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## HELMDON CHURCH



### NEWSLETTER

June - Aug 2008

#### THE RECTOR WRITES

##### *Make Poverty History*

We tend to think of sin as being solely a personal turning away from God. Yet it is worth noting that sin can also seep into the very structures of society, not a product of one particular person's failure but rather a matter of corporate failure or neglect, probably over generations. Then it is usually so embedded that its extraction requires years of work and cooperation by many different groups.

It has been estimated that unjust trade rules, backed by the governments of rich countries, rob the world's poorest people of £1.3 billion a day - 14 times more than they receive in aid. The rules and practices of international trade are crucial in deciding who is rich and who is poor in society.

Many people of faith regard unjust trade as a sinful structure. It is difficult to think that it was three years ago in July 2005 that the *Make Poverty History* campaign lobbied leaders of the richest countries at their meeting in Scotland to make trade part of the solution, not a root cause of the problem. It called for an end to rich countries subsidising exports of their agricultural produce, which undercuts the livelihoods of poor farmers around the world. It also wanted to stop big business profiting at the expense of people and the environment.

### *Electric Church*

Would you like to be part of this exciting new venture? We would certainly love you to join us! All talents required:

Rehearsal refreshment makers; flag wavers; musicians; vocalists; roadies; technicians etc.

Or just come along and enjoy the rehearsal sessions.

Dates for rehearsals are:

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 3-5pm = New songs for worship workshop open to everyone.**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 3-5pm      Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June Dress rehearsal 10am-noon  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 6pm Service.**

All rehearsals take place at St James the Great, Syresham. If you want to know more please contact me.

### *New Curate*

Colin Simpson joins us as our Curate on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July following his ordination as Deacon at Peterborough Cathedral that day. Our service pattern for both the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July has been altered from the norm on these two Sundays. This to afford parishioners the opportunity to join Colin and his family at Peterborough on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and for us to hold our own special service of welcome to the Astwell Benefice on the 13<sup>th</sup> July.

The pattern of worship for the benefice on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July is:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July '08

8 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Helmdon
11a.m.	Ordination at Peterborough Cathedral	
6 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)	Syresham

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July '08

9.30 a.m.	United Benefice Service of Welcome to our Curate	
	Family Communion	Lois Weedon

I hope as many of you as can will join us to give a warm welcome Colin and his wife, Sandy and their children, Serena and William.

God bless,

Will  
The Rector

## **THE FRIENDS OF St MARY MAGDALENE**

We began 2008 with very little in the bank, having contributed £12,436 towards the cost of the urgent repairs that were completed last December. A fund raising appeal to the village was launched in April and we shall be reviewing the results at our AGM on Monday 2 June at 7.30 in the church. Old and new friends who would like to join us for that meeting will be most welcome, especially anyone with new ideas to offer.

We also hope that our next two events will be well supported. They are:

Steel Band concert on 7 June.

Guitar and Lute concert on 27 September

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

*Roger Miles (Chair of the Friends)*

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

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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.

During the last quarter members enjoyed a variety of meetings. In February Leanne, Emma and Rosie Griffiths entertained us with their musical talents. Mr Nigel Deakin spoke about the importance of the Beacon Drop in Centre

and Dorothy Micklethwaite led us in an evening of quiet thinking in May.  
Forthcoming events include:

- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2pm Wave of Prayer event in St Peter's Brackley.  
25<sup>th</sup> June An outing to Charles Rennie Mackintosh House, Coffee at 10:30am and tour at 11am.  
23<sup>rd</sup> July Children's workshop in Helmdon Church 9:30-12:30.  
9<sup>th</sup> August Mary Sumner Day - details to be confirmed.

**Visitors are always warmly welcomed to our meetings.**

*Jenny Saunders on 01295 760721.*

## OTHER ASTWELL EVENTS

### *June 08*

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Electric Church NEW SONGS WORKSHOP for all 3-5pm in Syresham  
Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Helmdon Friends AGM 7:30pm in Church  
Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Ocho Rios Steel Band 7:30pm in Helmdon Church  
Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Electric Church 3-5pm in Syresham  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Electric Church 10am-noon in Syresham  
Summer Fete, Lois Weedon Village Green  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Electric Church service 6pm in Syresham Church  
Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm. All ages welcome - refreshments available.  
Wed 25<sup>th</sup> MU Outing to Northampton & Mackintosh house & Gallery details t.b.a.  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Whitfield Friends' Barn Dance at Whitfield House Farm  
Noon-4pm Village Fair in Helmdon Church followed by short service

### *July 08*

- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Ordination as Deacon of Colin Simpson @ Peterborough Cathedral  
Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Syresham Church Fete 2pm at The Priory  
Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Radstone Fair  
Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> MU Children's Workshop in Helmdon Church 9:30-12:30  
Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm. All ages welcome - refreshments available.

*August 08*

Sat 9<sup>th</sup>

MU Mary Sumner Day

Fri 15<sup>th</sup>

Forties Evening – Dance & Supper

Tues 19<sup>th</sup>

Radstone Friends 7:30pm @ Coldharbour Farm

Sun 24<sup>th</sup>

Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm. All ages welcome – refreshments available.

## **FAIR TRADE**

The fair-trade parishes in the benefice are being served now for Traidcraft goods by Sue Timmis of Whitfield. Our stall will still be on second Sundays, and we'll pass on to her any particular wish we haven't yet satisfied.

## **NORTHAMPTON'S WOMEN'S AID**

The charity still hold out their welcome to volunteers to help women make themselves and their children new lives safe from abuse. The speaker at the Patronal festival (July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30) will be from the Women's Aid and able to answer questions and explain what would help.