

News from the Village Churches

The diocesan rural officer writes below of 'a very English tradition,': cream teas.

His memory of working at a nearby farm vividly brought back to me similar memories of working on a farm in the Avon valley in Hampshire; haymaking, riding on the sledge behind a baler stacking the straw bales, and, in the autumn, helping with the threshing (or, in Hampshire, 'thrashing, boy') the long-straw wheat grown for thatching. I seem to remember being 1/6d an hour! And I acquired a taste for cold tea.

It was very different from today's great machines, all computer controlled, satellite guided and fitted with air-conditioning in the cab—I don't remember in those days ever seeing a tractor with a cab—and the seat on the reaper-binder had holes in it to let the rain through!

But working on the land, may seem idyllic, and rewarding though it can be, has never been easy. Sometimes, in the right conditions or for those best-placed, it can be financially rewarding; but just as easily it can be a constant

struggle. Farmers are one of the groups at greatest suicide risk.

In an area like this, we are all aware of the beauty of our surroundings, a beauty and view the product of centuries of land management and farming. But now that agriculture is carried out by a much smaller work-force there is a risk that the rest of us can become detached. The new National Park, I fear, will add to this, tending to make the area more of a 'product' to be 'consumed' by visitors and weekenders, rather than a liv-

A very English tradition

by Mark Betson

August is traditionally the month when everyone has gone on vacation. In this country the word vacation once specifically referred to that long summer break taken by the law courts and universities. Now it is an opportunity for people to get away, to enjoy what is hopefully the best of the summer. When I lived in Cornwall the coming of August would herald the busiest time for that most English of traditions the cream tea. It seemed like every other house opened up to serve tea and scones with lashings of jam and clotted cream.

My family moved to Sussex and now I have fond memories of late summer helping at a nearby farm as the hay was cut

and baled. The best of all was at the end of the harvest, watching the sunset, sitting atop a tall stack of bales in the barn. I can still remember the smells of freshly cut hay and silage from that time and their aroma has become very homely, like the smell of mother cooking in the kitchen or of freshly baked bread.

These experiences and the special connection to the land, with the local communities there and local produce, and all those who farm our land, I'm very thankful for. This summer there is an opportunity to carry on that tradition and support the work of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) a charity that supports members of the farming com-

munity facing need, hardship or distress with their national cream tea week.

Events will be taking place across the country from Friday 27th August to Friday 3rd September (perhaps one near where you will be vacationing) or you may like to host your own cream tea. Details of where to find these events or how to get involved are included inside this letter. Don't forget it is always jam first then cream!

Revd Mark Betson is the Diocesan Rural Officer and Vicar of Holy Trinity, Lower Beeding.

NATIONAL CREAM TEA WEEK
RABI is launching its first national cream tea week to run from Friday 27th August to Friday 3rd September. For details of how to get involved go to www.rabi.org.uk

Rector: The Revd Richard Woods
The Rectory, Singleton
Telephone 811213
e-mail: Rector@ValleyParish.org

PCC Secretary: Karen Barrett 811427
8 Droke Lane, East Dean PO18 0JH
Treasurer: Jennifer Neelands,
Chilgrove Cottage, Chilgrove, PO18 9HU

Churchwardens: Peter Hawley 811556;
Geoffrey Morris 786155;
Robert Main 530689
Wendy Goacher 811641

News from the Village Churches, cont

ing community.

This is not to be pessimistic and negative; there will be new opportunities as well for employment and local business. We should all support them, and the local farmers who are finding new outlets and ways of selling that add value to what they raise.

Part of our awareness of creation, and thanksgiving for the beauty around us, needs to be an awareness of where our food comes from, of the cycle of seasons and what changing things they bring, and of the balance between needs, wants, and methods of production and transport.

In July at East Dean there was another 'very English tradition', the **Flower Festival** we were treated to a lovely display of arrangements, mostly locally grown as well as arranged, reflecting the 'Colours of the Rainbow'. Many congratulations to all those involved. This brought a steady stream of visitors to see the displays from the archive as well the flowers, and to sample, of course, the cream teas! It was summed up with our village evensong, reminding us that we should:

Look at the rainbow, and praise him who made it;

it is exceedingly beautiful in its brightness.

It encircles the sky with its glorious arc; the hands of the Most High have stretched it out. (Ecclesiasticus 43:11,12)

May we be blessed in our work and play.
Richard



Shirley Tasker & Jeremy Cadge—with Morris dancers

Sunday Worship in August

During August there will be Sunday worship at 10am only

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1st | Trinity 9 | (1st Sunday) |
| 10am | Parish Eucharist | EAST DEAN |
| 8th | Trinity 10 | (2nd Sunday) |
| 10am | Parish Eucharist | SINGLETON |
| 15th | Blessed Virgin Mary | (3rd Sunday) |
| 10am | Parish Eucharist | WEST DEAN |
| 22nd | Trinity 12 | (4th Sunday) |
| 10am | Parish Eucharist | SINGLETON |
| 29th | Trinity 13 | (5th Sunday) |
| 10am | Parish Eucharist | WEST DEAN |

Sunday School resumes in September at 10am alongside the Parish Eucharist

Please ask if you need a lift to any service

From the Registers

Marriage

At Singleton on 10th April

Paul Edward Guarnaccio & Susan Ruth Scott

At West Dean on 24th April

Nicholas Michael Poushkine & Olivia Claire Styche

At Singleton on 2nd May

Robert George Alexander Dunn &

Christina Beth Farman

At East Dean on 7th May

Christopher Mark North & Johanna Elizabeth Holt

At West Dean on 15th May

Jeremy James Cadge & Shirley Jean Tasker

At West Dean on 12th June

Christopher Stephen Hardy

& Emily Marianne Wilder



Emily Wilder & Christopher Hardy