



Pigeon Post



Photography by Richard Corner



Fulking and neighbours give thanks with Graham Jeffrey – and for Graham Jeffrey

The beautifully restored St Andrew's Church, Edburton, formed the perfect backdrop to a special service on 15 August celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Reverend Graham Jeffery's ordination – as well as his 75th birthday, writes Richard Rawlings.

Although retired, Graham is still very active in the community, helping anyone who needs it in his uniquely loveful, non-judgemental way.

On Sunday, the church was packed with a 250-strong congregation for the service, conducted by Graham himself, assisted by the Rev Caroline Currer. By happy coincidence, she and her husband Allan were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Also assisting were Rev Canon Stephen Sidebotham, who was ordained at exactly

the same time as Graham at Winchester Cathedral, Rev Francesca Dixon and Rev Canon Alan Spray.

The service, introduced by Graham's son Gabriel, was in Graham's own highly successful style; amusing but meaningful anecdotes replaced a formal sermon, highlighting his view that a church service should be fun rather than an ordeal.

Gabriel not only paid personal tribute to Graham as a father but also to his remarkable ministry. 'He has never turned anyone away, never said no to anyone, always treated everyone the same,' is how he characterised this remarkable man's 50 years of selfless service.

Communion was administered by all five priests using specially engraved glasses (above left), one

for each of the four Downland Churches with which Graham has been associated.

The special choir was complemented by Lou Beckerman (top left), a local singer/songwriter, concert performer and sound and song therapist, singing to her own accompaniment on the guitar.

Following the service, the celebration continued with drinks and food set out in gazebos in an adjacent field. All the food was provided by the parishioners and prepared by the 'Church Mice' – the local ladies who run such events for St Andrew's Church. Marion Strachan, who organised the whole event devised by Graham's wife, Edith, was aided by colleagues Joyce Harris, Valerie Baillet, Sandra Windus, Elizabeth Baldwin, Linda Jones,

Chris Wooldridge, Jane Warne, Gillian Treen and Pauline Agg.

Graham cut his cake after telling a story about a sermon which he thought was probably his most successful ever – nobody heard it because the microphone was off! He was presented with a book of tributes written by parishioners in calligraphy by Elizabeth Baldwin, and a special landscape on the frontis painted by local artist James Lightfoot.

Graham has been the inspiration behind this small community of 120 households raising over £300,000 for the restoration of St Andrew's. He will continue to serve the church and the community that, Christian or not, churchgoers or not, will always have great love and respect for him.



Tall tree tales from the summer

The fine selection of arboreal photography above was taken one sunny July Sunday morning by **Tony Brooks**, who with hard hat, chainsaw mask and kerchief to protect the neck Legionnaire style, was on traffic control duty for **Jamie Thompson** and his redoubtable team of surgeons.

Not only did they do an excellent, speedy and safe

job in difficult circumstances, Jamie gave the Village a very good price indeed for it – a bit less than a third the proper commercial rate.

'With many thanks to a very fine team for such a good job and all left clean and tidy,' says Tony, who you may expect to see flitting carelessly from bough to bough in the coming months.

Christmas gift shoeboxes

If anyone would like to make up a shoebox full of gifts for a family in Eastern Europe, please collect a leaflet from the gate of Fouracres and follow the instructions! Filled boxes need to be delivered to Fouracres by 5 November. All are delivered to families who have nothing. Many thanks. **Sarah**, 393.

Village Diary

Thursday 9 September, 7.30pm

**FULKING VILLAGE ACTION
PLAN MEETING**
Preston Nomads Cricket
Club House
Jo Hudek, 870
Tony Brooks, 200

Friday 24 September, 7.45pm

GAMES EVENING – All Welcome
Village Hall
Jen Green, 552

Thursday 14 October, 8pm

**ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING**
Preston Nomads Cricket
Club House
Paula Hazard, 957

Wednesday 20 October, 7.30pm

SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Village Hall
Jenny Tooley, 382

Saturday 30 October, 10am

VILLAGE TIDY UP
All over!
John Hazard, 957

As you see above, the next PC meeting on 14 October will be held in the Preston Nomads Cricket Clubhouse. This is just a one-off trial to see the feasibility of holding meetings there.



Old kids' clothes donations appeal – 15 September deadline

I stayed at a girls' orphanage near Bangalore, Southern India, for six weeks this year, says **Flynne Rushton**. The Baale (home) houses 57 girls of ages ranging from 4 – 18. While I was there the staff hadn't been paid for

three months, but in spite of this the girls were well looked after and happy to be in a stable environment and to be receiving an education.

The younger girls (4-10) are in desperate need of clothes, as the

clothing donations they normally receive are for the bigger girls, and hardly any of them have shoes or flip-flops. If anyone has any old childrens' clothing (male or female) or shoes they would like to donate, please phone

me on 01273 857393 or 07834 760913 or drop it into Fouracres. Donations will be sent out to Bangalore in September. Thank you very much on behalf of the girls! I have to collect donations by 15 September!

Village Misc. Read carefully to the very end

Concerted Christmas Concerto

A plan is cooking to put on a musical evening for our Christmas entertainment. The idea is to gather together as many musical talents as we have in this delightful hamlet – I can tell you, there's a few, and they're good – and make a proper night of it. We need all sorts of music, devotional or otherwise, choral, vocal, instrumental, accompanied, however it comes. Performers young and old are invited to express interest to me – **aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk** or 735.

The Social Committee is still debating whether it would be a good idea to have it on the same night as the Xmas party, either before or after the serious business of talking, drinking and eating. More details to come, but in the meantime, let me know.

And here's another thing – I know who you are and I know where you live. So don't expect to hide your light under a bushel of bashfulness. You will be gently but firmly extricated and put in front of an admiring crowd!

Aidan Walker

Broadband or carrier pigeon?

People in the village might be afflicted by the very slow broadband speed, says **Geoff Bush** – so slow we can probably deliver the post faster! I have been testing my broadband speed which varies between 0.1mb and 1mb... completely hopeless. I have spoken to BT who say they can't do better until Poynings Exchange is upgraded. They don't know when this will be. Are we all experiencing this problem? Is there anything we might collectively do or are doing?

Andrew Iversen adds: Please would you ask all Folkingites to register an interest in the BT fibre optic broadband service, Infinity? This can be done at bt.com/infinity, and does not cost anything. The advantage – when they get round to installing it here – is that it will help keep our telephone exchange up to date and improve broadband speeds in Fulking.

Bit more Fair stuff

Thanks to **Alex Cole** and **Tony Brooks**; we made £1811 profit!

Plus **Nick Hughes** says: I could tell a story about the low life of Henfield changing the spelling of Fulking on my signs! It would be entitled, rather cleverly I think, Fulking Deleted....

In Memoriam: Gina Field

In loving memory of Gina Field, active local councillor, who died on 4 July. She will be much missed.

Doggie Do's and Don'ts

The problem of dog fouling near homes has been raised with the Parish Council, who have been asked to issue a plea to dog walkers to clear up. Local residents have reported problem areas with the footpath that runs alongside 45 Clappers Lane, and the eastern end of The Backway. A similar plea was issued last year for the North Town Field and it has remained clear since.

Another doggy issue that has been raised was about keeping dogs under control and preventing them from getting into neighbouring gardens.

A final doggy plea from the North Town Field mowing team,

possibly relevant for 'one mow time' this season – please can people remember to leave their 'dog sticks' at the side of the field before they leave as they cause havoc with the mower.

New Neighbours Need Pigeon Droppings

Come what may, your paper PP will arrive on your doorstep. Or so it should. But it may not arrive by email, especially if you are comparatively new to the village or if indeed you have moved. All Folkingites, new and old, who may have new neighbours or ones just disappeared or transmogrified: please let me know who and where they are, email and phone number – or get them to let me know same, preferably by email – **aidan@aidanwalker.co.uk** – and we'll get them / you on the list. Similarly, if you are comparatively new to the village, and by marvellous, mysterious magic a paper copy of the South of England's best village newspaper arrives at your door, check the editor's email address on the back page and tell him you'd like it by email. As well.

Amazing deal! Advertise in Pigeon Post for just £7 per issue or £60 for 11 issues. Contact Aidan Walker, details above



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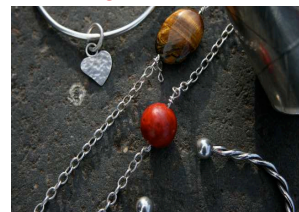
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