



At the Outwood APCM, Esme Hill (left) was presented with gifts as she retired after some 40 years as PCC secretary. And on Easter Day, Pat Williams (right) was presented with flowers as she stepped down after over 50 years on the Burstow flower rota, very many of them as organiser. Thank you, ladies, for your very many years of service to the churches!

Mary Chapman reflects on her recent visit to Spring Harvest

This year, as I have done for the last 13 or so years, I went to Spring Harvest, which is a holiday at Butlins, in Minehead for Christians with Bible Teaching, wonderful worship and celebration and fun for all the family.

This was the first year I went on my own (the family was busy with this and that) and at first I felt sad about this. But the theme for this year was 'One for all'. Based on John chapter 17, Jesus's final prayer for his disciples before his crucifixion: "I pray that they might be one Father, may they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you." And the message that when we are Christians we are part of one great family of the church.

I walked on Minehead beach – very cold, though sunny – and at first when I looked back I saw only my footsteps in the sand. But after staring out to sea I turned back up the beach another way and saw hundreds of footsteps on the beach – all my family from Spring Harvest.

It made me think of us in the Windmill United Benefice: how we are family, how we are 'All for One and One for All'. And all for Jesus!



Windmill United Benefice
The parishes of Burstow, Horne and Outwood
Rector: Revd Nicholas Calver
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Easter 2017

Hosanna to the Son of David!

The joint journey through Holy Week by the churches of the Windmill United Benefice began at Horne on Palm Sunday. The palms were blessed at the Butterfly Nursery before a procession across to the church, where the dramatised reading of the Gospel reminded us how quickly the crowds turned from shouting 'Hosanna!' to 'Crucify him'. As the week progressed, we entered into the last days of Jesus' journey sharing a Passover meal together, watching in the garden and gazing on the cross before experiencing the joy of Easter morning



Andrew Eldred

Maundy Thursday

A Passover meal was celebrated in the Flamsteed Hall on Maundy Thursday. The elements of the meal were explained and the meal concluded with a sharing of communion. Everyone then processed to the church for the stripping of the altar and a watch until midnight, at which point only one candle was left alight, reminding us that Jesus was gradually left by all his disciples



What a real joy Easter has been for us all this year in the Windmill United Benefice. Celebrating Christ's sacrifice for us is a humbling, solemn occasion. We were all able to meet together on several occasions, socially as well as at services: over a meal and a hot cross bun tea. It reminds us we are not alone and the power of meeting together is inspiring and a great help in building our group to be an effective witness for Christ. Perhaps what shone through was the warmth and love shown by all, reminding us of the greatest sacrifice of all time.

Iris and David Brill

The Maundy Thursday meal and vigil was a very special evening – being

together as a benefice and the whole thing of fellowship, 'sacredness', fun and food felt very real. The vigil afterwards complemented the evening, adding real meaning to what we were marking at the meal; not just a meal with friends but so much more. It was so special the way it flowed and hard to put into words – you had to experience it. It was a very special moment for the benefice – our first Seder meal together.

I was also struck by the Easter Vigil and lighting of the new fire. A short, powerful service with great impact that made you think. It was so different that you couldn't help but be engaged. The message and way it was delivered was marvellous.

Liam Harvey

Good Friday

On Good Friday morning the benefice all-age workshop in the Butterfly Nursery, Horne saw a lovely selection of activities – Easter nests, iced biscuits, pop-up cards, sewing and paper blossom. In addition, three Easter gardens were made for the benefice churches. The morning finished with a short service, drawing all the themes together. In the afternoon we gathered before the cross at Burstow as we tried to take in the immensity of the day's events



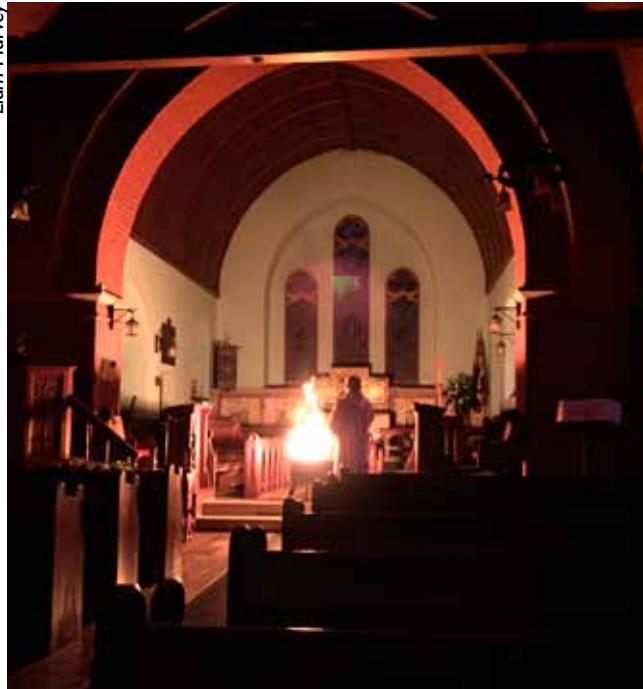
Easter Eve

The Easter Vigil and Lighting of New Fire was once again a most meaningful and moving service. In a very elemental and basic sense, it brought light out of darkness and underlined the hope and joy that our Christian Faith brings. We were taken, by the Readings, on a journey through creation and the Prophets to the life and the resurrection of Jesus. As the cauldron of fire burnt brightly, the characters of alpha and omega were illuminated on the reredos behind the altar reminding us that God has always been there and always will be. From the cauldron, Nicholas lit a Paschal Candle for each Church in our Benefice, and the flame was then transferred from these to the candles which we each held, showing the new life that we all receive from the resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal Candles for our three Churches were then ready to be relit on Easter Day so that we can all share the light of Christ and live his Resurrection life today.

Michael Harvey



Liam Harvey



Easter Day

The 7am service on Outwood Common (left) echoed the story of the women coming to the tomb early in the morning and finding it empty. Then at the Easter communions in the three churches, we all proclaimed: "Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!"



Wildlife A&E comes to CAMEO

Those at CAMEO in April were treated to a visit by Debbie, founder of Wildlife A&E, with her assistant Lily and some of her rescued animals. The

organisation was started over 15 years ago and the animals used to be housed in Debbie's kitchen, next to the warmth of the Aga. They provide rescue and medical



aid for injured wildlife and aim to re-release their patients into the wild. The exception was the barn owl that came to visit. She had never lived outdoors and so would have no idea how to find food.



We also met a hedgehog, being fattened up to release and some chicks, who were found on the ground by their empty nest. Everyone enjoyed Debbie's talk and the opportunity to meet some of her charges.



Following the fence

Some participants reflect on the recent Lent course

What a memorable five weeks the Lent course was. 'The Rabbit-proof Fence' was a lovely story but, when you stop and think, there are so many fences all through our lives here on earth. Do we break through any or keep going in the same direction? I know which 'fence' I would try to follow – why? I can't answer that but I do know that I have the faith (sometimes) to trust that I am using Jesus to show me the way (some of his examples are easier to follow than others). Thinking how to do this will take a bit longer than five weeks.

I don't know when and if I will ever reach the everlasting life he promises but I will try to. **Margaret Hobson**

Following the fence has been a very emotional journey for me. Such a harrowing film, seeing the way in which one community can treat another. In my quiet times I only have my own thoughts and the film brought home to me the importance of listening to others for our spiritual development. My prayer is that I remember to do unto others as I would like them to do unto me.

Jo Coulson Davis

I found the Lent Course very thought provoking. These were the original inhabitants of the country that were being treated in this appalling way. White men having their way with the Aborigine women and then abandoning them and their issue being brought up to be slaves, more or less, to the farmers and householders – no happiness or life at all. The three children's dreadful walk to get back to their mother, how they walked across desert country for miles and miles – what did they find to eat? How sad their lives were.

I read a book, can't remember its name but the theme was British boys for Australian farms and their treatment from both the farmers and the Roman Catholic priests, that was appalling too. Has Australia changed or has a curtain been drawn across that part of their history or is it still the way the Australians think about such things?

Heather Sargent

I would like to thank Nicholas and Judith for hosting another stimulating Lent course, this time based on the film 'The Rabbit-proof Fence' and Nelson Mandela's 'Long Walk to Freedom'. Among the themes we explored were arduous journeys driven by great faith. We also looked at our sense of home and belonging.

The other common factor was that they were based on true stories and we got to find out how they ended. At the end of the evening sessions everyone seemed to take different things from considering the themes, however we all appreciated the luxury of the opportunity to take the time to contemplate and reflect. **Tracy Taylor**



Well, what a powerful Lent course 'Following the Fence' turned out to be. I was unsure if it would surpass last year's 'Exploring the Void' which I found challenging but this one was just as thought provoking.

As a true story about three young girls, uprooted from their families, their way of life, losing their freedom and taken into captivity, I found this story at times quite harrowing and heart wrenching. I thought of my own childhood, brought up in a village on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Our house was at the foot of the Pentland Hills, surrounded by woods and fields which we thought of as our own playground. We were free and safe, without a care in the world. Before the erection of the fence, I am sure that is how Mollie, Daisy and Gracie must have felt before they were told as half caste children that they must be removed from the homes and families.

I felt some reassurance for the girls' safety when Mollie's mother Maude looked up and said: "See that bird? That's the spirit bird. He will always look after you." I thought of my own mother. Whenever one of us was having some crisis in our lives, she would quote her favourite psalm: "I to the hills will lift mine eyes from whence doth come my aid. Safety

cometh from the Lord who heaven and earth hath made."

The erection of the fence seemed to be the end of true freedom for the aboriginal people, for their culture and their nomadic way of life. But that determination to be free seemed to be inbred in Mollie. The look in her eyes and her strength of character as she planned her escape from the camp. Her care for the two younger girls as they walked for nine weeks in the searing heat with very little food or water, following the fence, only to find they were going in the wrong direction.

It made me think of my own life, which I suppose has been quite a difficult journey at times but I always felt secure in the knowledge that God would bring me safely through it.

We saw towards the end of the film the girls lying in the sand. I was sure that they had died. Then we saw Maude and her mother up against the fence beating instruments and chanting and we heard the cry of the spirit bird as we watched it circling over the girls. As they awoke they seemed to know they were safe and would be guided home by the bird.

I truly believe, as we carry on in our own journey in life with prayer and thanksgiving, we will also be carried safely home.

Sandra Robson

