

Services at the Parish Church

Sundays 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 am Sung Eucharist (ASB)
Thursdays 10.00 am Eucharist (BCP) 3rd Sunday 9.30 am Family Service

OBERAMMERGAU 2000

Part 2

The theatre itself could be described loosely as a glorified aircraft hanger with one end open, the stage and ramparts open to the hills. In 1990 when my mother first went, it rained all through the play, but the actors carried on as though nothing was happening, with their clothes sodden and raindrops hanging on their noses. The orchestra is just under cover and the audience fully protected.

There can be few communities anywhere so wholly shaped by a single activity. A Passion Play Committee supervises the preparations for the production, which runs for five months (2010 will have 102 performances from the May 15th premier until October 3rd). It is a task of some magnitude to select suitable performers for the 124 speaking parts. The principle roles are doubled to give them time off. Hundreds of adult villagers and school children are involved in the crowd scenes. The school children take it in turns to have a day off school to take part. Directly or indirectly the play is the bread and butter of most families with 2000 of the 5000 residents involved in its staging. Nearly all homes are opened as guesthouses and the rule is that no visitor may stay more than 2 nights. This ensures a continuous flow of visitor custom, and village income. After all, as one disgruntled villager said, 'nine years out of ten our hotels are half empty and the play is to blame'.



No villager can be in the play unless they have lived in Oberammergau for at least ten years. This ensures that people do not just move in because they want to be in the play and then move on.

The Church has always made it clear that the Passion Play does not aim to propagate an ideology but to show the force, which is relevant to the present, of Jesus' suffering and dying for us, and his resurrection.



As the play begins the stage swarms with life as hundreds of people act out the entry of Jesus into the heaving streets of Jerusalem. One is transported effortlessly back in time to the glory of Christ's arrival, the intimacy of the last supper, the kiss of betrayal on the Mount of Olives, the mocking Roman soldiers and Peter's denial, the interrogation before Caiaphas, the unforgettable suicide of Judas, the involvement of Herod and Pontius Pilate, the flogging and crowning with thorns, the choice of the people "Jesus or Barabbas", Pilate washing his hands, the procession to Golgotha and meeting his mother, the horror of the crucifixion, the empty tomb and then the euphoria that is Jesus' resurrection. The

title "Passion" really is "Redemption". Each of these episodes is preceded by a prophetic tableau from the Old Testament.

Everyone leaves the play with overwhelming emotions. Interestingly 10 years later the thing that I remember being affected by most at the time was Judas' betrayal. I wonder what you will remember about it most in 2020?

Sophia von Burg (née Shelbourne), Hong Kong

Parish Share.

Every year the largest single item of expenditure in our accounts is shown as Parish Share (in 2009 we paid about £36,000). Sometimes this is seen in a rather negative way as a sort of ‘tax’ on the parish imposed by the diocese. Below are ten things that you might like to know about the Parish Share, produced by the Archdeacon.

Ten things you need to know about “Parish Share”

1. Since 2005 Parish Share has been based upon the Cost of Ministry
2. It is not a tax on churches.
3. It costs the Diocese about £55,000 per year to “employ and support” a vicar.
4. If you are not paying (individually or as a group of parishes) £55,000 in Parish Share then the Diocese is subsidising you.
5. Clergy do not earn £55,000! The “cost of ministry” includes:
 - The stipend (the Vicar’s salary- less than half the total cost)
 - National Insurance contributions
 - Pension contributions
 - Housing costs (including water rates and Council Tax).
 - A contribution to running the Diocese, such as the salaries of Diocesan Officers and Archdeacons.
 - A contribution to running the National Church.
 - The cost of training new priests
6. The “subsidy” comes either from historic resources such as income from land or from our carefully managed investments policy.
7. Each year a third of the cost of providing ministry in the Diocese is met by income from investments.
8. Some parishes pay more than their cost of ministry in order to help struggling parishes.
9. Parish Share is not used to subsidise the Cathedral - as some people think - it is used to support parish ministry.
10. In answer to the question “what do we get for our parish share?” you get a priest and the services required to assist them in their ministry. For example, the training of Authorised Lay Ministers and Licensed Lay Ministers.

Help Needed

We urgently need a volunteer to deliver LodeStar in Honeysuckle Close and Bluebell Walk (a total of 14 deliveries), and also someone with their own transport to deliver in Barway (8) and also someone to cover Soham Fen (16). If you can help please contact Mrs Sylvia Hobbs on 720968. We would also be grateful for one or two volunteers who would be willing to help on a few occasions when one of the regular deliverers is unavailable

Forthcoming Dates

Please make a note of the following dates in your diaries.

Saturday 17th April - Deanery Confirmation

The annual Deanery Confirmation service will take place at St Margaret’s church in Chippenham at 5.00 pm on 17th April. We will have at least two candidates from Soham.

Tuesday 20th April - The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

which sometimes used to be called the Annual Meeting. This is a chance for the PCC to present a report on the life and work of the parish over the past twelve months. It is at this meeting that we elect the churchwardens for the next year and also the PCC. Every year three members of the PCC leave in order to allow three new members to join. We feel that this keeps the Council fresh by allowing ‘new blood’ to join.

Saturday 15th May - Quiz and Bring and Share supper

Come and join us at St Andrew’s School at 7.30 pm for a quiz and bring and share supper. The Auction of Promises will also be conducted at this event. If you want to snap up a bargain then you need to book the date in your diary.

School Report

Two Year Six pupils from the Wetheralls School



All About Me

This term we have been learning about different cultures and lifestyles, and recognising other people's beliefs. During the first week of March we did fun activities such as story telling and games helping us to understand other faiths and cultures.

For our homework we were asked to put together a box that we would bring in to show our class all about our lifestyles, interests and things we've kept close to us for a long time. Every box contained different, but interesting things. Some people brought in items from their earliest days or other things that just interest them. Either way they told a little story about that person. We also had to make our own 'all about me' pages for a book, including a picture of ourselves and a bit about us and what we liked.

During this period of time, we had guests come in to show us about cultures and identity. We can assure you that their identities were very different in many ways but there were some similarities.

Miss Ibn Tahaikt, who was a Muslim, came in and told us lots about her culture and showed us a video of a Gypsy Roma traveller called Richard O'Neill telling a story. She also told us a little about racism and how we can prevent it.

Della (Lil' D) came in and told us about her identity, she described herself as black and half English and half Jamaican. We made our own raps in groups and showed them to the class. Della, being a rap artist, performed an amazing rap that she made up, it included a bit about her and her interests; it blew us away.

The whole week was sensational because we learnt about lots of different cultures from different people and we realised that it's great to have our differences but underneath it all we're all the same.

By Joseph Brannan and Phoebe Miller

Recipe – Lemon Drizzle Cake

Many of you who have been to church Sunday teas or events in church where cake has been served will have tried this cake. It is both delicious and easy to make.

You will need (for a 9"x13" (22cmx33cm) tin which will hold 15-16 pieces):

9oz (250g) light brown soft sugar (or a mixture of dark brown and caster sugar)

9oz (250g) margarine

Rind from 2 lemons

3 eggs (large)

And for the drizzle topping:

9oz (250g) Self raising flour

8oz caster sugar and juice from 2 lemons

Melt the brown sugar and margarine very gently in a large saucepan. Let it cool a little and add the beaten eggs and lemon rind. Then fold in the flour. Pour into the greased tin and cook in the centre of a preheated oven at 180°C (350°F, gas mark 4) for 20 minutes until well risen and golden brown. Meanwhile mix the sugar and lemon juice together (this mix shouldn't be too runny, add extra sugar if necessary). Brush this mix over the top of the cake and leave to cool in the tin. Cut into pieces and serve.

Tell us what is important to you and your community.

The East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership (ECSP) is currently developing the new Sustainable Community Strategy, for launch in April 2011.

The new Strategy will replace the existing Sustainable Community Strategy for 2008-2011. It will set out how services can be improved and delivered to increase the environmental, social and economic well-being of the district and will act as an overarching partnership plan for East Cambridgeshire. *[continued on next page*



A Councillor's Comments

There was no Public Comment Time for our March meeting so the meeting commenced at 7.15pm.

Soham Vision: We were given an update on the vision so far, and as it is now in its final stage all councillors were now in possession of the final draft. By the time you read this, the last public consultation will have taken place at the Methodist Church Hall on the 11th and 13th of March. A great deal of planning has gone into this project, creating several good ideas for improving the appearance of the town but also for encouraging a range of businesses to come into our town to provide employment for the increasing numbers that will be living here. The vision or Masterplan, is planning for the next twenty or more years so we cannot expect all these proposed ideas to happen overnight, but it would be very interesting to compile a list of the most firm proposals and tick them off one by one as they become a reality, it may mean however it may be left to our children or grandchildren to make the last ticks.

Skate Park Project: Councillor Pallet gave the latest information on finding out what was available in Skate Park provision in concrete, as this is preferred to metal which is noisier. There were two options presented to us but these were going to be looked at and decided upon at a special meeting convened within days because we wanted this facility in place as soon as possible.

Soham & Rail Transport: Charles Warner gave a presentation on the work he had undertaken as regards the possibility of the rail station in Soham being restored. He outlined various points that must be in place before this project becomes a reality including a clear indication that people would use the rail service from Soham if it became available. Councillor Parramint of ECDC reported the latest information from the District Council, and said there was a possible feasibility study to be undertaken as regards the provision of a rail station if funding of £40,000 could be made available to do this. He also outlined several points that had to be taken into account for this to be possible including the double track and the positioning of the station itself.

Soham Town Forum AGM: Councillor Gipp gave us a report on this meeting, which she said was very positive with every part of the forum's agenda reported upon. In the election of the chairman there were several nominations but Liz Johnson was elected.

Olympics 2012: We were given an invite from the Newmarket Town Council to engage in adult participation in some kind of sport. This was in the light of the coming Olympic games in this country in 2012. They have planned a Tag Rugby League to take place in June with the final taking place at their July festival. Another planned event is the annual 10k run on the 4th July and inviting us to send a team to take part. They call this project an Olympic lasting legacy. They answered the question 'why do this?'. They say its Fun, increases adult participation in sport and physical activity, generates community pride, improves fitness in the business workforce, creates sustainable opportunities beyond the life of the project, and increases the use of underutilised village sports facilities. Councillor Driver is looking to respond to this initiative in some way and I would like to hear from anyone in Soham interested in taking part in the 10k run on 4th July. *Councillor Ginn*

[continued from page 3

In order for the new strategy to be a leading and influencing document for the area it is important that the document contain the key aspirations of all local partner organisations and the community.

To complete the questionnaire go to www.eastcambs.gov.uk, alternatively, if you would like a hard copy of the questionnaire please contact Melanie Wright on 01353 665555 or via email at lsp2@eastcambs.gov.uk.

Building Works – Progress Report

The re-ordering and renovation works at St Andrew's Church are continuing. Since the last issue of LodeStar the organ has been removed. The metal pipes and keyboard have been taken by the Organ Builder, Richard Bowers, and will be refurbished and incorporated along with new pipes in the rebuilt organ. This will probably not be installed in the church until the end of 2011 – it is slow and painstaking work. Meanwhile we are using an electronic organ at the other end of the church and the congregation are playing a game of 'Guess where the choir will sit this week' as we try to work out where we can be heard and not be in people's way. We think we have settled in the north transept at least until the kitchen, etc have been installed and we can move the electronic organ to the back of the church.



A view not seen since 1965

The new lights have been installed with a mixture of downward pointing lights to help us read our hymn books and upward pointing spotlights to illuminate the angels in the roof. They use low energy bulbs so are more environmentally friendly than the old ones as well as being safer.

The new vestry is taking shape – the cupboards have been installed and are being painted, although we still need to have the sink plumbed in. It is clear that it will make life much easier – the sink is bigger for washing the chalices, etc and there is plenty of cupboard space.

The floorboards in the new meeting room (old vestry) have been mostly re-laid and the walls have been re-plastered where necessary. Panelling has been put in where the old choir robe store has been removed and the sink and water heater have been taken out.

The concrete step under the mediaeval wooden screen to the old vestry has been removed (causing huge amounts of dust!) and the screen has been gently lowered. This will make it much easier to get over this step and in fact there will be a moveable ramp for anybody who can't manage steps at all. At the moment the screen is clamped in place in a sort of brace of wood and scaffold poles while the architects work out the best way of fixing it securely in its arch.

Thanks are due to Judith Scott and her helpers for managing to get the church clean each week in time for our Sunday worship. Thanks too to the sacristans, vergers and sidespeople for their patience in clambering around the mess at the east end and having to find things that have been moved from their normal place

Just a few words

Tim Alban Jones

Dear Friends,

There is something in our make-up which seems to respond instinctively to new life. Just think how people often stop and ‘coo’ over a new baby in a pram, or even a small kitten or a puppy or the new-born lambs in the fields. We all delight to see the new flowers pushing through the bare soil after the cold months of winter (colder this year than most!). I don’t know what the scientific explanations are as to why we seem to respond so positively to new things; perhaps some of it is because new life in all its forms gives us a sense of hope and helps us to lift our sight from the here and now to the future.

The season of Easter fits in well with all this new life that we can see in the natural world. The daffodils and tulips that are appearing in glorious technicolour are a highly visual reminder of the new life that we associate with this time of the year. The new life that we observe in the natural world, however, is not the same as the new life that Jesus brings. The flowers that look so wonderful and beautiful in our gardens now will be gone long before the summer arrives. The new life that we associate with the season of Easter is eternal. What is so marvellously different about Jesus coming back to life at Easter is that he will never die again. There are accounts in the Bible of people being raised miraculously from the dead (for example, Lazarus) but they all died again. Jesus died on Good Friday and rose again on Easter Day and still lives today, nearly 2,000 years later.

This is why, as Christians, we are so joyful at Easter. We proclaim again the wonder that Jesus is alive and that his new life brings the promise of life to all of us as well. Because Jesus is alive, our lives are changed for ever. Believing in the resurrection of Jesus can transform the way we live in the world; we can become people in whom others see new life and we can become people who delight in telling others the good news of Jesus’ new life. Happy Easter to you all.

Yours sincerely, *Tim Alban Jones*

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

28th March

James Christopher Wright

Funerals

1st March

Andy Lewis (54)

26th March

Lynn Nicola Nicholas (55)

Silent Auction: Promises please!

We will be holding an Auction of Gifts and Promises again this year but this time instead of a live auction we will hold a Silent Auction. All the lots will be put into a booklet in which people can write their bid for a particular item in the weeks leading up to the final auction night. This will be at the Pudding Evening on 26th June.

As usual, to make this work we need plenty of promises or gifts to auction. It may be that you have a particular talent that you could offer somebody: either to do something for them or teach them something. You could offer something more mundane but useful such as ironing or cleaning. Or perhaps you could arrange an interesting activity. You are also welcome to offer something tangible such as something you have made or grown.

If you have something to offer please add it to the list in church by Sunday 18th April or telephone the Vicar on 01353 720423.