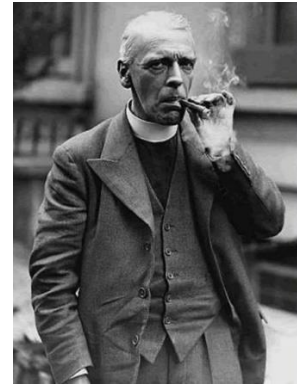
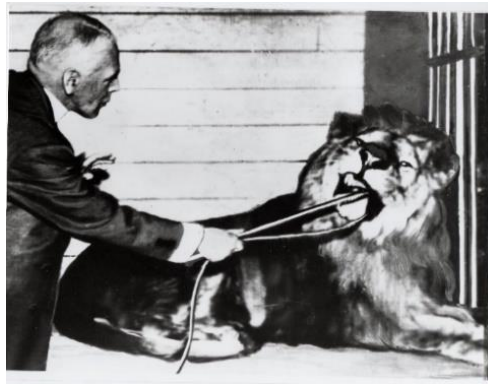
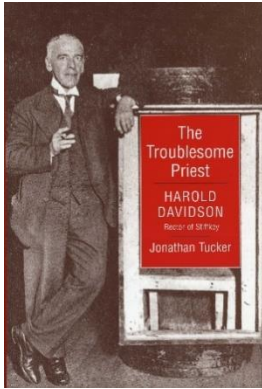


LECTURE

Jonathan Tucker: 'The Scandalous Vicar of Stiffkey'.



Friday 20th November 2026, 7pm – 8pm

Location: The Rausing Building, Old Moravian Church, Oxford St, Malmesbury SN16 9AX

Tickets: £15 per person including a glass of wine or soft drink

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ANTONIA TOZER

AT: antoniatozer@aol.com, tel. 07968025154.

Further to his three recent lectures on the Silk Road, on Police work in 1980s Hong Kong, and on Classic World Cinema, Jonathan Tucker is delighted to invite you to a further talk, the subject this time being the story of the great British eccentric, Reverend Harold Francis Davidson MA (1875-1937). The lecture provides an account of one of the most extraordinary scandals of the 20th century. Its principal character was described by A.J.P. Taylor as a 'parable of the age' and was one of the most unique and colourful icons of the era. His fall, brought about by a combination of hubris, poor judgement and church politics, was truly spectacular.

A vicar, a married man with five children, stands accused of immoral behaviour. The tabloid press indulge in a feeding frenzy, initiating a bidding war to secure exclusives from the various protagonists. The vicar and the star witness both sell their stories to the tabloids and the vicar is eventually ruined by a doctored paparazzi photograph - sound familiar?

It happened in 1932.

This story has been the subject of books, stage plays, musicals, a short film by Ken Russell and a recent 'The Rest is History' podcast. Jonathan's definitive biography of the notorious vicar is *The Troublesome Priest: Harold Davidson, Rector of Stiffkey*, published in 2007.

Jonathan has written six books including three on the Silk Road, a biography of the scandalous Vicar of Stiffkey and 'Reclamation Street', a fact-based novel based on his experiences in the Hong Kong police during the 1980s. His latest book is a detailed and historically important account of life in Changi Prisoner of War Camp, Singapore between February 1942 and September 1945.

He lives locally and is a volunteer and trustee at Malmesbury's Athelstan Museum.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUPPORT OUR BURMESE FRIEND TUN TUN AND HIS FAMILY WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH POVERTY AND THE CURRENT BRUTAL CIVIL WAR IN MYANMAR.