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HELMDON CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

June – August 2007

THE RECTOR WRITES

The Journey

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument and one friend slapped the other around the face. The one who had got slapped was hurt but without saying anything wrote in the sand, 'Today my best friend slapped me in the face.'

They kept walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone, 'Today my best friend saved my life.'

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you carve in the stone. Why?" The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in the sand where the *Winds of Forgiveness* can erase it; but when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

"Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone. They say it takes a minute to find special friends, an hour to appreciate them, but an entire life to forget them. Take the time to live! Do not value the things in your life, but value who you have in your life!"

May's Confirmation service was a very special service for the Astwell Benefice and of course for the sixteen candidates from across all the churches in the benefice who were joined by three further candidates from the parishes of Braybrooke and Desborough. Bishop John Flack, Honorary Assistant Bishop of Peterborough and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, lead our worship. There were eight candidates from Helmdon with Radstone.

God bless,

Will Adams
Rector

THE FRIENDS OF St MARY MAGDALENE

We were most grateful for the good response to our 2007 membership appeal in February and by the time of writing donations amounting to £856 had been received. The **Members' Supper** in the church on the 3rd of March was a most enjoyable evening and we plan to repeat it next year. Of course new members are always welcome and following our **AGM** on Monday 21st of May, one or two more volunteers to join the Committee would be much appreciated.

In March we were pleased to assist the current programme of church repairs by paying the first stage of the architect's fees (£2,878.78). Recently we have received generous shares of the funds raised last summer by the Helmdon Ball (£400) and the Carnival (£450); these most welcome donations will help with current projects, which include some improvements to the church lighting.

Our next event is the **Steel Band Concert** on Saturday 9th June at 7.30 in the church; please buy your tickets well in advance, as the sizes and numbers of the drums will limit the audience space!

Roger Miles (Chair of the Friends)

ASTWELL EVENTS

June 07

- Tues 5th Coffee morning & book sale 10:30-noon at Eliza & John Bond's home, 22 Helmdon Rd, Wappenham
- Sat 9th Syresham Church Fete at 2pm The Priory
Ocho Rios Steel Band 7:30pm at Helmdon Church
- Tues 19th Helmdon lunch 1pm in the Reading Room Helmdon
- Sat 23rd Whitfield Church Fete @ the Old Rectory
- Sat 30th Helmdon Open Gardens & Street fair 12-4pm

July 07

- Tues 17th Helmdon lunch 1pm in the Reading Room Helmdon
- Sun 22nd Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm unless wet

August 07

Thurs 9th

Sun 26th

Astwell MU Mary Sumner day

Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm unless wet

MOTHER'S UNION

- Wednesday June 18th Wave of Prayer with Sue Tringham talking about her travels in the link diocese.
Culworth Church
- Monday July 23rd Children's activity day
9:30-12 in Helmdon Church
- Thursday August 9th Mary Sumner Day
Children's activities, puppet show & tea.
2-4pm in Chipping Warden Church

Astwell M.U. branch is for the whole benefice and membership is open to everyone who has been baptised and believes in the importance of family life. You don't have to be a mother or even, female - we have male members in our branch.

If you would like to become a member please ring
Ann Smith, our Branch Leader, on **01295 760684**

Mother's Union believes strongly in the importance of family life. Our recent visitors and events have reflected the theme of relationships. Our speaker in March, Dr. Frank Newton, spoke of his memories of being a family practitioner and how important the relationships with patients and their families are to health and well-being. In April, our meeting began with a short communion service which was followed by a musical entertainment performed by Leanne, Emma and Rosie Griffiths. These three sisters showed us how strong family bonds can be through their music and singing. We enjoyed an excellent programme of songs from the musicals. Leanne, Emma and Rosie wrote in their own programme about the way in which their families had supported

and encouraged them to make the most of their talents. What better advertisement for family values?

Visitors are always warmly welcomed to our meetings.

Contact Jenny Saunders on 01295 760721.