



The Grapevine

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with "Grapevine"
in the heading



It’s Friday, but Sunday’s a’comin’

Recently I have heard a number of preachers refer to those periods of Jewish history outlined in the Old Testament and referred to as exile. The exile they have been talking about is the exile in Babylon and not the exile in Egypt, though this would have served their purpose equally well should they have chosen it.

Their theme will be familiar. If my memory serves me well I preached on an exilic psalm myself on the occasion of my inauguration service in the Cathedral almost ten years ago (time flies when you’re enjoying yourself!). Preachers look around them and take in what they see. What they saw in the community of God’s people in exile in Babylon has some parallels with the Church in our nation today. The sense that the Church is a marginal and minority voice in a world of boundless unbelief and secularization. The 2011 Census results show that those who self define themselves as Christian has dropped by 11% in just ten years. Like those Jews of old in exile, we wonder where it will all end?

Living in a culture whose values and beliefs are not our own is not easy. Feeling we are a minority is not a bed of roses either, although it does at least help us better empathise with other minority groups. Of course it’s easy to overdo this and not everything that the world regards as progressive is bad simply because we didn’t think of it. We need the wisdom to be clear in our minds so we can see the difference between good progress and bad. That said, I can see some parallels between the mindset of those Jews of old and where we Christians find ourselves here in the West in the 21st century.

- They showed signs of flagging morale. The culture in which they found themselves was alien and not necessarily open to them practicing their religion. They constantly wondered where God was in all this.
- They showed a sense of lost perspective. They stopped believing that ‘things could only get better.’ They had an inclination to behave and identify themselves as victims. In Ezekiel we also see a people who blamed their present lot on the sin of their predecessors (Ezekiel 18). They almost became their own self-fulfilling prophecy.
- They didn’t know how best to live in that alien culture. Should they withdraw and keep themselves to themselves? Well such tactics really never work and tend to create a very inward looking community absorbed with issues that frankly no-one else remotely thinks of as even worthy discussion.

Should they simply accommodate the new culture. Just ‘go with the flow’. To some extent we all find ourselves doing that and the fact that today, many of the people who attend our churches look like everybody else, is proof enough that none of us will escape the need and the tendency to accommodation, but only up to a point. The problem is that we can’t agree on when we have passed the point of no return!

Or the other temptation is to endlessly complain. I am of the age now where that is such a temptation to my friends and me. Supper parties where we all bang on about ‘health and safety gone mad’, politicians, the way the world is compared to the (sentimental) world in which we were brought up, ‘those wonderful red telephone boxes and the sound of a steam train, yada, yada’ It maybe good sport, but it doesn’t really move anyone on! Alienated people have a deep need to complain.

You can quickly begin to see that there are some parallels. It would be easy to let our morale sink in our present context. It would be easy to wonder where God is in all these depressing statistics. It’s easy to blame others – General Synod, our forbears, the way we’re trained, politicians, whatever, but we must never allow ourselves to sink in the mire of blame culture. Apart from anything else it’s extremely disempowering. It means we shall never take responsibility for improvement and just get stuck.

The prophets told it how it was and how it might be. They pointed out some hard truths, but they were also bearers of hope. We are a people of hope.

TRIBULATION

Obeying God is difficult, not an easy thing to do
Think on His Son who endured such hurt because God asked Him to
Not just the pain of suffering though that was hard to bear
The agony was losing God, on the Cross, He was not there
To back Our Lord through His dying for the sins of all mankind
Such obedience! Feel encouraged when seeking Peace of Mind.
If Jesus Christ is with you, there is nothing you cannot face
Nail your problems to His Cross and hold on to your Faith
God will help you when life is hard if through His Son you speak in prayer
For He is constant, by your side, be assured He is always there.

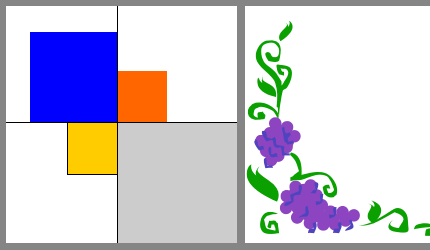
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Mike - Lent 2013

Hankerton Church Services April - June 2013

April	7 th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
		4 pm	Young Church
	18 th	7:30	Holy Cross ACPM
	21 st	11 am	Morning Prayer
May	18 th	7:30	Holy Cross ACPM
	21 st	11 am	Morning Prayer
	5 th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
		4 pm	Young Church
June	9 th	7:30	Ascension day Group Service Ashley
	19 th	11 am	Morning Prayer
	2 nd	9:30 am	Holy Communion
		4 pm	Young Church
	16 th	11 am	Morning Prayer

Forward dates
God willing and with the Bishop's approval on June 30th 3:30 pm at Bristol Cathedral I will be made a priest.
We plan to have another coach taking people from here to the Cathedral, details nearer the time.
I would like to thank all of you for your support and help throughout the years and I pray that I can help each of you too.
We will be celebrating my first communion (being able to take it) on the 7th July here at Hankerton,
Sarah Wyman Curate



The Grapevine

Issue 100

April 2013

Editorial

A newsletter has circulated within Hankerton for well over 20 years: initially it was edited, on behalf of the Church, by George Ferris, who handed over the baton to Susan Mockler for the first edition of a newsletter containing more general village news in September 1996. It remained anonymous for several months until the current title was selected (from a choice of one!) for the third edition. Issue 23 saw the present format adopted, produced ‘in house’, with glorious colour appearing in time for the Christmas edition of 2000.

The above is part of an editorial from the December 2004 edition of The Grapevine, as you can see from the insert in this edition there has in fact been a newsletter in the village in one form or another for over 100 years. The 1913 newsletter print quality is not brilliant but it does give you an insight into life in Hankerton in those days, some of the names mentioned

in it will be people related to, or remembered by, some of our readers today. Having reached their goal of 100th issue, the present editorial team is retiring and handing over the job to an even older team!

One of our editors, Frances, has actually been involved with the village newsletter for 28 years, she first started by helping George Ferris produce the newsletter on her kitchen table using an old Gestetner printing machine, how technology has changed! We wish the new editorial team well with the next 100 Grapevine issues and will let them introduce themselves in the next edition.

Could we remind readers that if you have any articles for the next Grapevine, in June, that you send them to Craig McCallum, his details are on the back page.

Eds. Brian Dalton,
Frances Dalton,
David Pynn

FASHION SHOW



18th May 7.30pm
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Charlton Village Hall
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Street Fayre 2013

This year's Street Fayre will be on Monday 26 August and we are intending to have a photographic competition as part of the display in the Church. So to give you encouragement to get out and about with your camera here are the categories:-

1. Children's eye-view
2. The landscape
3. A photo taken within the churchyard which could be the Church itself, any part of the church (inside or outside) or any part of the churchyard.
4. A village character or characters

All photographs must be taken within the Parish boundary.
Children are classified as being 16 and under.

Further details of the Street Fayre will be published in a later edition but please do put the date in your diary. For further details please contact Claudine Pynn.

Next Newsletter to be published in June copy to
Craig McCallum,
19 Follyfield
by 10th May please.
All opinions expressed will be solely those of the correspondent

Thanks

We would like to send heartfelt thanks to all those who so kindly helped us when we were flooded last November. Thanks to all those who gave us food and shelter and a bed for the night; those who shopped for us and who tried to find alternative accommodation and many who offered to help in any way. To all we say how grateful we are and how much we appreciate living in such a wonderful neighbourhood. We are back in the house and just hope that this summer will be drier than last.

Joan & Sidney Roxan

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The Lady and Gentlemen golfers of Hankerton are getting ready to swing into the coming Spring. One presumes that with the lighter evenings of the past few weeks our golfers have been encouraged to prepare themselves mentally and physically for the excitement of the coming season of fun, laughter, companionship, coupled with inevitably the despair of a missed putt or wayward drive but that is of course the attraction of this most marvellous of games, so let us all just get into the swing of things.

As a man once said "A golf swing is like a suit case in which we are trying to pack too many things" Eric Heyburn once said "There are 32 things to remember about a golf swing, a professional does very well to remember 28 of them!" So Hankerton golfers keep taking your memory pills.

Personal preparations are under way for the now imminent tour of South Wales, brilliantly organised by David.

Glucosimine and Omega 3 capsules are being taken to loosen the limbs, Cortisone injections to free up stiff shoulders and elbows, long johns and base layers are washed and ironed, wet weather gear being bought or checked for leaks, golf shoes dublined balls washed and checked for dimples, cars serviced, translation books purchased or borrowed ready for the long trip to "Yaci da " land. It will be great fun and a full report should be in the next edition of the Grapevine edited by Craig.

Spring is not only the start of the golfing season but Spring Weddings, so to finish with a smile

The Bride was being escorted up the aisle, and when she reached the altar she noticed the groom was standing there with his golf clubs.

She said " What are you doing with your golf clubs here ?"

He looked her right in the eyes and said

"This is not going to take all day is it ?"

Peter Jefferis

Marie Curie Cancer Care

We will be holding our Walk Ten event at the Badminton Estate this summer, on Saturday 31st August and I wondered if you could help make it a huge success?

There are 17 Walk Tens taking place in various locations throughout the UK this summer. We are so pleased the Badminton Estate is our South West location for 2013. The event starts at 7pm and is a sponsored 10km twilight walk through the deer park and wood-land of the Badminton estate as the sun begins to set. Following the walk as the stars light up the night, you will be invited to settle down to your home made picnic by the Worcester Lodge or enjoy the food on offer from local caterers as live music and entertain-ment play on, culminating in a fireworks display at 10pm, to mark the time when Marie Curie nurses begin their night shift, caring for patients with a terminal illness in Wiltshire, South Gloucestershire and throughout the South West.

We have a promotion at the moment that for anyone who registers before June 30th they will be included in a prize draw to win their picnic on the night, courtesy of Papadeli and The Organic Hamper Company.

You can watch a video about Walk Ten and get a real feel for the event by clicking on the following link www.mariecurie.org.uk/walkten and of course if you would like to sign up and take part yourself (and possibly win a picnic hamper) you can either register online at www.mariecurie.org.uk/badminton or by calling **0845 052 4184**. Under 16’s walk for FREE and dogs are welcome too!

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The meeting was pleased to welcome back Craig McCallum as the evening’s speaker. It has become an almost annual event that Craig presents a talk on a famous battle. This year it was to be ‘The Battle of Gettysburg’. Despite one of the coldest and most unpleasant nights outside the church the audience warmed to Craig’s setting out the events leading up to the battle.

Confederate and Union forces had met on several occasions during the previous 3 years whilst in Virginia and then in Maryland. The Confederates wanted to move north into Pennsylvania to make their mark with the politicians.

The army of General Robert E Lee leading the Confederates and General George Mead leading the Union forces met at Gettysburg, a battle which is considered to be the most significant in the civil war. The battle lasted three days while Union forces held the high ground and forced General Lee into a retreat from which his forces did not really recover. Around 8000 men died as a result of this clash and some 26000 were injured.

It was not the first or the last battle but put an end to General Lee’s ambition to influence the north. It was a stepping stone to peace. Four months later President Abraham Lincoln gave the well known ‘Gettysburg Address’ to bring the nation together.

Craig led us through this complex story and vividly showed us how the battles before led to this confrontation and how the Commanders on the day used their forces to gain advantage of one another. The History Group would like to thank Craig for the enormous amount of work he had done in preparation of this evening and for a most professional presentation. It should also be noted that Brian Dalton although not present on the night gave Craig substantial assistance over the videos which accompanied the talk for which we are also very grateful.

Bunny Lees-Smith

AGM May 21st. 7.30 p.m.

A short AGM will be followed by an informal evening, ‘Living Memories of Hankerton’.

We plan to have a small exhibition of photographs with informal chats about people’s memories of living in Hankerton over the last 80 years. We will be including some written material and voice recordings from past residents.

Would you like to know about the farms and farming, schooling, village events, flooding, Hankerton without electricity and what winters were like etc.?

Then come along and find out.

The History Group Committee.

Neighbourhood Watch

There has been a spate of burglaries in the North Wilts area of late and I should like to remind residents that it is advisable to keep your external doors locked, even if you are at home, your garden sheds secure and your car parked in the drive locked. Also, if you do see anyone behaving suspiciously please do contact the police. If a crime is in the process of being committed do use the 999 service rather than dialling 101.

Closer to home, the police were asked to visit a house in Hankerton following instances of illegal entry, theft and anti-social actions.

Be safe.

Claudine Pynn

The Wheatsheaf pub in Crudwell was burgled last week Eds.

Advance news from your local Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds is once again organising its *Horseless Team Event* in Badminton Park on Sunday, October 6th 2013. The *Horseless Team Event* is a rare opportunity for (horseless) runners or walkers to take on parts of the world famous Badminton Horse Trials obstacles.

Runners can enter for either of the traditional 5 or 9 mile courses, or do 13 miles and can enter as either as an individual or a team. Walkers can do the 5 mile circuit and choose whether to go over or around the obstacles!

In either case this is a golden opportunity to see around the generally private grounds of the Badminton Estate – so have a look at www.lte-rcsc.co.uk – and put the date in your diary!

The Rotary Club of the South Cotswolds is the local Rotary Club, serving Malmesbury, Tetbury and the surrounding villages – for more information about our club see www.rcsc.co.uk/

Technology!

Its official.....it got the better of me!


My apologies to you if you have been trying to contact me by email and failed. The server (some clever bit of kit at my main office) got a virus and was being very picky about accepting emails. I am told that this has now been fixed. If only the viruses we catch were as speedily cured!

This leads me to thinking about modern life and how frustrating it can be when we know what we want, but can’t make it happen. Sometimes it’s because we can’t identify who can help or because the people who can help are difficult to get through to on the phone. Other information is only available on the internet.

Accessing information is one of the ways that I may be able to help. Technology does sometimes get the better of me, but I won’t be defeated!

Give me a call on 07557 922020 or (dare I say it) email me on malmesburygnc@communityfirst.org.uk.

Ellen Blacker Good Neighbour Co-ordinator



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