5 The shadow dwelt on Calvary's tree,
And now Thine unveiled face we see;
Praise be to God for that Blest word,
That "Thou remainest," Blessed Lord.

April 2005

Font — A small booklet was sent by Pam and Steve Edmonds during a holiday visit; shotted by them in Ely Cathedral. Its outside face photograph was of the East face of Luffitt Font.

Shire Album no 318 1995
Church Fonts by Norman Pounds

Cover: The Font at Luffitt, Devon (see also Page 14)

P 14 "Legend and folklore. A number of fonts show incidents from the lives of saints, in particular of the saint to whom the church in which the font is found is dedicated. Perhaps because of his association with children, the story of St Nicholas appears on some, for example at Brighton and in Winchester Cathedral. More often than not, these motifs form a jumble that can be extremely difficult to unravel, as at Luffitt in Devon and Denton near Nottingham."

At the base of page 14 there is a photo of just the top bowl section of the north face of Luffitt font, showing the double headed amphisbaena; with the caption at the side - Luffitt, Devon: an early twelfth-century font with face masks at the corners and extraordinarily primitive carving. (see cover picture).

3/7/02

Tapster Water — Grahame Smith showed me a Sotheby's catalogue of modern British and Irish art. Wed. 5th Dec 2001

Bevan — On the outside front cover and also on Page 10 was a colour print of a painting by Robert Bevan 1865-1925 Tapster Water Oil on canvas 23" x 28" Painted in Devon in 1923, the present work dates from the year that Bevan bought a cottage in the middle of near-by Luffitts Common. His first drawings of Tapster Water date from 1915-16 when he first started his seasonal sojourns to the countryside to paint. Provenance: Sale Sotheby's London 15 May 1985

Weather The following extract about the weather during the winter of 1946-7, was taken from

Enemies Become Friends By Pamela Howe Taylor
A true story of German Prisoners of War 1997

Page 80-1 The cold weather referred to in letters from Germany had by no means passed Britain by. On 29 January 1947 readings were taken of 16 degrees Fahrenheit. Power-cuts were widespread on 12 February Buckingham Palace, along with numerous other Homes, was lit by candles and was described as "an icebox"; the King paid a timely visit to South Africa. By 22 February snow-storms were covering the whole of Britain except the north of Scotland. Many main railway lines were blocked, despite the use of snow ploughs, and many roads were ice bound. There were ice-floes in the North Sea, the English Channel and the Thames estuary. Between 4 and 6 March snow-storms said to be of almost unparalled intensity, swept England and Wales, rendering journeys between the north and south of the country almost impossible. On 5 March a train took 21 hours to reach London from Manchester. The A A described the road conditions as the worst ever known. Some snow-drifts were 30 feet high, with houses and trees disappearing under them, over 500 food lorries were stranded, 300 roads were blocked and 15 towns completely cut off.

Thousands of British and Polish troops, and German prisoners of war as well as civilians were engaged in clearing snow from Britain's vital roads. Prisoners at Stanhill helped with this essential work. At seven years of age, I recall walking along the pavements of the main road through Oswaldtwistle with snow piled to a height well above my head on both sides. The winter of 1947 was likely to be the worst winter of the century.

This perilous situation was made still bleaker by a coal shortage. Both gas and electricity depended on the use of coal for their production. A national fuel crisis developed. It was announced

in March that restrictions on the use of electricity in domestic premises were to last until October. However, it was still so cold in May that, because of the "cold weather spell in the North" certain restrictions which were to have come into effect on 5 May were deferred until the fifteenth of the month. There was a grave shortage of coal throughout the summer and no gas or electric fires could be used in residential premises.

Prompted by the article above, I checked my Weather diary for 1947 and found the brief notes which follow

27 Jan 1947. Bitter cold wind, freezing hard.
28 " Very cold and frosty.
29 " Snow fell so took milk up to Higher Shelvin but no lorry got through.
30 " Took yesterday's and today's milk to Crook but lorry gone on before
31 " Took milk to Crook and eventually hauled it to Combe Raleigh cross to lorry.
1 Feb. Took milk to Crook on b Braddicks lorry while I pulled out Council lorry.
Sunday 2 " Snowed again about 4 ins
See P320 Took Dr Finlay to Luppitt and back to Langford
3 " milk to Crook and to town.
4 " milk to Crook. Went to Chard with car and bought 104 Hebditch cages. On to Axminster saw power drill and brought back in car.
5 " Hard frost last night.
6 " Took milk to Crook and met lorry. More snow last night.
8 " Snowing and blowing all day.
10 " milk to Crook
21 " more snow milk to Crook
24 " milk to Crook
27 " milk to Stonehayes
28 " " " "
1 March " " "
2 " " " " Weather terrible
Raining and freezing on everything
4 " milk to Pennythorn
7 " Charlie took milk to Crook
8 " little snow last night
11 " milk lorry collected milk, first time for 6 weeks
13 " Fetched Mr Lane's tractor to start mine, after overhaul, OK after initial start.

The following was copied from "This England" magazine Summer edition 2002 page 40
Words written by C Bramwell.
Stan Hawkings of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, thought it would amuse readers.

Home Guard

## Hitler's Downfall

In t'Reichstag wun day just a bit since,
Two fellers sat — both looking glum;
Wun was the great Adolf 'itler,
An t'other wor Goorin' — his chum.

"how Adolf" owd Goorin' was sayin',
"Its 'igh time that tha made a move;
Tha promised 'at tha'd invade England —
Our Power ta finally prove."

"Ah've cleared tha t'way wi mi Luftwaffe —
We've browt t'RAF down ta t'ground;
For each plane we've lost, they've lost seven —
Oh, do ah mean t'other way round?"

"Well, on t'watter ther's nothing ta stop tha.
Tha t'master on t'sea — tha knows that,
So what in the world does tha wait for?
Invade 'em — ah want a new 'at!"

Poor Adolf 'ee looked very mournful.
'Is moustache it drooped on 'is lip;
'Is sleek lock of 'air was bedraggled —
Yer could tell the poor chap 'ad the pip.

'Ee pondered for just a few moments,
Then openin' 'is mouth with a sigh,
'Ee sez, "Oh well its all reight thee talkin' —
But invasion ah don't think ah'll try"

"Why, we've done it before" protests Goorin'
"Its as easy as easy can be;
We've done it on all t'other countries —
A can't think what's cum over thee!"

"We've only ta take t'same procedure —
Drob parachute-troops in t'backyards."
"Aye, an' that's wheer tha wrong," replies Adolf,
"Tha's forgotten first wun thing — t'Home Guards!"

Well, owd Goorin 'at first 'ee looked fuzzled,
Then 'olding 'is coat by the 'em,
An' burstin' out laughin' reight loudly,
Sez, "Tha don't mean tha frightened of them?"

"Why, ther only a fred kamo army,
They only join up if they plaase;
They're bow-legged an' knock-kneed an' bandy,
Wi whiskers reight dahn ta ther knees!

"There's tall 'uns an' short 'uns an' fat 'uns,
An' thin 'uns and chaps without 'air,
Some's got gout — that's beside floatin' kidneys,
An' ther 'some 'at got no breath ta spare!"

"Its all reight tha laughin'," sez Adolf,
"But they 'be rifles — machine-guns as well;
An' between me an' thee an' the lamp-post,
They'd be glad ta blow us bat ta 'ell!"

"Them owd 'uns can still use a rifle,
An' in past wars 'ave done many palms;
Why, the medals 'at some of 'em's wearin'
Fill ther chests an' go under ther arms!"

"An' ther's wun other thing to consider —
An' it's the reason for most of mi fears;
Ther's nearly two million of 'em —
An' ivvery reddy wun — Volunteers!"

"An' if some of 'em are a bit wheezy,
An' if some of 'em walk wi a stick;
The mooar John Bull appears crippled —
The 'arder the fooil seems to kick."

From The Heart is Highland

Can't think, brain numb,
Inspiration won't come;
Bad inks, worse pen,
In desperation Amen.

Also in the same Summer 2002 edition of "This England" on page 31 is 'The Editor's Letter' he explains that after a lot of research involving archivists at Buckingham Palace and at Royal Windsor they had come across another hidden treasure. A lovely song about the lovely first daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York composed specially for the Royal Command Performance at the London Palladium to celebrate her fourth birthday in April 1930 entitled Princess Elizabeth by Patience Strong

1930 Princess Elizabeth

Flower of the nation, rose sweet and rare,
Growing in beauty each day.
In England's garden, sheltered with care,
For you our hearts ever pray.

Gladness attend you, Heaven defend you
Dear Little Princess Elizabeth.
We will respect you, watch and protect you
Dear Little Princess Elizabeth.

Fairest of flow'rs in the Land we adore,
Long happy hours for you evermore;
Angels above you, know how we love you.
Our Little Princess Elizabeth.

Pride of the people, gentle and sweet,
May you know nothing of strife.
May golden blessings fall at your feet,
Lighting your pathway through life.

The editor explains that after making a prolonged search they found that the masterful tenor Webster Booth had recorded it soon after its debut at the Royal Command Performance

During a biology lesson, the boy said:-
"Please miss, I must be made wrong,
My nose runs, and my feet smell."

Following a visit to Luppitt Church in August 2002, Mr Alec Barber telephoned to ask if I knew anything about Newhouse Chapel after 1600. He later wrote and asked for a copy of the Luppitt book to be sent to him. This was done, and a copy of the note about Newhouse Chapel taken from Mr Michael Drury-Beck's 'Your Handbook and Guide to the Blackdown Hills' on page 69 was also included.

Blackdown Hills

Copy —

"The Blackdowns have often been a place where people might come to escape persecution. The very active Newhouse Baptist Church nearby at Smeatharpe is good evidence of this. In the latter 17th century, during the religious persecutions of the '5 Mile Act', with Smeatharpe being removed by 7 miles from any corporate town, many Brethren willingly travelled the 21 miles from Tiverton and beyond to worship here on Sundays."

Newhouse Baptist Church

Five Mile Act

Mr Barber's letter of thanks with some information on Newhouse is copied below.

26 Newlands Grove
Ruishton
Taunton TA3 5JJ
Somerset

28th August 2002

Dear Mr Sage

Thank you for sending me the History of Luppitt and for your letter and the note about Newhouse. The first chapel at Newhouse is supposed to have been built in 1665. However, the church seems to have begun about 1652 in Luppitt and then moved to Upottery.

Newhouse Baptist

The Baptist Historical Society has published the Association Records of the Particular Baptists to 1660 in the West Country. The West Country Association was largely in Somerset and these records show that messengers from Luppitt attended a meeting at Bridgwater in 1655. Luppitt was asked to send out one of their members as an evangelist and Edmund Burford and Samuel Ham signed the 1656 Confession of Faith on behalf of the Luppitt Church. Finally in May 1654 at Bridgwater, two men from Luppitt who had been ordained, presumably in the Church of England performed an Ordination Service. We do not know their names

It seems impossible to find any more information and the early records of the Newhouse Church were lost many years ago. I have to admit that these events seem to have left no mark on the parish of Luppitt but I think you should be aware of them.

Yours sincerely
Alec Barber

The following information was provided by Mr Grahame Smith October 2002

Warne — Church and Society in 18th century Devon
By Arthur Warne Page 93

Dissent — Dissent in the Church

The little parish of Luppitt had its first registration in 1690 but the granting of a second license two years later does not mean that Luppitt now had two meeting houses. When private houses were used for this purpose there was frequently a change of place, which called for new certification.

Murch 1835 — Page 100

In 1835 Jerome Murch published the "History of the Presbyterian and general Baptist Churches in the west of England" in which his observations, written from a dissenters point of view, fit the general picture of decline. The congregation of Luppitt, which had had a succession of eight ministers, had already for many years been extinct, when Murch wrote his history.

Baptist — Presbyterian and Baptist Churches.
By Murch. 285. 2 WES MUR.

Honiton Page 320

Shaugh — Maynard — ---- at the time the presbyterian congregation at Shaugh in Luppitt about three miles from Honiton, was supplied with ministers chiefly with students from Mr Amory's Academy in Taunton, and they frequently officiated for Mr Maynard in Honiton.

The Luppitt congregation has been extinct for many years. The following list of its ministers

appeared in the appendix to a Discourse by Mr Manning of Exeter, delivered before the Annual Assembly 1818

| | |
|---|---|
| Thomas Collier | Nicholas Martin |
| Thomas Holwood | J Lavington |
| Robert Wood | Nicholas Martin |
| William West | Dr Harris |

Harris Dr Harris was author of the "Lives of the Stuarts."

Lace

## The Lace Industry

There were over 4,700 people employed in lacemaking, the largest being Honiton, 1341; Ottery St Mary, 814; Colyton, Beer and Seaton, Sidbury and Sidmouth each had more than 300 lace workers, the hill parishes like Luppitt and Upottery were also important centres.

Copied from 'Exe to Axe' The Story of East Devon by Gerald Gosling 1994

Page 161

## The Culm Valley

### Clayhidon

See II 94

Below the church, on the Hemyock road, a plaque at the roadside records a grim murder that took place there: 'Wm Blackmore, Land-

Tithe map.

surveyor of Clayhidon Mills was murdered on this spot, the 16th day of February, 1853, by George Sharks of this parish, who was executed at Exeter for the horrid crime.' William Blackmore had been out collecting fees, and talked about it

Luppitt P 97-99

in a pub near Tiverton. Sharkes, who was in the inn, heard him, followed him and killed him with a pair of tongs.

Copied from Your Handbook and Guide to The Blackdown Hills by Michael Drury-Beck 1999

Page 42

A photo of a stone plaque set in the hedge near the signpost at Ballhayes Cross. Its inscription—

"William Blackmore Land Surveyor, of Clayhidon Mills murdered on this spot the 16th day of February 1853, by George Sharks of this parish, who was executed at Exeter for his horrid crime."

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Lent by Mrs Gill Goss

# Just Wandering in Devon

by E R Delderfield

November 1954

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Page 82 There are more peals and bell-ringing teams or 'bands' as they are known, in Devonshire than any where else in the world.

In the county are 370 peals of five or more bells, and numerous others of four, three or two bells.

Exeter's 72 cwt. bell "Grandisson" is the second largest ringing bell in the world. It gives place only to one weighing 82 cwt. in the new Liverpool Cathedral.

The total number of ringing bells in Devon is between 2,500 and 3,000 and more amazing still, it is known that there were 1,650 in the reign of Edward VI in the mid sixteenth century.

What is more, 200 of these four-hundred-year-old bells still remain in the county and ring today as sweetly as when they were first hung.

Page 87 The Reverend J.J.M. Scott, one of these enthusiasts, has taken plaster casts of the founder's marks from bells all over the county.

Page 88 Recently, at Awliscombe he made an exciting discovery when by chance he found some coins impressed in the bell in an unusual place. From the casts he made, the coins have been identified by the British Museum as great pieces dating not later than 1507.

Page 89 The tenor bell at Northleigh has a pretty little mark carrying, one supposes, the Founder's initials (no 3)

Page 54 Exeter Bellfounders' marks, 1 Awliscombe 2-4 Northleigh 5 Brushford