

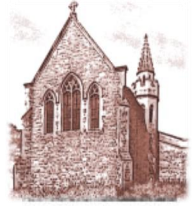
JUNE 2022

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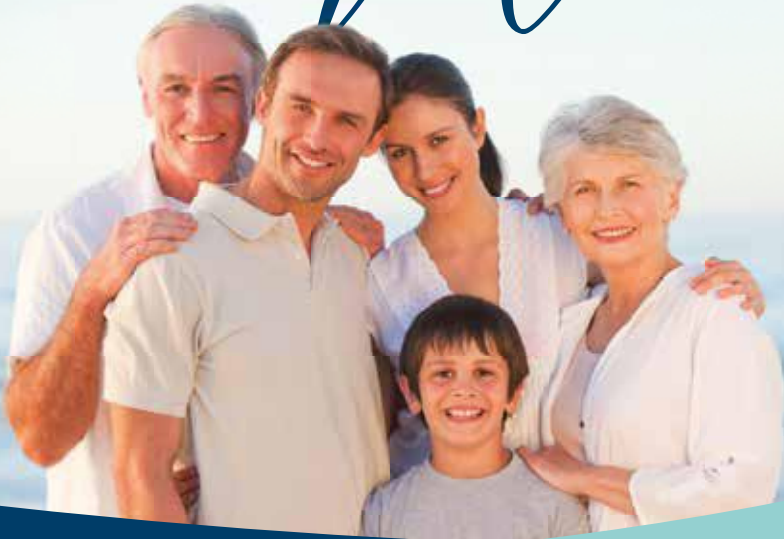


Lymington Parish News



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Lymington Parish News

St Thomas' and All Saints' Churches



St Thomas' Church
St Thomas Street
Lymington
SO41 9ND

All Saints' Church
All Saints Road
Lymington
SO41 8FD



Services

For details of Sunday and midweek services, please see the Diary inside.

Enquiries

There is a great deal of information to be found on our website:

www.lymingtonchurch.org

To enquire about weddings, baptisms, funerals, church and hall bookings please contact our **Parish Office** which is open at St Thomas' Church, Monday to Friday, 9.30a.m.—11.30a.m.

You can 'Meet the Vicar' by appointment on Tuesday evenings.

Administrator: Mrs Suzie Napleton

office@lymingtonchurch.org 01590 676194

Contacts

Vicar: The Revd Canon Peter Salisbury (day off Friday)
peter@lymingtonchurch.org 01590 673847

Churchwardens: Mr David Bridges, 01590 678732
 Mrs Maureen Harris, 01590 674458

LLM Emeritus: Mr Malcolm Ward, 01590 679651

Organist & Choir Director: Mr Martin Penrose, ARCO, LTCL,
penrosemusic@aol.com 02380 864439

Verger: Ms Helen Pocklington
helenpocklington@hotmail.co.uk 01590 673750

Tower Secretary: Mr Larry Stace, 01590 682417

Magazine

Publication date: 1st of each month. Please submit copy to the Editor by the 6th of the previous month; for regular columnists, the date is the 13th.

Editor and Advertising:

Nigel Mussett, *nigelmussett@gmail.com* 07531 179544 or 01590 718438

Subscriptions: Susan Canter-Visscher 01590 679666



THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The celebration of Pentecost is often called the Birthday of the Church, celebrating as we do the inspiration of the Holy Spirit giving us power and courage to proclaim the gospel in the world.

How wonderfully appropriate it is that we were given the opportunity to celebrate that feast in the "public square" of the Jubilee celebrations in Woodside Gardens organised by Lymington and Pennington Town Council.

My thanks go to the Council for inviting us, and for realising the importance of the Church in the life of Queen Elizabeth. She is not only the Governor of the Church of England but also has on many occasions publicly proclaimed the centrality of the Christian faith in her life.

Her life of faith and service is in marked contrast to that of the first of our monarchs who took the title of Governor of the Church of England. I'm sure that to Henry VIII the concept of "servant leadership" would simply have sounded like nonsense. And yet that is the tightrope that Jesus asked leaders in the Church to walk. He even washed the filthy feet of his astounded disciples to make the point.

It's in the context of that ideal of servant leadership that we should view the gift of the Spirit to the Church. When we talk of power we are not talking about power to get our own way or to boss other people about, we are instead in the realm of love, or the Kingdom of God to use a synonymous phrase.

In the life of the Church our power from the Spirit gives us patience and kindness, allows us to keep no record of wrongs and enables us to persevere. The Spirit leads us into a new way of life in which our fulfilment is found in the service of others.

It is precisely this sort of life that Queen Elizabeth II has modelled over these past seventy years, despite having the constant temptation before her, to which many of us would surely succumb: the power to tell the government EXACTLY what to do!

Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant." (Matthew 20.25-26)

Best wishes, Peter

MONTHLY EVENTS

Zoom Details – Prayer (1)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89529902640>
pwd=QVQxTGxjODdwV3ROT1gxM2NWUjN0dz09
or from a landline phone: 0203 481 5240; Meeting ID: 895 2990 2640:
Passcode: 2020

Zoom Details – Social (2)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85117060907>
pwd=SThHQWROTGRxSVROMEVVZlprTFJvdz09
or from a landline phone: 0203 481 5240; Meeting ID: 851 1706 0907:
Passcode: coffee

+ St Thomas' Church is open daily for visitors and private prayer +

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sunday:	8.00am	Early Communion
	9.15am	Choral Communion
	11.00am	Life & Soul Informal Service
Monday to Friday:	9.00am	Zoom Morning Prayer [1]
Monday:	12 noon	Monday Lunch - STH
Tuesday:	10.00am	Toddler Group - STH
	11.00am	Zoom <i>TakeTime</i> Ignatian Meditation [1]
	5.00pm	Meet the Vicar
Wednesday:	10.00am	Poetry Corner - STH (2nd Wednesday on Zoom)
	11.00am	Holy Communion
Thursday:	10.00am	Vistas Café - STH
Saturday:	9.00am	Prayers for the work of the parish - STC

JUNE EVENTS

Sun 5

PENTECOST

Morning Services as usual but Life & Soul will be at 11.00am at Woodside Gardens as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

JUNE EVENTS

Sun 12

TRINITY

Services as usual

Sun 19

TRINITY 1

9.00am

Services as usual including
Messy Church

Sun 26

TRINITY 2

9.15am

Services as usual including the laying up of
the Standard of the Royal British Legion's Women's
Section at the 9.15 service.

11.00am

Life & Soul including a talk by the Oberammergau
Team.

JULY EVENTS

Sun 3

TRINITY 3

8.00am

Early Communion

Please note that there will be no service at 9.15am.

10.30am

FAREWELL SERVICE TO PETER AND SARAH
SALISBURY



*We should like to wish
Happy June Birthday to...*



Edward Westbrooke + Robin Scovercroft

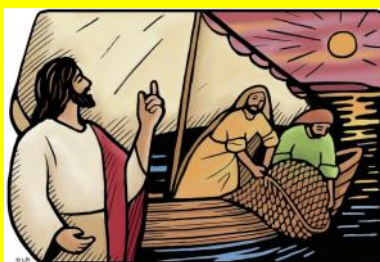
Cover image: the official logo issued to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952. It was designed by 19-year-old graphic design student Edward Roberts from Nottinghamshire.

Executed in platinum and imperial purple colours, it incorporates the number 70 and features a stylized St Edward's Crown, cleverly drawn using one continuous line.



St Thomas' Church
Lymington

Sunday 19 June



It's all about fishing?

Join us for breakfast from 9.00am followed by Bible stories, songs and messy fun.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Info and updates at www.lymingtonchurch.org/messy-church

Churchwardens' Notes

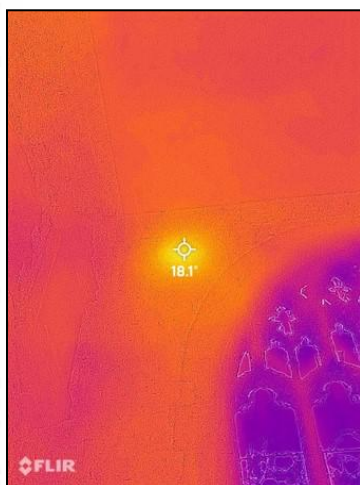
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3.5

We are in a great period of change in the parish but the Lord has already answered our prayers for a new Parish Administrator in Suzie and for two new Churchwardens in Mo and Chris. Peter's retirement in July requires us to pray to find the next incumbent God intends for us. We already have the Interregnum team of Chris Stroud, Mo Penrose, Marion Lewis, Mary Hill and Andy Clapper to enable this and it is important that we all support them in prayer.

Maureen and I officially hand over when Mo and Chris are sworn in. The office of Churchwarden is a legal one and can be traced back to the fourteenth century, the oldest democratically elected post in the country. The Archdeacon's Visitation at which this swearing in takes place will be on 22 June and I am sure that Chris and Mo would appreciate your prayers for the roles they have so willingly taken on.

You will have seen that the repair and restoration work on the east end is well under way. Any such work always comes with unforeseen difficulties and our first one appeared very early in the form of bees. We have a large colony of wild honey bees in the east wall of the chancel. We knew about them but once the scaffold was erected it became apparent that the contractors would not be able to work around them. It is rather difficult to repoint joints, cut out and replace rotten stone, remove and secure the coping stones, and clean the stonework without upsetting them! What should we do? Destroying the colony was never a solution. One option was to place a surrogate hive outside the wall and persuade

the bees to relocate. This would take months, and so was not practical. Another was to remove a section of wall and remove the nest, requiring a hole of about 1m in diameter. However, the structural engineer said the largest safe hole need only be 400mm. The clever solution our bee man has come up with is a 'bee gate' which will allow the bees in but when closed does not let them out. Whilst work is taking place nearby it can be closed and reopened as soon as it is practicable. I hope this solution will work and mean that we get to keep our bees. A bee colony generates heat and here is a thermal image of ours from inside the church.



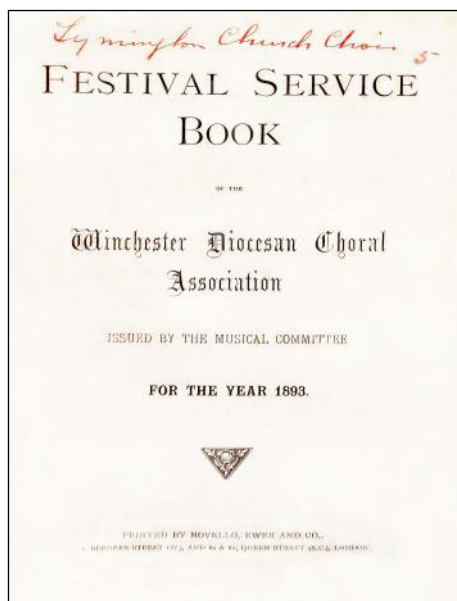
David Bridges



THE ORGANIST PIPES UP!

When surveying the contents of our church music library recently, it occurred to me that our choir is a pretty environmentally friendly group.

We may not perform our music from electronic devices as many musicians do nowadays, but we have copies which we regularly use dating back the best part of a century.



One of the older music copies we use at Choral Evensong is Stanford's setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B flat, which was published in 1902 and I suspect may have been purchased by the church in the 1920s.

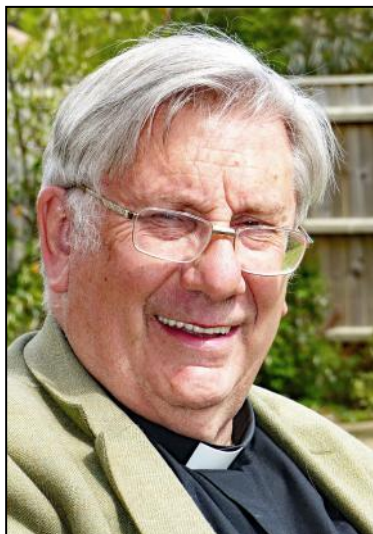
Our shelves include virtually all the Diocesan (now RSCM) Festival Service books back as far as 1893. We have used some of those Victorian copies (though admittedly not recently), but we regularly perform pieces from the books published in 1934 and 1939. We do, of course, also have plenty of rather more modern music.

My own music collection is similarly venerable, as I use lots of books that have been kindly given to me over the years by retired organists. The other week I played a piece from a volume purchased by my late father-in-law, who was an organist in the Brighton area in the 1920s and 30s. Composed by the 18th century organist Jonathan Battishill, I had noted in pencil that I last performed it in February 2014 and I rather suspect no-one anywhere has played it since!

Martin Penrose

Introducing the Revd Richard Morrison

**A member of our team of retired clergy who officiate at
St Thomas' Church**



The first service I attended at St Thomas' was on the morning of Ash Wednesday 2018 and I had the definite feeling that I had found my new spiritual home. Since then, I have attended quite a few services at St Thomas', mostly at 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning. I have also joined one of the Church home groups that meets on Tuesday afternoons and I am very grateful to have been made to feel so welcome in both settings.

Having been trained at Salisbury & Wells Theological College my full-time ordained ministry all took place in the Diocese of Lincoln, starting with four years as a curate at St Botolph's Church, Boston Stump, which means that I can claim the distinction of having preached from the same pulpit as Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1961-1974, who ministered at Boston Stump in the 1930s. After leaving Boston in 1993 I was responsible for a number of very, very rural parishes until retiring in 2017.

Although I am very fond of Lincolnshire and its people, I decided to move to Milford-on-Sea for my retirement because deep down I have always thought of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as home. I was born in Fareham, and for ten years (from age 4 to age 14) I lived at Cowes where my father was a sergeant in the police force. We then moved to Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk.

My chief hobbies are reading, going to the theatre (when Covid allows) and going to football and cricket matches.

Richard Morrison
Photo: courtesy of Brian Cox

HOUSE GROUPS

Spring clean your life!

Now is the time when we often deep clean our homes, declutter our winter wardrobes and make fresh starts.

How about spring cleaning your spiritual life too?

House Groups are just the place in which to do this!

Join with other like-minded people to explore, question and develop your faith.

Groups meet in various home settings on a weekly or fortnightly basis. They are ideal opportunities in which to meet and get to know others who you may only have snatched conversations with in passing at a church service.

No one presumes to have more knowledge than anyone else and everyone learns together, making use of Notes that are based around the teaching on Sundays.

House Groups provide a non-threatening, accepting space in which to ask questions and broaden your knowledge.

They also provide a supportive base for pastoral support and prayer. There are limited numbers in each Group so that each person can be heard and enabled to grow in confidence.

Group Leaders are experienced in leading small groups and facilitating discussion. They are trusted members of the Church.

To find out more, contact the House Groups Co-ordinator Rina Miles via the Church Office:

01590 676194 or office@ymingtonchurch.org

Are you in need of a Deep Clean?

Linda Lee

Lymington C. of E. Infants' School



The three words, *Love, Courage and Respect* can clearly be seen at the entrance to the Infants' School and are the core Christian values which shape everything that the school does.

The School is Voluntary Aided, meaning that it is funded by the Local Authority but with a Christian ethos. The Church of England's 2016 vision for education is '*Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*' and this vision is at the heart of all C. of E. schools and is what makes them distinctively different from other local authority schools. The school is inspected by Ofsted and also by the Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

The Governing Body

Every school has a Board of Governors whose purpose is to provide strategic leadership, to support the school and to hold the leaders to account for the school's educational and financial performance. At Lymington, the Board consists of one Local Authority Governor (nominated by Hampshire County Council), two Parent Governors (elected by the parents), a Staff Governor, and six Foundation Governors nominated by the Parish and appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education and who must constitute a majority on the Board. The Vicar and the Headteacher are *ex officio* members of the Board.

The Governors

The Governors at Lymington have a wide variety of experience that they bring to the Board (e.g. in social work, business, finance, education, governance) and all have a desire to work voluntarily to support the school and to ensure that all children receive the best possible education at the start of their school lives. The Governing Body meets once a month with the Headteacher to discuss matters relating to the children and staff in the school. Each Board member has a particular area of responsibility (safeguarding, financial management, human resources, teaching and learning, health and safety) and reports to the full Board each month.

Peter, the Vicar, leads worship once a week and has worked with the Headteacher on the cycle of Bible stories used throughout the school. All Governors frequently visit the school in their particular role to meet the teaching staff, the support staff and the children. They also accompany staff and pupils on trips arranged to further the children's education, attend special events during the school year and join the staff and children at St Thomas' on special occasions like Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

Foundation Governors

The Foundation Governors meet as a sub-group several times a year and, as well as addressing the broader aims shared by the whole Board of Governors, work closely with the Headteacher to ensure that the school is providing a distinctively Christian education and is following the guidance provided by SIAMS.

The Lymington Infants' School Governors are all actively involved in the school and find their involvement both rewarding and appreciated. Church members are always welcome to fill vacancies as a Foundation Governor and of course others are encouraged to join the larger Governing Board when opportunities arise. The Lymington Infants' School is a key responsibility of the church and local community – so do offer your support in any way you can!

*Mary Hill,
Foundation Governor*

Exploring the Future Together



Love, Courage, Respect

In recent months, members of our Eco team have continued to be busy. We continue to look at every aspect of church life to ensure we are as environmentally responsible as possible: composting our coffee grounds, for example. We have also spoken to two Deanery Synods (groups of clergy and lay people) about Eco Church, and last month Maureen and Rosie spoke to the Lymington u3a about our Eco journey, and what everyone can do to be 'greener'.

IPCC report – no time to waste

The most recent IPCC report, *Climate Change 2022*, reminds us that unless fossil fuel usage is reduced quickly, we run the risk that global heating breaches 2°C, imperilling people and ecosystems world-wide. In April this year India and Pakistan experienced record-breaking intense heat. April's average high was 40.2°C (104°F). Heat like this can kill people and has affected crops. Please keep praying that our local, national and international leaders will choose the right course to reduce emissions.

Photo: sharing out ice to keep cool; Reuters/Amit Dave



A Rocha Ghana

In Ghana, A Rocha is encouraging agroforestry to promote the planting of trees, and help farmers create a more sustainable future. There are benefits all round, as farmers diversify their income while contributing to building climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and watershed management. Give thanks for Christians bringing imagination and expertise to help both people and planet.



Saving the world

Can you save the world from the impact of climate change? The *Financial Times* has produced the 'Climate Game', free to 'play' on line. What decisions would you make? Who would make the best advisers? Test out your ideas and see what results they might achieve!

Rosie Ward

The Ten Commandments

“Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” (Exodus 20.12)

Sir John Bond was for a number of years the Chairman of HSBC (the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation). Once every six months he would leave his office and his luxury suite in The Peaks, Hong Kong, to fly over to a humble cottage in East Sussex and take his nonagenarian mother out to lunch!

Such respect of a son to his widowed mother is far from unique, and every example warms the heart. The Fifth Commandment heartily commends every such appreciative gesture of filial love and gratitude. But those of us for whom both parents are no longer alive are not exempt from the scope of this Commandment.

The Commandment is also an inter-generational instruction urging all people to respect the virtues of the whole older generation before them by steering clear of any age-old and injurious vices. It implies that grateful solidarity between generations, both within families, communities and nations, is a guarantee of national identity and social stability.

St Paul has a number of lists of human vices. One such vice, twice mentioned, is “disobedience to parents” (Romans 1.30 and II Timothy 3.2). He means it literally, without doubt; but it is also transferable to disobedience to ancestral traditions and ethics.

One of the bones of contention between Jesus and the Pharisees was that the Pharisees tried to work their way around the Fifth Commandment: “Moses said, ‘Honour thy father and thy mother’ ... but ... ye make the word of God of none effect through your tradition.” (Mark 7.10 and 13)

Fluidity in inter-generational loyalties was a warning sign of a community or a society on the slide. If the Fifth Commandment were to be downgraded, what might happen to the other nine?

Note that both Old Testament and New Testament begin with books recording History — not only because the collective Hebrew mind worshipped God as the God of History, but also as a gesture of respect to earlier generations and founding fathers.

William Cummings



Thoughts in a Mizmaze

By Sylvia Pepin

Thoughts sometimes flow randomly
They flow ———— this way ———— that way
Coalesce
Break apart
Join again
A spark of recognition,
I've been here before,
But
It's different
What's different?
Only what's under my feet,
The far vista is still the same ————
The goal ——— the same.
Some things don't change.
So, if our goal is God
We only have to walk the path
No hesitation or deviation
And in a minute we may
Get to the end
Without interruption.

So here in the mizmaze of our life
We are continually
Interrupted
Deviated
And are hesitant.

But if we but
Follow the path
Truly
And
Faithfully
We will
Reach
Our goal
God.

Written in the three-hour service of meditation on Good Friday 2022.



OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!

Christian essays inspired by the New Forest

5. The Streams and Watersheds

The Streams

The Forest streams may be small but they are extremely reliable. Not even in the searing summer of 1976 did they fail. There is always enough for the depastured stock and the wild animals. Many, but not all, of the streams are tributaries of the Lymington or Beaulieu Rivers or, on a grander scale, of the Avon or the Test. They benefit outstandingly from the fact that they flow not through farmland soaked in nitrates nor through towns producing sewage but through the priceless sanctuary of the New Forest.



Puttles Bridge by Sylvia Pepin

One stream that remains its own master from source to sea is Plummer's Water. This rises at Greenmoor on the Open Forest above Pilley and then skirts the east of the village before giving water to Bull Hill, Newtown and Norley. Finally, this stream, together with a few still shorter ones, feeds the ornamental ponds and lakes of Pylewell where it used to power the estate mill. It flows into the sea east of the Lymington River. The total length of the stream is not above three miles. Yet it is a complete river in miniature. What it achieves along its way would be the envy of many a vaster stream. It brings life and variety to the amazing aquatic, bird and insect population of the Forest. What could be more wonderful in colour and movement than the shimmering dragonflies and damselflies along its upper length? Where would be the farms and homesteads of Bull Hill and Norley without its living water down the centuries? How could the magnificence of

Pylewell, as 'emparked' after Napoleon's time, have been engineered or enjoyed without its constant supply of good water? Would not the shore itself be a poorer and less picturesque place without the mouth of Plummer's and its group of pine trees?

Crockford's Stream is the eastern neighbour of Plummer's Water. It has the distinction of being a main source of water for the great fish-pond of Beaulieu Abbey at Sowley. The upper reaches of the two streams are similar and internationally recognised by naturalists for the wealth of life that they support.

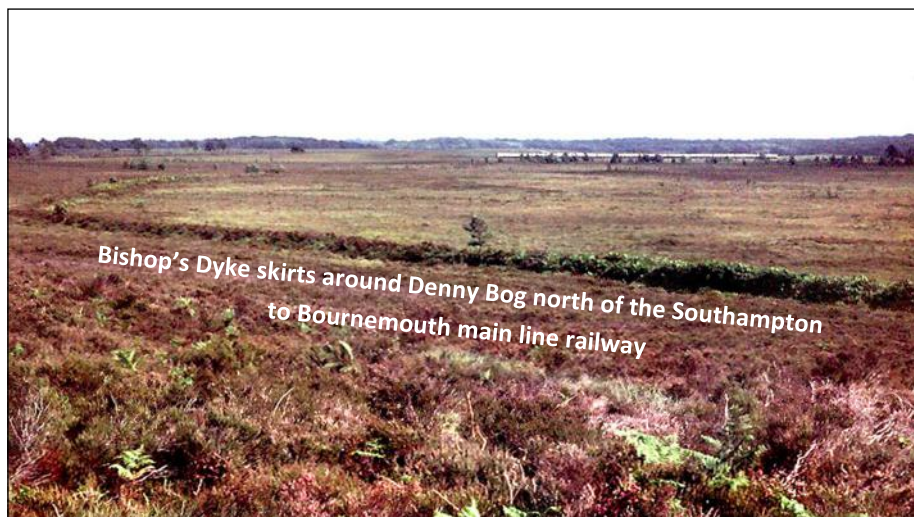
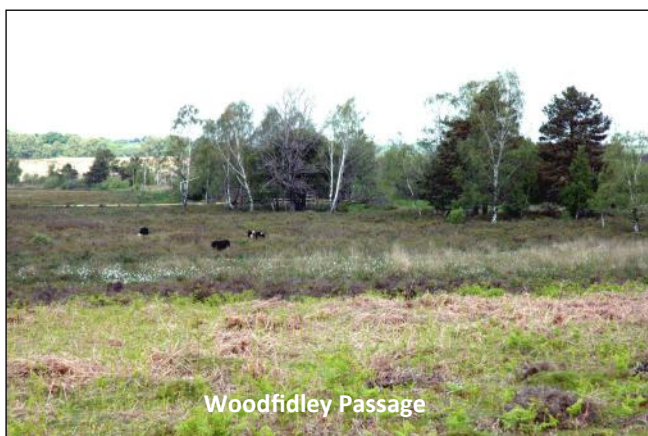


Streams like these two, and indeed the Lymington and Beaulieu Rivers themselves, are an immense blessing and gift in these days of pollution and overcrowding. To walk beside them, and how easy it is to do that, prompts thoughts of that very fine and underrated 47th chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy, where the writer has the vision of the pure water flowing from the temple of God and giving rise to an immense variety of new life and healing along its banks: "Wherever the river goes", says he, "every living creature which swarms will live, and there will be very many fish." And, of the trees on both banks, "their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing." The theme is echoed in the clarion call of the very last chapter in the Bible where the writer is shown "the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and from the Lamb."

The Watersheds

Some of the Forest watersheds are easy to spot, but not all. An example of the latter is the watershed between the Lymington and Beaulieu Rivers. When walking in the beautiful area between Ladycross and Denny Lodge one can find this watershed at Woodfidley Passage, well named from the point of view of the Commoners' stock as they seek to move around in wet winter weather. For people who are walking it is not always easy to know what water goes to which river in places of this sort.

Is not that a picture of life's uncertain ambiguities? Often the question "What would Jesus do?" has no obvious answer. Gentle and slight the passage at Woodfidley may be, but it has a unique feature, the Bishop of Winchester's Purlieu. This was said to be the maximum area the bishop could go round in a day on his knees. It is enclosed by the Bishop's Dyke, a mediaeval earthwork pierced twice by the Southampton and Dorchester Railway on its way from Beaulieu Road to Brockenhurst and still clearly visible. Evidently Captain Moorsom, the original surveyor for the railway, thought little of archaeology. Whether you were the bishop in a penitential mood or a railway passenger in modern times, you would have the chance for a prayer at this spot, a chance that should not be missed. Pray for the two rivers on either side of you and thank God for the peace of the place. Woodfidley has in fact a second association with water. The Forest tradition is that a quiet day of mist and soft rain is referred to as a 'Woodfidley Day'.





The headwaters of Millersford Brook arising as a seepage mire at Turf Hill near Bramshaw Telegraph, the highest point of the New Forest.

There is nothing in the Forest approaching the famous watershed above St Moritz where you can see the headwaters of the Rhine, the Rhone and the Danube, turning your thoughts to the North Sea, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea together. But there is Bramshaw Telegraph, the Forest's highest point from which you contemplate the Test to the east and the Avon to the west, each of them a fine prospect. But why a telegraph? That refers not to an electrical machine of the 1850s but to the semaphore telegraphs at high points which brought the Admiralty into quick communication with the naval bases of the south during the war with Napoleon. So here we may think on the grand scale of international strategy, praying for peace throughout the world and saying with the psalmist, "The lot is fallen unto me in a fair ground; yea, I have a goodly heritage." (Psalm 16.6)

Gordon Wynne

PRAYER THOUGHTS

IN EVERY TRANSITION AND CHANGE...

God of Love,

You are with us in every transition and change.

As we move towards a new era and seek to know your will for the future, we bring to mind your deep compassion and abounding love for your people.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We ask that we may use them wisely and productively to support our church and to bring glory to your name.

We thank you for our experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward in accord with your plans, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Malcolm Ward

'For surely I know the plans I have for you,' says the LORD, 'plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.' Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSVA)



Take a Stroll through the Chuckyard

The churchyard at St Thomas' this spring has been ablaze once more with snowdrops, crocuses, primroses and bluebells. Early blossom on the *Prunus* has provided additional colour while the delicate tints of the young leaves emerging from winter buds on the trees will have been admired by those taking a closer look.

Illustrated below are some of the species which have appeared so far this year or which we may expect to see over the summer months.



1. *Prunus* blossom with daffodils, March.
2. Fritillary, May.
3. Corncockle, July.
4. Yellow-rattle, June.



As spring turns into summer, take a walk along Peter Luker's carefully mown paths amongst the long grass at the northern end of the churchyard and admire the variety of grasses during May and June, the prolific Crow Garlic and possibly some of the wild species of meadow plants which have been planted out in recent years by Andrew Foster on behalf of the Churchyard Group in an attempt both to increase the biodiversity and attract more insect pollinators. Plugs of Yellow-rattle, Fritillary, Corncockle, Borage and a wild Geranium are amongst several species which have all now been introduced to enhance the existing spectacle of Green Alkanet, Ox-eye Daisy and Celandines (both Lesser and Greater), to name but a few of the flowers already present. Our list of over 100 species of flowering plants and ferns is constantly updated. An abundantly fruiting Crab and an ornamental Rowan have been added to the well-established collection of trees and shrubs to replace recent losses in our three-acre churchyard. Look out for the butterflies and birds which frequently visit us. We have set up four bird boxes, four swift boxes and three boxes for bats and a group of young people helped to construct a bug hotel in 2019.

The seven sapling Small-leaved Limes planted in 2021 seem to have taken successfully and will in time fill the gaps created by the taller hybrid lime trees which have either fallen down or been felled. All of our mistletoe was removed in a recent pollarding and it will be interesting to see if new infestations appear.

Small groups of dedicated volunteers are responsible for managing selected areas of the churchyard either by mowing the grass, cutting back woody growth of ivy and brambles, or by trimming the shrubs and low-lying branches in the accessible areas. The Town Council mows part of the churchyard on a regular basis.

Look carefully and you might also spot what Rina Miles has delightfully called our "Churchyard Gnomes" — another group of individuals who are examining and recording all of our 2000+ churchyard memorials. Surprisingly enough, no complete or systematic record of these exists although various attempts have been made in the past, but all, alas, are far from complete and none, with the exception of the cremation plaques, show exactly where the memorials are to be found. From time to time we receive enquiries from visitors researching their family history and if we had a comprehensive record of what is to be found at St Thomas' then we should be in a better position to be able to help. There is still plenty of work to be done and new members of the team are always welcome.

Close links have been established with St Barbe's Museum which houses a considerable archive of documents and artefacts relating to local history. The staff there are most welcoming and helpful, and it is good to be able to work together for our mutual benefit.

Finally, if you haven't seen them already, don't forget to take a look at the Autumn Lady's-tresses in the Courtyard during September. This intriguing little plant was only discovered here in 2020 and is the last (and one of the smallest) of our native wild orchids to come into flower each year.

Nigel Mussett



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