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HELMDON CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

Dec 08 – Jan 2009

THE RECTOR WRITES

Making Do

It is said of St Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, that when he felt cold, he would remove his cloak and wait until he felt even colder, before putting it on again and reassuring himself: "Aren't you the lucky one to have a cloak when you're so cold?" Like many of the stories about the saints of old this one might seem eccentric, but if we dismiss it as such, we could miss out on a valuable lesson. It is this: that sometimes it is good to make the best of what we have. Some would say that we are becoming more and more materialistic and that there may well be a growing temptation to give up if we don't have everything on a plate.

There is an old saying: "Two men looked out of prison bars, the one saw mud, the other stars." You can concentrate on the advantages or on the disadvantages. You can be grateful for the first or you can grumble about the second.

Perhaps we should try making the best of what we have today and see what sort of feel-good factor it brings.

Parish Registers
from August 3rd - November 5th '08

Wedding

Sarah & Shaun Addison married 23rd August '08

Baptisms

Joshua Hensley baptized 9th August '08

Martha Dillon baptized 13th September '08

God bless,
Will
The Rector

ASTWELL EVENTS

December 08

Tues 2nd MU Advent Service 2pm in Culworth Church

Sat 6th St Nicholas Fair 2pm in Syresham Village Hall

Fri 12th Whitfield Friends' Christmas Ball

Thurs 18th Helmdon School Nativity Service 2pm in Church

Fri 19th Words and Music – A celebration of Christmas 7:30pm
in Helmdon Church

Mon 22nd Carol Singing around the village 6:30-9pm

January 09

Sat 24th Helmdon Motorcycle Charity Chapter curry evening
8pm in The Bell

February 09

Tues 9th Pancake lunch & Bring and Buy stall 12-2pm @ The Haven, 9 High Street, Syresham

Can we make Christmas happier for children needing help?

The carol singing is one way. We shall be going around the village and singing in about twenty places. This gives you an easy chance to give money to the Children's Society and their work.

This will be on Monday 22nd December from 6:30-9pm.

I shall deliver you a timetable showing when each street will be visited. Nowadays double glazing and television make houses nearly soundproof, unless people want to hear what happens outside. Please don't shut your ears and hearts to us. Open your doors and listen to the story.

To help with money, have your gift ready when we knock on your door. If you expect to be away, give it to a neighbour to give to us.

Come and join in as early as you can. The gathering of singers, young and old together, is what makes this a truly happy Christmas thing. Wrap up warmly and bring a lantern or a torch.

Jean Spendlove

THE FRIENDS OF St MARY MAGDALENE

Ben and Jon Salfield gave a very accomplished performance on lute and guitar last October. The next event will be the annual **words and music for Christmas** on Friday 19th of December in Church.

Anyone wishing to contact the Friends should please ring me on 01295- 768964.

Roger Miles (Chair of the Friends)

MOTHERS' UNION

Astwell Mothers' Union Branch is for the whole of the Astwell Benefice and membership is open to anyone who has been baptised and believes in the importance of family life.

If you would like to become a member please ring Ann Smith, our Branch leader on – 01295 760684.

Last quarter's events:

Margaret Riley gave a very interesting talk on the work of the Children's Centre in Northampton. She has invited the MU to visit the centre and we look forward to going there sometime in the summer of 2009.

The Deanery quiet day led by Will Adams went really well and was enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks to Will for an uplifting day.

The MU has acquired a new DVD called Home. This is about homes across the world and covers many aspects of home life. The pack also includes study group guides. The DVD is available to borrow do contact Ann Smith if you would like to look at it.

Mums and Tots is also going really well it was a joy to welcome the Acorns group who popped in to visit us in November.

Future events:

- Dec 2nd Advent Carol Service.
2pm in Culworth Church
- Jan 28th Members sharing evening - poems & readings.
12A Church Street
- Feb 25th Ash Wednesday - details to be announced.

Visitors are always warmly welcomed to our meetings.

Jenny Saunders on 01295 760721.