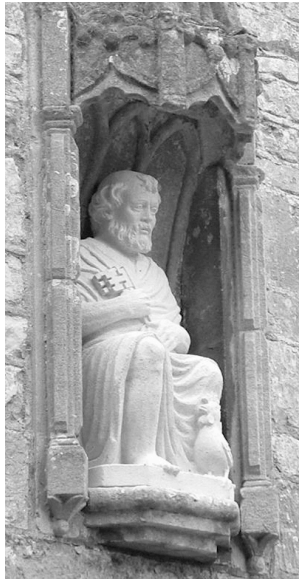


News from St.Peter's Camerton

September 2011



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SERVICES DURING SEPTEMBER

Sept. 4	Trinity 11	8.00 am 9.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion Evensong	Dunkerton Camerton Dunkerton
Sept. 11	Trinity 12	9.30 am 11.15 am	Holy Communion Family Service	Dunkerton Camerton
Sept. 18	Trinity 13	9.30 am 11.15 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Service Group Service	Camerton Dunkerton Bath Road Methodist, Peasedown S.J.
Sept. 25	Trinity 14	8.00 am 9.30 am 5.00 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion Harvest Supper	Camerton Dunkerton Camerton
October 2	Trinity 15	8.00 am 9.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion Evensong	Dunkerton Camerton Dunkerton
October 9	Trinity 16	9.30 am 11.15 am	Holy Communion Family Service	Dunkerton Camerton

From the Rectory

Do you know someone who was once a member of a Church and now no longer attend? We're told that 20% of the population were. It's easy to fall away, maybe when people move house – by the time you've found where your new Church is, so many other things

have taken your Sundays over ... Maybe they fell out with someone at the church years ago and stopped going – the world has moved on but they didn't feel able to go back ... Maybe they didn't like the vicar – but she's long gone ... and there are so many reasons why people have given up Church but would now like to return.

And it's our role as members of the congregation here at St Peter's to encourage and lead people to or back to God and the PCC at its last meeting agreed to join in with an initiative called 'Back to Church Sunday' to help you do just that.

'Back to Church Sunday' asks that those who are already members of the Church to invite someone we already know to do something we love; to invite our friend to our church. The initial focus was to invite 'back' those who used to attend, but we want to ensure that anyone who doesn't currently come to Church can be guaranteed a specially warm welcome – even if they've never been before.

For example, when Marion Kellow, who lives in Haversham in Oxfordshire, was invited to church on Back to Church Sunday by her friend Anne, a couple of years ago, she thought 'Why not?'

"I don't think I have ever been to a church service where I have laughed so much." 'Back to Church Sunday' changed the way she thought of church. "Churches to me were always cold, severe places in many ways, where you went and got preached at and told off on a Sunday - it wasn't much fun. Now it's different. It's very welcoming. I don't remember church being like that in my youth."

Marion encourages those who've also stopped going to church or have never been to church to 'give it a try and go with an open mind'. Marion continues to attend St Mary's in Haversham and encourages other Christians to continue inviting friends to church.

We're keeping 'Back to Church Sunday' this year on 18th September. Prayer Cards / Invitations have been handed out during recent services – if you haven't got one you'll find them at the back of Church. Think and remember in your prayers of those who you would like to invite to St Peter's and pluck up the courage to do so.

'Back to Church Sunday' is just one initiative – it's not the be all and end all of our mission. It's the responsibility of all of us to invite people to come to Church and to help them grow in faith – at all times. If we want this community of faith to grow then it's our responsibility – remember God has no hands but our hands.

Jesus is simply the most attractive and charismatic person who has ever lived. He is after all the Son of the Living God. He is our ultimate role model and shows us just what we can aspire to be as human beings if only we would let him. Let's invite people to worship Him.

Your friend in Christ,
Gordon Ripley

Recent Happenings

The night of Saturday August 13th may not have been the sunniest or hottest of the year, but there was no shortage of warmth in those spending the evening at David and Kathleen Dando's barbeque. There is probably a law against having such a fine time in good company, but if there is, it was happily broken by those who came, met friends old and new and enjoyed a great spread. The quality of the pork was particularly praised. Our thanks must go to David and Kathleen for all their hard work, as they do also to many others who contributed in different ways with organisation and food. On the financial side, £630 was raised for Church funds – a truly splendid effort.

Over three Sundays, we took a retiring collection in aid of the famine relief effort for East Africa. A total sum of £185.65 was given. This was rounded to £200 and sent, gift-aided, to the Disasters Emergency Committee and has been acknowledged.

Forthcoming Events

On Wednesday September 7th, it will be the turn of Ray & Audrey Hawkins to demonstrate, yet again, an example of the sociability of our community, as they hold their coffee morning from 10.30 – 12.00 noon at Glendale in Tunley. Please come.

Dates for your Diary

October is the month of the Camerton Variety Show – this year on Saturday, October 15th in the church at 7.30 pm in aid of the Association of Friends at St. Martin's Hospital, Bath. Donations, which should ideally be of a minimum of £5 per person, are requested and buffet refreshments will, as usual, be provided. If your Punch & Judy show, your juggling or your lion-taming act is not already scheduled to appear, Kathleen Dando can probably still find room on the bill for you!

September Church Services

On September 18th, we shall be holding a Parish Communion at 9.30 am for 'Back to Church Sunday' as discussed by Gordon in 'From the Rectory' (see above).

Our usual Evensong on September 25th will be replaced by the Harvest Service and Supper. As a result, the service will start at the earlier time of **5.00 pm.** and tickets will be needed by those wishing to stay for the supper. Please note that the charge will be £7.50 per person (not £5 as indicated in last month's newsletter). Contact Kathleen Dando (01761 470606) for your all-important authority to dine.

The Ten Lamps Group Service this month is at the usual time of 6.00 pm and will be at the Bath Road Methodist Church in Peasedown St. John.

From the Registers

August 14 th	Baptism	Louise Johnston Bradley Kevin Dakota Johnston Roxanne Kelly Louise Johnston Robert Leonard Smith
August 27 th	Holy Matrimony	Andrew William Jones and Sharon Louise Vickery

General Notes

Starting on Monday, September 5th, the House Group will resume its weekly meeting at Hawbuck House in Tunley between 2.30 and 4.00 pm. The subject will be 'Tough talk – the hard sayings of Jesus.' If you would like to attend please let Ann Meloy know so that she can order the right amount of material.

Churchyard clean-up dates for the rest of the year are the following Saturdays at 2.00 pm.

September 3rd September 24th October 8th

Thought for the month

A mother is someone who understands what her child can't say.

Len and Angela Ellen

Why, God? Why?

Early one morning recently a driver thought he or she would be safe to ignore the speed limit while approaching the village. After all, it was very early ... there was nobody around. As a result, an affectionate little cat hurrying home to greet her waking mistress was killed. My immediate thoughts on gathering up the sad little body lying by the hedgerow were bitter, half formed curses sent after whoever tore a hole in my life by their carelessness. I ranted tearfully against God as I dug a hole beneath the cherry tree in my garden. Selfishness in the form of 'why did you let this happen' pounded me from every side: a natural and common response to having one's life abruptly changed. Doubtless, you have known a similar reaction to an event – perhaps an unpleasant diagnosis in your own or a loved one's life, or a crisis at work, or, as in this case, an unexpected loss.

It would be easy to allow my anger to carry me through the dark days of mourning, to let bitterness overwhelm the little memories of warm, purring moments but, and here selfishness comes to the fore again, that will only harm me. The driver did take the time to move Pyewackett's body to the side of the road; he or she cannot have been left unaffected. Perhaps a more cautious approach to driving will ensue and a child running out into the road next week ... or next month ... or next year ... will be spared. We cannot know the chain of events cascading from every tiny episode in our lives – that is our human limitation – but God does know.

My role in this is to remember with grateful, if tearful, joy the time I had with my little cat and to have faith that, although I cannot see any reasoning behind it, God can. He brought Pyewackett into my life and if it be in His plan, doubtless, He will arrange for there to be other cats ... or dogs ... or elephants ...

In memory of Pyewackett (March 2003 – June 2011)

Patricia Main

LESSON READINGS AND PRAYERS

4th Sept. <i>Trinity 11</i>	9.30 am Holy Communion	Alma Smith Molly d'Oliveira Len Ellen	Exodus 12. 1-14 Romans 13. 8-14 Prayers
18th Sept. <i>Trinity 13</i>	9.30 am Holy Communion	Sylvia Ripley Philip Austin Revd. GR	Exodus 16. 2-15 Philippians 1. 21-30 Prayers
25th Sept. <i>Trinity 14</i>	5.00 pm Harvest	Joy Brown Len Ellen Ann Meloy	Deuteronomy 28. 1-14 2 Corinthians 9. 6-15 Prayers
2nd Oct. <i>Trinity 15</i>	9.30 am Holy Communion	Desmond Brown Eric Smith Revd. GR	Exodus 20. 1-4, 7-9, 12-20. Philippians 3. 4-14 Prayers