

# THE SIGNAL

A Community Newsletter for

BROBURY - BYFORD - KINNERSLEY - LETTON - MANSELL

GAMAGE - MOORHAMPTON - MONNINGTON-ON-WYE -

NORTON CANON - SARNESFIELD - STAUNTON-ON-WYE

No. 97 November 1990

15P



## Church Affairs

THE FUTURE OF STAUNTON CHURCH : A REPLY

BY

Richard Hillard

You invite, Mr. Birt, in your contribution to the September number of Signal, discussion of what you have written. In it you appear to closely link the parish's 1989 shortfall in the payment of Share with your inability to promise that Staunton Church will not close. In so saying are you not raising the spectre of the compulsory closure (to which there would be vigorous opposition from the parishioners) by central authority, and on the ground of a shortfall in share?

Could closure on that ground be justified in face of the facts that this year the PCC is paying the Share request in full? That means that in four out of the last five years Staunton has paid every penny asked from it by the Diocese.

We can be confident that central authority would not entertain the idea of compulsory closure, especially on such a temporary and financial ground. The failure and the consequence envisaged by you are out of all proportion to each other. Moreover your suggestion runs perilously close to, and might well be thought by readers to be, inviting secular retribution for a failure. That, you will agree, is a risk not to be run. It is not the way a Christian church treats a failure either by an individual or a group.

The PCC regrets it could not reach its share target last year. Particularly because it had done so in each of the four surrounding years.

Readers of Signal unversed in church financial matters may not know in what sense other parishes help in the event of a shortfall by a parish within the Deanery. The Deanery collects on behalf of the Diocese. The Diocese allows a discount to the Deanery for the purpose of the Deanery accumulating a fund to help any of its parishes unable to pay its share in full. The shortfall in 1989 created a call on that fund, and thereby depleted the ability of the fund to be available to assist other parishes. It is in that sense that parishes help one another. The finance to do so devolves from the Diocese.

Even considered on a material level to close Staunton church would be self defeating. The Diocese would lose a parish share, thereby increasing its call on other parishes. The responsibility for the building would fall squarely on the Diocese, leaving it with a long term liability to prevent the building becoming a dangerous structure. The work load of the clergy would be lightened only marginally. Baptisms, weddings, funerals would have to be performed, the sick visited, the distressed counselled. The present Sunday services conducted by clergy would be reduced only by approximately 24 in a year.

Spiritually the closure of the church would be a moral failure. Not only for the parish but for the clergy responsible for its use, and thus also in a diminishing degree for the Diocese and the wider church. A step, albeit a small one, in reducing the claim by, and a glory of, the Church of England to provide in every locality a haven dedicated to worship and prayer, a visible manifestation of the things of the spirit.

No one thinks that these acts mitigate the responsibility of the parish to stand financially on its own feet, sharing in providing for the needs of the wider church. Great help has been given to the PCC by you and by other Christian men and women outside the parish, notably by a long term covenant (now expired) and active help in initiating and organising the concerts in Weobley and Staunton and a 'bring and buy' gathering at Weobley to be held shortly. We are grateful and thankful for this help, and for the example of how to help ourselves. We accept that we must not leave such efforts to our neighbours.

It is interesting, but not helpful, in meeting the needs of the present day to look back (not by you) upon Victorian or earlier days. Needs must that we succeed in our present environment.

So let us banish all thoughts of closure. They have inevitably caused much dismay and distress, and are calculated to hamper the endeavours of well wishers. Talking must be only of action for growth.

All can rest assured that there will be parishioners in Staunton who will value public worship (maybe in ways different from to-day), and a building in which to do so, long after all we passing travellers have left the scene.

Contributions for the December issue should be sent to Gereth Evans, Llanerco, Norton Canon (0544 518505) by 26th November.

A beautiful desk Prayer Book has been presented to St. Mary's Church, Staunton-On-Wye in memory of Jason Jenkins, who was tragically drowned at Evesham in April. It was dedicated on October 7th, which would have been Jason's 20th birthday. We are grateful to the donors.

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**STAUNTON ON WYE CHURCH : THE FUTURE**  
**BY**

**Kathleen Anderson**

Mr Pantall has misunderstood the identity of "the Church". It is not a building at all but a body of people who are committed in baptism to certain beliefs and standards of conduct. By baptism they become members of the Church. One of the standards towards which they are committed to strive is to watch for and serve the needs of other people, if necessary by self-sacrifice.

By 1936, the year when tithes were abolished by Act of Parliament, the population of this country had not only increased considerably since 1784, but had shifted from the country to the towns. For the spiritual welfare of the whole Church in England it was necessary to redistribute the wealth which had accumulated as the result of the generosity of its past members. In 1976, by the Endowments and Glebes Measure, all glebe lands were transferred to the Dioceses - all by the same democratic process, an Act of Parliament, as the "Staunton-on-Wye Inclosure Award" of 1784.

Before this redistribution, clergy in different parts of the country were paid different stipends. Some, like the Rector of Staunton On Wye, were well off, others lived on a bare pittance. Now, within narrow limits, every clergyman is paid the same.

Nevertheless the "millions" administered by the Church Commissioners, who are responsible both to Parliament and to the General Synod of the Church of England, are not sufficient to pay the very modest stipends of the country's clergy, provide them with reasonably comfortable and economical housing and care for them and for their widows in sickness or old age, so the Dioceses have been made responsible for finding the necessary extra money for this purpose. The Dioceses, which have only limited funds of their own, ask a contribution from each of their Deaneries, which in turn, distribute the financial burden among the Parishes, according to a democratically agreed formula. In this Deanery of Kington and Weobley the formula, which is reviewed triennially, was agreed unanimously by representatives of every Parish, including Staunton On Wye. By this method the living members of the Church are asked to do what their forebears did, to contribute to the spiritual needs of the whole community.

80% of the "Quota", which we in this Diocese, now call the "Share", is used for the stipends of the clergy. We also make a contribution towards the training of the clergy, something which was regarded as unnecessary before 1839, when the first Theological College was built.

A great deal of local affection is focussed on Church Buildings. Many people want the Church to be there as a symbol of community roots, and as an appropriate setting for the serious moments of their lives, for marriages and burials, perhaps for the communal celebration of harvest or the commemoration of national events such as Remembrance Day. But Church Buildings are not primarily there for the purpose of weddings and funerals. They were built and have been used over the centuries, to make possible the gathering of Christians in fellowship to worship God, and "to ask on the behalf of all men such things as their wellbeing doth require". The regular Sunday act of worship is not intended to be a "social distraction", but is an important contributory to the spiritual health both to the individual and of the community. Moreover the Church which is not used regularly for worship is dead; it feels like a deserted house.

CONT'D

The attitude of Christian communities in this country and others has undergone a significant change in the last century. They have become less parochial, more aware of themselves as one unit among others, all part of the same family. This "family" feeling is growing in the Kington and Weobley Deanery of which Staunton on Wye is a part. That is why, further on in the October Signal, Mr Pantall will find an advertisement for a Coffee Morning in Weobley in Aid of St. Mary's Staunton on Wye, which is being supported not only by Stauntonians, but by the whole Deanery. This article will not be published until after October 27th, the date of this event, which bids fair to be a very happy occasion, otherwise I should have invited Mr Pantall to join us. But a Garden Event is planned for next May or June. Perhaps he will be prepared to forget old grievances then, and join us in working for the preservation of a living presence of the Church in Staunton on Wye. He will be warmly welcomed.

#### A RESPONSE

by the Rev. Richard Birt

Mr Pantall is to be congratulated on his meticulous historical research but, however aggravating the past maybe, we have to make sense of the present.

I have never criticized the congregation for any "shortcomings". They are a valiant band. The point is that there are scarcely enough of them at present to keep the church going.

Staunton church is in danger from nothing except irregularity of support from the general population.

#### Forget Me Not Trip

The autumn trip was organised again by Biddy and we left Staunton at ten on Tuesday 9th October in beautiful sunshine. We travelled to Chepstow through the Forest of Dean and had our lunch, and then proceeded to Cheddar Gorge, we stopped there for a short break to stretch our legs and saw some rather rude jokes in a shop window which caused a considerable amount of mirth for the rest of the journey. Our final stop for refreshment was at the Dog on the Gloucester Road where we finalised the draw etc, very enjoyable trip everyone agreed. The driver rang next morning to say we had travelled 230 miles.

P McCann

#### IS THIS YOU

Clothes feeling tight or even too small for that special occasion or Christmas ball?

Don't feel sad & all alone HAZEL can help you

just pick up the phone.

There's a diet for you give her a ring

Lose a stone in four weeks

turn that smile to a grin.

If this sounds like you

ring her to-day

and lose all that weight

THE SLIMMING WORLD WAY

Hazel 09817 544

Class : Bredwardine Village Hall  
Tuesdays - 7pm.



## VIGNETTE No.2

Quite a few years have now passed since there was a 'spot of bother' between her Britanic Majesties Government and a very small Caribbean Island.

After what could only be described as the last 'Gun Boat' landing by the Royal Navy and a Paratroop airdrop. Her Britanic Majesties Government not wishing to appear too oppressive decided that having restored order that it would be better if a Civil Police Force maintained the peace.

So the 'A.....' Police Force was formed and 100 policemen from England were seconded to this force. Three months holiday in the Caribbean ! There was little to do, the native islanders were a friendly lot and could not really understand why all these policemen had come to their island. His duties seemed to consist mainly of helping to solve a local community or family dispute. This is the story of one such incident.

It was, as usual a very hot afternoon in the house that served as a police station at the eastern end of the island. The officers having finished their lunch were in the process of deciding what they should do to while away the afternoon when two irate looking locals approached. Policemen have an innate ability to sense the approach of 'trouble' and the shout went up "whose duty man" ! (there was always one officer officially on duty).

The 'Duty Officer' spoke to the two men and found it was a dispute over some scrub land at the rear of their houses. . One owned a goat and the cause of the problem seemed to be that his goat had not only been eating its own grass but also that of his neighbour, this was a serious case because grass was very scarce on the island. This was the sort of problem that could only be decided by a visit to the scene. The officer reached for his cap and put it on. This made him officially 'on duty' and indeed would be the only piece of uniform that a British person would recognise, as the rest of his attire consisted of flip-flops, shorts and 'T' shirt.

He walked the half mile with the two men and having reached the disputed land asked each man to repeat his family history about the surrounding scrub land. The goat was also in evidence - now secured to a tree by a length of rope. The officer listened to each man in turn and realising that both these men wished for a decision to be made there and then. He thought for a few seconds then said to them. "Now listen both of you very carefully". Two upturned faces gazed at him intently. "You see that rock over there" the officer pointed to a rock about 50yds away "and you see this tree here" they both nodded in acknowledgment, "well, by order of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second", their eyes grew even larger, obviously impressed by these grand words, the officer continued, "and by the power invested in me by her, I do hereby make the following pronouncement". "It is hereby decreed that on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, the goat must stay on this side of the line, he indicated the right hand side of the invisible line; "on Tuesdays Thursdays and Saturdays he may also eat the grass on the other side as well, provided of course that this man (indicating the second man) does not also purchase a goat in which case each goat must keep to its own side of the line I have indicated. The officer stopped there, noticing that the two men appeared satisfied. He asked each one to repeat the agreement, and much to his surprise they both started by saying that Queen Elizabeth the Second had decreed that ..... At this point the officer left and returned to the station.

No doubt one day, a future historian will be somewhat perplexed by this oral tradition that Queen Elizabeth II visited the island.

[More Vignettes - please]

John Corke

## FLIGHT IN A HOT AIR BALLOON

By

Gareth Evans

It was all to have been such a secret. To celebrate David's 40th birthday my daughter Mary had carefully planned the big surprise for the four of us: David, herself, me and David's father - with our sworn promises to keep David in the dark until the very last moment. Of course, it didn't work out that way - family secrets are always difficult to keep - but we did at least try.

Good ballooning depends greatly on wind and weather so we were really lucky with our glorious early morning sunshine. When we reached the take off field some 20 miles south west of Cricklade in Wiltshire, there was the huge balloon canopy lying on its side slowly taking shape as the roaring burners pumped in the hot air.

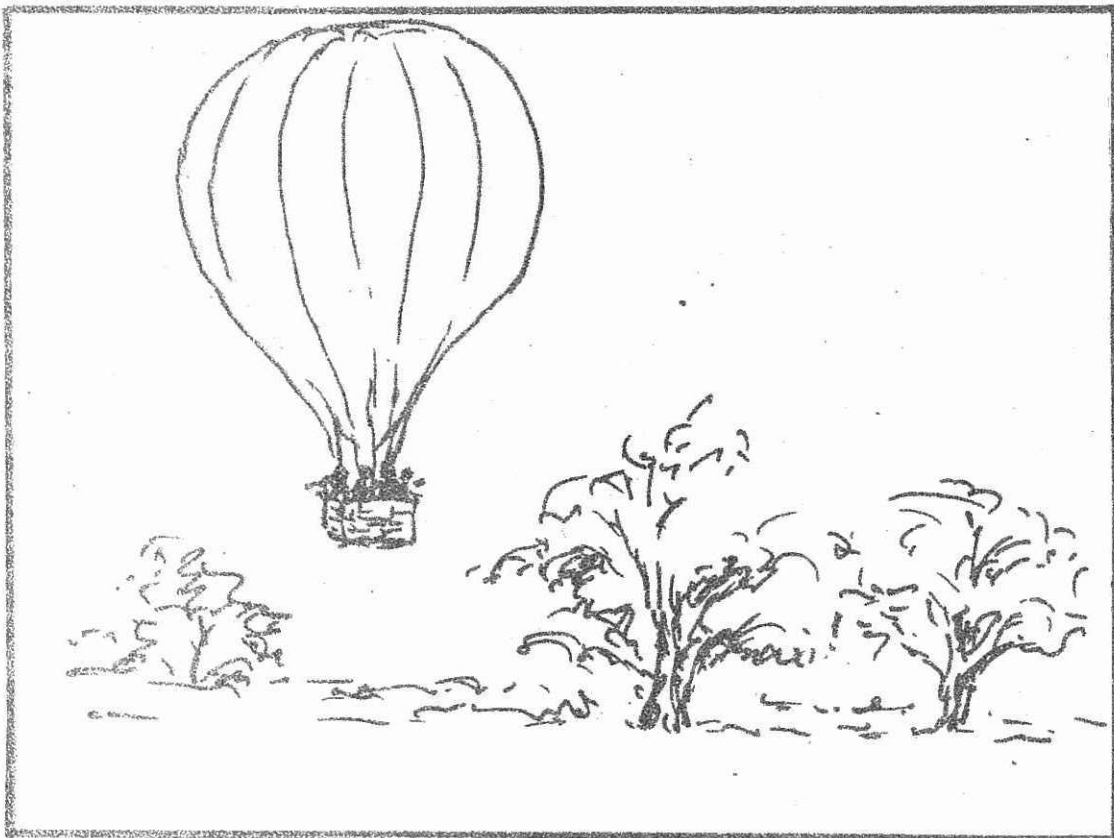
My first surprise was the miniscule size of the basket in which the four of us plus the navigator had to stand. Our stances during the hours flight had therefore to be extremely friendly so that many of my photographs had left ears and right shoulder blades in their foreground.

But these petty limitations soon paled into insignificance as we rose up through the morning mists to find the sunlight beauty of the glorious Cotswold countryside stretching away below us - and all in silence. It was breathtaking.

As we rose up to some 2,000 feet it was indeed the silence of flight - interspersed by furious burner blasts of hot air - that I found so all pervading. You could even hear the noise of passing traffic on the roads below. One felt really detached from the hectic world and it was fun to wave to people who came out into their gardens to watch us float silently by overhead. In a way we felt like trespassers.

At last we had to come down. Governed by the wind our navigator selected a suitable field for landing and told us to bend our legs slightly to brace for the modest impact when the basket hit the ground. We grazed the top of an apple tree, two slight bumps and there we were.

For myself, there will always remain the silence and the bliss of aerial solitude. A real "one off" experience.



A little sincerity is a dangerous thing and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.

(Oscar Wilde)

#### FOOTPATHS - OPEN MEETING 10th October 1990

As a direct result of the interest shown at the first parish meeting, I decided that a further open meeting might help to resolve some of the problems raised, in a rational manner.

No minutes were kept of this meeting and if I have omitted any matter of importance then I apologise in advance.

Representative speakers were invited from the National Farmers Union, The County Landowners Association, and Hereford/Worcester C.C. and a date was fixed for Wednesday 10th October. Unfortunately Mr Banks the elected Parish Footpaths Officer was unable to attend but I took the decision to carry on as alternative dates were proving very difficult to arrange.

The meeting was reasonably well attended. Major Hopton representing the C.L.A. and Mr Chambers for H & W C.C. both made their positions very clear and both stressed the legal consequences of the Act. Unfortunately the speaker from the NFU was unable to attend but I understand their position was similar to that of the C.L.A.

Various matters of concern were raised but the consensus of opinion was that most difficulties could be overcome with a degree of good will and co-operation from all parties. Both speakers indicated that they would like to see parishes rationalising the footpath networks within their boundaries and agreeing a system of priority for the definitive paths. If this was done there would need to be discussion and co-operation with neighbouring parishes.

It was stressed that stock farmers in particular have serious problems and it was emphasised that stiles should be erected alongside gates on all stock farms. It was also stressed that dogs should be kept under close control at all times and most people agreed that this should be interpreted as "on a lead".

It is my personal opinion that the interested parties - walkers and landowners - should co-ordinate and co-operate with Mr Banks to produce a rationalised and acceptable network of paths within the parish. Some quite obviously lead nowhere in particular and surely our efforts and limited resources should be focused on the more obvious "walks".

One must also bear in mind that it costs £300-£400 to move a path and even more to close one. In fact I had the impression that closing a path was almost impossible. Again I am sure that common sense and goodwill will ensure that local paths are routed to our common benefit.

There is a degree of urgency over this planned rationalisation as stiles and bridges must be sited at the most sensible positions otherwise a great deal of time and money will be wasted.

Which brings me to the last point. Resources are already stretched to breaking point and it was suggested that "volunteer" groups be formed in each parish to carry out the necessary work under supervision. We heard an interesting account from Mr Corke of Staunton on Wye of such planned group activity which he organises. So if you are interested now is the time to make yourself known to Mr Banks.

cont'd  
7

I have now called two Parish meetings to discuss Local Footpaths. We understand the position and we clearly are aware of the many problems. I feel it is now up to those interested to co-operate with Mr Banks and resolve problems amicably as they arise. In our small community this is the best and probably the only way we can live to-gether in a neighbourly manner.

I see no need for any further Open Parish Meetings on this topic but if you feel differently I have no doubt that you will let me know.

H Jones  
Chairman P.C.

#### **NORTON CANON YOUTH CLUB**

Weobley Youth Club held a It's a Knockout Competition on 2nd September when Norton Canon won the Rose Pember Shield, the team was Alan Griffiths, Craig Lane, Louise Deem, Bryn Evans, Charles Griffiths and Lynsey Evans. The youth club also came runners up in the five a side football. Congratulations and well done teams. The trophy can be seen at Norton Canon Stores.

#### **NORTON CANON AREA**

Anyone looking for a Baby Sitter contact Louise Deem, Lamaro, Norton Canon. £1.25 per hour.

#### **NORTON CANON CHURCH**

The P.C.C. would like to thank all who contributed to the Harvest Festival Appeal. The sum raised was £203.80. Many thanks to all who gave fruit, flowers and refreshments.

#### **FIREWORK DISPLAY & HALLOW'EEN**

STAUNTON RECREATION GROUND

FRIDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER,  
6.30 p.m.

Soup, Hot Dogs Etc.

Adults £2 Children £1

Proceeds - Staunton School.

A business-like lady of Kent  
Said marriage was not her intent  
She'd give a good year  
To build a career  
Then find a nice household to rent

#### **WEBB WEEKEND AT HARDWICKE (24th - 25th November 1990)**

To celebrate the life and work of the Rev. T W Webb the father of amateur astronomy. For detailed programme send S.A.E. to:-  
The Haven, Hardwicke, Hay-On-Wye HR3 5TA.



## STAUNTON-ON-WYE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD OF YORE

Continuing our Series of Articles by RICHARD PANTALL

6th October 1909

Success at the London Dairy Show: In the butter making competitions, Mrs. M. Jones, New House Farm, Staunton-on-Wye, won third prize in the open class of 16 strong, resulting in keen competition. Her daughter, Nancy Jones, aged 12 years, who was the smallest milkmaid in the Show, got commended in a class of 11, for girls under 18.

6th October 1909

Hardisley Ploughing Match: In the annual competitions the first prize for mangolds (given by Mr. C. Elliott, Brobury) was won by Mr. W. Pantall, of Old Letton Court.

1th May 1910

Motor Car for Sale: James Fryer, Green Dragon Garage, Hereford, advertise their new 2-seater STAR motor-car, 7-9 h.p., 2-cylinder, bucket seats, side windows, 3 lamps. Ready for the road at £55. This car, they said, makes rare little runabout, and is capable of instant and regular work.

5th February 1911

First Motor-Car Advertisement A WOLSELEY 12-16 h.p. convertible. Advertised by James Fryer, Green Dragon Garage, as a 'very reliable car,' fitted with smart four-seated body painted in Imperial Green, Royal Blue or armine. Price £370. Phenominal Demand. Delivery: One car per week.

9th April 1911

Whist Tournament: A very successful whist drive and dance took place in the Schoolroom, by kind permission of the Rector. Miss Evelyn Rowles won the ladies' first prize. Gramophone selections were given by Mr. Holland of Rumlin, and Miss A. Wootton played the piano for dancing.

1th July 1911

Champion Butter Maker: Mrs. Mary Jones, New House Farm, Staunton-on-Wye, won first prize for butter making in the Open Class at Ledbury, and first prize for milking at the Bath & West Show at Cardiff. She was also the winner of a prize essay on Dairying.

1th November 1911

Shooting Affray at Staunton-on-Wye - Serious Charges against Gamekeepers: At Weobley Police Court, Frederick Payne, of Mansell Gamage, and George Cady, of Staunton-on-Wye, gamekeepers in the employ of Sir John Cotterell, were charged with wounding two gipsies named Annes Smith and Job Smith, encamped on Woodallsgreen Common, as a result of which Annes Smith died in Hereford General Hospital from shotgun wounds. The deceased was 25 years of age, was not married, but had three children. At an enquiry into the circumstances it was stated the two gipsies, with two other men and two women, were travelling gipsies, and had pitched their tents on the Common two days previously. They had been seen there by the two keepers, who on the fateful day had been drinking in the Railway Inn, Norton Anon, for two hours before arriving at the Common at 7.30. p.m., on a moonlight evening. An argument was soon under way with the keepers alleging the gipsies' two dogs were then out poaching in the fields, and Payne gave orders they were to move at once. There was much cursing and swearing, and armed with a loaded shotgun, head-keeper Payne started pulling the tents down, threatening to rip the place up. The gipsies said they would move next morning, to which Payne said, "Oh, if you don't go at once, we'll shoot you," whereupon he started to chase the Smith brothers round the tents and into the bushes. Annes Smith fell, and Payne stood over him, gun in hand. Job Smith went to the rescue of his brother, and got hold of the muzzle of the gun, which went off, the shot hit him in the right elbow and his brother was struck in the left arm. When they recovered consciousness they were driven to Dr. Steed's surgery by another brother, Jeremiah Smith, who had run away when his tent was being pulled down.

Dr. Steed gave evidence that at about a quarter to ten at night the three Smith brothers came to his surgery, with Annis Smith having gunshot wounds which were serious, the ulnar artery having been severed. He took the man to hospital in Hereford, where amputation of the arm was necessary. Gangrene set in and he died from blood poisoning.

At a Special Police Court at Weobley both keepers were charged with causing the death of Annes Smith, by shooting him. After evidence was given the Bench did not think there was a case against Cady, and discharged him. Payne was committed for trial for feloniously killing and slaying Annes Smith, and for maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm on Job Smith.

At the Assizes at the Shirehall, before Mr. Justice Horridge, the prisoner pleaded "Not Guilty" to both counts. Sketches and photographs were produced of the Common where the affray took place, showing the gipsies' tents and the bushes. Evidence was given, including that of a London gunmaker, who said the gamekeeper's gun could not be fired unless the hammer was at 'full cock.' The trigger would otherwise require a 3 lbs. pull to discharge it. The prisoner gave evidence he had an argument with the gipsies over poaching dogs, it developed into threats and a tussle for his gun, which went off, wounding the men. He bitterly regretted the accident.

After retirement the Jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty," and Payne was discharged.

20th April 1912

Early Flying Machines: two friends in Dublin with flying machines, decided for a bet, to have a race to London's Hendon Airport and back. Both reached Hendon, but on the way back one disappeared into the Irish Sea. The other, piloted by Mr. Corbett Wilson, ran into dense fog, and was forced to land on Pentwyn Common, Colva, Nr. Huntinton, Kington. Considerable interest was aroused, and over 1,000 people were there to watch him leave the next day.

25th January 1913

Pierrot Concert - Popular County Amateurs at Staunton-on-Wye: On the evenings of Friday and Saturday last week, a very successful dramatic entertainment was held in aid of the fund for the repair of the Church roof. There were large attendances each day, and Mrs. Steed and Mrs. Crossley (Old Letton Court), are to be congratulated on raising the handsome sum of £15. The repute of the talents of several well-known ladies and gentlemen was to a large extent responsible for the large audiences. The first vocalist was Lady Evelyn Cotterell, who gave "The Hoodoo" and "A Quaker Girl." She received a very warm welcome. Other songs were rendered by Miss Sybil Awdry, Mrs. Armitage, with Mr. Beddoes as a coon singer on the banjo, and Mr. Tod singing humorous songs. There were many encores and much applause.

1st March 1913

Weobley Magistrates' Licensing Meeting: Mrs. Mary Ann Langford, owner and licensee of the New Inn, Staunton-on-Wye, applied for her licence renewal, previously objected to by the Police, on the grounds of the redundant state of the premises, which had not been adapted to those of a licensed House, although the situation in the village was a good one. Her licence was granted on condition the premises were altered and kept in a good state.

8th March 1913

Tragic Death of a Farmer Drowned in a Sheep-Wash: The body of Mr. James Watkins, retired farmer, aged 72, and missing for 5-6 weeks from Monnington Court, the home of his son-in-law, Mr. Immes, was found in the bottom of a sheep-wash, by Thomas Stead, farm labourer, employed by Mr. Wm. Pantall, Monnington House. He had no fixed home and mostly lived with Mr. Immes, but he often went to his brother's at Longtown, which at first did not cause any concern, but later, extensive enquiries were unavailingly made for him. It was stated at the Inquest he was in the habit of crossing the brook on the bridge by the sheep-wash, to avoid the mud, on his way to the Portway Hotel. The sheep-wash was full, with about 4ft. of water, and it is thought likely he must have slipped and fallen in, striking his head against the brickwork.

### CHRISTMAS 1990

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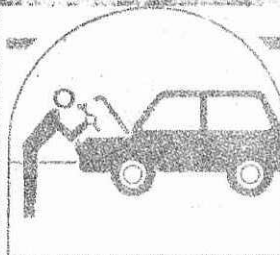
Chickens, Ducks, Geese & Turkeys

Phone Anne Cole 0544 318 260

Best time 8pm - 10pm

We wish to thank all our old friends, and many new ones in Staunton who we have discovered, for their help at a difficult time. A terminal illness is not a happy thing, but with so much support from our good Doctor, Brian Beach, the District Nurses, St. Michael's Hospice, the Rev. Bryn Rees, and our loving son, Fr. Michael of Belmont Abbey, we are indeed blessed. God be thanked.

Frank and Mildred Evans



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  - ★ Refinishing Materials and Polish
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- AND MUCH MORE!!!

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### CAN YOU HELP ?

Eighteen months ago Thomas Traherene Ward was opened at St. Mary's Hospital. An innovative, yet imaginative concept of the Age Care team of the Herefordshire Health Authority, it provides slow stream rehabilitation of the elderly. Most of the persons on the ward have suffered a stroke, or have orthopaedic or neurological problems such as Parkinsons disease. Patients are over 65 and can be in hospital for anything from a few weeks to 6 months. The general philosophy of the ward is that persons should receive specialised therapeutic treatment in order to overcome their impairment and be able if possible to return to life in the community. Already several people from the district have spent a period on the ward. Unfortunately as we get older a high proportion of us may suffer with these disabilities and it may well be that at some time a relative or friend may benefit from the facilities that the ward offers.

However, like many other worthwhile projects the ward was set up with very limited funds. Ideally we should like to have a rehabilitation kitchen set up with the basic equipment of any home kitchen. We would like to have remedial games to improve co-ordination, mobility etc. We would like money to purchase materials for and to run a weekly art session, to have some musical instrument to accompany community singing, to buy a decent television and even a mobile phone. Volunteers too are needed to organise group activities on a weekly basis.

In order to raise funds for the ward it is proposed to hold a sale at **THE HOPELANDS, WEOBLEY**, on Saturday November 3rd. at 2pm. Stalls will include cake, bric-a-brac, produce, books, games, teas etc. Nothing saleable will be refused. Your support would be appreciated. If you have anything to donate or would like to know more please contact Josephine Ware, Throne Farm, Weobley. 318296.



Mower Maintenance 2 - Engines and Rotary types.

If your mower has a four-stroke engine (ie. one that runs on petrol alone rather than a mixture of petrol and oil) start by treating it to a change of engine oil. Drain off the old black stuff and replace it with the appropriate amount of the same oil you put in the car. Most small mowers take  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1 pint. Next take out the sparking plug and give the electrode and the insulator a thorough clean. Check the gap between the electrodes and, if necessary, reset to 0.020 inches - it's not very critical.

Should the mower continue to be a reluctant starter after the plug-cleaning, you may have to be a little more ambitious and check the contact-breaker points. (This assumes your machine is not of the latest type with electronic ignition which should require no attention). Take off the pull-cord starter and it's associated sheet metal covers. This will expose the flywheel which is retained by a central nut. Approach this nut with care for some have a left-hand thread. Remove the nut and this should allow the flywheel to be lifted off it's taper and key. With the flywheel out of the way, the contact-breaker assembly will be exposed and can be cleaned of dirt and oil. If the contacts are badly worn or pitted, it is best to replace them although they can be trued-up with care using a very fine file. Afterwards, adjust the contact gap to the figure given in the instruction manual - usually about 0.018 inches. While the covers are off, clean all the grass cuttings from the engine cooling fins and everywhere else and then re-assemble and test.

The rest of a rotary mower needs little attention apart from a run over with the oilcan and/or grease gun. Apart, that is, from the cutting blades. If these are of the plastic type, simply replace with a new set. Steel ones will need re-sharpening and this can be done with a file with the blade held in a vice. An angle grinder will do the job better and more quickly. But before touching the blades - remove the sparking plug lead.

Before putting the mower away for the winter do two more things. Take out the sparking plug and squirt in a little oil and turn the engine over once or twice; this will keep the cylinder rust-free. And fill the fuel tank which will reduce the risk of internal rusting.

By the way, all motor mowers should perform perfectly well on lead-free petrol.

Harry

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# countryman

Well, another summer has been and gone, and most of our flowers are only memories now. Time to take stock, while we can still remember, of the plants which were a definite success, and weed out the failures of the year. We should go easy on the last, though, because the hot dry summer didn't suit all our plants. I planted nearly a hundred of the 4ft tall Cardinal Flower. *Lobelia Cardinalis*, and watched them all die in the sun; even watering them twice a week didn't save them, many varieties flowered sparsely, and even our Michaelmas daisies have been poor. Never mind, the Irises were superb.

The main job this month is to try and plant as much as possible in the tree, shrub and herbaceous line. I'm sure that many of you who planted last autumn are sitting there grinning, for autumn-planted specimens can root in the fresh soil before Christmas, and be established by the time spring comes round, while spring-planted material has a lot to do in a very short time. Many of our late-planted lilies didn't even flower, for the hot weather started before they had made sufficient root. So, assuming that you have decided what to plant where, get cracking with your spades. When planting anything, take time to prepare the soil well - a good digging, taking care to remove all weeds, and a liberal dosing with bonemeal (despite the report you may have read in the *Gardening* magazine) will reap rich rewards next year. Don't forget, too, to firm the soil well with your boots after planting - hard frosts often lift freshly dug soil and it will be necessary to check round after frosts. Use whatever compost or manure you can get your hands on - it won't do much good left in a heap! The aim should always be to improve the soil, and even intractable clay can be broken down in time to a rich, almost frothy soil!

While we're on about digging, might I suggest to you to make sure that your spade has tread-guards on it? I know several people who have had nasty gashes on their ankles as a result of using spades without treads. You may have to look round for such a tool or even buy one without and take it straight to a blacksmith or (more usually) a garage and have treads welded on. Believe me, it's worth it.

I was intending to write about tools in a future issue, but since the time is here - don't leave your tools outside to be ruined and snowed on. They'll only end up rusty which means that they won't be half so efficient. After the last cut of the season, hose your mower down and put it under cover to dry. Then, a week later, go over it with the oil can, wiping the Metal body-work with an oily cloth. Do the same with your hedging and lawn shears, and don't forget your secateurs and humbler tools. It only takes a few minutes but the tools will all function properly next time. A favourite tool to 'miss' is the bowsaw - and when you come to use it next it's all rusty.

A stitch in time saves nine!

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## PUB QUIZ

Q : Who won the Knockout Plate in the Kington Quiz League last year ?

A : The New Inn - Staunton-On-Wye

Following our succesful first year in the League where the team won the Plate and finished second in our division, gaining promotion, we have now two teams for the 1990/91 season.

The games are played on Sunday evenings and comprise eight rounds of questions viz :- Current Affairs; Sport; Popular Music; General Knowledge; The Arts; Entertainment; History; Geography; Science and Nature.

Prior to the start of the game the team selects two categories of questions to be answered by individuals in the team, the other six categories are answered by the team collectively.

The League is organised and run very professionally by local people and prides itself on being competitive but always friendly, providing a very pleasant evening for all concerned.

The season started on the 6th October and the results so far are as follows:-

	<u>Team A</u>	<u>Team B</u>
Week 1	Swan, Kington Lost	Talbot Hotel, Kington Won
Week 2	Burton Hotel, Kington Won	Bye
Week 3	Royal George, Lyonshall Lost	Lamb Inn, Kington Lost

If you would like to get involved or want more information contact Peter or Barbara at The New Inn.

## STAUNTON ON WYE FOOTBALL CLUB

The excitement generated in the team at the news of our promotion to Division 2 for the first time in the clubs history has been tempered in the first weeks of the new season by the realisation that "it's tough at the top".

Four succesive defeats, injuries and non-avallibility of players has made the early season a trying time.

However, all is not doom and gloom. Saturdays game away at Leintwardine, who had previously lost only one game, showed that there was still a great deal of spirit (non-alcoholic) in the club.

After going a goal behind against the run of play Staunton hit back immediately with a well struck goal by Dave Bradley (1-1). From that point we took complete control of the game and were duly rewarded with a goal by Dave Morris, midway into the second half. Leintwardine then pushed hard to get the equaliser but the Staunton defence proved good enough to hold them. Good enough, that is, until 15 seconds from the end when a badly played backpass allowed Leintwardine to snatch an equalising goal (2-2).

Disapointment with the result but overall satisfaction with the commitment of the team to this fairly played and enjoyable game points to better performances to come.

Running two sides (more on the reserves next time) means that there is a game at home most Saturday afternoons (usually 2.30 kick off). Please come along and support us. You will be most welcome. Also, we are always looking for new players (or old ones) and would welcome those wishing to play.

Peter Clarke

# WHAT'S ON....

## CHURCH SERVICES DURING OCTOBER

### Byford

4th 9.30am Holy Communion  
 11th 10.45am Remembrance Service  
 (Royal British Legion Parade)  
 18th 11.00am Morning Prayer with Baptism  
 25th 10.00am Family Service

### December

2nd 9.30am Holy Communion  
 (Gift Day for Bible Society)

### Kinnersley

4th 10.00am Holy Communion  
 11th 10.00am Remembrance Service (Mattins)  
 18th 10.00am Holy Communion  
 preacher - Mr D Treweek from  
 the Children's Society  
 25th 10.00am Christingle Family Service  
 30th 10.00am Holy Communion  
 (St Andrew the Apostle)

### December

2nd 10am Advent Carol Service

### Letton

11th 10.45am Remembrance Service  
 25th 6.00pm Holy Communion

### Mornington

No service during November

### December

2nd 11.00am Holy Communion with Baptism

### Norton Canon

4th 9.00am Holy Communion  
 11th 9.00am Remembrance Service  
 18th 9.00am Holy Communion  
 25th 9.00am Family Service

### December

2nd 9.00am Holy Communion

### Sarnesfield

11th 10.00am Holy Communion  
 25th 10.00am Morning Prayer

### Staunton-On-Wye

4th 11.00am Holy Communion  
 11th 10.45am Remembrance Service  
 18th 11.00am Holy Communion

### December

2nd 11.00am Holy Communion

### COFFEE DAY

at Mrs May Loxton's  
 BRONIE, NORTON CANON  
 on 15th November 1990  
 anytime between 11am-9pm  
 Bring & Buy: cake, Books,  
 Christmas Fancy Stalls  
 (in aid of NORTON CANON CHURCH)

YOU ARE INVITED TO A CHRISTMAS  
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 ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30th

7pm - 9pm

ENTRANCE £2 to include wine  
 In aid of St. John's Church  
 Byford;

### STAUNTON ON WYE FOOTPATH VOLUNTEER GROUP

The groups next working party will  
 be held on Saturday 3rd November and  
 possibly the 17th November.  
 Meet at The Sergeants - 10.00am.

### WHIST DRIVE

At Norton Canon Village Hall  
 on 1st December 1990  
 7.30pm  
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