

# News from the Village Churches

If nothing else, this year has produced a bumper crop of weddings, and, unusually, there are already some in the diary for next year.

I enjoy weddings: not just the celebration but meeting the couple over the months beforehand, hearing their stories of joyful discovery and, sometimes, difficulties and pains worked through together before marriage.

Helping them, I hope, to find their love, and the promises it leads them to make, as part of God's love within his plan for creation, and his promises to us.

Because marriage is big on promises and large, poetic language. Rightly so, because this 'gift of God in creation' and 'way of life made holy by God' is a picture of how God wants his relationship with humanity to be—a

relationship of trust and faithfulness, 'forsaking all others'.

One who says 'I will', is committing themselves, not just to a momentary attraction, or passing feeling, but to a lifelong compact, 'for better or worse'; deliberately putting aside in advance any other, saying 'no', whatever.

'All that I am I give to you': a gift once given, that cannot be revoked. *Fr Richard*

## From the Registers

### Baptism

At East Dean on 31st August  
Hepzibar Tilly Pilleygreen Mann

### Dedication after Civil Marriage

At Singleton on 22nd August  
Nigel Land & Kate Boad

### Wedding

At Singleton on 13th September  
Timothy Foyle & Sally Glazier

## Secretary for the Parochial Church Council

The PCC is in need of a Secretary, to take minutes of meetings (up to 8 a year), circulate minutes and agenda, etc. Ability to use PC & e-mail would be helpful. Contact the Rector for further details.

There were not many weddings in the West Country village and when not in use the verger had the habit of keeping the Banns Register under the seat cushion of the rector's stall. One Sunday there were some Banns to be called and the rector began in the familiar "I publish the Banns of Marriage between . . ." before he realised that the register was not out ready for him. In his very audible Somerset brogue the verger's voice was heard across the chancel - "Between the cushion and the seat!"



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGH THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published Monarch



*In 1108, exactly 900 years ago, Chichester Cathedral was set apart as a sacred space. In 2008, this glorious Cathedral celebrates 900 years since its consecration.*

## 900th Anniversary Weekend- 3rd to 5th October 2008

### Friday 3rd October

6.30pm Sung Eucharist of Thanksgiving for the Cathedral's 900th Anniversary.  
Celebrant: **Archbishop of Canterbury.**

### Saturday 4th October - A 900th Birthday Party 11.00am - 3.30pm

An exciting event for all the family and a celebration of Christianity. Featuring art, craft, puppets, dance, workshops, games, treasure hunt, praise party and a big birthday cake.

**4.00pm - 5.00pm** - Question and answer session with the **Archbishop of Canterbury.**

**5.30pm** - Choral Evensong.

### Sunday 5th October

**11.00am** Cathedral Eucharist in Celebration of Bishop George Bell.

Celebrant: **Bishop of Chichester**—Preacher: **Archbishop of Canterbury**

**3.30pm** - Solemn Evensong to conclude the Festival.

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

**PCC Secretary:**

**Treasurer:** Jennifer Neelands,  
Chilgrove Cottage, Chilgrove, PO18 9HU

**Churchwardens:** Peter Hawley 811556;  
Geoffrey Morris 536397;  
Wendy Goacher 811641;  
Peter Rice 535246

## News from the Village Churches, cont

### Harvest Thanksgiving Services

Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held at East Dean & Singleton on **Sunday 5th October**

10am East Dean Parish Eucharist

6pm Singleton Evensong

Gifts received at the Services (and at West Dean on 28 September)

together with gifts from Singleton and West Dean Schools, will be taken to St Wilfrid's Night Shelter and Chichester Families' Centre.

*Fresh fruit and vegetables, tinned food, and dried goods are most welcome, as well as toiletries.*



**Don't forget!**  
**Summer Time ends**  
**26th October 1am—**  
**clocks go back**  
**1 hour**

### Sunday Worship in October

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 20</b>	<b>(1st Sunday)</b>
<b>8am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>SINGLETON</b>
	<b>Harvest Thanksgiving</b>	
<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>EAST DEAN</b>
<b>6pm</b>	<b>Evensong &amp; Sermon</b>	<b>SINGLETON</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 21</b>	<b>(2nd Sunday)</b>
<b>8am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>EAST DEAN</b>
<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>SINGLETON</b>
<b>6pm</b>	<b>Evensong &amp; Sermon</b>	<b>WEST DEAN</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 22</b>	<b>(3rd Sunday)</b>
<b>8am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>SINGLETON</b>
<b>10am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>WEST DEAN</b>
<b>6pm</b>	<b>Evensong &amp; Sermon</b>	<b>EAST DEAN</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Last after Trinity</b>	<b>(4th Sunday)</b>
<b>8am</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>EAST DEAN</b>
<b>10am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>EAST DEAN</b>
	<b>a short service for all ages</b>	
<b>4pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>WEST DEAN</b>
	<b>Please ask if you need a lift to any service</b>	

### A message from the Archdeacon of Horsham

#### 900 years and still celebrating!

25 years is silver, 50 is gold, 60 is diamond. Most precious of all, 900 years is stone, if you are a cathedral.

Stone that has been ingeniously quarried, laboriously transported, precisely assembled and skilfully crafted, and then lovingly adorned, cherished and prayed in for centuries calls for celebration.

On 3rd October 1108, Bishop Luffa and the residents of Chichester returned to their homes rejoicing that their cathedral (and ours) had been consecrated after 30 years in construction. Nine hundred years on, to the day, we celebrate again.

We are not just celebrating the longevity of a much loved building. We are honouring the hopes and

aspirations of those who have built and maintained it.

By deliberately celebrating this 900th anniversary, we are identifying ourselves with the flow of faith and witness of those church people 900 years ago and their successors. We are recalling the God of history who has made himself known to people in Chichester and the diocese as they come to this fine building. For nine centuries, they have learned to worship here: to wonder and adore, to pray, to receive his word and sacrament, to sing his praise and live holy lives, humbled and inspired.

The sweep of history in recalling an anniversary like this enlarges our understanding of God and his church. We remind ourselves that our God is more constant than all the cultural shifts and passing

'isms' of a developing civilisation or society. We can take the opportunity to look back with thanks on the past, and to recommit ourselves to the Lord for the next year or decade, or whatever. There is a good old hymn which unfortunately only has two verses. (Hymns, like sermons, can be too short as well as too long.) But it succinctly praises God in terms born of faith with a historical perspective.

*How good is the God we adore!  
 our faithful unchangeable friend:  
 his love is as great as his power  
 and knows neither measure nor end.*

*For Christ is the first and the last;  
 his Spirit will guide us safe home:  
 we'll praise him for all that is past  
 and trust him for all that's to come.*  
 (J. Hart 1712-1768)

Roger Coombes

