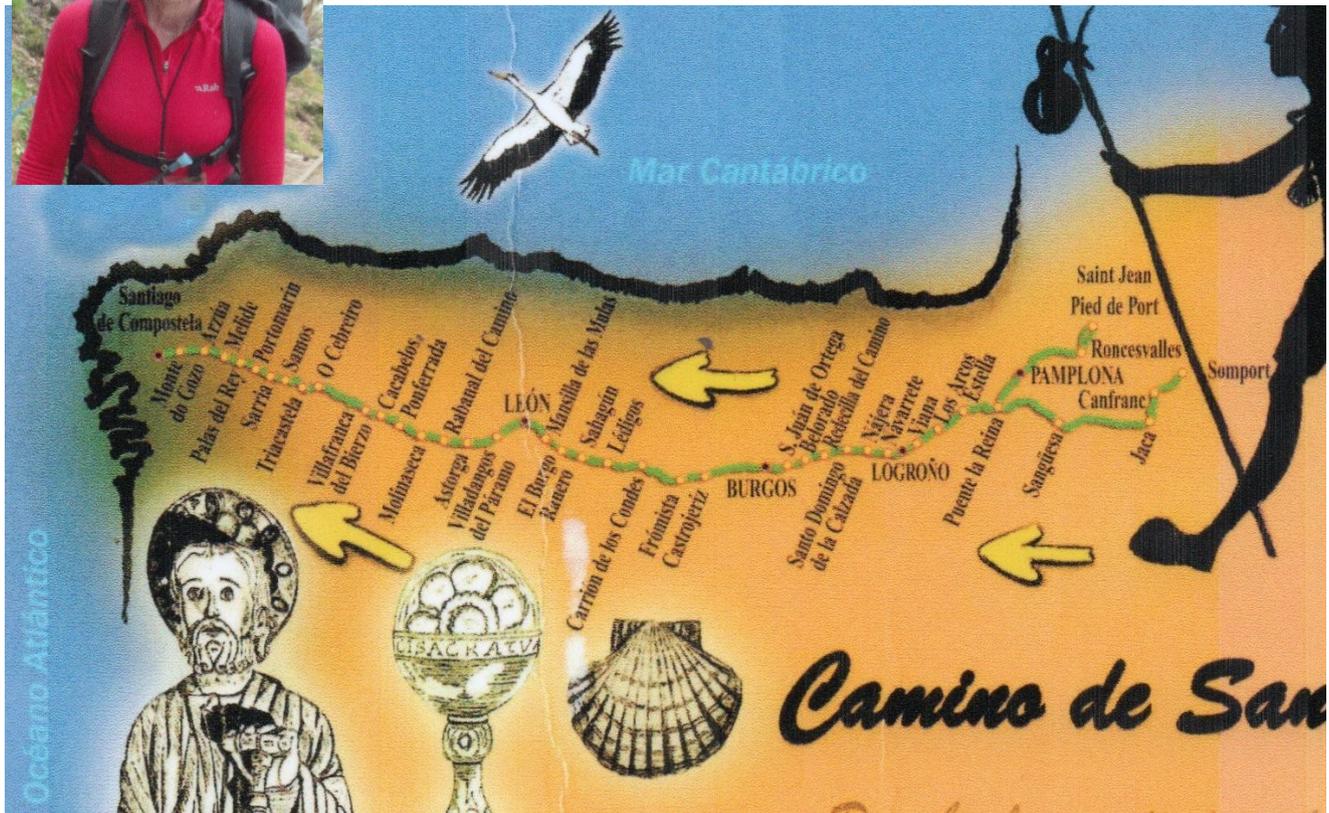
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## MEMORABLE MOMENTS WHILST WALKING PILGRIMS ROUTES

By Judith Burke



2002 “The Camino Santiago”. I was walking half of the ancient pilgrim route with a friend. The first day after registering at St Jean Pied de Port you are recommended to follow “Route de Napoleon”, a strenuous uphill walk of 15.6 miles with injury likely on the steep downhills to Roncesvalles. It is longest and most arduous route but most beautiful and spectacular. It was brutal and we were carrying 10 Kilos packs!

2003 return to “The Way of St James” to complete the 500 miles / 800 kms. We encountered various conditions of peoples’ feet. Pilgrims were nursing sore feet and my friend and I would often stop and either gave advice or treat blisters. In Santiago quite a number of pilgrims came up to us and thanked us for treating them as they had completed their pilgrimage having often travelled from the other side of the world.

The British army massage their feet with a smear of Vaseline. Should a blister occur, burst

it, remove the dead skin and immediately apply zinc oxide tape onto the raw area, within a week – Voila new skin!

That year, two days before Santiago we walked through forests of eucalyptus. That aroma will always remind me of the Camino.

2014 I returned to the “Camino de Santiago” same French route – Camino de Frances but on my own.

Three elderly men came out of a pub in a back street of a small town. On seeing me and without warning one started to sing an “aria” accompanied on rudimentary instruments. It was incredibly beautiful, I was in tears and even the tenor who managed to hit the high notes, shed a tear.

The Camino has become incredibly popular since the film “The Way”. It is very busy, full of litter and has lost some of its reverence. I

needed space. I walked one night under a full moon it was so bright I couldn't see the "milky way". I left behind the built up environment and entered the relative wilderness of the Meseta, walking on earth tracks across the peace and quiet of endless fields of



*The Camino de Santiago trail*

crops. Around the hills above Burgos, I was stunned by flashing lights, they happened to be attached to the ends of turbine blades of windfarms!

At night I heard the deafening sound of cicadas. I passed through one village about midnight, the women were still sitting on their doorsteps and a gentleman (the Mayor maybe) came towards me. I don't speak Spanish so I mimed what I was doing. He mimed back walk straight don't veer right or left and gave me the thumbs up.

My daughter told me about "Four of the World's Loveliest Pilgrim Trails", an alternative to the Camino de Santiago. One is in Japan "Kumano Ko" another "Mount Kailash Circuit" in Tibet, both a step too far.

2017 the third loveliest pilgrim trail which I walked alone in six days is the Tuscan leg of "The Francigena" the main pilgrim route from Canterbury to Rome. It was empty!

I was having a picnic lunch surrounded by rolling hills topped with Cyprus and Chianti vineyards when a tall lady in shorts with a dog stopped and said in perfect English "Hello". She continued "I'm Russian and I am married to an Italian and have four children and I have lived here since I was 20 years old".

"Oh yes" I said, stunned. I asked her what she did in this "off the beaten place". She said she was an embroiderer; the reply was so unexpected my heart fluttered and she continued that her

greatest wish was to see the embroidery in the V and A in London. I didn't take her photo, dam!

2017 Finally, the fourth loveliest pilgrim trail is "St Cuthbert's Way in Northumberland from Melrose to Lindisfarne.

Walking across rich wild landscapes,

up high hills with "epic" views and wading in bare feet 2 miles across the sand to Holy Island. The route was quiet and the facilities were limited. However, one night my sister and I stayed in a "Land Army Hostel". We were allocated Eileen Slater's room; her photograph and biography were on the door. At the time it was very poignant.

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# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MARKETING

By Patricia Bruzon

2019 sees Country Markets, celebrate one hundred years of marketing across England and Wales. Originally started in Lewes in Sussex at the behest of the government, the W.I was asked to feed the nation after the First World War. Still in its' infancy, The Women's Institute was invited to get the country back on its feet by encouraging greater home food production. Seeing the pictures from the early days, I am grateful that we no longer have to wear hats and gloves, and that rather than handcarts, we are able to come to market by car. We, like the nation, have modernized just a little.

We have come a long way since those early days; goods sold at market now include a huge variety of produce including a lot of craft. A great deal of effort has gone into observing the ever growing legal requirements, and maintaining standards.

Great strides have been made in the use of technology, with web sites and Face Book pages. Labels with a modern logo are mostly printed rather than hand written. Many markets now use electronic card readers, Axminster market will follow suit as soon as our landlord gets us the recently promised Wi Fi installed.



The First Outdoor Market



Early Days – A WI Market Stall

This year, the emphasis has been on celebration. The Country Market AGM in Staffordshire was attended by over 400 members from around the country and was tremendous fun. As chairman in 2017, when plans had to be put in place, I had suggested that caterers would be

employed, and everyone who attended would be treated to lunch. I have to admit that I was not sure how my suggestion would be received, but I felt that our members were entitled to a thank you for all their hard work and fortunately the board agreed. By the time the gathering was arranged the new chairman and

the board went further and included some tremendous speakers at the lunch. The atmosphere was warm and friendly and people were delighted to meet old friends and colleagues.

Following on from the national celebrations, our markets and societies have had their own celebrations. In Devon around forty members had lunch at the beautiful spot at Fingle Bridge Inn, at Drewsteignton, an exquisite area on Dartmoor. In Axminster on July 18<sup>th</sup>, over one hundred and fifty people came for cake and refreshment at which our lady mayor spoke

kindly about the importance of our market in the town. She is an ardent fan so her words were warm and genuine. She cut a large cake made by yours truly which had been a logistical challenge, testing powers of lateral thinking to the limit. It was no joke splitting a cake twelve inches by twelve inches, filling it with a pound of lemon curd and over a pound of lemon icing and then sliding the top back on without splitting the whole thing. The cake disappeared quite fast so it is hoped it was up to standard!

The future is as important as the past. The good news therefore is that this year we have recruited two younger cooks. One is a baker, and the other, a maker of curries who became a baker following a little coaching by more experience members. We thankfully have another two possible cooks in the pipeline. Recruitment is essential for our future. It is a constant battle to ensure our survival, but

hopefully customer goodwill and the spirit of 'having a go' will see us through for the next year or three! It is wonderful to be part of an organization which has afforded its' many members the chance to make friends, meet people and even as we head towards our dotage, develop skills we never knew we had.



*Axminster in July. With the Lady Mayor*

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# ST MARY'S MUSIC

By Sean Day Lewis

It was early September this year, the 23rd Sunday in ordinary time, otherwise Education Sunday. For those of us fortunate to attend Mass at St Mary's, Axminster, it was also a very special morning. The attached junior school of St Mary's has had its ups and downs since 1862 but just now there is no doubt that it is the best primary in our parish and beyond, thanks in large part to its present quietly spoken head, Mrs Elaine Mannix, who addressed us at the end of Mass.

Some of us who could do with better ears may have missed some of her words but we heard enough to confirm that she is a jewel; a teacher who acts with her Catholic faith to serve every child with a complete and rounded introduction to 21st century life. Apart from anything else, she respects the importance of the arts at a time when so many of those in charge of English schools are feeling bound to save money by cutting down on such provision. St Mary's is now as strong as it has ever been with music under Kilmington organist, Rachel Burrough.

There could hardly have been stronger proof of this than that provided by our organist for the day, a former pupil at St Mary's now embarking on her second year at Woodroffe in Lyme Regis. An apprentice of master organist Richard Godfrey, along with a fellow ex St Mary's learner, 12-year-old Oriel made sure we could all hear her every well placed note. Happily she is tall enough to use the foot pedals as well as



*Pippa Brough playing St Marys Church Organ in Axminster*

the keyboard. The Gloria was perfect, there were neat and for me too short before and after voluntaries and each hymn was brought to a splendidly full throated final verse. I am no singer but I was inspired to bawl louder than usual, before going home to enjoy a couple of recent Bach CDs. One called Bach to the Future was recorded with 19th century sound at the

huge organ of Notre-Dame in Paris before it was silenced by the fire. Then came a set of "Stay, ye Angels" cantatas with obligatto contributions from the beautiful baroque organ at Naumberg which impressed Johann Sebastian himself in 1724.

Our regular organist and choir mistress Pippa Brough had to be away that Education Sunday attending a family wedding but she would certainly have relished Oriel's contribution and have been thoroughly delighted to go back to her choir and lend her alto voice. Clearly what is most essential at Mass is the voice and authority of Father Anthony, or if he is away, the celebrations of his retired deputies, the Bishop from Lyme Regis and the Canon from Seaton. But next most essential is Pippa, who deserves the retirement she would like aged 86, but continues in post with something I regard as heroism. If there is anybody around inclined to take her for granted they should think again. Her choir, reasonably well balanced these days, is grateful from soprano to bass and they, like us in the congregation just hope she is able to continue until some Oriel is willing and able to take over.

Born in Birmingham as Pippa Glanville, she was schooled in that city and did two years of social studies at the University and a vocational period at the Teacher Training College. She liked hockey and lacrosse and learned piano. She extended her musical education at concerts given by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the days when they still played at the Town Hall. Good enough, especially with the Saint-Saens "Organ Symphony", but some time before the Simon Rattle glory period and the wonder new concert hall. She began teaching at local primary schools where music was not necessarily given top priority but her musical side was found to be more than useful. Her mother was a Catholic, and a pianist, and Pippa grew into the faith. Then in 1958 she married solicitor Peter Brough before his work brought her to the south-west, Ilminster and then Axminster. He became a partner with Scott Rowe. A happy marriage brought along a daughter and two sons but ill health sadly ended with Mr Brough's early death in 2002. Pippa has long had to reconcile herself to widowhood and a cherished role as mother and grandmother.

Pippa naturally wasted no time in her Devon life before joining St Mary's. As happens she found herself as a "temporary" organist at Mass for around six years before she was obliged to regard herself as a fixture. She had to give up her first love, which was singing to make it possible for others to use their voices. She has played since for quite a succession of priests, some more musical than others. Over the years the choir and accompaniment have moved from front to back of the church, moves which follow what various Fathers thought most effective. Only in recent times has Pippa and the church been gifted a suitable organ, as recommended by the then ailing Father Koppel and Richard Godfrey, given away by a happy-clappy C of E church in Sherborne. Pippa, like every other serious organist, knows that Bach is the greatest of organ composers and never mind that he worked for the Lutheran church. As shown by her, as well as Richard in recital, the present instrument is food enough for JSB. Let us hope that at some future Mass we can hear Oriel let loose with a prelude and fugue or more.

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# SEMANA SANTA

By Tony Norman

**H**oly Week in Spain is something really special and the most special city of all for Holy Week is Seville.

Tourists or pilgrims from all over the world descend on the city and add over half a million people to the population. Vicky and I were two of that number in Seville in 2019. We were warned that it would be crowded and it certainly was.

Why do so many people go there? It is probably because of the reputation that has built up over the many years since the confradas or guilds have processed in the footsteps of their ancestors. These days, the representation of certain moments of the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ take place in an atmosphere of devotion and religious fervour, amongst exquisite imagery in art and gold.

Processional floats with life size images of Jesus and Mary along with music bands form a very special procession running from different parts of the city to the Holy Cathedral Church. In each procession is carried a cross near the front and after numerous processors dressed in robes designed to preserve their anonymity, comes A Paso.

The floats in the procession are carried by up to forty strong men who bear the weight on the back of their shoulders and The Paso may



weigh up to two tons. Some very precious ones were made as long ago as the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but most are from the twentieth century. They are however for fine weather only and are not brought out on to the



streets if it is raining.

Many hundreds of the Sevillanos have designated seats alongside the processional routes and these are bought and kept for many years. The rest of the population have to fight for their vantage point to see the procession. Alternatively they may wish to watch The Paso on a local terrestrial television channel instead.

A visit to Seville in Holy week is a perhaps a once in a lifetime experience.

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**ST MARY’S IS A GOOD SCHOOL—OFFICIAL**

St Mary’s had a very successful academic year in 2018 /19. Our year 6 results were excellent. We were especially pleased that in maths, 100% of our pupils achieved the expected standard as raising attainment in maths has been a focus of our work this year.



school for our children and families.

**What is our offer?**

We educate, nurture and inspire our children; each one of them unique. We place a strong focus on parent partnership and the development of the whole child.

We focus strongly on the key skills of reading, writing and maths fluency with a curriculum that works to engage all pupils.

We work with Colyton Grammar School and Axe Valley Academy to extend and enrich our curriculum through math, science, music and PE and take part in a wide variety of community learning opportunities.

In July we had a two day Ofsted visit. So many positives were identified and shared with us and confirmed that by national standards we are a good school.

Children access sport at a high level and take part in team and house activities.

Our school has extensive grounds with two playgrounds, a field which overlooks the Axminster countryside, a woodland area for our forest school and a newly developed all weather running track so that we can all complete a daily mile.

Three of the stand out moments in July were; the Year 6 leaver’s assembly, the Reception Class Celebration assembly and The St Mary’s Got Talent event. At each the children showed that they are happy and learning, that they feel proud of themselves and can celebrate the gifts of others.

St Mary’s is a good school and we will continue to work to improve our





*Devon and Exeter Performing Arts Festival*

Music is very much alive at St Mary's. We have a school choir and orchestra and offer opportunities for all children to participate in singing and performance.

We are building a reputation as a happy, friendly school with many opportunities for



*Tennis Finals*

children to thrive.

Our staff team has moved from strength to strength over the last two years, working with experts within the Trust and from outside using



*Girls Cricket*

research and reflective development projects to harness best practice approaches. In 2018 - 19 our leaders worked with leaders from Highview Primary in Plymouth; a longstanding outstanding school. We will be building on this next year by working with the Jurassic Coast Maths Hub.



*Sports Day*

We will not take our good for granted. We will continue to build on it to give all of our children the best experience we can.

Don't take our word for it. Come and see for yourself and find out why we are so proud of our school.



*Summer Music Evening*

*For more information,  
please contact us at:*

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Lyme Road, Axminster, EX13 5BE  
Tel: 01297 32785**

**[admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk)**

*The Head Teacher explains her guiding principles on page 28 and 29*

# CATHOLIC LYME

By Philip Mostyn

Catholic Lyme seems to have begun in about 770 AD when the West Saxons were converted to Christianity – which of course was Catholicism. According to the earliest history of Lyme that I have found (G Roberts 1823), the town was probably used as a harbour and supply station by the Romans, and more recent archaeology supports this. But its name and prominence dates from 774 AD when Cynewulf, King of the West Saxons, gave to the Abbey of Sherborne a plot of land on the west side of the river



Lym where it meets the sea, to make salt. Salt was vital for preserving food, and the sea at Lyme is particularly saline. So the Saxons boiled sea-water in pans there and sent it inland to Sherborne, which explains why Sherborne Lane in Lyme is so-called.

The Domesday book records 27 salt-workers, fishermen and small-holders at Lyme, and the original Catholic church of Lyme, on the east side of the river, had apparently been in existence since Saxon times. The church was enlarged by the Normans in about 1120. In a Papal bull in 1145, Pope Eugenius III confirmed the grant of the Church at Lyme to the Abbey of Sherborne, who retained it until 1284. The church was dedicated to St Michael the Archangel in 1405, it is believed.

In 1284 the royal title of 'Regis' was granted to Lyme by Edward I, partly perhaps because while fighting France he sheltered his fleet in the newly built wooden harbour known as the Cobb, but also possibly because the revenue from the town would go direct to the crown – Lyme was by now an established trading port. The Royal charter given to Lyme was witnessed by the (Catholic) Archbishop of Canterbury, 4 bishops, 3 earls and Prince Edmund (brother to

the King). It granted considerable independence to Lyme, which only lost its status as a borough in 1974. One of the privileges that came with the royal charter was that Lyme had two members of Parliament, which it retained until 1832. The royal seal of the charter had St Michael on one side of it (for

Lyme's patron presumably), and St George (patron saint of England) on the other, which probably explains why our new Catholic church in Lyme has these saints as its patrons.

In about 1295, a priory was established in Lyme for 'White Friars' of the order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, which paid rent of 15 shillings and 10 pennies to the King annually. This is said to be where Stiles House now stands, above Langmoor Gardens. By 1336 there was a hospital for lepers in Lyme, dedicated to St Mary and the Holy Spirit. We know this because in that year Pope Benedict XII granted indulgences to collect donations for its repair (now *there* is a fund-raising idea for the current church maintenance needs!).

The original church was improved again by the Tudors in around 1506, and it contains a tapestry made in around 1500 recording a royal wedding, probably of the future Henry VII. So Lyme's loyalty to the Crown was strong at this time, and it is not surprising that when Henry VIII broke with Rome in 1534, the loyalty of Lyme to the crown was greater than to the Pope. Less than 20 years later, Henry's daughter Mary became Queen and tried to re-establish English Catholicism. But Lyme remained "that heretic town" in the words of Queen Mary. After becoming increasingly Puritan from around 1600, Lyme's opposition to both the Church and the Crown reached its height in the English Civil War when Lyme was

Parliamentarian and Protestant, and suffered a bitter and long siege in 1644, which it survived. Lyme's hostility to Crown and Catholicism explains why the Duke of Monmouth landed there in 1685 in his unsuccessful attempt to replace his uncle King James II, the last Catholic king of England. Perhaps Lyme's hostility to the King contributed to it seldom using the 'Regis' part of its formal name until very recently. Jane Austen always described it just as 'Lyme', and coastal town of Lyme in Connecticut (USA) was named after it (Lyme's Disease is so-named because it was first diagnosed in that American town in 1975).

Lyme remained hostile to Catholicism for most of the next 200 years. Which makes it all the more remarkable that in 1835, only 6 years after the Catholic Emancipation Act, work began on building the current Catholic Church in Lyme, which is the oldest post-Emancipation Catholic church in this area. For most of the previous three centuries, the few Catholics in and around Lyme sustained their faith by secretly attending Mass in hiding and in safe houses. Apparently the ruined chapel of St Gabriel's on the west side of Golden Cap was one such site. The most prominent centre of underground Catholicism was Chideock. Of the 360 men and women martyred for Catholicism in England between 1535 and 1681, 8 were from Chideock. Among them was Father Hugh Green who was arrested in Lyme in 1642 and hanged, drawn and quartered in Dorchester. He was beatified in 1929.

Even before Emancipation, Catholicism was quietly tolerated, particularly amongst people who had influence. John Knight had a Catholic chapel in Hilary House in Axminster from as early as 1763. His family funded the building in 1831 of the original St Mary's Church on the site of the current church built in 1862. Over time, and as Emancipation became a future possibility after the loyal military service of Catholics in the Napoleonic Wars, local Catholics became less secretive: my great, great, great grandfather, Admiral Sir John Talbot, had a Catholic chapel in his house, Rhode Hill, in Uplyme. He married Juliana Arundell from Wardour in Wiltshire, which had been a Catholic stronghold for centuries, and both are

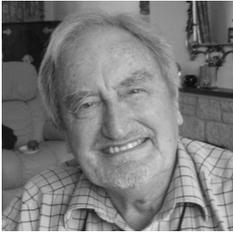
buried in the nave of our current Lyme church.

Before the current Lyme Catholic church was built, mass was being said in the old Vicarage, owned by Edward Hebden, just 75 yards south of the Catholic church, and at another site near the Cobb harbour. Mass was also heard at Corum Court, about 100 yards west of the current church, this being the home of Mrs Bellingham, who started the fund to build the current church - using £100 she found in the desk of her dead son. She and her daughter are buried in the Lady Chapel.

The foundation stone of our current Catholic church of St Michael and St George was laid on St George's Day (23<sup>rd</sup> April) 1835 by Father Charles Fisher, who had been appointed to St Mary's Axminster less than a year earlier, and whose tomb is in the church. The first mass here was said on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1837 by Father Joseph O'Dwyer, and in 1838 Father William Vaughan became our parish priest. He had the Presbytery designed by the renowned Catholic architect Welby Pugin, and built the church school, a three-storey building of which the remaining ground floor is now our parish room. He later became the second bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth. By 1851 it is recorded that mass in Lyme was regularly attended by 60-80 people.

The church school was run by an order of nuns who arrived in 1890, the Servants of the Sacred Heart, and when they moved on, they were replaced by a small community of the Holy Child. The last order of nuns to run the school were the sisters of Christian Instruction, who survived until the late 1960s, and one of our parishioners remembers being taught by them.

Lyme has had three Catholic mayors: John Talbot (grandson of the Admiral), Alban Woodroffe (John Talbot's brother-in-law) who was made a Papal Knight of St Gregory by Pope Pius XII, and John Broderick who ran the Volunteer Inn and was a stalwart of our parish. Lyme can be more proud of the 6 vocations to the priesthood from amongst its parishioners (Bishop David Mathew, Canon Talbot, Monsignor Dewey, Monsignor Mostyn, Canon Bethell and Dom Ralph Russell).



# REMINISCENCES

By Roger King

I am gratified to find myself in the 21st century, but my memories are virtually all of the 20th in which I was born, grew and experienced the contents contained in this "slice" that I thought you might be interested to share. The experiences are factual as described; the comments and opinions are my own.

Many key memories come to mind; my father saying that he must have survived the trenches to have me; my Headmaster introducing the sixth form to the historic proofs of the existence of God; the fact that the western powers discovered and developed nuclear power before Hitler; a succession of priests and people whose wisdom and example led me to believe that being polite and generous gave room for deeper emotions and understanding which could grow into a desire to follow Christ's teaching.

I have been unbelievably fortunate, I have been machine gunned and bombed, but have not had to retaliate; my career chosen for me by circumstance, has involved travel to many foreign countries, where I have found friendship and a universal longing for love, family and the pursuit of happiness. Most of all, I have loved and been loved by an especially beautiful partner and a family of children and grandchildren who constantly surprise and delight me.

There are many changes that have happened in my lifetime "to date". Being gay no longer risks imprisonment; child abuse, so long accepted as "not talked about" reality, is now under an increasingly demanding scrutiny that will, hopefully, make it an unacceptable memory of the past.

Modern technology, particularly information technology, permits millions access to what is happening across the world, literally as it happens. Blind obedience to a cause or a leader must become a thing of the past. This presents a

crucial challenge to future education. The masses now know what is going on, how can they make their feelings count?

I like to think and hope that this decade will be remembered as the "age of emancipation". The ideal would be a world family with a universal sense of mutual concern, understanding and justice. There have been many interesting and hopeful signs that support this ideal. Racism only exists in small pockets of the ignorant, where it was once headline news for a coloured player to be part of a football team, now they are now a major part of virtually every activity; social, business and sport. The concept of the children of many countries marching to demand a more positive action to reverse climate change is an unmistakable sign that national and world politics require a drastic overhaul. The very shape of democracy will need examination and change.

Female emancipation in the free world is now happily accepted being sensibly based on character and prowess. This, since the "Arab spring" would seem to be beginning across the globe. Ladies in Saudi Arabia can go shopping without chaperones, even drive their own cars. Man-made laws on dress code are no longer as rigid as they were, except for extremist groups who cling to their ancient and often vicious and cruel extensions of power.

So, this then is my long view, global war is no longer an acceptable option, the possibility of mutual nuclear destruction has seen to that. IT throws open the world for all to see, attempts to control it are unlikely to succeed in the long run. What future generations will make of these problems, time alone can tell. Clearly, as always, leaders of integrity are needed, men and women of every shape, size and colour who are imbued with the spirit of the Good Lord to make the world what He would like it to be.

# FOR KING AND COUNTRY

This article was submitted by Nigel Magrane in response to an earlier request for histories in this centenary year of the ending of the Great War.

George Fairfield Magrane was born in Balbriggan in 1890. He enlisted in the Army in 1916. In November of that year he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in The Royal Garrison Artillery and posted to 261<sup>st</sup> Siege Battery (equipped with 8in Howitzers). He was killed at the Battle of Messines in 1917 and is buried in the Strand Military Cemetery in Ploegsteert, Belgium close to the French border. In a letter to one of George's sisters a fellow officer writes, "Your brother was detailed by our Group Commander to follow the infantry in the great attack on June 7<sup>th</sup> and to establish communication with our respective batteries. As we were walking together a German shell fell behind us and we were both blown over . . . your brother was killed outright. I ran to a dressing station and took back with me an orderly of the RAMC but it was useless . . ."



There is perhaps nothing unusual about this 26 year old man's brief service and death. Except that George, despite being Irish, actually came from Argentina. In the 1800s George's father, Patrick, went to work for The Standard, an English Language paper in Buenos Aires. He married Cecilia, a niece of the paper's founder. They had two daughters before Cecilia returned to Ireland to give birth to George. She died in 1895 and George's father married a second time to Genara Casado an Argentinian girl.

George was educated at St. George's Weybridge but afterwards joined his father and stepmother in Buenos Aires. He never married and his profession is not known. Although George had settled in Argentina, he remained British/Irish

and looked upon Britain as his home. So when war broke out it was quite natural that he should return "home" and fight for his country. Some 4852 men are thought to have come from Latin American countries to volunteer. To distinguish them from home forces they wore a cloth badge under the right breast pocket inscribed with the letters BVLA (British Volunteer Latin America) in a diamond worked in yellow on a blue background. 582 of these men are believed to have been killed.

There were many tributes to George. One from a Bombardier Signaller with him when the German shell landed, said, "After the pieces of shell finished flying about, I got out of the crater and looking round saw Mr Magrane lying on his side. We went up to him not thinking he was dead but I regret to say he did not speak a word. I was very much cut up myself. I had been on duty with poor Mr Magrane on

several occasions and on this particular day he asked me to go with him as one of his signallers. Be sure he was liked very much by all of us in the battery and we miss him very much - especially myself."

Another was written in his father's paper. "The late George Magrane," says the Buenos Aires Standard, "or Maggie as he was affectionately called by his intimates, was a well known figure at the Belgrano where he resided before leaving to volunteer and a prominent all-round athlete excelling at cricket, football and hockey. His frank open character and genial disposition made many friends for him and there will be genuine sorrow at the Belgrano Club at the passing of another true sportsman who has given all for King and Country."

# SS MICHAEL & GEORGE RC CHURCH LYME REGIS - RESTORATION APPEAL

By Jane Godfrey

Our Gothic Style Church in Lyme Regis was built in 1835. It is an attractive and much-loved Grade II listed building with Bell Tower and Presbytery, standing high above the town. However despite necessary repairs and maintenance over the years, continued exposure to gales and salt air now make it necessary for us to undertake more extensive renovation works if we are to preserve the Church for future generations.

A survey commissioned in 2017 has identified the extent of renovation work needed, and the likely total cost of this work amounts to £300,000.

Priority has been given to the most essential and urgent items:

1. **Church** - (estimated £166,000)

Rainwater gutters and downpipes, external stonework, windows, main entrance door, rendering, roof, external painting and internal decoration

2. **Bell Tower** - (estimated 50,000)

External woodwork, windows, gutters & downpipes, bell repairs and refitting.

The cost of the above items (phase 1) is estimated to be in the region of £216,000.

The Parish is actively seeking assistance from various grant making bodies, hoping to raise more than half the costs in this way.

We are aiming to raise £50,000 from the Parish through personal bequests, donations and fundraising.

If you are able to help by making a donation by sending a cheque:

1. Please make this out to "Lyme Regis Parish"



2. Include a note with your name and address, and confirmation that the donation is to be used for restoration works to Lyme Regis Church
3. Send the cheque to: The Parish Secretary, The Priest's House, St Mary's Church, Lyme Road, Axminster EX13 5BE. **OR** hand to Fr. Anthony.

We will also be holding a series of fundraising events. We would love to see as many people as possible on these occasions, which we hope will be socially enjoyable as well as financially successful. Any additional fundraising ideas would be welcomed.

If you have any questions or ideas for fundraising, etc. Please contact the Parish Secretary, Claire Peters. Our new website:

**[lymeregisrcchurch.org.uk](http://lymeregisrcchurch.org.uk)**



# AND ON THE SUBJECT OF CHURCH HISTORY

By Rev'd Ed Standhaft

When the esteemed editor of the magazine asked if I would write a series of articles on the history of the church, I accepted the challenge with the greatest of enthusiasms. It was only in the coolness of the following morning that I remembered the adage 'fools rush in where angels fear to tread.'

However, though church history has occupied a significant part of my reading since university days, my first task must be to recommend two books by two academics whose scholarships form a beacon of light in what is often historically, a dark and confused picture. In particular, Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch's 'A History of Christianity' is a useful resource, and do not let its 1000 pages plus act as a disincentive. Books written by the radical Catholic historian of Cambridge University, professor Eamon Duffy, such as 'The Stripping of the Altars' offer fresh perspectives on the Catholic church and in particular, the Catholic church on the eve of the Protestant reformation.

Two other comments must be made: If Diarmaid MacCulloch offers 1000 pages, what hope have I got? So inevitably I have to be

selective and perhaps a better choice of title might be 'A few inadequate reflections on some important occasions in the life of the Christian church (AD 30 to 2019). OK, perhaps to be briefer 'A history of the church' may have to suffice: secondly, I believe it is important to consider whether any parallel exists between what has happened in history and the situation the churches face today.

Finally, allow me to set the ball rolling by asking one of the most enthralling questions of all: 'Was it Jesus' intention to form a church or did he expect the Kingdom of God to come in its fullness in his own lifetime? Central to this would be his belief that through Jesus' death on the cross God would vanquish evil totally, inaugurating a new era of peace and unity. The question is not so naïve as you might at first think. Certainly St. Paul, writing to the Christians at Thessalonica expected God's triumphant kingdom to come fully within the lifetime of those to whom he wrote, (see 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13-18).

However, I only ask the question: I leave it to you, perhaps in group discussion to provide some answers. Good luck!!!

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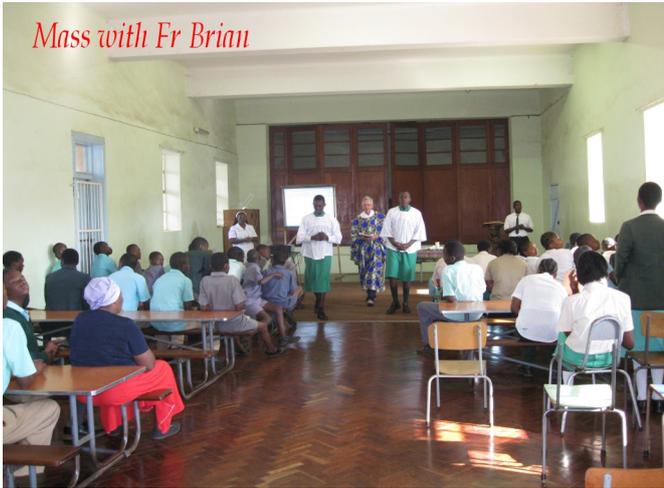
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Patios

# LYM ZIM A PICTORIAL LOOK BACK



By Jo Enright



*Mass with Fr Brian*



*Fr Brian receiving donation for Pedro Arrupe Centre and Emerald Hill in Lym School Room 16/10/2016*

As Lym Zim approaches its closure, here is a pictorial look back at what YOU have achieved over the years since we launched in April 2003 at the request of several parishioners who sought a charity where they could be sure the funds were spent wisely and reached the intended recipients would serve as reminder of some of YOUR achievements!

From 2003 to 2010 we supported a Cheshire Home in Harare caring for severally disabled children by equipping their bare physiotherapy room and later building a residential and disability resource centre for disabled young people throughout Zimbabwe. With Cheshire now able to function well we moved on to support Emerald Hill School for the Deaf and a group of deaf children at Pedro Arrupe centre

based at the very rural Jesuit Mission Station at Musami. We installed electricity and water and reroofed the houses and generally improved the living conditions.

For as long as possible, Lym Zim will continue to support the girls at Emerald Hill and other school projects. Fund raising is low key due to my poor health and I will be unable to make and sell the usual 1000 Christmas cards.

As always, it is to thank you from so many in Zimbabwe and give you assurance that you are in their prayers every day.

*By Ed. In the future, support for Emerald Hill can be made via the Zimbabwe Dominicans and more on this in the next issue of PALS.*



*Confirmation Day*



*2016, Lucy (Jo's niece) at Emerald Hill*



*Brother Cyprianus, founder of the Pedro Arrupe Centre for deaf children*



*Lesson time at Emerald Hill*



*A few children who live at the Pedro Arrupe Centre*



*Lym Zim pays school and hearing aid fees for Faith and Leanne (here reading the latest PALS!)*



*New Westwood Cheshire home*



*Benefiting from physiotherapy*



*Learning to walk using equipment Lym Zim provided*

# DR GISELA HOFFMANN

By David Gale

Many of you will remember Dr Gisela Hoffmann, a retired GP who was a regular worshipper at St Mary's Axminster and a tenor in the church choir.

Since leaving the UK and returning to her native Germany I have kept in touch with her and on occasions have sent her copies of the parish magazine. She is delighted to receive them and read the latest news and interesting items. In a recent letter, after reading the latest edition, she said, "For an hour I was so happy to be back in England with you all. The 15 years in England was a happy time. Please continue to send the Parish News".

Generally, Gisela appears to be in good health and is pleased to be near her daughter Julia and grandson Leander. She is living in a large house for retired ladies and gentleman in Frankfurt where she has her own apartment. She says it enables her to disappear and practice the cello (see photograph) and play the piano without being disturbed or disturbing her neighbours, most of whom are hard of hearing.



Gisela finished her letter by sending her greeting to the Parish.



## **The Parish Magazine Rate Card prices up to 5 April 2020**

<b>A4 Publication</b>	<b>Full Page</b>	<b>Half Page</b>	<b>Quarter Page</b>	<b>Small Ads</b>
Inches	9.75 x 6.75	6.75 x 4.75	3.25 x 4.75	All sizes below Quarter Page
Colour Back Page	£80	£40		
Colour	£72	£36	£23	
Black and White	£60	£30	£17	£12

The Three Parish Magazine is published twice a year in the spring and autumn. It is a free publication with its printing costs offset by its advertising revenue. The magazine is A4 size, running to between 32 and 36 pages and printed partially in colour. The print runs each issue are for a minimum of 300 magazines and are distributed firstly to church congregations in Axminster, Lyme and Seaton and then to outlets in the three towns. Future plans are to increase the number of copies when its proper distribution can be achieved and advertising revenue assured.

All enquiries:-

The Parish Secretary, The Presbytery, Lyme Road, Axminster EX13 5BE  
Tel: 01297 32135 Email: axminster@prcdtr.org.uk

# THE DICHOTOMY OF CHRISTMAS

By Jeny Butler

During the middle week of December we were discussing our plans for the coming Christmas break. Some friends of ours were about to embark on a cruise down the Rhine in Germany and others had planned visits to grandchildren in distant parts of the country.

About the same time, a couple of us from the ACT team at St Mary's Catholic Church went to a council address in Axminster to deliver the last remaining Christmas hamper given out at Christmas by the Axminster Churches Together. This hamper had been delayed because one digit of the woman's telephone number had been wrong and we couldn't speak to her. As it was 10am on a Sunday morning we didn't manage to find anyone in the house to take the parcel. I sat in the car and watched from a distance. It was very cold and the forecast was for more of the same! My impression was that the person was living without much heat or food in a house which seemed to be divided into two rather gloomy flats and because it was no wonder the recipient

might still be asleep, we agreed to try again later that day.

In the evening one of us drove round to the same address and this time the front door was open so my helper just walked in to find a woman maybe in her early 40s. The house was bare of furniture but as soon as she saw the hamper she knew who he was. She didn't say much but when asked about the telephone number she immediately saw the mistake. She said it was one house but someone else lived in the extension. A child was crying upstairs all the time that our helper was there.

Did the Axminster Churches Together take the Christmas hamper just in time? What is the message from the churches? What is the age of the crying child? There are so many questions to be answered in what appears to be a fairly prosperous town like Axminster and there is a need to give out food parcels to people throughout the year. Perhaps we should be more aware of these people who live nearby and who are struggling to make ends meet. If you know of someone who could do with a food parcel from time to time, the need could be a one-off as someone's circumstances change, we can respond quickly to tide someone over in a sudden difficulty. Anyone should be able to pass on a request for a hamper via their own church representative or to Jane Riggs at the Purzebrook Chapel. We do not need any further details except where to deliver the food.

All the year round, everyone is invited to contribute to a food bank which is held by the Christian Fellowship at the Purzebrook Chapel in South Street. The Chapel is open on Tuesday mornings from 10 - 12am and on Thursdays for morning services at 11am and Sundays at 10.30am. Each church in Axminster has a way of collecting and delivering tinned or packaged food well within the sell-by date but some extra shopping is needed from time to time which comes out of money collected for this purpose by all the churches. This is a truly ecumenical affair.



We sell a wide range of local fruit and veg, eggs, juices, honey, jams and chutneys as well as organic produce from Riverford Organics, Trill Farm and Haye Farm.

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# ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVER'S ASSEMBLY

By David Gale

The last day of term was also Leavers' Day at St Mary's RC Primary School. Staff and parents enjoyed a day full of fun and laughter (plus a few tears), emotion and entertainment provided by the pupils.

Year 6 students, who in September will move to their new schools, reflected on the happy times spent with their peers, friendships, events and residential visits. Each presented a record of their memories and thanked the head teacher Mrs Elaine Mannix, teachers and staff. Every member of year 6 was



*Bailey and Will with Bruce Kahn and David Gale*

awarded a certificate highlighting their abilities and achievements.

Next was the presentation of the annual Award of Excellence. This award is presented to the outstanding student who has contributed most to school life. Among the attributes required are care, consideration and respect to peers and staff, together with diligence and attitude towards work. In the interest of fairness, voting is by staff.

For the first time there were two recipients, Bailey Galloway and Will Studley. Each was presented with a small engraved shield and a large engraved shield was presented to and retained by the school. This award is sponsored by the Exeter Circle of the Catenian Association, which was represented by Bruce Kahn, who presented the shields, and David Gale.

On 5<sup>th</sup> July, the school held a public speaking competition for their oldest pupils on the theme of people who make a difference.

This year the competition was won by Poppy Walsh who gave an excellent talk with a very persuasive speech about Emmeline Pankhurst. Poppy gave a very well researched and delivered speech giving a perspective on Emmeline's life as someone who had contributed to women's rights.

The public speaking tradition was established by The Catenians, who offer advice and support to the pupils of St Mary's on the skills of public speaking.

## **Axe Vale Show Needs Your Help!**

***Whilst a way off, the Axe Vale Show volunteers are already hard at work to make sure that the June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 Show is another success.***

***It is a Charity and run on volunteers experience and goodwill. If you have time to join this magnificent Axminster Community team please contact us on***

***[enquiries@axevalfestival.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@axevalfestival.org.uk)***

***Are you a passionate foodie? How about running the Food Marquee or do you have time and a creative enthusiasm to help write press releases, create adverts, Show guides and posters and help manage a website?***

***We are always looking for volunteers to staff gates, clear tables, and so on – if you would like to be part of the team please contact us!***



# COMICS OF YEARS AGO

By Pat McCulloch



**D**o you remember the comics of years ago; 'Filmfun', 'Radiofun', 'Boy's Own', and many others?

Before WWII, my parents bought us 'Sunny Stories'. This was a little booklet of well-illustrated tales written and published by Enid Blyton. It came out weekly and my brother, sister and I looked forward to it each week. So many of the stories were made into books and became popular.

When I was nine years old, I wrote a letter to Enid Blyton saying how I loved her stories. I received quite a long letter in reply. I still have it and treasure it very much. I even wonder if it has 'antique value'.

When our school was evacuated, comics were a source of great fun and were passed around from child to child to be read over and over again.

I remember an old gramophone playing 'When you wish upon a star' and being curled up in a chair reading 'Filmfun'.

As I grew older, 'Girl's Crystal' was a favourite of mine. It told of boarding school life with, perhaps, a girl becoming famous in some way; ice skating or dancing. I think it cost 3d.

Recently I asked my husband to buy two of our great grandchildren a comic each. He returned without any; "Over £4 each", he said. Needless to say, we did not buy any. We really are a different generation.

How many readers remember their comics? When I read this to my daughter, "Oh! I remember Bunty and Mandy. I loved them and have collected a large number of their annuals", she said.

## What Will We Miss by Rita Bellini

*What did you miss as you sat in the park, with a phone to your ear and your thoughts far away?  
Did you notice your child on the grass at your feet, having fun with the worms in her play?  
When the robin crept near in the hope of a meal and she laughed, did you join in her pleasure?  
These were moments to capture and lock in your heart as memories always to treasure*

*What did you miss as you sat in the dark with a bright coloured screen to your eyes?  
Outside in the night was a world full of scents and the sounds of animal cries  
The moon was so large and the stars twinkled brightly. From the shadows came many strange sounds  
The call of a fox and the hoot of an owl as they hunt. Frogs and crickets whose voices abound.*

*Technology now has changed all the world. Like a genie it grants many wishes.  
But will we forget to look at the birds or glance in the streams at the fishes?  
Will we see Spring turn the countryside green and the Autumn leaves redden and fall?  
Will we connect with each other with speech and with song, just talk together at all?*

# EDUCATION SUNDAY

*After Mass on Sunday 8th September this year, Elaine Mannix, the Head Teacher of St Marys Catholic Primary School in Axminster gave a presentation to the congregation on developments at the school following the recent good Ofsted report. Elaine explains her vision and the success of the school which is being run on sound Catholic principles. Her presentation is set out below*

I have been a teacher for 28 years and for 20 of those years I have taught in Catholic schools in the South West.

I have spent many years studying and learning about education practice and alongside it what it means to be a Catholic school in its widest sense.

I am able to see God's hand in so many moments of my life, both when my life is turned upside down and in times of joy. I see it through family members, friends and community. I have always gained great strength from this. In fact; 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' is one of my teaching mantras.

I was asked by the CAST director of teaching and learning to work at St Mary's. I came here initially as a temporary staff member but was later asked to stay on permanently, following a formal recruitment process.

In 18 months St Mary's has been transformed. In July when Ofsted came they concluded that we were a good school. The measures used included forensic knowledge of pupil needs, quality systems and processes.....a range of secular measures.

It is true that we do have all of these happening at St Mary's and we were extremely pleased that all of our hard work had been recognised.

For me, as significantly, God has been put at the centre of everything.

Catholic social teaching principles have shaped many of the actions taken at the school.

- Dignity of the Human Person.
- Solidarity.
- Call to Family, Community and Participation.
- Care for the marginalised and vulnerable.
- Rights and Responsibilities.
- Dignity and Rights of Workers.
- Care for God's creation.

These principles are not new fads. They have been part of the fabric of Catholic education since 1891, and their roots are actually the Gospel values taught to us by Jesus, more than 2,000 years ago.

Our community has begun to flourish.

When I joined parishioners at a BBQ in the school grounds last year a member of the parish stopped me and told me that he had been looking after Mary. He went on to explain that he had been in school and noticed that the Mary statue was standing in a corner. He took it and had been looking after it. He said he felt it was ok to return her.

I was humbled by that.

I was pleased to return Mary to a place of prominence.

Those of you who know the statue will recall that Mary is standing still. I like to think, and share with the children, that Mary is both pondering with us and watching over us.

More recently I asked Father Anthony where I might best source a statue of Mary holding Jesus. I felt that there should be a visible sign of her holding the child Jesus and caring for Him in the way that our community works to reach out and hold each person in safety and care.

A few days later Father appeared with a 2ft statue from a member of the parish who felt able to pass on the statue to our care. Each day children pass the statue and have the opportunity to see that loving connection between mother and child, which is reflected in the relationships within our school.

Many of our children and staff are not Catholics. That offers a great platform to demonstrate the joys and gifts of the Catholic faith.

Ofsted and other secular authorities have at times frowned on our faith tenets and have been unable to see that they have any place in education.

Thankfully education of the whole child is now back in fashion.

We don't have a new curriculum we have a new Ofsted framework. It demands that we do much more than teach children to read, write and complete maths correctly.

It tells us to plan a curriculum that will provide opportunities for children to reach new horizons, see themselves as citizens of the world and be equipped to contribute positively. It is what Catholic education was created for.

In March I had a review with a respected Ofsted inspector. She was reviewing the schools learning intentions for the curriculum.

At the top of our curriculum intentions I had placed the word 'called'. Initially this raised some eyebrows. It was not a word that one might expect to see in a curriculum document.

I went on to explain that each one of us is uniquely loved by God and it is our responsibility as a school team to help each person discover what they are uniquely called to be in this life. By giving them the opportunity to explore what their gifts are and how they might use them for good, we are giving them self respect and self esteem, as well as a pathway that promises to be positive for them and for society. She said it was a beautiful reflection on what education is about.

Catholic education is a wonderful gift.

At its best it develops each child, their families, the community and the wider community of the world.

We are keen to find ways to continue to build connections between church and school for our mutual benefit and the good of wider communities.

We are already blessed at St Mary's to have parishioners who sit on our governing body and others who volunteer in school. We also have the valuable support of the Catenians.

The children love it when parishioners join us at mass and our services in school. They were very moved when they realised parishioners had been praying for them during the month of May.

We are all God's hands and feet.

Pope Francis said, True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life."

A wise friend of mine once said that it takes a village to bring up a child.

I think it takes a community.

We are very grateful to parish members who help with our school gardening projects, support a valuable coffee and cake session on Thursday mornings here in church.

Here in the church the children's Stations of the Cross images are framed next to those of the church. The children were so pleased to see them and to know that someone wanted them here in the church.

We just never know which of the seeds we plant will bear fruit.

Just over a year ago, here in church, Richard shared a workshop with some of our year 6 pupils, demonstrating how the church organ worked and then inviting them to take up lessons.

Today, in our mass, the music is being played by one of those pupils.

So what might we do next ?

If you would feel able to pray for us as we continue on our journey that would be greatly appreciated.

We have a group of children who have started their first communion journey and we would love parishioners to be prayer partners to them.

We have ideas to have some mixed age activities. A teacher has proposed an art project where children and adults together will help each other with observation drawing/ painting activities.

As you know education has very limited resources so any fund raising ideas would be gratefully received.

If you already support us practically then thank you.

If you have thoughts and ideas on ways to develop links that could open up opportunities for learning then please do let myself or father know.

# 75<sup>TH</sup> D-DAY ANNIVERSARY AT THE AIRBORNE CEMETERY RENVILLE, NORMANDY.

by Richard Salt



On the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> June, we walked about 5km along the Canal, crossing over Pegasus Bridge, to Ranville to attend the memorial service in the Cemetery where the dead of the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division,

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June I sailed with a couple of friends into the marina at Ouistreham situate on the Canal de Caen on the Eastern flank of the D-Day landing beaches; the purpose to join the celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landings that freed France from the German occupation.

the first soldiers to step foot in France, are buried. There is a total of 2,567 graves including 268 Germans and 151 unidentified. It was very emotional to see the gravestones, each bearing the regimental badge of the deceased, his age (some so young) and a touching personal tribute from his family. The German section includes the grave of a 16 year old soldier.



The service took around 45 minutes, with hymns & prayers for those who died in 1944 and since and accompanied by music from the pipes & drums of Scottish & Bands of English Regiments. There were crowds of people including many retired service personnel and some Veterans but sadly few are left to mourn their comrades.

We returned to Pegasus Bridge, the scene of the amazing glider attack by units of the Oxford & Buckinghamshire Regiment under Major Howard where three gliders landed within yards of the bridge to capture it and visited the Airborne Museum which contains records of the airborne attack as well as a Horsa Glider (picture above) and the original bridge. We dropped into Pegasus Café next to the bridge which was the first house to be liberated in the early hours of the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> June we were storm bound by gale force winds but we made use of it by taking the bus to Arromanches to see the remains of

*Private Fry of the Devonshire Regiment, aged 19*



*The Memorial to the dead of the Airborne Division.*

Mulberry Harbour which one of my friend's father had helped to establish by skipping an old Polish freighter named "SS Modlin" across the channel on the 6<sup>th</sup> June to sink it at Arromanches as part of the sea defences for the harbour. These ships were known by the code word "Gooseberries". It was fascinating to find in the museum a chart showing the precise position of "SS Modlin".

I would strongly recommend to anyone who has not visited the Landing Beaches to do so and to visit the Airborne Museum by Pegasus Bridge as well as the Airborne Cemetery at Renville. The area is easily accessible by ferry from Poole to Cherbourg and the a drive along

the coast road will take you through the American beaches of Utah & Omaha (with the enormous American Cemetery above Omaha Beach), the British Beach, Gold, the Canadian Beach named Juno and then Sword Beach where the British & French troops landed. Renville is about 5 km inland from Sword Beach.

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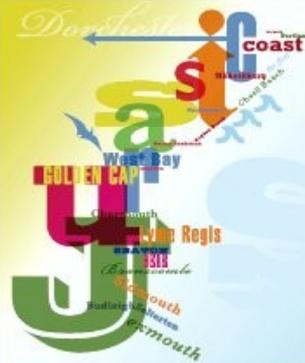


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## THATS LIFE

By Nat Bruzon

Patricia was furious! I had just walked into the house carrying a one gallon container full of petrol.

I tried to explain, but she would not listen. I put my foot down. It did not stay down for long. "Get that petrol out of the house," she screamed. "You'll stink the place out---or worse." I fled.

On the whole, some of my readers tend to be more sympathetic than my wife, so I shall explain to you what it was all about. I had read in yesterday's paper about a study which had been carried out by scientists regarding elderly people's sense of smell. These scientists have come to the conclusion that if the old find it increasingly difficult to detect the smell of certain pungent odours, it is a sign that they might 'pass on' soon. Things like onions and petrol, but for the most, they concentrated on petrol. I was concerned. So I quickly went to the petrol station, filled up my emergency petrol can and went swiftly home.

While Patricia was in the garden, after her initial reaction to my gallon of unleaded, I took a sniff of the petrol, and the 'aroma' hit my nose loud and clear. What a relief! My time had not yet come. My plan now was to put the petrol into containers at certain vantage points around the house, to ensure that I could smell the life saving nectar at all times and not lose the sense of its smell. In this way, longevity was guaranteed.....

When Patricia returned from her gardening, she sat down exhausted and asked me to make her a cup of tea. "Of course, at once my darling," I replied, hoping she would not notice the smell of petrol. When I brought her the tea, she told me that something--she knew not what--- had reminded her that her car was in urgent need of

a fill-up.. " And what's more, I can smell something odd."

I coughed to distract her. "Probably something you stepped on in the garden," I suggested. Grumbling that perhaps I was right for once, she took the tea and said she was going upstairs to take a shower.

I walked around the sitting room nervously (can one 'walk' in a 'sitting' room?) but I did not have long to wait.

" NATALIO !!!!" This was BAD. She only calls me by my full name when she is seriously, but SERIOUSLY annoyed with me. I went up the stairs slowly, the odour of petrol becoming stronger and stronger as I approached the bathroom. In a surprisingly calm, but icy tone, she asked. "Why is there a jam jar full of petrol by the basin? I nearly brushed my teeth in it.!" "Don't be cross my dear," I said, not optimistic that my plea would bear fruit. "Have you not read the papers? Petrol is like the new elixir of life. As long as you can smell it, you're in for the long haul. I did it for you."

The icy tone continued. "If every drop of the petrol you have stashed around the place is not out of the house and in my car in the next five minutes. your life expectancy will be just five minutes, petrol or no petrol." I grabbed the petrol jar and ran..... As I emptied all the containers into her car's petrol tank, I felt hurt.

You try and do someone a good turn, by helping her to live to a ripe old age, and this is all the thanks one gets. And then an awful thought struck me. What happens when all petrol cars are banned and we are only allowed to drive electric cars? Electricity doesn't smell !!

Oh well, it will have to be onions.....



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