Sunday Services
Please see inside Link for details of Sunday Services for St Catherine’s, St Boniface and Holy Trinity

Midweek Services
St Catherine’s Wednesday - 10.30am Holy Communion
Holy Trinity Thursday - 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Morning Prayer
Tuesday - Bonchurch Old Church - 8am
Wednesday - St Catherine’s Church and Thursday Holy Trinity Church -- 9am
Friday - Bonchurch Parish Church - 8.30am
All Welcome
The Julian Group
Will meet at The Hub in St Catherine’s Church on
***** Friday 14th March at 2pm.
Encouraging people to practise contemplative prayer in their daily lives,

Contact: Hilary Davis - 855797.
All welcome.

SOCIAL EVENTS
In order to avoid clashes when organising your social event at St. Catherine’s, St. Boniface or Holy Trinity, please make sure that you contact Ann or Alan Dyson to check the availability of your venue.
Details: Tel: 861496
E-mail: dysonann@hotmail.co.uk

Articles for the April Magazine should be handed to the Editorial team by MARCH 10th please. You can hand it in at the Hub or email to Joan Garlick or Chris Maguire at ventnorcofe@hotmail.co.uk

Size format for Link pages A5 - GILL Sans MT - font size 11
Hand written reports/articles are accepted if you do not have access to a computer.

Editorial Team:-
Holy Trinity Church - Gill Chaloner …. 854659
St Catherine's Church - Chris Maguire…..852121
St Boniface Church ..........................


‘Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink,’ (from Coleridge’s poem the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner) has come to mind as I have watched the news over the last two months.

The terrible floods of the Somerset Levels and the Thames Valley have brought devastation to people’s lives – homes inundated, livelihoods destroyed, even lives lost. And when we see the destruction of so many parts of our coasts by the ferocious power of the mighty waves, we realize how puny are our human efforts to hold back the sea levels, which are gradually rising. By comparison, the Isle of Wight has come off lightly.

But it hasn’t all been bad news. Have you noticed the good news stories? Neighbours have been helping neighbours; communities have come together in what some commentators have called ‘the Dunkirk spirit’ and ‘the best of the Blitz’. When farmers in the Somerset Levels appealed for fields on higher ground for their animals, and transport and fodder for them, lorries from the length and breadth of Britain answered their appeal – one from Northumberland! And the emergency services, from Coastguards & Fire Service to Environmental Agency staff and electrical utilities, have worked their cotton socks off going way beyond the call of duty. Here is love and compassion at work.

Some people ask about God in these weather events and the suffering they have caused. But what we see as weather disasters - because they are affecting human lives - are the effect of global warming and climate change, which we have caused. Moreover, the land flooded is often the flood plain of rivers on which houses have been built, so people have chosen to live there despite the risks. The weather we have experienced in December, January and February is caused, at least in part, by human failure to steward God’s good earth properly. We emit too much in ‘greenhouse gases’ which heat up the atmosphere leading to climatic change and rising sea levels. The science is 95% certain and has been taught in schools for years.

God is not the agent of these weather disasters, but God, the God of Love, is at work in the human responses to them, as people help and support each other. This is the good news we see as we watch the News, if only we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

We are now in the season of Lent, the 40 days before Easter. Many think Lent is about giving things up – but it has a positive side: making room for God in more prayer and Bible reading, and giving time to neighbours, offering a helping hand – love in action. Lent began the day after ‘Pancake Day’ –
‘Shrove Tuesday’. Lent is when Christians prepare their hearts and minds for
the greatest good news of all, the Good News of Jesus, the Saviour. The
events of Holy Week & Easter are celebrated by Christians world-wide, as
they call to mind that God - who became a human being in Jesus – loves us so
much that He gave His life on the cross, in order to remake our relationship
with God. Through His resurrection (which we will celebrate on 20th April)
Christians know they have a sure & certain hope of everlasting life, and take
joy each day from their lives with God, in the here and now, as He fills them
with His love and peace.

That is the good news we see mixed in with the bad news on our television
screens – the Good News of God’s Love in the world.

We look forward to YOU joining us at Easter, as we celebrate the Good
News of God’s love for all the people of Ventnor. You will find a warm
welcome awaits you, at which ever church you choose to attend.

Jenny Hopkins-Holder

LENT GROUPS

In Lent we will be following the new course from the Archbishops and others
in the C of E called Pilgrim, where we look at the fundamental of our
Christian faith, including our baptismal promises.

We plan to have four groups around the parishes:
1 - Saturday - 2.30pm - John & Jenny Holder - Belhaven, Castle Road.
   (starts 1st March)
2 - Thursday 7.30pm - At the Crab and Lobster. Grove Road
   (starts 6th March)
3 - Wednesday 2.30pm - At 11 Bay Court, Wheelers Bay
   (starts 5th March)
4 - Mondays 4pm - At The Troubadour Tea Room.

We hope that different people from different churches will join groups
specially for Lent.

Please sign the notices at the back of our churches.

Hugh

A course for the Christian Journey
“Rain, rain, go away, 
Come again another day!”

Or, to paraphrase Mr. Micawber, 
“Sunshine, blue sky…….result, happiness! 
Endless rain, howling wind…..result, misery!”

NOWHERE seems as affected by the weather as the British Isles. Because it’s so changeable, with, it seems, no two years or even months the same, it always gives us something to talk about, something to moan about, something to read about in the papers. But the last two months have seemed exceptional….and VERY long! I visited my daughters in West Sussex the weekend before Christmas, and as I drove away from Pulborough on the afternoon of the Town Carol Service, the water was nearly over the main roads of the Arun Valley, and by Christmas Eve, the village was cut off! It seems to have rained ever since!

The television has been full of heart-rending pictures of grim-faced farmers in the Somerset Levels, with their milking herds standing knee-deep in water and silage turning to slush. Today on the radio, I listened to a Cornish fisherman lamenting the impossibility of finding a two-day window to put out his nets and bring them in again. Homeowners along the Thames Valley were standing their furniture on paint tins in an effort to contain the water damage. Commuters were eyeing closed railway lines and diverted routes.

Even the Isle of Wight, on a smaller scale, has been affected. Rupert Besley’s cartoon in last week’s County Press showed a couple in a car axle-deep in water, exhorting each other to “try to miss the pot-holes”! Roads have been shut, coastlines have crumbled and sea defences have taken a battering.

Are we down-hearted? ...............YES! 
But are we defeated?.......................NO!

Although today I’ve woken up yet again to the too-familiar sounds of rain lashing the windows and gale-force winds whistling round the corners of my flat, I know that other things are showing signs of life and that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Near my door are clumps of violets already out, the crocuses are rearing their heads, snowdrops are clustered thickly on Kingston Manor Drive, and a few brave daffodils are quivering in the gale. And sometimes, just sometimes, there’s a blue-sky day!
Lent is like that! As we look at the six weeks when, traditionally, we take life a bit more seriously and try a bit harder, we can get downcast, wondering if we’ll ever succeed in getting closer to God or helping his kingdom come on earth a little more quickly. But just as I know that when you read this in March, Spring may have arrived at last and the floods may have receded, so WE know that Lent is not the end. We know that the dark days of Jesus’s journey towards Jerusalem end, not just with the horrendous events of his trial and execution, but move onwards after that into the sunlight of Resurrection. But I’ll leave that until the April magazine!

Easter is late this year…on April 20th….so we have some way to go! And for the time being, it’s STILL raining and the wind’s STILL howling!

So….out with the wellies, on with the waterproofs……and hang on in there!

“When winter comes, can spring be far behind?”

Yours optimistically,

Gill

UMBRELLA SONG
(“Singing in the Rain”?)

R is for the Rainclouds that sweep across the sky,
A is for the Awfulness endured, we wonder why!
I is for Indignity, of O.A.P’s in boats,
N is for the Nightmare of furniture that floats!
Y is when You watch it all in front of your T.V.,
D is “Do we care enough?” when it’s not you or me?
A is for the Aftermath, the cleaning up and mess,
Y is if we’re asked to help. We hope the answer’s “Yes!”

We can’t be sure how long it is before the weather clears,
A sobering thought…is this the first of MANY rainy years?
GHANA NEWS.

Archdeacon Moses continues with his phone calls, and in spite of having a HUGE area to cover with very little transport, remains unfailingly cheerful. He lives in Wa, in the Upper West region of Ghana, with his wife Mary and children Charles, Robert, Seraphina-Elizabeth, Bernard and baby Bright. He receives the Link every month with all our news, and I thought that from now on, we could pray in turn for each of our friends in Ghana, starting with him. Many of you will remember Archdeacon Moses when he was studying at university in Liverpool, and presided over a baptism at Holy Trinity during the inter-regnum. His address, if anyone would like to send a card or letter, is:

The Ven. Moses Banungwiiri,
St Aiden’s Anglican Church,
P.O. Box 68,
WA,
U.W.R GHANA, West Africa.

In our ALPHABET OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, we continue with R.

A Reliquary, not that you’ll find one in our four churches!) is a casket or container that held a relic (maybe bones!) of a saint. Some of the early ones are very beautifully decorated. They can often be seen in churches abroad or in the Treasuries of our older cathedrals, as nearly all date from before the Reformation. (an R too complicated to go into!)

Rembrandt, the great Dutch painter, painted many exquisitely spiritual religious scenes. His later life was much affected by the death of his beloved wife Saskia, and also by bankruptcy, and this suffering gave depth to his pictures, especially to the ninety or so that he painted of the Passion of Christ..

A Reredos is a decoration, sometimes carved, sometimes painted, behind an altar. I have mixed feelings about the reredos at Holy Trinity. While I admire the workmanship, I think I’d prefer to be able to see the part of the east window that it hides, but that’s only a personal preference!

Ripon..a pleasant city in North Yorkshire with an ancient cathedral. The Diocese of Ripon and Leeds has recently been grouped with those of Wakefield and Bradford to make a sort of Super-Diocese!

R.S.C.M....the Royal School of Church Music, founded in 1927, to which Holy Trinity’s choir is affiliated. If you’d like to read their magazine, please ask Sandra Wood.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, March 4th  
Shrove Tuesday. Pancakes and Beetle Drive,  
Holy Trinity Church Hall. 6.30p.m.  
Tickets available, £2.50

Wednesday, March 5th  
Ash Wednesday. Service, Holy Trinity 7.00p.m.

Friday, March 7th  
Street Pastors out in Ventnor.

Saturday, March 8th  
Fresh Expressions Course, postponed from last year,  
Christ the King College, 9.15 to 4.45 p.m. £10

Wednesday, March 12th  
Holy Trinity P.C.C.

Tuesday, March 18th  
Bereavement Group meets at the Hub, 7.30p.m.

Friday, March 21st  
Street Pastors out in Ventnor.

Saturday, March 22nd  
Concert at Holy Trinity with Holly Kirby and Emily Scotcher. 8.p.m.

Sunday, April 6th  
Holy Trinity A.P.C.M. after Holy Communion.

Annual Meetings

The 3 churches have now organised their Annual Meetings.  
They are:  
St Catherine’s 26th April - 7.30pm  
Holy Trinity 6th April - 10.45am  
St Boniface 6th April - 11.45 am

Hugh
NEWS FROM ST BONIFACE AND BONCHURCH

The Old Church is a well loved and important part of our mission to visitors and locals alike. Here are some comments left in the Visitors Book, that reveal some of the love the Old Church brings to our visitors and holiday makers.

Last time I was here in 1972 I was 7 years old - nothing's changed - thank goodness. (Visitor from Essex)
One of the loveliest and most peaceful I have ever been. (Shoreham-by-sea, Sussex)
Love it! Wish Birmingham had one like it! (Birmingham)
Beautiful, Peaceful, Balm for the soul. (Bolton, Lancs)
Reine Morgan from Pontypridd says "I have been here a few times - such peace within God's House - as the children play happily outside let us pray that all children and young people will come to know and love The Lord".
A lovely calm place to think and thank. (Cowes)
I came because my husband was at his Aunt's funeral and I wanted to be somewhere to think of her peacefully -Thanks. (Ventnor)
(A child's writing) Dear God - thank you for everything - ARE MEN - The little child could barely write but she/he got their prayer down.
Here we are again - another year has passed - can't keep away - thanks for keeping it open. (Lena and Brian -West Sussex)
lovely atmosphere - helped me to pray for healing my cancer - thanks for the opportunity. (Janice from Swansea)
In the County Press last week, Newchurch Parish Church was advertising their Snow Drop walk plus a light meal. I did the walk last year and it was beautiful, which made me think about our own churchyards, carefully tended by our Friday Boys (they know who they are).

Our snowdrops near the gate are just showing colour but further over, near the walls, some flowers are gracefully showing their beautiful white dresses. Over the next few weeks the graves and banks will be full of colour. Bright spots of colour will begin to show where the crocus push through and all the time the primroses are sending more beautiful buds to open and give us a splendid display. Violets too are showing their shy heads amongst dark green leaves.

Down in the Old Church there are daffodils and snowdrops in bloom and later a blaze of bright blue, just to the right of the door, where the Anemone Blanda grows in such profusion and the Bluebells adding to the colour.

Throughout the Summer there is colour and in the Autumn the lovely pink and white wild cyclamen gracing the banks. Winter brings a supply of berries both Holly and Rowen for the birds and numerous colourful shrubs add interest for our visitors who care to wander the grounds.

As our Island Motto quotes "All this beauty is of God".

I note that Gill talks of February 14th, Valentine's Day, being the day the birds mate. My Romany (maternal) Grandmother told me when I was a child, that it was the birds Wedding Day, so it must be true.

Also, I see that there are to be Cooking Workshops. As I mentioned Romany, here is a Romany recipe that has passed down through the family and saved me many a headache as to what to feed my family of four boys when money was tight. It's quick, easy and cheap (6 penn'ith of bacon bits went a long way) and has the quaint name of "Joe Gray".

**For one person - increase as required**

1 carrot, 1 onion, 1 potato - medium to large and sliced.
2 rashers of streaky bacon or bacon bits - chopped.
A knob of butter (not marg).
Pepper and salt to taste.

**Method**

Melt the butter in a medium sized saucepan add sliced onion and chopped bacon - cook for 5 mins. Add sliced carrot and potato - stir to mix and cover with cold water - add seasoning.

Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and cover - cook for ½ hour or until vegetables are cooked and you have a thick gravy. Serve with crusty bread and enjoy.

Delicious and filling. Made the day before, it improves the flavour.

Pauline Guildford - St Boniface Church
Cello Duet Recital
St. Boniface Church
Sunday 16th March, 3pm
James Halsey and Megan Rolf
Free entry with a Retiring Collection in aid of the Shoebox Appeal, St Boniface Church, & Aboyne Cello Festival's Young Artists Scheme. Refreshments will also be available.
Further Information available from Helen Foster at helen@con-brio.com - tel. 852201

March information from Carisbrooke Priory Trust.
Open Door services every Thursday 12noon.
Open Door Speakers.
March 6th:- Canon Alan Brown, (Communion)
March 13th:- Pat & Ian Attrill
March 20th:- Gwen Brailsford.
March 27th. Rev'd Chris Feak.
Light Lunches are served after the service at approx 1.00pm
Bible study in Main Lounge at 2.30 pm Thursdays. ( with the exception of the fourth Thursday. when Family Forum takes place in the Main Lounge)
Art at the Priory Monday 9.30am- 4.00pm. contact George and Clare (522602, 07999726998, or at the Priory 523354
Priory Craft Group now meets at St. Paul's Parish Rooms. Contact Brenda 292980.
Tea rooms open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am- 4.00pm.
House and Gardens open 10.00am- 4.00pm.
The Snowdrops are just breaking out and the Primroses will not be far behind. a sure sign that spring is on the way.
Please Note: No Music workshop this month.
Thanks for your support. Betty Stotesbury.
Our Saintly Boniface -- By Frank Quinn

Part one

In tourist guide books Ventnor is often described as "Mediterranean" because of its maritime position on the steep slopes of Saint Boniface Down. This hill, at 787 feet the highest point on the Isle of Wight, whether bathed in sunlight or wreathed in low cloud, dominates the skyline above the town. The Down was in the private ownership of Mrs Caroline Evans of Roehampton, after whose death it was presented to the National Trust in 1922. It is probably fair to say that, when compared to the more famous saints of Christianity, the name Saint Boniface will be unfamiliar to many people. Why then was it chosen for this most prominent landmark on the Island and furthermore, why does it crop up again in nearby Bonchurch as the origin of that village's name, and to whom it's two churches are dedicated?

To answer this question we need to go back in time to 7th Century Saxon England and the town of Crediton, near Exeter in Devon. It was here that our future Saint Boniface was born in the year 680 or thereabouts, and baptised in the name of Winfrid or Wynfrith. As a child he was influenced by the pious monks who visited his father's house and from the age of thirteen was educated in the monastery at Escancester (Exeter). He subsequently joined the Benedictine monastery of Nutscelle (Nursling, near Southampton) in the diocese of Winchester, where his progress was extraordinary. He excelled in knowledge of the scriptures, rhetoric, poetry and history, and so good was he, in fact, that he was put in charge of the monastic school and at the age thirty was promoted to the priesthood. His reputation as a learned scholar and preacher soon reached the ears of Brithwald, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was quick to utilise Windfrid's talents as an advisor to the bishops and their synods.

Despite his growing fame and influence in England, Winfrid harboured a great desire to take the message of Christianity to the heathens of Friesland (now Nederland), so in the year 716 he set out on his journey. On arriving, however, he found the country to be at war so he was forced to return to his monastery in England where, upon the death of the abbot Winbert, he was chosen as the new abbot but declined the honour. Two years later he went to Rome to ask Pope Gregory II for permission to preach the gospel to the infidels of Germany, a request which the Pope was pleased to grant. Winfrid's mission to Germany took him to Bavaria, Thuringia, Hesse and Saxony, where he baptised thousands of unbelievers, destroyed idols and pagan temples, replacing the latter with Christian churches. He communicated his successes to Pope Gregory, who summoned him to Rome in 723 and ordained him as regional bishop.
There is some suggestion that the Pope conferred the name Boniface on Winfrid at this time, but the Saint's letters show that he had adopted the name some time before his visit to Rome. The name comes from the Latin word Bonifacius which means "maker" or "doer of good". His great passion and missionary zeal come across clearly in his own words:

"Let us not be dumb dogs, sleeping sentinels, hirelings that fly at the sight of the wolf; but watchful and diligent pastors, preaching to the great and small, to the rich and poor, to every age and condition".

It was during Boniface's mission in Hesse, Germany, that he became associated with the invention of the Christmas tree. At Geismar there was a sacred oak tree dedicated to the pagan god Thor, and in an attempt to discredit the old god in the eyes of the heathens, he chopped down the sacred oak. It is said he found a fir tree growing in the roots of the oak and used its evergreen character as a symbol of the everlasting love of Christ. This event occurred around the time of the winter solstice in December, and legend has it that the heathens were converted on the spot and thereafter hung ornaments on the fir tree as a celebration. Thus began the German custom of decorating fir trees at Christmastide, which was imported into Victorian England by Prince Albert and which has become established as a central part of our Christmas festivities.

Isle of Wight Music Centre
Young musicians & the Undercliff Singers

CONCERT
Saturday 8th MARCH @ 7:30pm
Free Admission
Collection
In Aid of the Philippines Typhoon Appeal
Refreshments
Iain Matthews Concert
At Holy Trinity Church, Ventnor.

We are pleased to announce that Iain Matthews will be performing a solo concert at Holy Trinity on **Sunday, April 6th at 8.00pm**.

Joining Fairport Convention back in 1967, Iain formed an incomparable and stunning vocal pairing with Sandy Denny, and appeared on the bands first three albums. The next step in his career would yield three critically acclaimed releases with Matthews Southern Comfort, including a number one single with their version of Joni Mitchell's 'Woodstock',

A spell with the band Plainsong and a full-on solo career has followed ever since, Iain has released twenty five solo albums in that time. After basing himself in the USA for many years, Iain now lives in Holland.

He is still at the top of his musical game, and we are delighted to be able to welcome him back to the Island for the first time since 1968. Fairport Convention appeared at the first Isle of Wight Festival in 1968, and then returned to play at the 69 Club at the Royal York Hotel in Ryde in December that year.

**Tickets for the Holy Trinity concert are £10.00 each and can be booked in advance by phoning 01983-730930.**

The HUB Coffee Shop
10.30 - 12.30 Monday - Saturday
For Cards - Gifts - Books - Fairtrade goods.

We are still collecting the plastic milk bottle tops (with the triangular symbol enclosing the no. 2) at the Hub, in St. Catherine's Church, and at St. Boniface Church, for recycling in aid of The Hospice.

If you don't want to bring them to Church or you may take them directly to the Louis Shop in Pier Street.
Welcome!

By now, you’ll have begun to notice some changes in the weather – I hope. The news is beginning to show signs of spring, and the waters in many places are receding, but it’s a slow process. Many people in the South-West will remain affected for months to come, and cleaning up for a long time – some reason for a Spring-Clean!

The Island has, by and large, missed the worse of the rains, but it may seem the opposite by some; the water has exposed many hidden flaws in buildings, our church not least. Leaks have appeared in places where they were not noticed before, at least not in the last twenty or thirty years. Cracks have reappeared, and the building has taken longer to warm up for services, as some have noticed, and commented on. We ought to be glad that God has made good on His promise that He would never again flood the whole earth, though, to many in places around the country (and the world!), that it’s a near thing.

It got me thinking that the Holy Spirit is described as ‘the Latter Rain’, as described by the Prophet Joel, and others, and will be poured out upon all flesh in the Latter Days (depending upon your understanding of what, and/or when they are) without repentance. This is not confined to Christians, but to everyone, which could account for an increasing interest in spiritual matters in people’s minds, judging by the increasing number of ‘paranormal’-based programmes on TV these days, and even things like the rise of Islamism in non-Muslims, other religions and New Ageism (even more than in the 1960s!), and, it may be argued, Interfaithism (or a form of Ecumenism, such as sharing Christian church buildings with non-Christiant belief systems).

I don’t say this to offend, but simply as an observation.

However, this ‘Latter Rain’, like natural rain, is getting everywhere in ever-increasing intensity, getting through and revealing flaws and cracks in our lives, some – or many – we feel uncomfortable with or thought of as dealt with a long time ago. Like our church building, when it was refurbished and everything that could be done was done, we have thought of ourselves as
being ‘put right’ – and, indeed we are – but forget to keep constant vigilance and maintenance on ourselves, being comforted in our church attendances and, for some, occasional prayers when needed. But we go about our busy days not necessarily including God in everything we do, say, or think, and even if we do slip, forgetting that He stands ready to forgive us, we are concerned more about whether or not we have forgiveness, let’s be honest. I know I do.

Only God in Jesus can fill the cracks and repair the leaks in us, and we should be honest enough to admit that to Him and each other, as it says in the Epistles of 1 John and Galatians, sharing burdens and helping with things, physically and spiritually. Then we will become ready to be the New Wineskins to receive the Latter Rain that will make us stand out as Christians after Christ, rather than Christians in Name Only.

Spring is a time of renewal, which brings revival in Nature, which mirrors what God wants to do - with us. With Easter coming, Lent will be an opportunity to refresh your Christian Faith, and with the new ‘Pilgrim’ Lent Course, this may be your time do so.

**Chris Maguire,**

As you may not know, I now have a full-time job as a Community Phlebotomist – the man wot takes your blood; NOT a Whole Armful! – in the West Wight which, maybe to the relief of some, means I am not around the church so much, except for weekends. This also means that I am not working in The Hub on Thursdays, but only once a month on Saturdays. I continue as Churchwarden, but am restricted to what I am able to do due to time constraints, but remain available by phone if necessary, and your Friendly Congregational Link Editor. It also means that I am not so up with current events in the church or news of same, so am relying on you, dear reader, to put articles in concerning them, 500 words or less. Handwritten items can be transcribed by me, if needed. So don’t be shy; don’t worry about grammar, spelling or any literary shortcomings you think you may have – poems, thoughts, interests, reports on concerts, even praise (or brickbats!) about normal church events will be welcome and edited – fairly – by me, and you could see your name in print, even locally, for the first time.
Keep an eye on all of the notices of events in this Issue, Sunday Notices and announcements, and on the Notice boards, to keep informed, and DON’T FORGET – there will be an ACPM for St.Catherine’s Church coming up in April. It’s your Church and you have a Say and Vote on PCC members, Churchwardens, the Budget and, maybe, a Q&A with the Vicar and said PCC Members and CWs! Watch for the date, and do come.

Blessings in Jesus’ Name to you all. Chris

Is RE in our schools in crisis?

Hundreds of thousands of pupils are missing out on RE because schools throughout the country are either reducing their RE or dropping it altogether in favour of other disciplines. Researchers have found that schools are cutting the number of specialist RE teachers, placing lessons in the hands of untrained staff, and steering pupils away from training qualifications in the subject.

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education has recently warned that the development is a direct result of reforms such as the English Baccalaureate. And Ofsted has warned that pupils are leaving school with “a very limited understanding” of Christianity because of an alarming dip in standards of RE. Stephen Lloyd, the Lib Dem chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for RE warns: “When RE is diluted, young people leave school ill-prepared to make sense of religion and belief and unable to respond to different views and beliefs in an informed, rational and insightful way.”

Published in the Parish Pump

Is our sugar in a jam?

Did you know there is such a thing as a jam directive? It comes from the European Union and the latest wants there to be less sugar in British jam. But plans to reduce our jam’s sugar level from 60 to 50 per cent is worrying some MPs. Tessa Munt, Lib Dem MP for Wells, warns: “by reducing the percentage of total sugar, the characteristic gel-like consistency of jams and marmalade will be lost. The result will be an homogenised spreadable sludge... I’m quite worried because I think this is going to be the end of the British breakfast as we know it."
My dear Nephew Darren
Visits from your parishioners are always welcome. But I did not expect them to return to you complaining because our pews are uncomfortable.

Pews are meant to be uncomfortable. The unshakeable belief of our congregation is that the more uncomfortable the pew, the holier the worship must be. By the same token, an 8am Service is more fervent than one at 11am, since it is much more socially inconvenient. If you add on enduring sub-zero temperatures and damp, then sainthood clearly beckons. Your people may be used to lolling in upholstered chairs in tropical temperatures, but I am sure such comfort places their souls in grave peril.

Our pews were built five hundred years ago when people were several inches shorter and many pounds lighter and so could accommodate themselves on them perfectly adequately. The fact that a twenty-first century body is in constant danger of sliding off the seat and requires knees to be folded somewhere near ears at least helps to keep minds focussed – apart for Colonel Wainwright, who still manages to sleep peacefully throughout Mattins every Sunday.

I could point out that your chairs make kneeling almost impossible – although I suspect that posture is not encouraged in your church, as people would then be unable to read the words on your overhead projector or wave their arms about quite as easily during the hymns. While the majority of our congregation find the Anglican crouch perfectly adequate, you can see those who flop to their knees on hearing “let us pray” from the clouds of dust sent up from suddenly compressed hassocks, which were purchased to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Accession.

I may also point out that our box pews are very useful for modern times. Once a family is seated, with the door firmly shut, then any toddler is penned in and unable to use the aisles as a racing circuit. Medieval carpenters were clearly forward thinking people. Admittedly, box pew doors do tend to stick and few manage to look dignified while they wait for step ladders to be brought before they can climb out. If only you would remove your chairs and substitute benches without backs, turn off all heating and replace carpets with slate slabs, I am sure your congregation’s religious zeal would soar.

Your loving uncle, Eustace
VENTNOR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Spring Show
22nd March 2pm
St Catherine’s Church
Anyone can enter an exhibit,
pick up a schedule from The HUB,
St Catherine’s Church or contact
Joan Garlick 856244

Don’t forget to pick up your free copy of
The Pompey Chimes

HOLY TRINITY
BEETLE DRIVE AND PANCAKES
TUESDAY 4TH MARCH
6.30pm - 8.30pm
TICKETS £2.50
Sale of Preserves in the Hub Coffee Shop
Reduced prices

All Jams, Marmalades and Chutneys £1.50
All proceeds to go to St Catherine’s Church

Ventnor Townswomen’s Guild
16th April - “Island Splendour” - Fay Brown
21st May - “The work of St Mary’s Stroke Unit”
- Janine Johnson
Non members welcome
Mouse Makes

The 4th Sunday in Lent is celebrated as Mothering Sunday. Originally families would get together for a special service at the ‘mother’ church, often at the local cathedral.

Today Mothering Sunday is celebrated as a family day, a time to say ‘thank you’ to our mothers and to all who look after us.

There are many wonderful Mothers in the Bible, look up the Bible verses and find out who they are....

Matt 1:16  M_ _ _
Num 26:59  O_ _ _ _ _ _
Luke 1:57-60 _ _ _ _ _ _ T_
1 Sam 1:20 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ H_
Genesis 4:1  _ _ _ E_
Gen 25:21-26 R_ _ _ _ _
Gen 21:1-2  S_ _ _ _

Thank you Mum for all you do,
For all your love and care,
For helping me as I grow up,
For all your loving prayers.

For teaching me about Jesus,
Of how he loves me too.
Thank you Mum for loving me,
I LOVE YOU!

A bookmark gift for Mother’s Day. Cut out the bookmark above, glue onto card and colour in.

Mar14 ©deborahnoble @parishpump.co.uk
January

Rainfall of 153.4mm (6.04") was 197% of the average of 78.03mm (3.07"). This was the wettest January on record (at least 30 years). We have now had more than 11 1/2 " (294.9mm) since December 13th (49 days!). The wettest day was the 16th with 24.5mm (0.97"), only 2 days had no rain. The mean temperature of 7.9C (46F) was the forth warmest on record, well above the average of 6.2C (43F). The warmest day was the 6th with 11.8C (53F) and the coldest night was the 14th with 2.3C (36F).

Thanks to Mike Wood for our weather information.
Inner Wheel Easter Spring Fair
Friday 11th April
10am - 4pm
At St Catherine's Church, Ventnor

We are celebrating our **90th Anniversary** by fund raising for wheeled goods to help people in Ventnor, e.g. Lightweight wheelchairs and much more.

There will be **Cakes, Savouries, Preserves and Sweets. Gifts - Easter goods - Bric-a-brac Jewellery - Plants - Books Crafts and Craft Materials - Tombola Raffle and Refreshments**

Please come and support us
BEREAVEMENT GROUP....Can we help you?

We are aware that there are a number of people who have been bereaved and might like someone to talk to.

If this is YOU or someone you know, please contact any of the Bereavement Group from St Catherine’s, Holy Trinity and St Boniface, by telephoning 857795 (outside Hub hours you can leave a message) or visit the Hub at St Catherine’s any morning between 10.30 and 12.30. If you’d rather leave a note, there’s a box in the Coffee Shop. Anything you wish to discuss will be treated with absolute confidentiality.

PRAYER CHAIN

All requests for the Prayer Chain should be first directed to Kizzie Baker on 853779

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 7th March ~ 3pm
at
St Catherine's Church
Speaker ~ Hilary Davis

This year’s Day of Prayer has been prepared by the women of Egypt and is titled “Streams in the Desert”

The wave of prayer will start with the rising of the sun over the island of Samoa, and will cross Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, finishing in American Samoa 36 hours later. The service will have been celebrated in over 170 countries
We remember with love and affection those who have died recently, especially we pray for their families.

We pray for those recently married.

And we pray for those newly baptised.

We pray for all Christians around the world who suffer persecution because of their faith.
Worship for March

March 2\textsuperscript{nd} The Sunday next before Lent

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship, St Catherine’s Church.
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

March 9\textsuperscript{th} The First Sunday of Lent.

9.30 a.m. Morning Worship, Holy Trinity Church.
10.30a.m. Holy Communion, St Catherine’s Church
10.30a.m. Holy Communion, St Boniface Church.
6.30p.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church.

March 16\textsuperscript{th} The Second Sunday of Lent.

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church
10.30a.m. Family and all-age worship, St Catherine’s Church.
10.30a.m. Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

March 23\textsuperscript{rd} The Third Sunday of Lent

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity Church
10.30a.m. Holy Communion, St Catherine’s Church
10.30a.m. Morning Worship, St Boniface Church.

March 30\textsuperscript{th} The Fourth Sunday of Lent ,
Mothering Sunday.

COMBINED MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE
10.30. a.m. St Catherine’s Church.
No service at the other churches.
Bible Readings for March

March 2\textsuperscript{nd} The Sunday next before Lent.

Exodus 24: 12 to end
2 Peter 1:16 to end
St Matthew 17:1-9

March 9\textsuperscript{th} The First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
St Matthew 4:1-11

March 16\textsuperscript{th} The Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17.
St John 3:1-17

March 23\textsuperscript{rd} The Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Romans 5:1-11
John 4: 5-42

March 30\textsuperscript{th} Mothering Sunday Readings.

Exodus 2:1-10 \quad \text{or} \quad 1 Samuel 1:20 to end
2 Corinthians 1:3-7 \quad \text{or} \quad Colossians 3:12-17
St Luke 2:33-35 \quad \text{or} \quad St John 19:25b-27
*** Pub Nights ***
The Ministry Team gather once a month at various venues in Ventnor - 7 pm
Come and join us for a chat.
Hugh
See Sunday Notes for the next date and venue.

The Ministry Team:-
Revd Hugh Wright 853729
Email: hugh.wright1957@btinternet.com

David Tamcken Reader 506693
Hilary Davis Reader 855797
Jenny Hopkins Holder Reader 852575
Gill Chaloner Reader 854659

Churchwardens
St Catherine’s
Chris Maguire 852121
John Holder 852575

Holy Trinity
Tim Slade 853504
Robin Oakley 854584

St Boniface
Jonny Fitzgerald Bond 854824
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