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HELMDON CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

June – August 2006

THE RECTOR WRITES

Wasting time with God

Saint Alphonsus took the vow never to waste a moment of time. Such a decision will sound extreme, for many folk in our modern world work inordinately long hours and as a result a great many suffer serious stress problems. Others may have a preoccupation with leisure pursuits, and holidays whilst still others may have what may be an unwelcome abundance of free time. Of course, the secret for us, as it was for Alphonsus, is that it is not a waste of time to take time off and to lead a balanced life. Rest and leisure are vitally important for a healthy mind and body, and Alphonsus was aware of that, as the rule of life for his priests and brothers indicates.

But there is more. Because of the frenetic pace of modern life, so different from the eighteenth century world of Alphonsus, some modern spiritual writers suggest that people need to learn to 'waste time with the Lord'. It is an appealing idea for it acknowledges that some of the most precious moments in any relationship come when we relax and simply enjoy the company of the other person. It reminds us that we do not have to be doing something all the time to be living life to the full. That could be the beginning of a very fruitful kind of prayer, and I'm sure Saint Alphonsus would approve.

Will Adams
Rector

QUESTIONNAIRE

Worship Pattern

Since I last wrote my passage in the village newsletter, all village newsletters across the Astwell Benefice have heard of the survey that was undertaken regarding attendance at church, and the demographic and communicant composition of their villages. The Worship Group, set up to examine the data and to consider my own thoughts on these matters and my own role in them, decided to sample the views of parishioners by inviting them to complete a questionnaire. Presently I am working on this and hope to publish it during the summer. My hope very much is that folk from all villages will respond to it positively, will take on the issues the data presents to us and be willing to explore possible new ways of making church and the tenets of the Christian faith a more central part of their lives.

God bless.

Will Adams, Rector

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Diary Dates

June 06

Sun 4th Whit Walk starting at Radstone
Tues 6th Brackley Deanery Synod @ Woodford Halse
Wed 7th Benefice Council meeting
Sat 10th Joyce Grenfell Concert in Church
Thurs 15th Choir Outing My Fair Lady at Milton Keynes 6pm
Sat 17th Syresham Church Fete at The Priory
Sun 18th Open Gardens afternoon in Whitfield
Tues 20th Helmdon Lunch at 1 pm in Reading Room
Sat 24th Whitfield Church Fete 3 pm Old Rectory
Sun 25th Open Gardens afternoon in Helmdon
Sun 25th Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm

July 06

Sat 1st Church Fete in Helmdon

Fri 7th -

 Sun 9th York Cycle of Mystery Plays
Sun 16th Radstone Church Fete (Afternoon)
Tues 18th Helmdon Lunch at 1 pm in Reading Room
Sun 23rd Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm

August 06

Tues 15th Helmdon Lunch at 1 pm in Reading Room
 Helmdon PCC meeting 7:30pm
Sun 27th Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm

Church Fête

Saturday July 1st

2.30 at Manor Farm

Poster competition for children under 12

Blanks with the necessary facts can be got from Helmdon School or Jean Spendlove (7 Field Way). Children add pictures advertising the fête. Give in entries to the school or Jean by half-term, at latest by Saturday June 3rd, so that they can be used in publicity. Names and ages should be printed on the back only.

The winners will open the fête, and all the entries will be displayed in the church that afternoon.

The fête will begin with a procession of decorated bicycles, buggies, dogs, ponies or what-have-you.

Assemble at 87 Church Street (next to the church) by 2.20.

Then stalls, games, tombolas, raffle, entertainment in Manor Farm, and music, flowers, the posters, and teas, in the church

Mothers' Union

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| Mon 19th June | Deanery Wave of Prayer
Led by Revd. Roger Bellamy
7:30pm Farthinghoe Church |
| ?? June | Outing with Bob Pell to Northampton Museum
Time and date to be announced |
| Mon 24th July | School Holiday Workshop for children
Helmdon Church
Time to be announced |
| Wed 9th August | Mary Sumner day. Family activities.
2-4pm in Chipping Warden |

All are welcome to attend our meetings.
Jenny Saunders
01295 760721

Friends of St Mary Magdalene

On Saturday 10th June in the Church some of the familiar and endearing characters created by Joyce Grenfell will be brought to life when Catherine Flye visits with her "one woman performance". Catherine is the Artistic Director of the Interact Theatre

Company in Washington DC and she has won many awards and nominations for her work in the USA. She will be accompanied by Ian Clarke, who is a regular performer with the City of Oxford Orchestra.

Tickets are £10, to include a free glass of wine. They are available from the Friends committee members and from Brackley Tourist Information Office.

The Friends Annual General meeting is due shortly - please keep an eye open for the date on the noticeboards. We would be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to join our group in any capacity. Telephone Chris Gartside on 01295 760523 for more information on the Joyce Grenfell event or the AGM.

Chris Gartside