and thankfulness when 'all was safely gathered in' evidenced by the full to overflowing attendance at the Parish Church for the Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Service each autumn.

16 Organ. Psalm 150: 6. Around keyboard area. There is a strong possibility that various instruments provided music from a gallery to lead the Worship here many years ago. Vestry Book minutes inform us that an organ was purchased in 1883, and a photo by Willie Berry shows this in the archway which now leads to the Vestry. Our present organ was purchased new in 1908 and later built where it now is in the South Transept. It was manufactured by Thomas S. Jones and Sons, of Upper Holloway, London. The cost would appear to have been £170. In 1954 Geo. Osmond & Sons of Taunton completely overhauled it at a cost of £305. An electric blower was provided in 1958. The instrument has nearly 600 pipes.

17 Cornmill St John 4: 35 S Transept aisle By organ. Duffitt's mill is a three storey building near the parish's main stream, the Love; the water from which via a long leat was led to the overshot wheel which powered the grinding stones, and also gave the lift required to get the sacks of corn up to the required height for the process. A date stone over the door records when some restoration work took place. Local farmers were able to obtain ground feed for their livestock until it ceased working in the late 1930's, unable to compete with more modern developments.

18 Blacksmith I Chronicles 29:5. S.W. corner of S Transept
Directories White 1850 James Bastin William Searle
" 1878 John Batstone (B)
" 1890 Isaac Loveridge (C) Frank Richards (B)
Kelly 1914 Harold Snelgrove (B) W Bull (C)
" 1919 William Bull (C)
There were two smithy's in the parish, one at Beacon (B) and one at Colehill (C).
An essential craftsman in rural life, who needs to understand the characteristics of hot metal, able to judge the temperatures by

Cook, from Black, through red, to white. Often the need to cool it at the correct time; as in the bonding of a cart wheel, setting the angle of the heel of a scythe, or getting the rings firmly shrunk on the beadle head, etc. He would also be the local farrier, keeping the farmers heavy horses well shod, and expecting the horses attendant to pump the bellows, long before electricity eased that burden.

19 Cobbler. Ephesians 6: 15. By S.W. Pillar S Transept.
As well as being the repairer of all kinds of footwear, he was also able to make new boots and shoes, and these had to stand up to very severe treatment. Most people who lived in this rural area had only one means of getting from A to B, shank's pony; as evidenced by the numerous footpaths criss crossing in all directions, over streams and stiles. For the working man, sometimes in a wet ditch all day, it was essential to keep the leather well oiled in order to have the comfort of dry feet. No slip on wellies. Walter Wright was also one of the evening entertainers at village occasions.

20 Water Divining. St John 4:14. S.W. Pillar have side
It is probably not known why some have the ability to react, as they undoubtedly do, to the presence of water below ground; while others do not. We know the advantages that our local diviners can give, how much more so in areas where water is scarce. Water, a commodity so essential to all life, plant or animal: how we are blessed here! So, what of the balance? A stream, which though fluctuating never dries! Rivers continually feeding the seas, but which by evaporation remains remarkably constant. The Power that controls! a Creator who cares

21 Farming Psalm 50: 10. Have window to S. door.
The general farming scene has changed in the last 100 years, as probably never before in human history. Humans and horses and water, being the main source of power to do things, until engines and machines arrived. Cattle.

sheep, horses, pigs and poultry the main livestock.
The farmers problem? How best to turn grass from Luppitt's small fields into money. Some quite steep, risky and difficult for modern machines. The better areas cut and hauled either to silage clamps or baled in the field, and wrapped for storage, in either case as winter feed for stock. Occasionally a more settled weather prospect enables some to be sun dried as hay.

St Mary's Church
The main structure of nave, transepts and chancel in cruciform shape are reckoned to be of early 14th C. date, possibly provided by Sir John Barew (d. 1324); the stone carvings over the south doorway arch may be portraits of him and his wife. The tomb canopy under the north chancel window may have some connection. The roof structure of nave and transepts are considered to be original, as is also the N. transept window. The west tower and south porch were added about 1500 A.D. Stonework behind the organ might indicate earlier arches, and the early Norman font and the pillar piscina now in the south-east corner of the chancel indicate that some earlier place of worship existed on the site.

A programme leaflet was available giving giving the exhibit titles of the floral arrangements in the Church, as well as the subject titles of Displays and Demonstrations of Crafts in the Village Hall which were as follows

Blackdown Hills
Cross-stitch
Dolls House
Extracts from the archives of Luppitt.
Friday Market
Jewellery Making
Knitting
Lace making
Luppitt Packet
needlework
Otter Brewery
Painting
Patchwork
Photography
Poetry
Pottery
Printing
Sheep display
Spinning
Tapestry
Weaving.

The whole Festival was a wonderful and uplifting experience, planned and worked for by so many, and enjoyed by a continuing stream of visitors over the three days; many messages of appreciation were received, and a casting record was compiled by Wendy and Philip Watson, and left for viewing in the Church.
The final part of the programme was held in the Church at 7PM on Sunday 11th July 1999.

A Festival Songs of Praise
with the Sheldon Singers

Order of Service

Welcome and Opening Prayer	Mr. John Lovell
Hymn No 13	All People that on Earth do Dwell
Poetry Reading	The Glory of the Garden
Sheldon Singers	For the Beauty of the Earth
Hymn No. 425	O Lord my God
Bible reading	Isaiah ch 55 V 10-12
Handbells	Colours of Day
Hymn No 127	Glorious things of Thee are spoken
Guitar Solo	The Twelth of never
	Top of the World
	I Believe
Bible Reading	St Matthew ch 13 V 1-9
Hymn No 466	Praise my Soul
Sheldon Singers	Look at the World
Hymn No 147	Great is Thy Faithfulness
Prayers	Led by Mr Lovell
Hymn No 405	Now thank we all our God.
Closing address and Blessing	Rev. Nicks. Wall

Our monthly Suffitt Packet was a very useful medium to convey the hopes and plans during the time of preparation for our Flower Festival; for the expression of thanks by Olive Blaff, that her dream had come true; and also the tributes and thanks expressed by others after the event.
Suffitt Folk have on many many occasions shown their willingness to work together and support Leadership when called upon, in a wonderful spirit of generosity when a need is clearly expressed, and given an opportunity. The Church restoration of 1923-25 was such a case.

The Packet of September 1999 Page 33 gave us the following expression of the thoughts of Joy Tofts.

Follow the Flowers

Follow the flowers along the lane
Blooms of every shade,
and be part of the tapestry
of which Lulpitt life is made.

Follow the flowers up the hill,
the red, the green and the gold
Bring your gifts of friendship
Let our Festival unfold.

Follow the flowers the bells ring out
Come, let your spirit soar,
Take the hand that is offered
through an ever open door.

So you followed the flowers to St. Mary's
to our wonderful festival today,
Now you are a part of the tapestry
and friends of Lulpitt you'll stay.

The closure of Lulpitt Post Office

Mrs Middleton, Sid's mother, had taken over Lulpitt Post Office in 1945, and continued as Postmistress until retiring in 1971. Sid had started in 1947 by delivering the post on foot in the Lulpitt area, and in 1976 he was given a delivery round at Honiton. Then he took over as sub Post Master when his mother retired.

It was in 1985 that he concentrated on Lulpitt alone. On 9th April 1999 Sid retired from these duties, and it was on the following Friday evening 16th April that a presentation took place outside Lulpitt Post Office, as an expression of thanks to Sid for his 52 years service, contributed to by the many who wished to say 'Thank You' for his friendly and efficient service for so many years.

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Church cleaning

Unable to help in this exceptional effort due to my domestic ties, but anxious to record the efforts of others I will copy an article from the Luffitt Packet for June 1997

Luffitt Packet

St Mary's Church — 26/4/97

9 AM Saturday morning, the Church was grey as was the weather, and the rain pouring down.

On Friday afternoon, I stood in the Church and wondered was I mad to think of what I was hoping could happen. A hatty get together of like minded people to clean the Church and paint it right through.

A week before our Church had been one to hit the national news as an attempt had been made to burn the altar, so the smell and smoke damage were considerable. 9-10 AM and I was joined by our first helper; Buckets, brushes, ladders, scaffolding planks, rags and sacks of paint rollers, were all arriving and driven by rumour, laughter and a huge will to succeed in the impossible task.

Arsonist

1.00; B.B.Q. sizzling in the rain, buns, beef burgers, and bangers eaten readily, these were provided with local support from Tesco and C.H. Baker in Honiton, and from Hutchins in Chard, for which we are very grateful. Tea and coffee were there all day.

1.45 PM; it was too cold to stand around chatting, so from high cleaning to paint, and the Church was looking cleaner, things started to move from the altar to the tower. The polishes, hoovers and flowers came out. The tower perhaps was the greatest challenge as well as one particular window; but good humour drove through the whole day, and about 6-30 P.M. the last bespattered people left with all the equipment that had been used. Village comradeship at it's best!

This morning the Church looked wonderful, the windows sparkled, the smell of smoke had gone, as had the green growths on some of the stonework, and the warmth, laughter

and will to look after our Church was there high in the rafters. The youth did a wonderful picture which recorded some of the work.

All I can say is thanks you to everyone – I firmly believe the Church is alive and well, its just a little different as its growing, but some 45 people gave up a precious day to put a smile back in our Church.

Mary Ann McCaig.

May I, John Gage, add my humble thanks to the above, for work done to the Glory of our God.

Volunteers restore parish church in 'Challenge Duffitt'.
Midweek Herald April 30th 1997.

A massive clean-up operation got under way at the weekend to restore Duffitt Parish Church back to its former glory.

A team of some 40 volunteers arrived at St Mary's Church at 9am on Saturday with paint brushes and dusters at the ready for the start of "Challenge Duffitt."

The clean-up operation had been planned by villagers before Easter and the date set before the church suffered fire damage in an arson attack last week.

See over page

Petrol had been poured along eight yards of carpet leading up to the altar which had also been doused and the carpet set alight.

Although the fire fizzled out before reaching the altar the carpet and altar cloth were both damaged.

Volunteers worked throughout the day to transform the church with polish and a new coat of paint.

By the end of the challenge the stained glass windows gleamed and the church as one volunteer said "looked marvellous".

A photo accompanied the above text of workers with ladders busy in the west end tower area.

Suddenly remembered from school days —

Safe in the arms of the Bobby,
Safe in the county jail,
Fifteen days hard labour,
For pulling on a donkey's tail.

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Arson

Arson attack on Lufpitt Church.

Lady cleaners reported on 14th March 1997 that they had noticed that windows at Lufpitt Church had been broken and that glass had been cleared from the chancel floor. Inspection revealed that the East window had been damaged at the bottom South corner from outside, and also that the North chancel window had also been smashed at the bottom of both lights.

Some damage was also notified at Sheldon, Dunbeswell, and St Michael's Honiton, and at Wolford Chapel in Dunbeswell.

On Saturday evening 19th April our Vicar Rev. N.J. Wall phoned Brian Pulman at about 11-30 PM asking him to check Lufpitt Church as someone had set fire to material near the altar at Dunbeswell, but he was unable to see anything amiss. However at about 12-30 the Police were asking for a key to get into Lufpitt Church; it had been locked at night since the earlier incident.

A large hole had been made in the South nave window, and an intruder had poured petrol or similar, over the central aisle carpet in the chancel and over the altar cloth and set it alight. The Litany desk had been placed in front of the altar and the Mother's Union Banner leaned against it. Fortunately the foam backed carpet had mainly smouldered and though ruined, had not really been set alight.

Altar

MU Banner

The Police having been called to the Dunbeswel Church, noticed a car parked near the Wolford Chapel entrance and took details of the vehicle, and this led to the suspect being charged and later convicted.

Chapel

It had been a very anxious few weeks for many people at the various Churches affected, not knowing when or where the culprit might strike next.

June 01

Luffitt's Millennium Projects.

Luffitt's past History in Book form

LUPPITT, PARISH, CHURCH, AND PEOPLE.

I started writing notes from recorded History about Luffitt Church probably about the mid 1940's having been elected a Churchwarden after father's death in 1943. Rev. B.A. Finn was then Vicar of Luffitt, Mr Arthur Summers was the appointed Vicar's warden, and the peoples warden was elected at the Easter Vestry meeting usually held on the same evening but before the Annual Parochial Church meeting held just after Easter.

After a while I typed three pages of notes on the main points of interest, and fixed these to a hand-board for visitors to carry around the Church.

These were later re-written and printed in a small pamphlet for sale in 1963. A reprint which also had a small photo of the Church taken from the North-East was printed in April 1971.

Again an expanded version was printed in similar form in March 1992. A request over the phone that I would give a talk to a group on Luffitt's history, prompted me during the winter months of 1996-7, to write in some sort of order, the main notes about Luffitt which had accumulated over many years. I found this to be a difficult task, but nevertheless endeavoured to approach the possibility from two angles, chronological and subject matter, neither really won, but overall putting information in some sort of date order, seemed to take priority. During the spring of 1997 a letter informed me that there was sufficient bookings made for speakers, and that I would not be required. So, should I now stop the work of sorting out the more important items from the collection jumble? or continue to re-arrange them into a better sequence. The latter course seemed to be the challenge, and it now took priority; and being obliged to spend much more of my time indoors following my wife's stroke, at the end of 1995, I was able to fill available time with a complete re-write

by long hand into exercise books on one side of the page only, using the other side for references to Volume and page of the originals, as well as the many adjustments and corrections required as the task proceeded. The first thoughts of possible publication and printing gradually developed, and a couple of possible printers were written to, with a small sample of photocopies sent. The quotations given, taken from my hand-written script, made it perfectly clear that such a possibility was financially impossible. It was early in 1999 that Mr and Mrs Watson informed me that they had recently purchased a computer, and would consider putting my text on to computer disk; and so in the dark tunnel of improbability, a dim light began to shine. Mrs Brown had indicated an interest in what I had written, and kindly checked my text for mistakes in spelling and punctuation, and gradually the prospect appeared brighter. We then heard of the Millennium Grant Schemes, and an address was given to me by Mrs Squance, and I wrote for details. The particulars which I received in reply, did not seem to accomodate the type of project I was engaged in, being mostly urban orientated, or for young people, or for groups already existing. The most appropriate Scheme, by Help the Aged, detailed in the prospectus received from the Millennium Commission, was contacted in July 1999, but replied that it had closed, and suggested that I wrote to another, Age Concern. This scheme however, only considered applications from Groups and not from individuals, and so suggested that I write to 'Awards for All', who mentioned that Parish Councils were favourably considered. I therefore wrote to the Lupitt Parish Council and asked if I may be permitted to attend a P. C. meeting and explain the project of getting my prepared script printed in book form, and asking for support in applying for a Millennium Grant to help in printing costs. At a P.C. meeting on 5th October 1999 it was considered; and the Clerk, Mr M. Nicholls and Mr P. Collins were appointed to help further the project. Other parishioners were approached who had previously shown an interest in the collection of notes, and