

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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RICHARD SAUNDERS

RICHARD died at Hembury Fort on 17th March, aged 98 years. Those of us who knew him well are relieved that he is no longer suffering in his body and spirit. Richard lived closely with us in Gittisham for 28 years before he reluctantly retired as our beloved Priest in Residence. In that time he fulfilled many other and equally valuable roles for his grateful parishioners: taxi service; babysitter; youth club leader; maths teacher; dinner party host; political adviser; holiday companion; unofficial snow warden (aged 93 years) dancing partner; actor (think pantomimes); Literature critic; psychotherapist and above all else, friend. So many of us will never forget sitting at Richard's cluttered kitchen table with the enamel, vivid orange cafetiere serving the strongest, most delicious coffee; or the partaking of a sherry or two after the service on a Sunday; not forgetting the quantities of red wine served in chipped, thick green Spanish tumblers as a necessary accompaniment to the perceptively acute, wide ranging conversation enjoyed until the late hours. In his role as our Vicar, he was there to celebrate the births, officiate at the weddings and to be a caring, compassionate comfort at the end of life. His sermons were wise and always relevant, lending a greater understanding to the bigger events unfolding in the world - his global village. Richard, in his teaching encouraged us to be open-minded, enquiring and to embrace new ideas, welcoming the challenges these sometimes presented. Richard's ministry to us was founded on the beliefs of his mentor Alan Ecclestone, who wrote, 'The great antitheses are love and power . . . only by loving people can you establish a secure relationship . . . God has renounced power over us and approaches us only with love . . .' When questioned about his faith, Richard replied, "I have based everything on the scripture 'GOD IS LOVE' and then I reversed it, 'LOVE IS GOD'." We were very fortunate indeed to have Richard, his ministry and his friendship with us in the village for such a long duration.

DIARY DATES

April

- 12th Bold as Brass, Sidmouth Town Band
7.45 at the Sidholme Music Room,
Sidmouth, free entrance.
- 16th Coffee Get-together 10.30 - 12 noon
hopefully with sales table. Outside church
if fine inside if wet, everyone welcome.
- 21st Gittisham St. Michael's Annual Parochial
Church Meeting in church 7.00pm, see
next column for details.
- 22nd Spirit II Spirit Choir with Andy Hague
Service 'The Love of God Comes Close
Axmouth Church 7.00pm
- 24th Team Evensong 6.30 at Awliscombe
Church, (5.30 choir practice)

26th Village Hall Meeting at Clyst Hayes
7.30, if you have any ideas for the
Committee to consider please do
let Sue Fallows know.

May

2nd Social Sequence Dance Gittisham
Village Hall, 7.30 - 10.45 £4.00
Bring & share savoury supper, soft
drinks provided, Raffle. Tickets from
Christine Broom

Gittisham Memories

Helen Hayman is arranging a weekend of
Gittisham Memories in the Village Hall on
y/e 11th and 12th of June. She has received several
items of memorabilia already but would be grateful
if you have any photos, newspaper
cuttings etc please do get in touch with her on
01404 758334 or 07806480246. Do put the
dates in your diary.

Firstly, it has to be said how sad it is to hear that Richard passed away, no doubt we could dedicate a whole gazette to him full of personal memories. He was one of the first people to come and visit us when we moved here in 1989, and probably the only person who got out his car and would pat our German shepherd dog on the head – now that's faith!

Farming wise, the milk price seems to keep dropping. Tesco pay based on a 'cost tracker' system, they know how much it costs farmers to produce milk (there's not much they don't know really) and their price is based on that. It's incredible therefore that other companies pay more than 10p less than that to their suppliers, meaning they know farmers are producing milk at a loss. Surely something has to happen.

In general the cows are milking well and we're just waiting for a bit more of this sunshine to make the grass grow so we can turn them out to the fields. Does them good to have a bit of exercise as well as save costs on some feed, plus it gives Candy our collie a purpose, although she's very good at getting them out of the cubicle sheds for me. Our latest addition is 'Twilight Sparkle' (named after a My Little Pony), she is a Jack Russell and was Kadence's birthday present. They've been going to puppy classes together and are doing well. She wants to take her to Honiton Show this year so we'll see. No doubt it'll be August before we know it.

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

I would like to thank all those who decorated the church for Easter the arrangements are lovely and will hopefully still make a nice display for Canon Richard's funeral. Also to all who helped and made cakes for the tea in the afternoon plus Len Abbott who compiled the walking treasurehunt.

Gittisham Sunday services for April/May—at 11am unless stated otherwise.

3rd Family Eucharist service with refreshments

10th Parish Eucharist

17th Lay-led Morning Worship

24th Parish Eucharist

24th Team Evensong - Awliscombe Church 6.60 (choir practice 5.30)

May

1st Family Eucharist with refreshments

8th Parish Eucharist

15th No service in Gittisham, Confirmation Service in St. Paul's with our Bishop 10.00am

Coffee get-togethers will commence again this month on the 3rd Saturday starting on the 16th and each month up to and including October. Hopefully we will be able to have a sales table.

Church cleaning rota (Holy dusters) I am in great need of offers of help to fill this rota. If you could spare one month a year (in teams of 3/4) please do let me know...

200 Club Results - April

St Michael's Gittisham

1st Mr R. Bannister

2nd Mrs c. Broom

3rd Mr R. Kallmieir

4th Mrs R. Cleverdon

5th Mrs J. Lawrence-Jones

We do have some numbers available if you would like to join, £12.00 per number per year ring Carol on 01404 851113 or 07751240873.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, will be held in church at 7.00 on Thursday 21st April. Everyone welcome to come and hear the annual reports of our church year and our hopes for the coming one. There will be refreshments following the APCM and before the first PCC meeting.

GITTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - APRIL REPORT

Six councillors met for the April meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) and Sara Randall Johnson (DCC) were also present. Before the start of the meeting, members held one minute's silence in memory of Barbara Mullett and Richard Saunders.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Sara Randall Johnson said she was taking part in a review of small schools across the county, small meaning fewer than 100 pupils. She explained that it was likely some small schools in Devon would close, as the system of funding pupils has changed. She also reported that the contract to run children's centres across Devon was now in the hands of district areas. The current contract has been extended for one year. Susie Bond confirmed that the recycling contract had been awarded to SITA, and the roll-out to parishes such as Gittisham would begin after December this year. Under the new contract, cardboard and cartons will be collected at the roadside.

Crime. No report received.

Finance. Members agreed the finances.

Planning applications.

- a) Combe House Hotel Gittisham EX14 3AD (two applications) – installation of sash windows and doors to garden pavilion
- b) Masts (SWEB Tower) Putts Corner Honiton – 1 x additional antenna, installation of 1 x 300mm diameter dish
- c) 18 Cypress Close Honiton EX14 2YW – oak; reduce crown height and shape by 10 per cent

Members had no objections to the above.

Limited residential development in Gittisham village.

David Valentine told members that the housing needs survey would be circulated in May. Parishioners and interested parties outside the parish have four weeks to complete the survey and return it. Councillors agreed they would get in touch with contacts outside the parish who they thought would be interested in completing the survey.

Play area.

The clerk reported that the annual inspection of the play area had been completed and the report circulated to members. Russell Hayman agreed to take a look at the swings and see if he could replace the bearing on the shackle. There will be a working party on 21st May to maintain the play area and fix any items that need attention as outlined in the inspection report.

Drains and Ditches.

Members agreed that the village in particular was looking much better as a result of the lengthsman's work, and as a consequence recent heavy rainfall had not resulted in the usual flooding. David Fallows asked Richard Pratt if there was work that needed doing in the Vale, to which Richard replied some work on maintaining roadside verges could be done once the wild flowers had seeded. David Fallows thanked the clerk for the successful application to the Parishes Together fund. The parish has therefore an additional £511.50 to spend on equipment and training for the lengthsman.

Next meeting. This will be on 4th May at 7.30pm. It will be the Annual Public Meeting and all residents are welcome to attend.

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Lengthsmen Len                      by a grateful Villager

Just a word to say thank you Len for all the hard work you are putting in around the place, clearing ditches, a huge difference can be seen all around the village, and lanes all of us now must respect Len's efforts and not crush down the sides of the ditches with wheels of vehicles or block them with hedge trimmings etc.

It would also be beneficial if we all helped by clearing areas close to our properties.

Also a thank you to Russell who used one of his machines to lift a huge tree stump that was blocking the pipes under the bridge if we had had more heavy rain this could have caused more flooding. Plus lending a trailer for all the waste Len clears and for it's disposal.

(And I'm sure, so say all of us!! Editor)

## Correction to date

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### ENGAGEMENT

Nick and Sarah Agg-Manning are delighted to announce the engagement of daughter Harriet (Hattie) to Olly Harrison. We send them our congratulations and wish them every happiness.

#### School Report

##### The Kings School

New Headteacher- Mr Rob Gammon starts his role in September, taking on from Faith Jarrett who retires after 13 years!

Lauren St John, children's author visited students and staff spending a lunchtime book signing.

Various clubs keep students busy, Stem club (science), Ten Tors, various sports clubs, Teen Health, catering club, Lego, gardening and many more.

Goodwill children's Home, southern India (orphanage), is the schools link, the Kings students fund-raise, supporting aspects of their teaching and gained experience from a trip, taking essential equipment out to them.

Raleigh won the house music with a performance 'Lord of the Flies'

YR 11 have spent the holidays revising for their exams which start mid May.

Tim Peake- contact will be made in May with the students, live and NASA are selecting questions sent from the school at the beginning of March, so exciting times ahead!  
Helen Hayman- PTFA chair

#### **Parish Housing Needs Survey**

The Parish Housing Needs Survey will be taking place during May/June. The survey forms together with an explanatory letter and prepaid return envelope will be circulated with the May publication of the Gazette. It is important that as many families as possible complete and return the form. The more complete the survey - the more credibility will be attached to the results. A contact telephone No. for any questions will be provided in the explanatory letter. We would also like to contact any families/persons who have previously resided in the Parish/village but may be interested in returning to the Parish/village if suitable accommodation was available. Please contact me with any details at [davidmvalentine@btinternet.com](mailto:davidmvalentine@btinternet.com) .

#### **Ottery St. Mary Parish Church**

Are holding an Anniversary Concert on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30, featuring The Military Wives Choir, Exmouth Town Concert Band and Ottery St. Mary Silver Band, to celebrate 30 years of the Rotary Club of Otter Valley. Tickets £10 from Curious Otter Bookshop Ottery or A. Dimond & Co. Honiton.

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#### **Forward Notice**

We have been approached by the Honiton Community Theatre Company who will be staging their production of Twelfth Night in Gittisham Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. . Watch out in next month's Gazette and posters, for further details.

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#### **Heart felt thanks**

Just a few words to express so many "thank-yous". My heart-felt gratitude to all those who supported Barbara and me with love and caring through a year which, ultimately, led to Barbara's untimely death in February. You gave of yourselves, and are still giving, and that is beyond price. I send my love, Jan.

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The Gazette is currently being edited by Carol McCann if you would like to take on this task and join our editorial committee please let me know. We aim to go to print during the second week in the month depending on Parish Council and 200 club.  
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Copy date for May will be Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>.