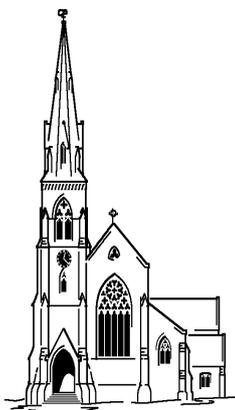


March 2018

# St John's and the Park Church



## Jottings

### Life

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February Billy Graham passed away at the age of 99. As news of his death spread many people from the worlds of religion, entertainment and politics were quick to pay tribute to the Reverend Graham and the news was reported internationally. Many have remarked on his achievements and it is reckoned that he preached in person to over 80 million people and to many millions more via the TV and radio. There are many people around the world who came to faith in Jesus through Billy's preaching. Tribute has also been paid, not just to his achievements, but to the constancy of his character and conduct.

I heard the news of his death having just got home from the Service of Thanksgiving that was held at St John's for the late, and much loved, Elizabeth Saunders. Elizabeth too will be fondly remembered for her love, faithfulness and character and I know that she too had a profound effect on many people locally. Billy Graham and Elizabeth Saunders - a global superstar and a Dorset farmer - two saints, worlds apart yet part of the same family and now enjoying the same unparalleled and glorious reward. Both lived faithfully for and with God and did the work that he called them to. Both have left a legacy of

eternal value. Both knew - and now know fully - that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Billy Graham famously paraphrased a quotation by DL Moody saying, *"One day you'll hear the news that I am dead....don't believe a word of it. I shall be more alive then than I am now. I'll have just changed my address."*

The profound hope and fulfilled life that Billy and Elizabeth knew is for us too. The Gospel is good news - for now and for eternity. Let us celebrate it joyfully and share it fearlessly this Easter.

*Tom*

**Passover Meal at St John's on Saturday 24th March at 6pm**

Remember to book your seat with Dave or Ruth Clinch

## Pause for thought ....

This month we are in Lent, a time to prepare ourselves for Easter, for the cross and the resurrection.

It was good to look up in a dictionary and find the first two entries for the word cross' said i) two intersecting lines ii) the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. Another entry was 'cross-purposes' and I am sure we know what this means. It is when people do not understand each other usually because of differences either in behaviour or belief. The list did, of course, include the word 'crossword', something that I like doing. Plain simple clues or more difficult cryptic ones, the answers to be entered in the set pattern of horizontal and

vertical squares – back to the shape of the cross on which Christ died for us.

Lent recalls the time when Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness to prepare himself for the purpose for which He came. During Lent we have time to see where we stand in our faith, our belief in Him, the reason for His coming, His death and resurrection.

Perhaps if we are honest we all need help to sort ourselves out. I know I do when trying to solve my crosswords although I have a number of reference books to help me when I get stuck. In our Christian faith we have the Bible (39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament). Throughout these books we can follow

God's purpose in sending His Son to live among us, to show God's love for us and to die for us on the cross.

The cross has fulfilled its purpose and this is the message of the cross. It is the power of God for salvation. We are not left to shape our own future. Jesus by His spirit is with us throughout our lives. Jesus was assured of His ministry for us and told us all 'it is written'– let's use the Bible for the answers we seek to shape our lives and grow in faith.

The opening words of John 1 about the Word that became flesh may be worth a read!

John Downer

## An Australian Wedding

Many of you will know that I have recently returned from Australia. I went with two of my three daughters, Penny and Joanna, for three weeks to take part in the wedding of my first granddaughter Laura. What excitement!

My youngest daughter Elizabeth, her Australian husband, their son and daughter went to live there 15 years ago. They have been blessed with two more children since then! It was Penny's first visit; Joanna has been a few

times and I have been a few more!

Laura, who was marrying Gareth, wanted us to make 'the cake' and help in general, particularly under the heading of flowers; Bouquets – Bride and Bridesmaids, Buttonholes, Church Dais and the aisle, table decorations. We had great fun picking the garden flowers and eucalyptus foliage. I was thrilled to be asked to read some verses from the Bible during the service – Laura's choice from Song of

Songs. We were so delighted to be part of the celebrations.

Thank you for all the prayers that went up for us. I know there were many and I know they were answered.

Florence Ayres.



**Please come and help on  
Saturday 17th March from 9.30-12**



**Suggested jobs in the grounds—  
pruning, clearing ivy, grass cutting,  
cleaning gulleys, rubbish clearance,  
sweeping gravel.**

**Suggested jobs inside—glass doors  
cleaned, book racks on chairs wiped.**



*Margaret Dallimore sent this verse. She finds it helpful to her and maybe others will also.*

Even to your old age and grey hairs  
I am he, I am he will sustain you.  
I have made you and I will carry you;  
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.



*Isaiah 46:4*

## Having a Spring Clean?

Has the sunshine prompted you to embark on a spring clean at home? If you have Christian books in need of a good home, look no further. Bring them to church and they can be added to our own church Book Share (up-to-date Christian paperbacks) or donated to Book Aid which is a charitable trust set up in the 1980s following a desperate plea from Africa and other countries for Christian books.

**St John's Book Share** has been operating for several years now and gives us all the opportunity to share Christian books that have been particularly helpful and encouraging.

There is no need to sign out for the books - just borrow, read and return for the next person

to enjoy.

Donations of books in a good/very good condition are always needed. A simple bookplate is attached inside each to remind people where to return books. Being realistic, some books will 'find new homes', so please don't part with any books to which you are especially attached.

Oh ... and please check your shelves for any books you may have forgotten to return!

### **BOOK AID**

PROVIDING CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN AREAS OF NEED

**Book Aid need the following books:** All types of Christian books and Bibles - not New English Bible.

**But cannot take:** Non-Christian books, Hymn Books or Service Books, dated

materials - such as Bible Reading Notes, Sunday School materials and magazines or non book items - such as CD's, DVD's, Videos or Cassette Tapes.

Thank you to Jen and Roy Davis for co-ordinating Book Aid collections and delivering them to the nearest Dorset collection point for so many years. We will now be doing this. There is a collection box at the back of church for all donated books.

Thank you to everyone who has ever contributed to either the Book Share or to Book Aid. And thank you to all the enthusiastic readers who have used the Book Share and recommended 'good reads' to others.

Ruth and Dave Clinch

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## Men Alive Group News by Dave Moore

One Saturday morning in February, eight of us met at the Weymouth garden centre for "happy hour" - not cut price spirits but a wholesome breakfast at a very reasonable price. We met in a room overlooking the plants and flowers which reminded us of the beauty of creation and that winter was slowly turning into spring. It was an opportunity for

'chit chat' (it's not just for women!) and a discussion about our determination to beat the women at the skittles challenge on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Roger Welch spoke to us briefly about life as a Yorkshire bobby and his interest in football which was curtailed by a serious back injury. He also told us how he met his wife Gill (who was a Weymouth girl - hence the move down south)

and how she and others led him to a living relationship with Jesus. In human terms this was never likely to happen yet he became an active member of the church as well as taking on the role of churchwarden.

We shared the grace together and then went our separate ways. Keep a lookout for the date of our next meeting. We would love to see you there.



Frugal Food is still going strong after 5 years and we meet weekly every Friday morning during term time at the Park Church Centre.

Our ethos is still the same, ie, to provide cheap (very) nutritional and tasty one pot meals. Everyone who can, gets involved with various aspects of the preparation, cooking and obviously eating. When the

## Focus ... Frugal Food

meal is ready we all sit down together to eat and share fellowship.

We feel we are meeting the needs of a variety of people, whether it is actual cooking skills or friendship and many of the people who attend have been coming for a number of years. Our funding is purely on a voluntary basis and so far our needs are being met.

A big thank you to everyone who comes to help as without support it would be a challenge.

Gill Welch

*(Gill Welch, Sally Horrell, Shirley Evans-Jones, Val Lawson and Jean Halford are the Frugal Food Team. If you would like to be involved please speak to one of the team)*

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## March Diary

Thur 1st		
Fri 2nd		
Sat 3rd	9.30am SaturDads	P.C
<b>Sun 4th</b>	<b>10.30am Morning Worship</b>	<b>St.J</b>
	<b>(followed by Bring and Share Lunch and AGM)</b>	
	<b>6.30pm Lent Service</b>	<b>St.A</b>
Mon 5th	10am Little Fishes	P.C
Tues 6th	8pm Parish at Prayer	St.J
Wed 7th		
Thur 8th		
Fri 9th	2.30pm Missionary Prayer Meeting	
Sat 10th		
<b>Sun 11th</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	
	<b>9am Holy Communion</b>	<b>St.J</b>
	<b>10.30am All Age Worship</b>	<b>St.J</b>
	<b>6.30pm Lent Service</b>	<b>St.J</b>
Mon 12th	10am Little Fishes	P.C
	7.30pm PCC	St.M
Tues 13th		
Wed 14th		
Thur 15th		
Fri 16th		
Sat 17th	9.30am Church Work Party	St.J
<b>Sun 18th</b>	<b>10.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>St.J</b>
	<b>6.30pm Lent Service</b>	<b>St.M</b>
Mon 19th	10am Little Fishes	P.C
	7pm Annual Skittles Match at The Luggar	
Tues 20th		
Wed 21st		
Thur 22nd		
Fri 23rd		
Sat 24th	6pm Passover Meal	St.J
<b>Sun 25th</b>	<b>9am Holy Communion</b>	<b>St.J</b>
	<b>10.30am Morning Worship</b>	<b>St.J</b>
	<b>4pm Pip and Ali's Farewell Tea</b>	<b>E</b>
	<b>6.30pm Witness</b>	<b>E</b>
Mon 26th	10am Little Fishes	P.C
	2pm KS 1 St John's School Service	St.J
Tues 27th	2pm KS2 St John's School Service	St.J
Wed 28th		
<b>Thur 29th</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	
	<b>7.30pm Holy Communion</b>	<b>St.An</b>
<b>Fri 30th</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	
	10am All Age Service	St.J
	(followed by procession to town)	
	<b>2pm Hour at the Cross</b>	<b>St.J</b>
Sat 31st	2pm Easter Family Funday	St.J
<b>April</b>		
<b>Sun 1st</b>	<b>6.30am Sunrise Service on the beach</b>	
	<b>9am Holy Communion</b>	<b>St.J</b>
	<b>10.30am All Age Communion</b>	<b>St.J</b>

St.J—St John's      PC—Park Church  
 St.An—St. Ann's      St.A—St Aldhelm's  
 E – Emmanuel

## Leaders during Sunday Services

**Trailblazers**      Val Collings  
 (Reception -> Year 4)      Hazel Patterson  
                                  Susie Coopey

**Ignite**  
 (Year 5 -> Year 9)      Elliot Bailey  
                                  Elaine Galliot

## Home Group Contacts

Monday Morning	David Moore
Monday Morning	Pat and Roy Worrall
Wednesday Morning	Phyl Willshire
Wednesday Evening	Av Stanton
	Shirley Evans-Jones
Thursday Evening	Michael Miles

## Advanced dates for your diary

**April 22nd**  
 10.30am APCM at St Aldhelm's

## Who's Who?

Vicar	Rev Tom Coopey (01305777708)
Wardens	Michael Miles (01305833878)
	Les Mould (01305835858)

## Next month's issue

Many thanks to all our writers. Please submit articles (of less than 250 words), dates or information to Anne Bond or Linda and Michael Miles by 22nd March. Articles may be edited. Next edition available 1st April

The views and opinions expressed are those of the contributors.