

*The Vicar's Page .....*  
*The Winsmoor Benefice*

I am very pleased to be able to report that with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> August the new united Benefice of Winsmoor will be created out of the Eight Parishes which currently form "our part" of the Ilminster Team. The Team was set up more than fifteen years ago to bring together sixteen rural parishes under the leadership of the Minster. Whilst this has always served its purpose, in recent years the idea of "Team" (a formal and legally binding organisation) has been replaced by "Group" (an informal parish support structure without legal provision).

So from the 1<sup>st</sup> August our Eight Parishes will be completely independent, but the only outward sign of this will be in my title; I will be the Rector of each parish rather than the Team Vicar, and I will have an open-ended contract of employment, rather than a time-limited one as at present (which was due to expire in twelve months!); the bad news therefore is that you're stuck with me for a bit longer!! The parishes will continue to run as they do now, with their own PCCs and officers and finances.....business as usual.

What is less apparent in this change, is the recognition that rural ministry is completely different from that in the towns and that trying to put lots of little village churches in with one big one, actually makes life quite difficult for the priests. Whilst Alastair, Andrew and myself have always got on and worked well together (and will continue to do so), the way we work, manage and serve our respective parishes is quite different. Rural ministry is thriving in our areas, thanks mainly to the many volunteers who put in enormous time and effort, but there is a perception in town/city parishes that we are failing Christian communities ..... and this couldn't be farther from the truth.

The Winsmoor Benefice – independent of others – will help to address this; we will be better able to stand our ground and be counted as an effective and thriving set of villages; it goes some way to helping to ensure that we have a bright and stable future.

*The Reverend Geoff Wade*; Rector of Barrington, Chillington, Cudworth, Dowlish Wake, Kingstone, Puckington, Shepton Beauchamp, Stocklinch.

*Some more thoughts from 8 year old Danny Dutton who,  
for his homework, had to explain God. ....*

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K."

"His dad God appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road any more. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important."

"You can pray any time you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time."

**Please pray** for those members of HM Armed Forces serving in Afghanistan, especially the members of 40 Commando Royal Marines from Norton Manor Camp, Taunton. *So many young men dying, so far from home.*

**Watch out for:**

*1<sup>st</sup> September – 10.00am*  
*Cudworth Church Fete*

*5<sup>th</sup> September – 6.00pm*  
*Dowlish Wake Festival Society songs of Praise on the Green*

**First Sunday**  
*David and Sue Tucker invite you to a*  
**First Sunday Worship – 10.30am – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010**  
*Stocklinch Village Hall*

***Our Churches under threat of theft and vandalism***

This is **A VERY REAL THREAT**. If you see anyone “working” on the building they are probably stealing... ***call the Police on 999.***

**Please be vigilant around our little churches.**

***Restoration work on the bells/bell-cote at***  
***Cudworth Church until on 19<sup>th</sup> August***

**From the Church Registers:**

26<sup>th</sup> June      *Alexander Lerner & Wendy Brown; joined in Holy*  
                    *Matrimony at Chillington*

03<sup>rd</sup> July        *Emmeline & Frederick Peachey; baptised at Dowlish*  
                    *Wake*

03<sup>rd</sup> July        *Adam Coombes and Skarryn Smith; joined in holy*  
                    *matrimony at Dowlish Wake*

17<sup>th</sup> July        *Simon Male & Sophie Retter; joined in holy matrimony*  
                    *at Shepton Beauchamp*

18<sup>th</sup> July        *Alesha May Reed; baptised at Barrington*

***Deanery Evensongs***

*The last of the year's series of Evensongs around the Deanery are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> August – 6.30pm at Isle Abbots*

**How old is Granddad? The answer is at the end.**

One evening a grandson was talking to his granddad about current events. The grandson asked what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general. The Granddad replied, "Well, let me think a minute, I was born before: television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, frisbees and the pill. There were no radars, credit cards, laser beams, ball-point pens. Man had not invented pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, tumble-dryers and man hadn't yet walked on the moon.

Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, "Sir". After 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, "Sir." We were before gay-rights, computer- dating, dual careers, daycare centers, and group therapy. Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions. Serving our country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege. We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends; we never heard of digital radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings. We listened to the Big Bands, Jack Benny, and the Queen's speeches on our radios. The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam. Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of. Grass" was mowed, coke" was a cold drink, pot was something your mother cooked in and rock music was your grandmother's lullaby. Chip meant a piece of wood, hardware was found in a hardware shop and software wasn't even a word. We were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby. No wonder people call us "old and confused" and say there is a generation

gap... how old do you think I am?

I bet you have this old man in mind...you are in for a shock!

Read on to see -- pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time.

This oldster would be only 58 years old!