



Newsletter No. 58

September 2014

### HLHS Annual Accounts 01.09.2013 – 31.08.2014

Please find details of the society's accounts attached to this newsletter. The breakdown shows that the society is in a healthy position financially.

### Membership Renewal

Membership fees for Sept 2014 - Aug 2015 are now due. The renewal form is available on the website. Please complete a copy as soon as possible and return it, with your membership fee, to the address shown on the form. Alternatively you may hand it to Jonathan at the AGM.

### Memories of 1914

To mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, the society staged an exhibition at St Michael's School, focusing on the effects of the war on local people. A lot of hard work went into the event, which explored, amongst other topics, how life was changed for those left at home whilst the men were away in the trenches, and the role of women in the war effort. With nostalgic songs and music playing in the background, visitors were treated to many interesting displays about local individuals involved in World War I, and even some live testimonies from Heavitree residents recalling their memories. Well done to the HLHS members who devoted their time and efforts to creating such a successful and informative exhibition. SK

### Website Archive

Many thanks to Martin Weiler for sharing his archive of HLHS newsletters. We are gradually scanning and uploading these to the website.

For those of you who prefer paper and ink, the newsletter will now feature a 'From the Archives' section. We hope that this will enable members to access some fascinating articles and research that might otherwise be forgotten.

### Being a Chaplain

On 11th June, Paul Morrell gave a talk on what it is like to be a chaplain. Paul was born in Tiverton and suffered much illness as a child. As a result he missed a lot of schooling and left school without qualifications. Paul's grandmother was a staunch

Methodist, and was teetotal. Paul had to attend chapel three times every Sunday. This had much influence on his life.

Paul's parents both worked for Heathcotes of Tiverton. Paul however went to work at International – a well-known chain of grocery stores. After two years apprenticeship he qualified as a grocer. Such work gave him a lot of connection with local people, including some unsavoury ones! His desire was to go into nursing and over the years he worked in an operating theatre, in casualty, as a theatre charge nurse back at the RD&E and in the Navy. Paul gave some graphic details of patients, including guns & suicides.

Paul enjoyed looking after the terminally-ill and worked for the hospice in Butts Road, Heavitree, for fourteen years from 1987, including four years as a ward manager. He was much involved in raising funds for a purpose-built hospice, now in the grounds of Wonford House.

From the age of twenty-one Paul had felt a call to the ministry but kept putting it off. Having got through three directions of ordinands he finished his course and satisfied the church, but then went back to enjoying life! Later he trained for three years at Exeter College, whilst working at the Hospice. He worked part-time for the church at weekends.

In the year 2000 Paul gave up nursing and became a paid priest at Clyst Heath, where he remained for six years – no church, no base, merely door-knocking. He was appointed Team Vicar for St. Paul's, Burnthouse Lane, and promptly demolished it due to much vandalism. £1.5 million was required to build the new church.

Paul is currently part of a team of three in Heavitree. He is a Governor at St Peter's & Wynstream schools, & takes assemblies at St Michael's Academy. He is a chaplain at the RD&E, and is involved with the Nuffield Hospital, and the Wonford & St Pauls Youth + Community Project (WASP). In addition, Paul is a chaplain to the Scouts, and RAF chaplain to the Young Cadets. Wonford & St Pauls, covering St Michaels Church, St Pauls (Burnthouse Lane), & Heavitree Ministry (Lower Hill Barton Road), is one of the largest parishes in Devon, and is a training parish for priests who then go out world-wide in the ministry.

Paul is a chaplain to the Lord Mayor of Exeter. He has known several over the years, a number of whom lived in or represented the area covered by Paul's ministry. There is still much connection between the Church & the Lord Mayor, much of it historical, but it still continues:

- In his capacity as chaplain to the Lord Mayor, Paul is invited to be present when a new Lord Mayor is sworn-in. He is there as a figurehead for the Church but also to represent the Lord Mayor;
- A chaplain has to be present for each full meeting at the Guildhall, to sit, & to open + close with prayer;
- A chaplain supports the Lord Mayor in his chosen charity, and has various civic duties;
- Conversely, the Lord Mayor has to attend church for prayer.

Paul is shortly due to retire on 26<sup>th</sup> Sep 2014, after twenty years in the priesthood.  
JW

### From the Archives: '1066 and All That' (Newsletter 4: Feb 2001)

In the last newsletter, John Shell asks for clarification of Heavitree's Domesday Book entry, and in particular the reference to ploughing with a team of eight oxen. Well, Domesday Book is not consistent in the manner of its recording and Heavitree's entry is very short on detail. It mentions only two carucates of land and two ploughs: one for Roger, who holds the manor, and one for the villein - the two serfs were probably ploughmen. So, that makes for a population of just four families in 1086: Roger's, the villain's and the two serfs' - surely there must have been more.

A carucate, like the hide elsewhere in the country, is a measure of cultivated land which a plough team could work in a year and could be used to calculate tax. For most of the country, a carucate, or hide, would have been reckoned on 120 acres but in the southwestern counties (heavier soils?) it is more often reckoned at only 40 or 48 acres (Finn, 25). So how much bigger than its likely 96 acres of arable was the manor at this time? And what about woodland (crucial for fuel and the grazing of pigs), orchards, pastures or sheep or cows? How did this tiny manor, and its later church of St Michael, in the two centuries following Domesday Book, become the centre of such a large parish (see Fig.1) ranging from Cowley Bridge in the north to the Clyst at Bishop's Clyst in the south, including a total of ten churches and chapels (Orme, 121)?

As for the plough and its oxen team, we must remember that ploughing had been

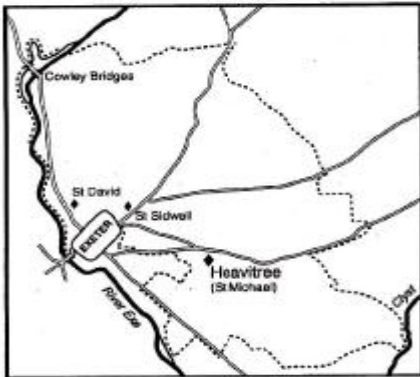


Fig. 1 The extent of Heavitree parish at the end of the 13th century. After Orme, 1991.

developed over thousands of years before 1086 and the plough itself was a valuable and effective tool with all the components we see on a modern plough: a coulter to cut the turf, an iron 'share' to break the ground, and a mouldboard for turning the furrow. Ploughshares were even sought as payment for rents (Finn, 57). The oxen (castrated bulls), were small beasts about the size of the Dexter breed and the eight would constitute two teams of four.

References:

Finn, RW, 1973 *Domesday Book; a Guide*, London  
Orme, NI, 1991 *The Medieval Chapels of Heavitree*,  
*Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society*, No. 49, 121-129

### Upcoming History Society Events

**Wednesday 10th September - Rifford Room, 7:30pm**  
**Annual General Meeting and Members' Evening**

After our AGM, members are invited to talk about subjects which they think would be of general interest. These could be areas they have been investigating or

they have just happened to come across, and would be able to talk about for 10 - 15 minutes. If you have a subject that you could talk about in this way will please let Hilda Mitchelmore know (Tel. 01392 279104). Our speakers so far will be:

FRANK POTTER - 'Harry Hems' First Pattern Book'

HILDA MITCHELMORE - 'Pre-war Memories of a Shop in the High Street'

LYNDON TAYLOR - 'Heavitree Bridge'

### Non History Society Events

**6th September, 2pm** - Exeter History Society - 'Mass Graves from Exeter Churches'

**6th September** - Exeter Civic Society - 'Exeter and the First World War' (details: 07857 599232)

**13th September, 7.15pm** - Friends of Heavitree Church - Todd Gray, 'Exeter's Women in the Great War'. Price £6, buffet provided

**27th September, 2.30pm** - National Trust - 'The Importance of Trees'- Exeter School

**9th October, 7pm** - Exeter History Society - 'The History of post-war Exeter' - Rougemont Room, Central Library, Exeter

**18th October, 2.30pm** - National Trust - 'Harry Hems, Ecclesiastical Sculptor'- Exeter School

**15th November, 2.30pm** - National Trust - 'Yaroslav, Exeter's Twin City'- Exeter School

**11th December 2014, 7pm** - Exeter History Society - 'The various types of stone used in the building of Exeter Cathedral' - Rougemont Room, Central Library, Exeter

*If you know of any events that you think members might appreciate, please email me and I will include them in this section*



Finally, several kindly members have asked about a new resident in Heavitree - I would like to introduce Eric Peter Robinson, who is now 19 weeks old. Just think, when he reaches his eighties in 2094 and looks back to the time of writing this newsletter, everything that we see as cutting-edge, and part of everyday life, will be strange, outdated and perhaps being written about in newsletter number 295! SK

*This Newsletter was published by the Heavitree Local History Society*

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