

## Regular Events

**Refreshments** are served in the Chapter House each Sunday after the 10.15am service and after the 10.30am Holy Communion service on Thursdays.

**Sunday school** is on holiday during August but otherwise meets each Sunday at the 10.15am service, on all but the first Sunday in the month when there is a special Children's Service. (All ages welcome). Contact: Cinta Heaton on 354361.

**St. Peter's Choir** sings at 10.15am services apart from the First Sunday service. Choir practices are on Sunday mornings. On holiday in August. New members welcome. Contact: Adrian Quarry on 409612.

**Bell ringing** St. Peter's eight bells are rung each Sunday from 9.40am. Practices are at 7.30pm on Thursdays. New members welcome. Contact: Richard Entwistle on 360095.

**Women's Fellowship** meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 2.30pm in the Chapter House. It is on holiday until September 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact: Gwenda Flude on 351670.

**Mothers' Union** meets at 10.30am on the first Wednesday of each month at 8, de Parys Avenue for coffee, prayer and Bible study. Contact: Pam Coppenhall on 357903

**Modern Mums:** meet by arrangement. Contact Anna Pugh on 07977 138097

**Grapevine Parent & Toddler Group** meets from 9.30 - 11.30am on Fridays. An opportunity for all to make new friends, share experiences and provide one another with support.

Contact: Andrea Spice on 341861

**Cruse** holds a coffee morning in the Chapter House on Tuesdays from 10.00am – 12.00pm for those trying to come to terms with bereavement. For further information contact 340321.

**The Pastoral Visiting team** helps care for the sick, elderly & housebound. For those who would like to be visited or would like help please contact Mike Fudger on 354543.

**Doubters Anonymous** is a group that meet to grapple honestly with our faith in the modern world. The group meets every other month. Contact Mike Fudger on 354543.

**Bible Study Group** meets after the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Communion Service of the month at 11.30am in the Chapter House.  
Contact Maureen Tompkins on 360495.

## DIRECTORY

**Rector**  
Mike Fudger 354543

**Churchwardens**  
Wendy Edwards 266210  
Dave Hoskins 304424

**Assistant Churchwardens**  
Maureen Tompkins 360495  
Liz McHale 210620

**Administrator & PCC Secretary**  
Cinta Heaton 354361

**Treasurers**  
Hannah Potter 352675  
Anthony Chestney 351719

**Planned Giving Officer**  
Gloria Clarke 357676

**Electoral Roll Officer**  
Roy Jupp 213468

**Chapter House Bookings**  
Ann Lawrence 358950

**Church Flowers**  
Please see the Rota at the back of the church or ring: 270514

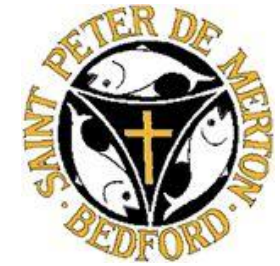
**St Peter's Coffee Shop** open on Saturday's 10.00am – 1.00pm with **Saturday Open Church**. All are welcome to start the weekend meeting old and new friends in an uplifting environment. If you would like to help with the running of the Open Church and Coffee shop please contact Maureen Tompkins on 360495.

**For more information on St Peter's, what's on and how to get involved, please visit our website [www.stpeter.org.uk](http://www.stpeter.org.uk)**

The Parochial Church Council of  
The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter De Merton with St  
Cuthbert  
Registered Charity Number 1132799

# NETWORK

The monthly newsletter of  
**St Peter de Merton**  
with  
**St Cuthbert**  
November 2011



## Dear Friends at St Peter de Merton with St Cuthbert,

If, like me, you have not given much thought to Cuthbert, I hope you will read on and see why I have used our full name above. Unlike the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning ("I love thee with a love I seemed to lose with my lost saints") I had a very sketchy knowledge about the saints – until a few years ago, we read for our Lent book 'The Road to Emmaus' by Helen Julian. In this book, we met the Venerable Bede, who wrote 'The Life of St Cuthbert' and this sparked my interest in going to see places connected with Cuthbert, particularly Durham Cathedral and Lindisfarne (Holy Island).

So finding myself with a few days to spare last Autumn, I travelled by train to Durham, arriving at the Cathedral in time for Evensong. The shrine of St Cuthbert, situated behind the Altar, has a beautiful atmosphere of peace and tranquillity and as I looked around, I imagined how surprised Cuthbert, (at heart a humble and un-ambitious monk in spite of eventually holding high office) would have been to know that this magnificent Cathedral was built mainly to house his remains.

A few days later, I went to Lindisfarne by bus from Berwick. I was looking forward to seeing the ruins of the Benedictine Priory; such an important historical site built on land given to St Aiden in 635 A.D., by the Anglo Saxon King, Oswald, to use as a base for the new religion. But quite apart from its history, I was sure I would find the same atmosphere of peace as at the Durham shrine. However, on arrival, I was a bit

disappointed to find so many visitors (of which, of course, I was one!) plus lots of gift shops, craft shops, museums, a cultural centre, pubs, restaurants, coach parks, car parks and bus stops. How could it be otherwise? It was all very interesting, but as the day wore on, I realized that I wasn't finding the 'atmosphere' I had somehow expected.

Leaving the Priory until last, I made my way there in late afternoon. Dusk was already falling and most people had left. I was sure I would find the place empty and peaceful. But as I got nearer, all I could hear was shouting, hammering, banging, and the relentless blare of a radio! There, clambering about the ruins, on scaffolding, was an army of work-men restoring the brickwork. Quite illogically, I was irritated! Above the music, they were shouting instructions, bantering about their planned night out later, laughing and joking. I still walked around the remnants of walls and archways, placed my feet in the hollows of the night-stairs (imagining the discipline of getting up in the middle of the night to pray and say offices on this cold North-East coast), but it was hard to concentrate in all the noise.

In reading about Cuthbert earlier that day, I had been struck by his reputation as a young man, of being "vigorous and athletic and loving hard physical work". As a novice, although his spirituality was already apparent, he "found fasting difficult". I began to get a picture of this very 'ordinary' man, but a man who was diligent

in a life of obedience to his calling and in service to others. He was reputed to have the gift of healing, but perhaps even more importantly, Bede tells us that if people came to him with spiritual or emotional problems, *“he had a listening ear and an understanding heart.”*

As a Bishop, he travelled hundreds of miles in Northumbria, Carlisle, the Borders and Lowlands, often on foot, spreading the gospel and ministering to people’s needs. Bede writes of this stage of his life that he *“ made a point of seeking out the steep rugged places in the hills which other preachers dreaded to visit because of their poverty and squalor.....living among the rough hill folk, preaching and leading them heavenward by example.”* Such a man, I thought to myself, would probably not have been irritated by noisy labourers. He may even have lent a hand with the work!

Leaving the ruins, I entered the Church of St. Mary nearby. Here was a lovely surprise: Inside this little church is a sculpture by Fenwick Lawson, entitled ‘The Journey’, a remarkable life-size depiction of the monks bearing the remains of Cuthbert on their shoulders in a casket.

Even in death, Cuthbert was so revered by the monks at Lindisfarne that, after repeated Viking raids on that coastline, they undertook a journey (which proved to be about eight years long), and carrying his remains with them, until at last they found a place of safety at Durham where they could lay him to rest. I think the artist has conveyed, in their faces, in the attitudes of their arms and in the way their hands gently steady their load, that this was a ‘labour of love’.

So, I did not leave Lindisfarne disappointed. I had come to look at the site of an important building and to be in touch with the spirit of a place, but I went away with a reminder of what really matters. Bede puts it much more eloquently:

*“we must not suppose that only the building in which we come together to pray and celebrate the mysteries is the Lord’s temple, for we ourselves who come together in the Lord’s name are more fully his temple.....so let us busy ourselves in building an eternal mansion by the mutual help of love.”*

**With my love,  
Valerie Tarlo**

## Prayer for the Month

### Dear Friends,

As I write this it is not yet November, but already many shops are peddling their Christmas wares. By excessive anticipation of any event there is the danger of overkill and our lives become more and more pressurised.

With this thought in mind I commend the following prayer, that we might savour and relish all the moments of our lives in this Gods’ wonderful world:

Father of all we give you thanks for the lovely, fleeting gift of time. Make us conscious of our responsibility for the way we use it. In our busy years with demands of work, home, children and absorbing interests, help us to avoid feeling guilty if we are not filling every minute with activity. Let us take time to be still and know that you are God. In our tomes of relaxation, on holiday and enforced idleness, during illness and the restrictions of advancing years, help us to make good use of the extra time available to us, to enrich our relationships with you Lord and with other people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who was never rushed or hurried but always, had time for the demands made on him and always had time for prayer.

*A Little Book of Women’s Prayer  
Kathleen Davidson, Morpeth, Northumberland.*

**With Love  
Heather Harris**

### Neighbours and Strangers

The following extract from a book within Ann Dew’s collection resonates with that of last month’s Neighbours and Strangers supplement.

### My house is your house

Try to like people.  
Love everybody.  
Above all that means to welcome every person you meet on your way in life.

### November Services

#### Every Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am First Sunday Service

3.00pm Service of Remembrance

4.00pm Deanery Evensong at St Andrew’s

#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am Morning Worship

4.00pm Evensong

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Christ the King

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am Parish Communion

4.00pm Holy Communion with the  
Laying-on of hands for Healing

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am Parish Communion

4.00pm Evensong

### December Services

#### Every Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am First Sunday Service

4.00pm Christingle

#### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am Parish Communion

4.00pm BCP Evensong

#### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am Morning Worship

4.00pm Holy Communion

#### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am Family Communion

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mapping Group meets at 12.30pm at the Church.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mothers Union meets at 10.30am at 8 de Parys Avenue.  
Young and Old in the Big Society, 7.45pm-9.00pm at the Holt Room, St Andrews.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Finance & Building Group meets at 11.30am in the Octagon.  
First Friday meets at 7.30pm in the Chapter House.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Fayre Action Group meets in the church at 3.00pm. All welcome.
- 6<sup>th</sup> All Souls Remembrance Service at 3.00pm.  
Deanery Evensong at St Andrews at 6.30pm.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Film Club meets at 7.00pm in the Chapter House.
- 9<sup>th</sup> War and Peace in the Big Society, 7.45pm-9.00pm at the Holt Room, St Andrews.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Bible Study group meets at 11.30am in the Chapter House.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Women’s Fellowship meets at 2.30pm in the Chapter House.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Crime and Punishment in the Big Society, 7.45pm-9.00pm at the Holt Room, St Andrews.

## Notices

### November Film Club Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

#### “Frida” (2002)

Director: Julie Taymor (co produced by Salma Hayek)

A beautifully made film overflowing with passion and enthusiasm, nominated for six Academy Awards in 2002 it is a story of an exceptional woman, Frida Kahlo. She came from humble beginnings to earn fame as a talented artist but her life was not, what you would call, without troubles and scandals. There are outstanding performances by Salma Hayek who plays Frida and Alfred Molina who plays her cheating husband, Diego Rivera. The film also stars Antonio Banderas, Edward Norton and Geoffrey Rush.

English. Running Time: 118minutes.

Everyone welcome; wine and nibbles will be served with an opportunity to discuss the film afterwards. A contribution to the refreshments will be gratefully received.

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## Thank You

I would just like to say a big thank-you to all the ‘Saturday morning ladies’ who have spent many a long hour cleaning, re-arranging and clearing out the numerous kitchen and storage cupboards. It has been a long and arduous job but the challenge was met with hard work and a lot of humour! Many thanks to you all.

## Wendy Edwards

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### Christmas Fayre

I’ve decided to give you all a breather and not write a précis on where we are with the planning. Instead you will suffer weekly updates in the Service Sheet asking for bequests of goods and time, please look out for them, with much advance thanks and more.

## Cinta

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## Notices

### Belief; Exploring Faith and Spirituality

Following on from the theme of Transforming Communities in the Big Society, the following talks are taking place in November.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

#### Young and Old in the Big Society.

Circles of Support: Ron Overton; Director of Reach Out Plus, John Bassill, Co-ordinator of Friends for Life.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November

#### War and Peace in the Big Society

A Services Chaplain with experience of tours in war zones will lead this session.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

#### Crime and Punishment in the Big Society

Rev. Sharon Grenham-Toze; Co-ordinating Chaplain, HMP Bedford.

**Venue:** The Holt Room, St Andrew’s Church, beginning at 7.45pm and ending at 9.30pm.

These courses are free of charge; however donations towards the costs and refreshments are welcome.

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### First Friday in the Month Autumn Programme 2011/2012

Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Ian Smith and the Fauré Requiem

An introduction to the Bedford Choral Society concert to be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Bedford Corn Exchange.

Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Advent Anthology

A warm welcome to Christmas – Music, Poetry and Readings by candlelight with wine.

**Venue:** The Chapter House at 7.30pm.

All welcome – no admission charge – refreshments.

That means opening your heart, your house, your possessions in such a way that the other person is never made to feel inferior, but can accept your kindness as part of the way you are.

Nothing must be forced.

Everything should be spontaneous.

Hospitality is not something that is learned.

You won’t ever find it in a book.

It is a deep inward attitude of openness and communicativeness.

It belongs to the mystery of being a real person.

I have the impression that in our rich countries we have lost our ability to welcome people. Yet, hospitality is one of the highest human values. We must go to the poor to rediscover real hospitality.

The poor man in Africa, for example, invites you to his miserable little hut – built from mud, from corrugated iron or cardboard and keeps repeating, “My house is your house! You must come and have a cup of tea. You must come and have something to eat.”

And when evening falls, he won’t let you go. You must sleep there. He will unroll his best mats for you, and God only knows where he himself is going to sleep.

And if such a poor person comes to our rich land? He may never ever be invited into a home – not even for a cup of tea!

Why is it that spontaneous acts of hospitality are now deemed by others as being foolish? Why has society wrapped itself up so tightly to protect themselves that generosity and kindness are seen as ‘asking for trouble’; ‘don’t do it as it will only encourage...’ but surely we have to accept that when offering ‘*spontaneous acts of hospitality*’ we may sometimes be duped, but only by doing so can we ensure that we are uncalculated and genuine in our acts.

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## Pottering about in China

### Dear Friends,

We’re in our fourth city. We started in Shanghai. As always, a very busy city, but full of interesting buildings and masses of things to do; a remarkable museum...one of the best I’ve

visited....beautiful bronzes, jades and a special exhibition of Maori culture sent from New Zealand.

We took a bus to one of water cities outside the city, very ancient with canals and bridges, narrow cobbled streets. Then there is the Yuyuan Garden in the city centre....an oasis of calm where you can wander and admire the stones dragged from the lake in the neighbouring province and the exquisite trees and plants. And of course, the walk along the Bund by the river; on our side of the river the old colonial buildings from the imperialist past and across the river the new city of Pudong, with the highest building in China... absolutely stunning.

A morning service in the church still standing in the city square...packed with a congregation of about 1000 in the church, apart from the overflow in an adjacent hall. Familiar tunes with unfamiliar words, but the address in Chinese lasting 40 minutes plus was a bit of a strain. We met old friends as well and enjoyed renewing our friendships.

Next stop, Qingdao by the sea. 1200 km from Shanghai, but we travelled by high speed train at 300 km per hour. We know Qingdao very well, and apart from enjoying the beach and the warm autumn sunshine, there was lots of social activity. We have a lot of friends there from my working days and every evening was a banquet of delicious seafood which is a speciality of Qingdao. China was celebrating its National Day while we were there, and the crowds were vast on the beaches. Thousands of people travel during the week’s holiday for National Day....the 62nd anniversary of the foundation of the ‘New China’.

Then Hangzhou. It was still holiday time and it would have been an unpleasant time in the city because of the crowds, but another friend from the past drove us some 3 hours into the countryside to visit his parents and the rest of his family. His mother had her birthday and we joined the fabulous birthday supper. It was such a pleasure to be among a Chinese family in holiday mood. There were boat trips on the lake, and a special excursion to the fantastic terraced rice fields. The three days there were an unexpected treat, and as usual Chinese hospitality was lavish.

Third stop Guiyang. A new city for us and we chose it because it is in one of the poorest provinces in China. The city itself is in the process of huge development....construction everywhere. But outside in the country side there is the old dusty crumbling China that I first visited 20 years ago. It is fascinating to observe the mixture of the traditional and the ultra-modern. We took a trip to a traditional village overlooking a lake/reservoir. The roofs are wonderful, just slabs of stone from the local mountains. Another day was spent in a huge park with an underground river along which we went in a boat for nearly an hour. Then Hannah, of course, had to do her adventurous thing and crossed the lake in a rope sling. I held the bags...

Then the most spectacular trip of the stay, the Huangguoshu waterfalls...the biggest in China. We hired a taxi to take us the 120 km there, and we spent about five hours there, including a walk through the cave underneath the falls. The following day we spent in the mountain park on the edge of the city, teeming with people even though it was Friday. Loads of entertainment; bits of opera, musicians and one outstanding group of men and women just practising their songs. On our last evening we treated ourselves to an hour's foot massage because we had walked so far in our six days there. In a narrow back alley where a family of father, mother and son provide the most enjoyable, relaxing experience for the equivalent of 2 pounds 50 (no pound sign on this machine!).

Now, in Kunming...the city of eternal spring in the guide books. But the temperature this year is colder than it has been elsewhere. We have been here many times and we regularly have supper overlooking the lake in the city centre. Today we took a taxi up to the most beautiful temple I know in China, full of beauty and calm. It is an active temple and locals come to worship there, in the hills among the trees. Tomorrow's plan is to go to the lake by the Western Hills, take the cable car across the lake and walk in the hills.

On Tuesday a Bedford friend arrives to spend the last two weeks with us. On Wednesday we fly south to a small town of Jinghong which is very close to the Burmese border. We look forward to tropical weather, a different culture....more Burmese than Chinese.....and walks in the 'primeval' forest. Then north to Chengdu and another remote area which has Tibetan culture and famed for its natural environment. It is one of the largest of Chinese

national parks. That will be new for all of us, and it will be cold because the altitude is high. But we have a variety of clothes to suit all temperatures.

You will gather that we have not been bored in the weeks since we left Bedford. The weather, as I expect in a Chinese autumn, has been splendid....just one evening downpour in Guiyang to remind us that rain exists. We return to Shanghai on 30th October and arrive back in Heathrow the following day. Then we shall need to sleep for a week.

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## Love and best Wishes Michael and Hannah

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### News from the Social Committee

After the enjoyment by all of the Harvest Lunch and the film 'An inconvenient Truth' being well received; not forgetting the operational success of the kitchen and front of house staff, the social committee would like to 'do lunch' for the congregation four times a year with a sing song and possibly a theme for example a film or speaker.

It is felt that Easter Lunch, Petertide, Harvest and Epiphany would be the ideal choice for communal celebrations.

We look forward to the first of 2012 on January 8<sup>th</sup> Epiphany Luncheon.

If anyone is interested in helping with the preparations, please let Sylvia or Janet know.

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### "All Good Gifts around us are Sent from Heaven above"

At Harvest Festival, it is right that we think primarily about God's gift of creation, the harvesting of crops and also a fairer redistribution of these between the wealthy and poorer parts of our world. God's gifts, of course, take many other forms too – a breathtaking landscape view, a beautiful painting, a moving film or a thought-provoking play and also wonderfully uplifting music. It was, therefore, very appropriate that our Harvest Festival Sunday should also include a superb organ recital and "try your hands and feet" organ sample session (which encouraged many children and one brave adult to take part!) by the internationally acclaimed organist and teacher, Anne Page.

Anne's recital offered us a wide range of music. Bach's evergreen Toccata and Fugue in D minor and Widor's equally famous Toccata, which has become such a firm favourite with wedding couples during the last 50 years or so, eloquently demonstrated the majestic power of "the King of Instruments". The music of Alain's Variations on a theme of Clement Jannequin and "Le Jardin suspendu", on the other hand, occupied a different, perhaps mystical, sound world and may even have seemed quirky in comparison – yet these pieces clearly revealed the mysterious and more expressive capacity of the organ. Certainly, organ music of this quality when played with such skilful artistry and profoundly inspiring musicianship is a "good, or even a great, gift" which can transform us and offer us a glimpse of heaven.

### Adrian Quarry

Now let Lily, Poppy and Jack give you their impressions of the second half....

We really enjoyed Anne Page's concert but most of all we loved the opportunity to have a go on the organ. After the concert we took turns to play a piece and Anne gave a lesson. We were surprised how difficult the organ was to play but also how much fun. We were both inspired and want to learn to play the organ.

### Lily and Jack O'Donovan

I really enjoyed the Organ recital and I loved having a go on the organ. Anne Page was very good at explaining things to us and it was fascinating finding out how the organ worked and what stops to use.

### Poppy McHale

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### St James the Least of All

*Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

*When the film makers come to church*

*The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All*

My dear Nephew Darren,

It has all been excitement and activity here this last week, with a period drama being filmed using our church. It was remarkable how many people felt the need to drop in to church to collect magazines, check the reading rota or arrange flowers, just happening to stumble over the film stars en route. If only they were filming every week, then our brasses would be permanently gleaming, woodwork smothered in beeswax and the notice board kept in a state of perpetual tidiness.

Our Ladies Guild was thrilled to be asked to take part in a crowd scene. I saw little point in the wardrobe department taking hours fitting them out with Victorian dresses, as the result was little different from normal. The only awkward moment came after filming, when Mrs Simms was told she could now remove her bustle. She told the girl she already had.

The producer thanked me for taking the trouble for going round church before they arrived, removing all those modern conveniences that would not have been there in the nineteenth century. I hadn't the heart to tell him that nothing was any different from normal.

Lord Marchmont was thoroughly miffed that they were not also using his castle for filming, even though the producer explained with exemplary patience that they needed a nineteenth century setting, not one which looked as if the cast had just returned from the Crusades. His revenge, getting the farm staff to spread slurry in all the surrounding fields throughout filming, has apparently meant that film stars now have a clause in their contracts protecting them from rural life.

The issue of whether the outbreak of salmonella poisoning in the cast had anything to do with the catering caravan being liberally coated is to be settled in the courts.

When all was finished, I thought it only right to invite the film crew and actors to the vicarage for sherry. When the producer left, I was delighted to be told he had just discovered the perfect home for filming his next project – which is about Elizabethan poverty.

### Your loving Uncle, Eustace