

A VERY ENGLISH AFTERNOON TEA

written by Graham Palethorpe

“There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.”

Henry James

What would dear old Henry (the Brooke Bond Chimp) say if he knew that modern day Brits are taking their afternoon tea using a tea bag in a mug, together with a biscuit or a small piece of cake? Oops! Well, I’m proud to say that at Passford House Hotel on a lazy Saturday afternoon some Southampton Catenians were doing things ‘proper like’ and taking Ceylon and Indian tea in English bone china cups, all brewed in a tea pot and served with scones, clotted cream and preserves. Some Circle members went so far as to indulge in a full afternoon tea of bedecked tiered cake stands displaying sandwiches with their crusts cut off, cream and jam scones and a selection of gooey cakes!



Arriving at the Passford House hotel took us all by surprise, hidden away as it is in the heart of the New Forest and reached via a myriad of beautiful sun dappled country lanes. The hotel approach along a forest driveway has a history that goes back to the Tudor period and, as we drove along it, we thanked our lucky stars that we had booked an afternoon tea in such a beautiful location. Tables were laid out for us in the sun-drenched gardens at the back which provided a great backdrop to a most enjoyable afternoon.

There was much laughter and banter as conversation

flowed up and down the table. After tea, we took a pleasant stroll around the Monet inspired gardens and lake. We were pleased to welcome a fellow brother and wife from the Chichester Circle, Michael and Miren O’Brien, who battled the busy M27 to be with us. Our daughter Catherine, and my sister Valerie also joined us along with my father-in-law, Ces. It was such a great experience and one not to be missed - and maybe, just maybe, we might be able to do it all over again another day.



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AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 30 August 2016 at the Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton.

SEPTEMBER MEETING DETAILS

- **Circle meeting:** Brothers only at 7.30 pm on Monday 5 September 2016.
- **Venue:** Mercure Dolphin Hotel, 34-35 High Street, Southampton SO14 2HN.
- **Dress code:** Jacket and ties.
- **September Welfare Officer:** Pat Feighery
- **September Whisky donor:** Malcolm Forster

AUGUST Meeting Statistics

Circle Strength	49
Present	27 (55%)
Apologies	22
No apologies	0
Visitors	5
Visiting gentlemen	0

A VERY ENGLISH AFTERNOON TEA cont.

Afternoon tea, that most quintessential of English customs is, perhaps surprisingly, a relatively new tradition. Whilst the custom of drinking tea dates back to the third millennium BC in China, it was not popularised in England until the 1660s by King Charles II and his wife, the Portuguese Infanta Catherine de Braganza. So it was only during the mid-17th century that the concept of drinking tea first appeared. Afternoon tea was introduced in England by Anna, 7th Duchess of Bedford, in the year 1840. The Duchess would become hungry around four o'clock in the afternoon but the evening meal in her household was served fashionably late at eight o'clock, thus leaving a long period of time



between lunch and dinner. The Duchess asked that a tray of tea, bread and butter (some time earlier, the Earl of Sandwich had had the idea of putting a filling between two slices of bread) and cake be brought to her room during the late afternoon. This became a habit of hers and she began inviting friends to join her. This pause for tea became a fashionable social event. During the 1880s, upper-class society women would change into long gowns, gloves and hats for their afternoon tea which was usually served in the drawing room between four and five o'clock. Fortunately, for the ladies who attended the Passford House Hotel event, Chris and I did not insist on the same dress code! To experience the best of the afternoon tea tradition, indulge yourself with a trip to one of London's finest hotels or visit a quaint tearoom in the West Country. The Devonshire Cream Tea is famous worldwide, including that vital ingredient, the Devon clotted cream. Many of the other counties in England's West Country also claim the best cream teas such as Dorset, Cornwall and Somerset.



Photographers for the day were John Farran and Graham Palethorpe

THE PRESIDENT'S CHARITY LOTTERY: There will be no lottery draw in August. This will be replaced by a double in September.

AUGUST WHISKY DRAW: The August winner is Patrick Dobell.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS: Congratulations to those who celebrate birthdays in August.

John Thompson (1), Mike Lund Yates (8), Pat O'Shea (10), Jenny Thompson (12), Elizabeth Counihan (14), Sally Murray (15), Meg Clapham (20), Derek Phillips (23), Alison Dobell (27), Pat Crook (29) and Simon Grummitt (29).



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TANGMERE AVIATION MUSEUM: Bro. President Graham has planned a great day at the Tangmere Aviation Museum near Chichester. This will be a super event for Circle families as the entrance fees are very reasonable for all ages (see Circle diary). For the youngsters, there is the experience of seeing some fantastic planes up close - Lightning, Harrier, Hawker Hunter, Sea Vixen - and they can also have a go on the flight simulators and the interactive displays. For the more mature, there is aviation memorabilia and the opportunity to read the life stories of the men and women who served the aerodrome during the Second World War. And if a volunteer is available on the day, there may also be an additional extra of a talk. The museum offers light lunches and teas throughout the day in their onsite cafe. This is a trip for all members of the family to see and do! Sign up!

CIRCLE AFTER-DINNER TALK

The Southampton Circle August diners were treated to a most enjoyable talk by Tina Quinn. Tina has kindly written an article based around Monday evening's talk for those of us who could not attend the dinner.

In 2013 I moved from Bristol to take up the appointment as the Pastoral Assistant to Southampton Central and West Pastoral area within the diocese of Portsmouth. Pastoral areas are a fairly recent introduction to the diocese but, across the UK, many dioceses have similar models which join adjacent parishes together under one or two priests encouraging them to work as a unit and share resources and a priest! In my role as Pastoral Assistant, I have been incredibly fortunate in many ways: firstly to work for a truly inspirational, spiritual and supportive coordinating pastor, Mgr Canon Vincent Harvey, who has given me a lot of freedom, encouragement and guidance; secondly to take on a new role which has given me the flexibility and opportunity to be innovative and reactive in responding to the needs of a pastoral area with very diverse churches and leaders. From day one I have loved it! My main areas of responsibility are catechesis, liturgical formation and supporting the volunteers across the patch. I am a people person and thrive on responding to needs and the situation: from receiving bodies into the church the evening before a funeral, to producing a newsletter and to coordinating a summer holiday club for the children of Millbrook.



My background is nursing (palliative care) and I have been fortunate to continue nursing in my spare time to maintain my registration and my expertise, both with Marie Curie and Oakhaven Hospice in Lymington.

I am very grateful to the diocesan fund Living our Faith for supporting my salary for the last three years, together with the parishes in the pastoral area. One of the challenges of my appointment was to equip and resource parishes to the extent that I made myself redundant. I haven't been completely able to do that but after three years it has become apparent in a positive way that the individual parishes need to run as separate units with some overlap when the need is pertinent to all. One example would be facilitating a day of reflection for all Eucharistic Ministers and readers in the area.

The role has given me opportunities to work at diocesan level. I have been part of a number of framework teams which have both informed my day to day work but also enable me to contribute to the diocesan picture: Formation for Mission, The Spiritual Formation Team, Caritas and Called & Gifted. Part of my remit is to disseminate the valuable work done by these teams and to encourage volunteers that I work with to join one of the many framework teams

I am in the final weeks of completing a masters degree in pastoral theology which was one of the requirements of the post. This has been a wonderful opportunity to theologically underpin all the work that I am doing. It also allows me to give something back to the diocese. My dissertation is looking at the whole area of supporting the call and giftedness of our clergy in their vocational life and ministry.

The future? ! After discussion and reflection with Mgr Vincent and the diocese, it has been decided that if the role is to continue it will need to be more strategic and focused centrally and based at the city centre. I am delighted to say that I am able to stay on and will continue working three days a week for the city centre as a Pastoral Assistant and I have also been very fortunate to secure a new appointment at Oakhaven hospice for two days a week as a Clinical Practice Educator. Both positions will inform the other and there is much to be done! I feel incredibly blessed that I can continue to serve and support individuals spiritually whilst also supporting the holistic needs of individuals reaching the end of their lives. And also to stay in the New Forest!

CIRCLE EVENTS 2016/17

Saturday 13 August	LASER CLAY PIGEON SHOOT	12.30 pm: Lunch at the Luzborough Arms, Romsey (optional). 3.00 pm: Green Lane, Ampfield, SO51 9BN. £12.50 pp. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend.</i>
Tuesday 16 August	LUNCH CLUB	12.00 noon: The Dog & Crook, Crook Hill, Braishfield, Romsey SO51 0QB. <i>Please advise Bro. Secretary if you wish to attend.</i>
Saturday 3 September	TANGMERE MUSEUM VISIT	11.00am: Tangmere Military Aviation Museum, Tangier, Nr. Chichester, West Sussex PO20 2ES. Adults £9/Over 60s £7/Children under 16 £3 or under 5 free. See Stop Press for more information. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe if you wish to attend.</i>
Monday 5 September	CIRCLE MEETING	7.30 pm: Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton. Brothers only. Jacket and tie. <i>Please advise Bro. David Palmer of your choice of meal if you intend to dine.</i>
Friday 18 November	MASS FOR DECEASED BROTHERS	Details to be advised by Bro. President.
November	CHINESE NIGHT	Details to be advised by Bro. President. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe nearer the date if you wish to attend.</i>
Monday 5 December	CHRISTMAS PARTY	7.30 pm: Mercure Dolphin Hotel, Southampton.
Wednesday 15 December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH CLUB	1200 noon: Keats Restaurant, Ampfield, SO51 9BQ. <i>Please let Bro. Secretary know nearer the date if you wish to attend.</i>
January 2017	NEW AGE CURLING	Details to be advised by Bro. President. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe nearer the date if you wish to attend.</i>
February 2017	ITALIAN NIGHT AT KEATS	Details to be advised by Bro. President. <i>Please contact Bro. President Graham Palethorpe nearer the date if you wish to attend.</i>
Saturday 4 March 2017	CIRCLE RETREAT	Details to be advised by Bro. President.

SEPTEMBER CIRCLE DINNER MENU

Classic Caesar Salad ~~~~~	Toffee & Walnut Cheesecake with summer fruits
Chargrilled pork with wholegrain mustard & tarragon sauce	or
or	Fresh fruit salad
Panfried salmon with Hollandaise sauce ~~~~~	or
	Cheese platter ~~~~~

Please advise Bro. David Palmer of your choice of meal if you intend to dine.

CIRCLE WELFARE

John Farran, this month's Circle Welfare Officer, reports as follows. Your prayers for these brothers and wives who are currently unwell would be much appreciated.

- Myra Andrade is still unwell but in good spirits.
- Paul Andrews is making a steady recovery.
- Dick Barber is bedridden and remains in a very frail condition.
- Rita Forster is still requiring constant care at home.
- Joe Gleeson remains cheerful despite intensive pain management.
- Christine Grummit is very much better.
- Mark Ingram (son of Michael) is progressing positively and still needs our prayers.
- Louise O'Shea is frustrated but continuing to do well ('fair to middling'!).
- Pat O'Neill is still having difficulty walking, but able to drive short distances. Having home physiotherapy.
- Kathleen Parker is generally OK, but remains unwell and she is getting plenty of help.
- Katie Smith's situation is unchanged and she is gradually getting worse.
- Valerie Summerton has finished her treatment and is hopefully now out of danger.
- Pat Tomlins maintains a positive outlook. Chemotherapy treatment is finished and he is now able to mix. He is hoping to be at the September meeting.



IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the Circle brothers whose anniversaries occur this month:

- John Bannon
- Pat Dunworth
- William McCabe
- Martin McGarry
- Douglas Newton
- David Reese
- Anthony Whelan
- Bert Woodling



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Southampton Catenian website: <http://www.southamptoncatenians.org>

President's Charity website: <http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk>