

THIS AND THAT 205 (in Portugal)

We are baby sitting a lovable, likeable, lolling black Labrador. Its greatest pleasure is chasing and returning, sticks, rubber bones and tooth-punctured tennis balls. All of them slimy with slobber. When these objects are thrown into a thicket of brambles and nettles the dog's tail goes frenziedly beserk until, invariably, what is lost is found.

Snarling and slavering

Dogs livened our stay in Portugal. Each morning began with a brisk twenty five minute walk past the vineyards, orchards and gardens of scattered smallholdings. Along the way we roused a cacophony of dog barks. Not all friendly. The fiercest brutes snarled, slavered and barked from behind fences. Others were on the loose. I took to carrying a walking stick closely related to a knobkerry. After two mornings we were inured to the racket and able to respond with delight to early summer's innumerable wild flowers.

On our return we said matins together, as at home. A contented life needs routine. On this holiday our concluding poem each day was by W H Auden. What a virtuoso. We loved them all. Especially *As I Walked Out one Evening*. Sheer genius. It's on the web. To whet the appetite, a pair of random stanzas: *I'll love you, dear, I'll love you*

*Till China and Africa meet,
And the river jumps over the mountain
And the salmon sing in the street*

*'O stand, stand at the window
As the tears scald and start;
You shall love your crooked neighbour
With your crooked heart.'*

Among expatriate Poms

Our first full day was a Sunday, so we found our way to the nearest Anglican Church. A pleasing, light, airy round building set in a luxurious retirement village catering mostly for wealthy, retired English folk. There were thirty or so in the congregation for a straightforward Anglican Eucharist, with a good sermon and traditional hymns. We enjoyed a cup of coffee with everyone afterwards. The following week the priest announced his imminent departure. One of his flock, with a good eye for both talent and the main chance, asked if I would be interested in doing a locum. I was not tempted. If ever I were to live and work in Portugal I would want it to be among the Portuguese, not expatriate Poms, delightful and friendly though they are. Beth and Jane, our congenial hosts are indigenising, I would want to do likewise. I'd need to be a Roman Catholic. Goodbye Diana!

A fine tide mill

In the afternoon we went for a walk in a tidal flat nature reserve south of *Olhao*. Particularly fascinating was a restored tidal mill that had remained in operation until thirty years ago, though more as a historical curiosity than for economic reasons. Such tidal mills date back possibly to Roman times and were very common throughout Europe in the middle ages. Some remained in operation into the 20th century. A dam with a sluice is created across a tidal inlet or estuary. As the tide comes in it fills the dam. The gate is closed once the tide turns. The stored water, let out once the tide is sufficiently low, turns a mill wheel to grind grain.

Flimsy excrescences between Beaulieu and Poole

There was one at Beaulieu and perhaps still is. In the 1940s H J Massingham wrote of it: *Part of the mill is built on piles into the river and is weather-boarded, while the rest of the building is warm, red-brick roofed with lozenge-shaped and rounded tiles which I believe are called fish-tiles. All the interior is of wood - ladders, bins for the meal, floor-boarding, square pillars, beams, narrow passages, fittings, shaft rising to the first floor and all. So ramshackle is the arrangement of the props and supports that it is a wonder that the whole edifice does not tumble about the miller's ears like a pack of cards. The point is that it has stood in this way for something like six centuries, and that gives the explorer into its dusky depths a more penetrating notion of how the old builders could build, more than does a Gothic church or even a cathedral. The pulse and swing of the great wheel sets the whole building in an ague, but it will still be standing when all the flimsy excrescences of development between Beaulieu and Poole have fallen down.*

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THIS WEEK: TRINITY NINE 13 August 2017

St Mary's South Baddesley: 8.00am Holy Communion

St Mary's South Baddesley: 9.30pm Family Service

St John's Boldre: 10.30am Holy Communion & Children's Club

St Nicholas' Brockenhurst: 6.30am Choral Evensong

For Prayer This Week

World peace. Holiday makers. Local nursing homes, the household, carers. **Prayer requests:** Heather Collins-Wells, Pat Le Marchant, Colin Erne, Emma Neill, Janet.

Rest in Peace: Greville Rimbault, Marion Pearse.

Activities This Week

Mon 14 Aug - 4.30pm Bible Study Ph. 07786194282 for venue

Tue 15 Aug - No Vintage Fitness. Summer recess

Wed 16 Aug - 10.30am St Nicholas' Pilley, Communion + Coffee

Wed 16 Aug - 1.00am Interment Greville Rimbault - Woodlands

Wed 16 Aug - 2.30am St John's Thanksgiving Greville Rimbault

NEXT WEEK: TRINITY TEN 20 August 2017

St Nicholas' Chapel, Pilley: 8.00am Holy Communion

St Mary's South Baddesley: 9.30pm Holy Communion

St John's Boldre: 10.30am Family Service & Children's Club

St Luke's Sway: 6.30am Choral Evensong

Dates for the Diary 2017

Mon 21 Aug - 6.30pm Vicarage: Final Fete Committee Meeting

Fri 1 Sep - 2.00pm St John's - Wedding Simon & Ionella

Sun 3 Sep - 6.30pm - St Mary's Patronal Festival Evensong

Sat 9 Sep - Ride & Stride - St John's & St Mary's 10 - 6pm

Sat 9 Sep - 1.00pm St John's Wedding James & Camilla

Sat 23 Sep - 7.00pm Boldre Memorial Hall - Harvest Supper

Sun 24 Sep - 10.30am St John's - Harvest Festival

Sat 30 Sep - 1.30pm St John's - Wedding Andrew & Jessica

Sun 1 Oct - 10.30am St John's - Pet Service

Sat 14 Oct - 12.30pm St John's - Wedding James & Sophie

Sat 21 Oct - 7.00pm St John's: Pot Pourri of Music, Sketches, Fun

Sat 28 Oct - 1.30pm St John's - Wedding Alexander & Alice

Sun 29 Oct - 10.30am St John's - All Saints/All Souls

Sat 11 Nov - 10.45am Memorial Hall - Act of Remembrance

Sat 11 Nov - 7.00pm Memorial Hall - Benefice Quiz St J v St M

Sun 12 Nov - 10.50am St John's - Remembrance Sunday

Sat 18 Nov - 7.00pm St John's - Guitar Recital - Mark Jennings

Sun 3 Dec - 3.00pm St Mary's - Ecumenical Advent Service

Wed 20 Dec - 2.30pm St John's - Hill House School Christmas

Mon 11 Dec - 4.00pm St John's - St Nicholas' Singers Concert

Sun 17 Dec - 6.30pm St John's - Nine Lessons & Carols

Wed 20 Dec - 2.00pm St John's Hill House Sch Xmas Service

Thu 21 Dec - 1.45pm St John's - WG School end of term Service

19 AUGUST 2-5PM - OPEN GARDEN - PILLEY HILL:

On Saturday 19 August at Pilley Hill Cottage (SO41 5QF) from 2.00-5.00pm: the naturalistic garden of Steph and Sandy is open to all and sundry. Proceeds to the RNL. Admission: £5 (including tea and cake) Children free. Plants for sale

RIDE AND STRIDE

Sat 9 Sept, the three churches of our Benefice, St John's St Mary's & St Nicholas' are participating in 'Ride and Stride'. Other local churches will be open to welcome visitors with refreshments. Churches will be open from 10.00am to 6.00pm to welcome generously sponsored visitors on bike, foot, horse, mobility scooter, car or whatever. Proceeds go half to our own churches and half to 'Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust'. **Please participate or volunteer** to be a Welcomer at St John's or St Nicholas'. Please contact Diana (01590 718439)

CONFIRMATION

We have a couple of children and at least one adult interested in being confirmed. Would anyone else like to join our weekly classes some time after the start of the next new school term? Have a word with Felicity or Andrew.