



Photo one of several taken by Suzie Lockyer, during her Biodiversity survey in St John's Graveyard, this summer.

October

2011

Including:

Trevor's Message

Graveyard Biodiversity Survey

A letter from Dennis & Melva

News from Terry & Mandy

All sorts of forthcoming events &

local resources, from coffees to Christmas.

Parish Thoughts - October 2011



As I write this I look out over birch, yew and holly trees in the bright sunshine of a late summer's day watching a pair of pigeons eating the ripening holly berries; they never last until December! In October this scene changes to what Keats calls the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'.

Keats is describing the natural fruitfulness of the seasons as we know them in this part of the world. A fruitfulness that we participate in not only at the traditional harvests of the seasons but now throughout the year in our supermarkets and other places, as global markets supported by global logistic operations influence our lives. When I was a child (oops I'm talking like my parents!) an orange was still a thing of luxury and spaghetti or was it macaroni was some exotic stuff we ate once every six months or so!

I don't think that any of this is wrong. In fact it is good that food is available if we can afford it and I am not advocating a return to some mythical past where everyone worked in the garden to produce their own vegetables - have you ever had curly kale every day for months on end!

We do these days consider more and more how our food is produced, where it comes from etc but we should also consider that the ready availability of food has freed us from the treadmill of production. For example my Father would come home from his shift and immediately turn to in the garden because there just was not enough money to buy everything for a family of five. But for quite a lot of us what do we do with the harvest of time that such freedom brings?

One element of this has been the superb response to the call for talents but I also believe that we are constantly called to look at what we do in the vineyard not only in works but also spiritually because both grow together. So in October as we enter a mellow month between late summer and winter, in our prayers and thoughts we can think about our personal spirituality, our spiritual growth and what this might mean for our faith. Perhaps be guided by the words of Luke as we pray -

'Do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink.....

Instead strive for his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well' (Luke 12: 29 & 37)

*With every blessing
Trevor*

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Food for the soul this time?

Within the city of Portsmouth there's a new initiative launching in October. Sunday Night Live is a monthly event that will be taking place at Costa Coffee in Cosham High Street (led by Portsmouth Christian Fellowship) and at Costa Coffee in Gunwharf (led by Oasis Church)



Featuring some of the top level unsigned talent from the surrounding areas, Sunday Night Live is a growing community of people passionate about **good music and good coffee all with a twist of faith!** It is the opportunity to showcase the church in all its glory to people who wouldn't normally come to a meeting / Alpha Course etc... and demonstrate that actually being a Christian is really good. We want people to live their life to the best they can, and we know that to do that, it can only be achieved with God being at the centre.

Sunday Night Live in **Cosham** will be launching on **Sunday 2nd October**, with guest singer **Paul Bell at 7pm.**

Sunday Night Live in **Gunwharf** will be launching on **Sunday 16th October**, with guest singer **Claire Robinson at 7pm.**

This is a fantastic opportunity for people to invite friends and family out for a coffee in a great venue such as Costa, hear live music and something about our great God who changes lives everyday of the week!

Pastoral Visiting

A short course on developing core skills aimed at those now, or in the future, sharing in parish pastoral visiting

**Tuesday 11th October,
Wednesday 12th October
& Thursday 13th October
2011 7.00pm-9.00pm**

*Conference Room
Peninsular House
Wharf Road, Portsmouth.*

Cost £10. Details & Application forms from the Office.

Rowlands Castle has Talent!

The redoubtable Lizzie is seeking willing helpers to run another great evening for local children, on October 31st. It has been suggested we have a kind of 'Rowlands Castle has Talent/ Light Fantastic', but ideas are still hazy as to what that might entail. Suggestions so far include games and competitions for the younger children, with a Film for the older ones, and refreshments in the Centre for parents.

Any ideas? Talk / email to Lizzie

Free to help? Tell Lizzie or the office

Not free to be there? Then please support in prayer.

Grassland Survey

of St. John's Churchyard,
Rowlands Castle, Hampshire 2011

By *Suzie Lockyer*
MSc Biodiversity Survey

Summary

The active churchyard at St John's, Rowlands Castle is rich in biodiversity with over 60 plants and many accompanying bumblebees and insects. The survey concentrated on the plants in the grasslands around the graves and noted the butterflies while on site. It is species-rich because it has been traditionally managed without weedkillers or pesticides and forms a relict historical grassland indicated by such plants as Betony (*Stachys officinalis*). The National Vegetation Classification closely resembled an MG5 *Cynosurus cristatus*-*Centaurea nigra* grassland. This type of grassland is becoming increasingly rare due to agricultural improvement although it is still widespread. There were many bumblebees, as expected in a flowery meadow. Allowing the grass to grow longer has attracted a lot of grasshoppers and other insects and 7 types of butterflies have been seen so far.

The Oak tree is probably over 150 years old and forms a very special feature with a mini-woodland habitat. These include Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) and some Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepia*) which are all ancient woodland indicators. The areas adjacent to

The churchyard is providing food for bumblebees to help pollinate our crops



the hedges are a valuable habitat too. N.B. All the pictures were taken for the survey in the graveyard. (They should shortly be available on the St John's website)

Summary Recommendations:

Collecting or raking up all the cuttings is important to avoid increasing the fertility which will lead to more coarse grass and fewer flowers.

Ideally all the west side of the grassland would be left to grow long and cut in September or October. Any graves are cut short where relatives request it.

The grass is kept short on the east side due to newer graves. The area near the compost heap, containing Betony and Devil's-bit Scabious should be left to flower between July and October to provide colour and nectar.

The mini-woodland area under the Oak tree should continue to be left uncut as long into the summer as possible.

Leave patches of flowers for nectar when the rest is cut short.

The full Survey in colour is available to see in Church and is also going on the website.

Coffee is Served!

Who would have thought that the passions would run so high over the serving of coffee?

Apparently it has been a 'hot' issue for some time, (perhaps we should serve iced coffee instead!) with opinions divided as to whether it should be served in Church, where it is easier to draw in visitors and make them welcome, but without a kitchen/WC; or in the Centre, where the use of a modern kitchen and tables gives a higher level of comfort, but there seem to be a psychological barrier to attracting people into a separate building, people drift in over a long period of time and it can be disruptive to the Sunday School/ Young Church groups meeting there.



There are pros and cons to both situations, so the PCC has decided to run with the 'Welcome people in church' option for the time being. A number of frailer volunteers have found this a daunting prospect as it means getting water from the outside tap or carrying it across. So more helping hands would be very much appreciated, either joining the rota or even informally. To minimize the carrying, we are trying out disposable cups.



Ideally we would like someone with organisational nous to champion the Coffee provision and run the rota. Any offers? Speak to the office, or Bob Field or Daphne Y.

The library is also now available after church each Sunday, at the back, newly organised by the hard working Ann Mitchell, who I am sure would be happy to help you select a book to read.

Created Sale and Coffee Morning

The Church Centre is booked for the 22nd Oct for a **CREATED SALE AND COFFEE MORNING**.

This is to help boost sales from **Tearfund** partners in the developing world who rely on the work provided by the orders to pay their wages!

Details nearer the time, but put it in your diary!



SCHOOL PRAYER INVITATION



Wednesday October 12th at 8pm is the next school/parents/teacher Prayer Meeting, in the Upper Room in the Church Centre.
Please come and join us to pray for the school, teachers, governors and families.
Look forward to seeing you there,

Mandy

Foundation Governor



THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Dr Patrick Sookdeo

International Director of **Barnabas Fund**

Will be the speaker at

**9 am 10.30 am & 6.30 pm Sunday OCTOBER 16TH at
New Life Church, 10 Greenland Road Dunnington,
Worthing BN13 2RR**

Also

**MONDAY OCTOBER 17TH he is also guest speaker at a Leadership Day which includes lunch, runs from 10 am - 4 pm and a place can be booked for church leaders for £10 on
tel 01903 262313**

Light Fantastic

Monday October 31st

We would like more VOLUNTEERS.. IDEAS.. PRAYERS.. that this would be a really God glorifying fun evening for the youngsters of the Rowlands Castle area, in which we can give them a really enjoyable evening, but also gently introduce them to the One who said,

'I am The Light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

December 8th - 11th 2011

There will be more information forthcoming, but for now, if you would like to take part by decorating a tree, please let Mary Close know as soon as possible.



BIBLE BONANZA in Portsmouth

1700 New Testament & Psalms were welcomed by students at the Portsmouth University Freshers Fair this week, despite an apparent increase in students declining the gift.. The Portsmouth Gideon branch spent two days seeing a record number accepted - an increase of 200 on last year. Please pray that they will be read and understood & God will work with these young people on the threshold of adulthood.

The Shoe Box Christmas Appeal.

Leaflets are available now in Church and in the Church Centre which give you all the details of how to take part in giving a gift to a child who is in need of some Christmas cheer many miles away from Rowlands Castle.

Thank you for your generosity in past years when we have collected many covered and filled shoe boxes for boys and girls in the different age categories and sent them to Samaritan's Purse who send them from the UK all over the world for distribution through local Churches. Last year a total of 1.12 million gift-filled shoe boxes were sent to children in 14 different countries.

The boxes are going to be taken to the collection point on Monday 14th November, so we will be asking you to bring them to church before then, probably on 6th November but this will be confirmed later. So please take a leaflet now and start thinking about shopping and finding things to include to make a child happy this Christmas. We could even have a 'get together' sometime to prepare the boxes and gifts and have a cuppa and give each other ideas of what to include.

Watch this space and fill those boxes !

Anne Downham 92412123



Dear Friends at St John's

Greetings from the Isle of Wight.

Melva and I would like once again to thank you for the wonderful gift of money that you gave us towards a garden shed/workshop. At last it has been built and installed. It is more like a summer house than a shed, its great, and handmade on the Island as well. Islanders are very proud of local products.

We helped to keep the cost to budget by going to the workshops to paint it ourselves; believe it or not we had to give it five coats. The men there were very helpful to us moving panels and chatting away, I enjoyed the week there; Melva wasn't so sure!

We have settled in well and been busy with house and garden. It's been good catching up with old friends and making new ones and being close to Kirsty our daughter and her family. Abigail our other daughter, who lives in California, visited us with her daughters for a



good period in the summer, it was great being with them, it had been over three years since we last saw them.



We had great fun together including happy days at the beach.

The first Sunday we were here we went to the local Methodist church which was just five minutes walk away, now about three, praise God I can walk faster again. It's a great lively church about the same size as St John's. The church is very outward looking with short mat bowls, lunch club and Nellie's teas plus plenty of social functions; we have already been to a barbeque and a picnic. They have three well attended prayer meetings a week, fantastic! It has been good to relax and just be a member of the congregation.

We miss you all, although you have each been with me in my prayers. Keep up God's work and continue to be Christ's love in action.

Our contact details are 24 Forest Hills, Newport, IoW, PO30 5NQ, tel 01983 533660 and revdennislloyd@btinternet.com

With love and prayers

Melva and Dennis

Mandy writes from Dublin

The last couple of months since I left work and started my 15 month Career Break have whizzed by! I seem to have had little time to myself since getting here. Terry's mum came back with us at the end of July for 10 days, then I helped out at the local churches holiday club for a week. After that I thought I'd better clean the house; it took 3 days!! (haven't done it since!) Abi and Josh have been out for a long weekend (sadly Adam couldn't get away) and more recently we had 10 days in Co. Galway. I've also managed to squeeze in visits to Curves (a ladies gym) which is beginning to help with the waist line issue.

As you can see from the photos we've had some close encounters with various animals. The sheep in particular wander by the side of the road and seem oblivious to the traffic. We encountered the dog on Inish Mor (one of the Aran Islands) at the ancient fort called Dun Aonghusas. He took it upon himself to give us a conducted tour of the place and to



steer us away from the steep cliff edge when he seemed to think we had ventured too close. It was quite uncanny and then when we were done he escorted us all the way back down the path to the visitors centre



ignoring all the other people who were on their way to the site. You may remember I am more a cat person than a dog person but I could quite happily have taken this one home with me!

We have seen some beautiful scenery, even in the rain (which we've had rather a lot of in the last few weeks!). We've been doing the sites around Dublin at the weekends. The Connemara in Galway was spectacular, lots of rock everywhere and lakes ranging in size from the very small to pretty large. We've been bog walking (it's very springy) and sat by peat fires (just what was needed after a day walking in the rain!) Terry, true to form, has taken me on several tests of endurance (I'm beginning to think they are tests of my love!).

Fudge (the cat) has settled



pretty well considering her age, blindness, deafness and senility!

We are settling into the life of the little Presbyterian church here in Malahide. They are a friendly,

welcoming bunch. The teaching is really good. We've joined a homegroup and Terry is going along to their 'Men Only' meetings.

We have several visitors booked in over the next couple of months which we're really looking forward to. We have plenty of space if you'd like to visit. I've organised a trip home every month up to Christmas and we plan to be in the UK for Christmas and New Year so may see some of you then.

Mandy

Round and About

Friday October 7th @ 7pm QUIZ NIGHT & Fish & Chip supper with/at The Church on the Green (023 9217 929) October 8th

Spirituality Day organised by the Diocese, in Portsmouth.

October 11th, 12th & 13th: Pastoral Visiting Course Portsmouth.

Wednesday October 12th 8pm St John's Prayer Meeting for the School in the upper room, Church Centre.

Sunday October 16th: 7pm Costa Coffee

Sunday Night Alive launches in Gunwharf

Also Dr Patrick Sookdeo of **Barnabas**

Fund speaks three times at New Life Church Worthing Saturday October 22nd St John's hosts a **Tearfund Created Sale & Coffee Morning** Monday October 31st St John's **Light Fantastic** Evening for Kids from 4pm. details to follow.

November 6th at 10 am **Shoe Boxes** collected in church 3.30 St John's **Fond Memories Service** (Mary Close) revised date & time.

Saturday November 12th: St Wilfrids's Church Padnell Road Cowplain has a **Christmas Fair** from 10 to 12 on including coffee and refreshments, with free admission.

Saturday November 12th The Church on the Green, Rowlands Castle, also hopes to hold a **Christmas Fair**. Details to follow.

Saturday November 19th at St Nicholas' Church Bedhampton; Donna Michelle presents '**The Fashionistas** in The Age of Woman.' Billed as *A meal followed by one of the most unusual shows you're ever likely to see.*

Historical Fashion Show and Variety Show in One. Tickets £5 from 023 9248 3013 or

Office@bedhamptonparish.org.uk. Proceeds to Bedhampton Parish.

Dec 8 - 11th St John's Christmas Tree Festival.

J Source Bookshop

Upper floor of The Meridian Shopping Centre,
Havant, near the library.

**Christian books, Bibles,
Cards, CDs, Gifts.. etc**

Open 10 - 4 Mon; Tues; Thurs; Fri; Sat
10 - 1 Wednesday

and on a good day you may even be
served by our own Rosemary or
Lorna! They are happy to order
things not in stock too.



BEACON FURNITURE

The Beacon Church in Havant helps
to provide some basic furniture for
people in need. Should you be
changing some of yours or simply
downsizing contact them on **07771
697708** to see if your surplus will
be of use to a family in crisis.
They offer free collection.

BEACON DEBT ADVICE CENTRE

Free, confidential, face-to-face
advice is available.

Call **02392 470658**

Please spread this information
around. The Beacon is also
looking for volunteers to help
with this service; training will
be given.

ECHO TIP OF THE MONTH

A Rocha: Living Lightly Project

A new report from the US-based
Environmental Working Group has
shown that lamb, beef and cheese
have the largest food footprints.
How much of these products do you
eat? See if you can halve that
quantity this month, and if you do eat
these products, try to source them
locally and organically.

Submitted by Val Palmer

Prayer Meetings

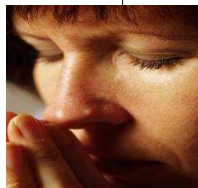
Each Monday evening
at 7.30 in the Upper Room.

Wednesday October 12th

Upper room at 8 pm, especially to pray for the school - staff, governors,
parents, families.

Saturday October 15th

9 til noon **Morning of Prayer** at the **Church on the Green**. Come when you
can, go when you must.



BEACON FOOD BANK



The J Source Christian Bookshop, upstairs in the Meridian Shopping Centre in Havant is a collection point for food items which are distributed to those in genuine need in the Havant Borough.

For more details call 92470167.

Items needed are non perishables please:
Coffee/Tea, sugar, rice, pasta, cereals, soup, tinned meat, tuna, tinned veggies, custard, rice pudding, longlife milk, squash, jams and marmalade, baked beans, meals in tins, pasta sauces.

Drop them in at J Source in the Meridian Centre. or bring a donation to church on Sundays.

The Word of God



Rejoice in the Lord **always**;

again I say **REJOICE**.

Let your **reasonableness** be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand;

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication **WITH** thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God.

And the **PEACE** of God, which surpasses all understanding, **will** guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus. *Philippians 4 v 4 - 7*

Rewind!

If you've missed a sermon or want to listen again, they are available on CD from the church library or to download from the website



www.saintjohnschurch.org.uk

Stay In Touch

Church Office

Telephone: (023) 9241 0111 (9-1pm Mon-Fri)
Email: admin@saintjohnschurch.org.uk
Website: www.saintjohnschurch.org.uk
Need prayer? prayer@saintjohnschurch.org.uk

Please send any items for the next newsheet to the church office by 10am Wednesday.