

## THE HISTORY OF ST. CATHERINE'S

In 1887 the Reverend Dr. Linklater, a well-known London vicar purchased Holworth House and applied to the Bishop of Salisbury for leave to use one of the rooms as an Oratory in which to celebrate Holy Communion and to conduct Evening Services. Dr Linklater died in 1915 but occasional Sunday Services were held at Holworth House until 1922 when the Oratory was closed. In 1926 the wooden chapel of St. Catherine's-by-the-Sea was built in his memory by his widow and it provided a much loved place of worship for the residents of Holworth, Ringstead and the many who, year after year, return to this beautiful corner of Dorset to holiday.

Until 1954 the hamlet of Holworth was in the ecclesiastical parish of Milton and Dr. Linklater dutifully sent a 'thythe' of prawns to Milton Abbey, thus keeping alive the old tradition of monastic days when Holworth had supplied the Abbots of Milton with salt water fish. Today the chapel is part of the Watercombe Benefice and the Rector still receives the 'thythe'. Services are held regularly each month in the winter and more frequently during the holidays and festivals.

On warm sunny days, when the congregation far exceeds the capacity of the chapel, everyone gathers in the churchyard overlooking the bay for an open air service in surroundings that are as dramatic as they are beautiful. The emphasis is on simplicity and informality and it is the setting that provides the continuous reminder of the peace and majesty of the God we worship.

In 2010 some of the monies invested by Dr. Linklater's widow in the Linklater Trust Fund were used to renovate the wooden church. Today we rededicate the building to maintain worship in this lovely place.

### Where Angels Land

*Tranquil* is the word some use, a quality  
we're quite unused to in these 'labour saving'  
days, when all is rush, indecent haste.  
The calm of all those latter days is vested now  
in peaceful space.  
How to describe it, how to recognise it, how to  
know it's there?  
How not to raise the question 'It's where?'  
'It's where?' 'It's where?'  
How to halt conjecture, stop at the coming ....  
'And ....?'  
Be reassured by the healing  
It's a place where Angels land.