

**Saint Andrew's Parish Church
Contacts**

Priest-in-Charge	Vacancy - Please contact the Church Wardens with any Parish-related matters.
Church Wardens	Mr Michael Puffett, 222066 Mrs Janet Terry, 472997
PCC Secretary	Mr Richard Cecil, 224747
PCC Treasurer	Mr Ian Underwood, 225756
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Alison Read, 474858
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr David Farrar, 471484
Organist	Mr Ron Woods, 268304
Flower Arranging Team Co-ordinator	Mrs Barbara Underwood, 225756
Bell Ringing	Mr Nick Tovey, 472692
Tiny Tots	Mrs Alison Read, 474858
Magazine Editors	Liz & Nick Bobeldijk, 471756
Parochial Church Council Members	Mr Nick Bobeldijk, Mrs Liz Bobeldijk, Mrs Judy Cecil, Mr David Farrar, Mrs Christine Mennie
Regular Church Activities	
Sundays	See page 5 for all services in Church this month
Tuesdays	10am –Noon Coffee and Chat (in S.A.R.) 7.45pm Bell ringing practice (newcomers welcome – training can be offered)
Wednesdays	1pm – 2.30pm Tiny Tots (St Andrew's Room)
Fridays	7.30pm -8.30pm Choir practice – new comers welcome to join (St Andrew's Room)

Sandon Parish Magazine

March 2013



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May the wind be always at
your back.
May the sun shine warm upon
your face;
and the rain fall soft upon your
fields
until we meet again,
may God hold you in the
hollow of His hand. **Amen.**

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**Sandon, Butts Green and Howe Green
Village Contacts**

Howe Green URC	Minister: Revd. Jon Sermon, 601662
Sandon Parish Council	Chair: Mr Ian Wright Parish Clerk: Mrs Sue Dobson, 227734 Parish Office: Crack Willows, Mayes Lane, Sandon CM2 7RP
Sandon Village Hall	Chair: Mr Peter Ellis, 222682 Secretary: Mrs Judy Cecil, 224747 Caretaker/ Bookings: Mr Steve Turner, 471575 Hall Telephone (message facility) 471970 Treasurer: Mr Nick Bobeldijk, 471756
Beaver Cub Leader	Mrs J. Bernardes, 476830
Brownie Guider	Mrs S. Little, 01621 840525
Girl Guides	Ms. J. Ronaldson, 07939 047987
Cub Scout Leader	Mrs J. Blake, 603155
Group Scout Leader	Mr. Neville Paul, 474891
St Andrew's Youth Fellowship	Mr Peter Ellis, 222682
Sandon W.I.	Mrs D. Gray, 223609
Garden & Allotment Association	Mrs E. Tappin, 476951
Sports Club	Mr G. Lucas (Secretary), 283730

The final journey home went well flying out of Kuajok and then getting an onward flight from Juba to Nairobi and thence back to London.

It was a fascinating insight into the commitment and sometimes frustrations involved in this sort of work. Work to help materially poor people, but often those with a great many skills that we barely recognise.

I have reprinted Richard's final article about his adventures in South Sudan as the reproduction in last month's issue was rather poor. Ed.



RED NOSE DAY

FRIDAY 15th MARCH IS RED NOSE DAY AND I AM ARRANGING A COFFEE MORNING IN ST. ANDREW'S ROOM. AS WELL AS COFFEE AND TEA THERE WILL BE SOME DELICIOUS CAKES TO ENJOY A RAFFLE AND SOME FUN ACTIVITIES. SO COME ALONG BETWEEN 10AM AND 12PM AND JOIN IN THE FUN AND ANY CAKES WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

LIZ BOBELDIJK

From the Churchwardens

When you receive this magazine we will be well into the season of Lent and hopefully some of you will be attending the sessions held on Wednesday evenings (7.30) considering aspects of John's Gospel and concluding on March 13th.

Although Lent is a penitential and reflective time it leads to the joy of Easter, this year being on March 31st.

You will see elsewhere in the magazine that there are several services planned which are of particular interest to children. On Mothering Sunday (10th March at 10.00am) there is a special non-Eucharistic family service to which all families are welcome and on Good Friday (29th March at 2.30pm) there is to be a special Easter Garden event which has proved popular with children in the last few years.

The PCC is working hard on the process to find a new priest and in the meantime the attendance at services has been encouraging. Remember to let us know if you would like to receive one of our weekly e-mails.

Michael Puffett & Janet Terry

HOWE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

FAIRTRADE TEA AFTERNOON

**Saturday 9 March
from 3.00 p.m.**

**There will be a 'bring and buy' stall and lovely cakes
All are welcome to come and join us for a nice relaxing 'cuppa'**



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our church building here -
it is a sacred place dedicated to
worship, prayer and witness.

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parish clergy across the diocese and
trains new clergy.

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every bereaved
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celebrated, every sermon preached,
Eucharist celebrated,
and person shown the love of Christ
through our care, comfort and
compassion.

Our giving sustains
mission both here in this diocese of
Chelmsford, and overseas for people
we will never meet but
to whom we are able to give practical
support.

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participants' home areas and tried out. Tinega Ong'ondi, who had been running the South Sudanese VSFG program is a very able person well versed in agriculture, explained that chickens are ideal because they convert scraps into meat and even their droppings can be used as a fertiliser.



Tinega Ong'ondi
Picture from website
www.vsf.org

He had been there 6 years and his wife, son and 18 month old twin daughters were living in Kenya. He was very proud of them and showed me pictures of them and the twins in the dresses that Naomi had bought them. He has a new job now overseeing the work in other East African countries namely Ethiopia and Somalia as well as Kenya. He writes, "VSFG were kind enough to accommodate me at the regional office meaning I could be with my family always unless travelling as the new job has 30% travelling." I personally am delighted by this development as I was encouraging him to try to spend more time with his family which he really wanted to do. I think a significant part of VSFG funding is through the EU.

Whilst at Luonyaker I was able to help them get a generator working for them by isolating a standby piece of electronics. It was good too to meet

others from Kenya who stayed at the VSFG compound on various forms of development to the area and to meet Wani, a South Sudanese vet. At the compound they had a fairly reliable satellite based internet connection but there were still no phones nor snail mail! They used 4x4 vehicles which had long aerials on the front. These were not however used for communication using the electromagnetic spectrum but were to indicate to the various militia groups that this is an NGO vehicle!

Naomi asked Peter Chan (of Ludo fame) to drive me and a couple of others to Kuajok airstrip. As we went through Wau we were stopped by a police man who seeing a damaged front number plate asked for various licences. Our local driver was clearly concerned but seemed quite adept at resolving the situation. I don't understand how except I know I was praying. The same driver then took us down some side streets in Wau where we had to wait while the car had an oil change. The same mechanics were fixing a gear box completely out in the open. It looked at that stage like a box of gears! There is a limited amount of tarmac there. The other roads were muddy and everything seemed to be coated in muddy coloured dust. The set of traffic lights were not working. The driver had a delivery to make and had to attract attention from what appeared a rather inattentive guard to get the package delivered to a closed courtyard. There was an incomplete concrete framed building with uncovered reinforcing bars sticking out in all directions.

Cont. On Page 18.

Services in March

Sunday 3 rd	Lent 3
11:00	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 5 th	
09:15	Said Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th	Mothering Sunday
08:00	Said Holy Communion (1662)
10:00	Special All-Age Service
Tuesday 12 th	
09:15	Said Holy Communion
Wednesday 13 th	
09:30	Celtic Prayer lay-led
Sunday 17 th	Lent 5
10:30	Messy Church
Tuesday 19 th	
09:15	Said Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th	Palm Sunday
09:15	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 26 th	No Service
Wednesday 27 th	
09:30	Celtic Prayer – Lay-led
Thursday 28 th	
19:30	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
Friday 29 th	
14:30	Good Friday Garden Service
Sunday 31 st	Easter Day
10:00	Easter Eucharist

Clive and Lesley Ashley

We are very sorry to lose Clive and Lesley to our near – neighbours at St. John’s Church at Danbury where Clive will also be responsible for our friends at St. Mary’s Little Baddow. Some of us went to Clive’s Installation by Bishop John at Danbury on Thursday the 31st of January. It was a memorable evening with significant numbers from Danbury, Little Baddow and Sandon. The refreshments were also excellent! There was also a hint, from the Bishop during the Service that maybe we could be re-united with this Church Group at some time in the future!

Clive and Lesley had been with us here at Sandon for almost three years and they certainly got to know the local people across the Village and nearby areas.

During this time Clive initiated many new projects and ideas which included setting up the ‘Gospel Singers Choir’, and playing his guitar with singing accompaniment

for certain hymns. Clive certainly had a musical ‘ilk’ and enjoyed performing in ‘the Crown’ at Christmas for the past two years as we rattled off many well-known carols.

Clive also started ‘Pints of View’, the Men’s monthly get-together which took place at the Crown, Sandon or the Rodney or Generals Arms in Little Baddow. These were very successful and supported by a good cross section of the Little Baddow and Sandon ‘mature’ men and we hope they will be continued. Clive and Lesley also joined the Essex Police Choir and they performed at St. Andrew’s last July.

Clive also supported the two local Sandon Charities (The Perry and Stevyns Charities) and encouraged our efforts to support other Charities such as USPG and Pakistan Project etc. when he persuaded the then Publican to kindly organise a curry evening where all proceeds went to the Charity.

Clive keenly took up the ‘Transforming Presence’ message from the Bishop and guided the P.C.C through its self-examination and conclusions.

PCC Notes

quite unashamed of the amount of litter there which in my view marred the appearance of the place.



Peter Chan (left) playing Ludo

The buildings were all single storey. Some were quite smart built off a concrete plinth with rectangular straight walls and tidy pitched tin roofs. Others were shambolic by any standards. The posts are not straight or vertical made of branches. The roofs were an apology for thatch or sometimes just a sheet covering this rather shaky structure but giving some protection from sun and possibly from rain.

There is no real feel of colour. There is greenery but it is punctuated with soil coloured paths. The buildings and roads do not have any signs or any decoration. In the UK we are used to grass or perhaps weeds filling any gaps. With periods of heavy rain and extended times of sunshine there can be a rather bare feeling to the landscape, even with trees and crops there.

The people there seem only to have limited work. It was intriguing to see

some of the young men gathered around and it made me wonder what they were up to. It turned out they were engaged in a game of Ludo. I don’t think money was involved. What could be more benign? Although a number of the men had spears and some of the police or soldiers had guns I never felt threatened by people.

There is no mains electricity and no apology for an electricity grid. One person had a generator and there were cables laid across some of the roads to provide for neighbours and friends with all the possibilities of damage and shock or fire to follow.

And once back in Luonyaker, I had to wait for nearly a week for a return flight to Juba. Whilst there I saw several aspects of the work VSF (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany) are doing. One of the projects involves flying in day old chicks from Kenya. They are a larger form of chicken which hopefully would provide more food and thus empower women more as they are the ones that rear them. The women thought they were funny because they were not very good mothers and were inclined to sit on their chicks and did not know how to protect them from hawks. However by introducing them they were able to interbreed and hopefully get the best of each characteristic. The men had the cattle which seemed to be more a currency than a food source. VSF also ran courses to help develop horticultural skills to grow vegetables and some fruit. The idea was that these skills could then propagate through the community as they were taken to the course

A South Sudanese Adventure Part 3

Richard Cecil describes more about his trip to South Sudan.

To return I again needed a navigator through the bush to leave the site and go back to Luonyaker. Naomi was less sure of the route than I expected and indeed there are a whole host of routes. There is a road that can be driven and another that can be ridden on a motorcycle but it did have long wet areas on it. The shortest route to walk was on paths that were largely dry but there were some styles to negotiate. Naomi was very cunning and when it was time to go back she organised the lad who had brought her on the back of his motor bike to take my bag and she and I walked. I did have to carry my rucksack! She tried to find a teacher from the primary school but they had all gone. So we asked some of the students of the primary school who were walking home from school to show us the way. They were very careful of us and showed us good places under the shade to stop and cool down. Primary school students are often up to 18 years old. Since they have to pay for education which is not compulsory they might miss years and indeed may not have started as young as in the UK.

Luonyaker is a village around a cross roads. There are quite good roads in the village (none with tarmac) and they have even thought it sensible to put speed humps on them as you enter the village. There is a small 'hospital' but a number of



Church in Luonyaker

the patients seemed to be outside some lying in the shade under a tree. I don't believe there was anyone there whom we would recognise as a doctor.



The Bike Shop in Luonyaker

The church is under a large tree but there are rows of seats made of branches. They have a minister of the Word, who incidentally was also one of the secondary students at Marol, and very occasionally have communion. There is a choir held together by a drum. In the village, there are a variety of shops. You could get a cold drink, bicycle parts, fuel, bakery, meat. But I didn't in general feel I was looking at a shop. There were no signs to draw you in and the floors were dried or dusty soil. They seemed

Clive was also very keen on 'systems and procedures' - but no one is perfect! We are however now better organised within the Church for Order of Services, Intercessions, Safety issues, Sidesmen's duties list and the like! He also organised Lent Courses, Pastoral service Courses and many other important activities which were well supported by the Church members.

Last year Clive also took over, on a temporary basis, the editing of the Parish Magazine.

Clive and Lesley were often seen about the Village either in running or 'walking the dog gear' and so were well known to most Villagers and as such they will be truly much missed!

Indeed we are very sorry to see Clive and Lesley move on to 'bigger things' and we wish them both all the best for the future, whilst most of us do hope that we can be re-united with both Churches in Little Baddow and Danbury at some time in the future.

David Farrar

PCC Notes

During the Vacancy a heavy load falls on the Wardens and the PCC and accordingly the meetings will now be held monthly rather than two-monthly, to cope with it. The meeting of 14th January was largely taken up with the procedure for writing a parish profile in preparation for advertising for a new priest. This is a large and demanding task and there was also a special PCC meeting on 27th January to move forward on this. We are getting valuable advice from Canon Martin Woods and for this we are very grateful.

Of course there were also routine matters to discuss. You are probably aware that the Electoral Roll is being completely renewed this year. If you have not had an application form and would like one please speak to David Farrar - the Electoral Roll Officer - or to me.

Fund raising, so vital to our future, was also discussed. The next items are the Easter Teas and an April Jumble Sale. The pattern of services and priestly cover were considered. This is moving along nicely as those of you who get my weekly message will know. The next meeting is on 11th February.

Michael Puffett

Support for Marsabit, Kenya

For a surprisingly long time we have aimed to enter some sort of relationship with a parish in the developing world. We have tried asking the diocese and indeed our current plans have begun to develop following their advice.

Recently we raised nearly £5000 for an agricultural project in Pakistan following floods there in 2010.

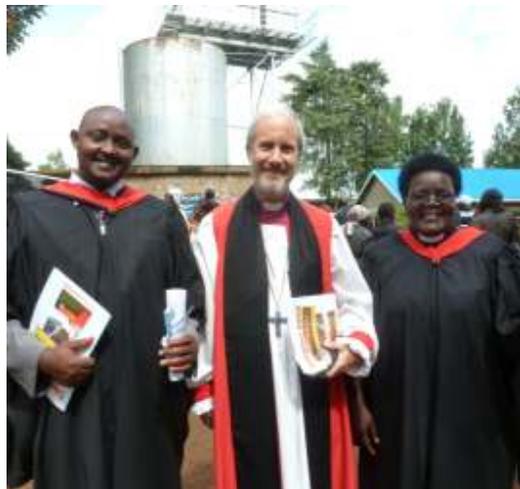
However there was little feedback from the field, and the charity who were the recipients, attributed this to the security situation in the country.

Before that the parish supported the work to help children from Chernobyl both financially and with various forms of support from members of the congregation.

Those who have been to the St Andrew's Room at church will know that there are two place mats which say 'thank you'. These came from a relationship we had with a Ugandan parish to which we were introduced some years ago by Libby Brooks.

So there is a thread of connection with those outside the country for a number of years. I can go back further. A number of people in the church will remember Rob Mackintosh who visited the parish as a curate about 25 years ago. He was attempting to start a project in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. In the end it did not materialise and he went into ministry in this country

and returned the funds we had given to him. I forget how they were deployed in the end.



Bishop Rob Martin
with Rev Alice Wangui & Rev Guyo Sarapana
at their graduation at Kabare November 2012

The May 14th 2012 PCC minutes have the statement, "Clive proposed that we could promise an annual salary for a Priest and an Evangelist in Kenya (£1920 pa) for at least 5 years as well as give (£480) to a local charity in Essex. Seconded by David (Farrar). It was agreed unanimously." This was a relationship with the diocese of Marsabit with which the diocese of Chelmsford has a connection. In September the Bishop of Marsabit, Robert Martin, visited Essex and Clive Ashley, Judy Cecil, Jack and Su Whinney were able to meet him. I was out of the country at the time.

We have now supported the Marsabit Diocese in the north of Kenya for nearly a year. Bishop Rob has identified a clergyman, Rev Joshua Umuro, whom we can support. He is the new vicar at Kargi Parish and from the Rendille tribe.



Tiny Tots Toddler Group, Sandon



Wednesday afternoons;
At your local Sandon Church
in the St Andrew's Room
Time: 1 pm to 2.30pm

Contact: Alison Read: 01245 474858

Mob: 07720 718372

Email: tots@sandon-church.info

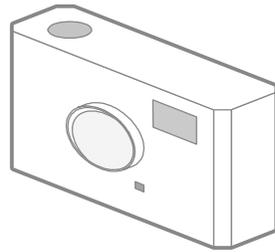


CALLING ALL KNITTERS

THINKING AHEAD OF THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS FAY'RE, ALISON AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE SOME KNITTED OR CROCHETED ITEMS TO SELL, IN PARTICULAR SOME RATHER ATTRACTIVE CURLY SCARVES WHICH I GATHER ARE VERY EASY TO MAKE. (ALISON HAS THE KNITTING PATTERN, OR YOU CAN FIND A PATTERN ON THE INTERNET) IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN KNITTING OR CROCHETING ONE OR MORE OF THESE SCARVES OR ANY OTHER ITEM PLEASE TALK TO MYSELF OR ALISON AND WE WILL START AN OCCASIONAL KNITTING GROUP.

LIZ BOBELDIJK

SVH
Film Night!



SVH
Film Night!

Sandon Village Hall Film Nights

MARCH 2nd-----THE HELP

APRIL 6th-----THE PIANO

Doors open: 7:00pm

Film starts: 7:30pm

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All proceeds will go to the village hall fund.

Julie 475976, Judy 224747,

Narelle 223536



The road to Kargi

Bishop Rob says that Kargi is a hot, tough place, which rarely has water and depends on boreholes and shallow wells to survive. If you have access to Google Earth you can see it at latitude 2°30'27" N and longitude 37°34'47" E and you might get a deeper impression of what the bishop means. It is about two hours drive from Marsabit out in the Chalbi desert. A calculation from Google Earth co-ordinates suggests that is a distance of 50 km which gives an indication of the quality of the roads. The people are pastoralists, depending on camels and goats. They have planted a new church 20 km further out, where there is an evangelist James Keifule. That is even more barren - they have been given a church plot, which is just bare rock! Bishop Rob writes, 'We are currently building Joshua a vicarage but do not have enough funds - he sleeps in the two rooms at the back of the nursery class, with wife and 5 children.' So hopefully we can pray for Joshua and James, their families and their congregations.

It is likely that they have much to teach us of faith in Christ and really trusting in the power of the Lord. I have asked Bishop Rob if there is a postal service in the area or if they ever can have internet access. I have yet to hear but it can be really difficult to make contact but they do have mobile phones so text messaging is a viable means of communication.



Rev Joshua is on the right

Rev Lee Batson is, as I write in mid February, in Marsabit and we are hopeful he will bring us fresh insight into this area and help to develop this relationship. Bishop Rob has also sent his diocesan newsletter which is posted in the St Andrew's Room. If you would like a copy then we can give you copy either printed or by e-mail. Richard Cecil

Beryl Saltmarsh : a personal tribute by Canon Hugh Beavan

Although we had not seen a lot of Beryl since leaving Sandon in 1986 we kept in touch at Christmas and also had regular news of her through a mutual friend, Dorothy Burras, a former sacristan at Sandon, who Beryl supported and befriended over many years.

Beryl quickly became a good friend to the Rectory family and would often baby sit - for us, and was much loved by our children. We always felt a special affinity with her as the daughter of a former Rector, and as the sister of a priest.

The altar in the window of the Lady Chapel was installed in memory of Beryl's father, who was interned in the notorious Changi Prison in Singapore during World War 2. I always felt very inadequate when I stood at that altar to celebrate the Holy Mysteries and tried to think of what he had endured.

Beryl always encouraged me in anything I did to make Sandon more gently 'anglo catholic' ! I remember when we celebrated the 9th centenary of the consecration of the church in 1980 we enacted a pageant which told

the history of the church down the centuries. The opening act was a re enactment of the consecration of the church in 1080 by the then Bishop of London: the authors, Alan and Winnie Freeman, thought it would make it more authentic if incense could be used in this opening act. I concurred, and so it came about ! I remember Beryl saying to me as she left the church, after the pageant, 'Hugh, you did something my father would love to have done – you managed to introduce incense into Sandon church !

Jesus said 'How blest are those of a gentle spirit' : a dear friend and neighbour who Beryl supported through a long and difficult illness has written of Beryl: 'Always caring, always gentle, always there for everyone, her quiet faith always sustaining her. How we could have managed here without her during my years of surgery...we can't imagine – my second 'mum' as she was to so many !'

Beryl's influence was indeed quiet, gentle, unobtrusive, yet real and effective. Perhaps her life was an example of the parable of the yeast, exercising a hidden but vital power and influence in the dough out of all proportion to its size. (Matt 13: 33)

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Hugh and Mary

Sandon WI February 2013 meeting

The President, Joan Southey, welcomed members including Marion Byers, a new member and thanked Celia Kerslake for the lovely flowers, which were later presented to Dorothy Gray who won the competition. The Treasurer then explained that as the annual meeting would in future be held in May not November, she would be closing the books at the end of March so any claims for expenses should be made before then. Andrew Freemont then talked about digital photography explain how it worked and the possibilities on offer, and showed us some lovely photos he had taken. He was thanked by Barbara Hodges who said the most useful bit of advice he had given us was to read the instruction book. There had been a very successful coffee morning at the Crown in Sandon and more will be arranged in the future. Eileen will organise a bluebell walk in April and there was a clip board at the back for the Mildmay Spring Group meeting on April 2nd at Boreham when the Speaker will be Mr M. McAvoy on "In your area(aria)" Frances Freemont then spoke about the Spring Show on April 11th and asked members to bring all their failed savoury tartlets to the meeting as they would taste all right! Hazel is arranging a trip to the Cliffs Pavilion to see "Summer Holiday" on 13th April. The coach will leave at 11.30 and the cost will be £26. There is to be a Beetle drive on May 17th in the

Reading Room Great Baddow, price £6 including a Ploughman's supper and tickets for the anniversary lunch on May 16th were on sale at £20 each.

Frances Freemont will be our delegate for the County Annual Meeting, and there is a meeting at on 15th April at the WI Centre to discuss the pros and cons of the AGM resolutions and a new speaker's day on 26 April if anyone wants to go to either of these meetings. The form for voting for the new Board of Trustees will on the table next month and a collection was taken up for the work of George Mills. The next Keep Fit is on 25th February and Craft and Chat on 21st February . Little Baddow are also arranging a trip to Cambridge on 14th for £16. If anyone wants to go Dorothy has the details.

Next month's meeting will be on March 14th at 20'clock and the Speaker will be Jane Malyon on "Adopting an Attitude.

Anne Nickol

The Kitchen Tap

One Tuesday, just before the Service, the cold tap in the kitchen snapped. Deluge of water; minor panic; eventually turned off at the mains!! We are very grateful to **Horizon Kitchens** who came promptly, repaired skilfully and left us as good as new. We are always appreciative too when work of this kind is done for us on a Pro Bono basis.

Michael Puffett