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HELMDON CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

March – May 2008

THE RECTOR WRITES

Choosing Your Battles

It is a cold February morning in 1143, and the two English armies face each other across a misty valley. Each man is hyped up to cope with the slashing and stabbing that such combat entails, feeling sick with anxiety. For four years they have been fighting, since Matilda landed in England claiming her father's throne. But, hold on! Horsemen are galloping up to the troops, calling out, "No fighting!" What has brought on this welcome news? *Lent* – and there is to be no fighting during Lent – praise God.

Since the Emperor Constantine became a Christian, military exercises were banned on Sundays and Fridays, and this was extended in the ninth century to the whole of Lent. Warfare there still was but inside a person, not between people. Lent is the time when we 'do battle' against our self-centred and self-

indulgent inclinations. Think of peace and the joy that can be spread when we give up our squabbles, and bickering, our gossip and point scoring. We may not fight in armed battle, but we surely have plenty of personal demons to conquer. Fight on in Lent!

A Curate for the Astwell Benefice

It is with much pleasure that I announce the appointment of Colin Simpson to the Curacy of our benefice. We welcome Colin and his wife Sandy and their son and daughter, William and Serena.

Colin is to be ordained as Deacon in Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 6th July. Following this he and his family will take up residence in the benefice. Our hope is that parishioners from across the benefice will want to welcome Colin to Astwell by supporting him in Peterborough and by attending a special united service (Lois Weedon Sunday 13th July) to greet him and his family warmly as he embarks on his ministry with us.

Colin will serve for three years within the Astwell Benefice before seeking his own parish. As a deacon he will support priests by assisting at sacramental services and once ordained as priest in 2009 will take these services himself.

It is a delight that the diocese should see this benefice as one suitable for the training of future priests. Rural curacies are not common. I am sure that we will all do our very best to provide Colin with the secure and loving support that will enable him to develop his lifetime's ministry in the church and, thereby we shall fulfil the trust placed in us.

Electric Church

We held our first Electric Church service in Syresham on Sunday 25th November. Electric Church is a service of the word to rock music provided by guitarists, vocalists, saxophonists and percussionists from across the Astwell Benefice. A number of folk from Helmdon came along and I believe much enjoyed the service finding it refreshing and uplifting. The next service will be on Thursday 6th March '08 at 7.30 p.m. in Helmdon. It is planned that this service will be recorded by BBC Radio Northampton for later broadcast. If you would like to join the group please do get in touch. Come and be the congregation on the 6th.

From the Parish Register

Marriage

Saturday 15th December '07 Ben and Faye (nee Foster) Jary

Baptisms

Saturday 22nd September '07 Jack Davies

Sunday 23rd September '07 Joshua Shrubsole
Saturday 8th December '07 Tamsin Houston
Sunday 27th January '08 Evie Brock
Funerals
Tuesday 9th October '07 Brian Beattie (Died 2nd October '07)
Friday 12th October '07 Richard Watson (Died 21st September '07)
Thursday 20th December '07 Reginald Batchelor (Died 12th December '07)
Internment of Ashes
Saturday 1st December '07 Alice Hearne (Died 27th October '07)

God bless, Will Adams, Rector

THE FRIENDS OF St MARY MAGDALENE

We were delighted that our **Words and Music for Christmas** on Friday 21st of December was such an enjoyable evening and that our new spotlights were so effective. Plans for our 2008 fund-raising events were taken forward at our January committee meeting and we are working on some new ideas so do watch for announcements as tickets go on sale! Meanwhile diary dates to note are:

2 June: Friends AGM in the church
7 June: Steel Band concert
27 September: Guitar and Lute concert
19 December: Words and Music for Christmas

Thanks to the past generosity of many people we were able to contribute £12,436 towards the cost of the recently completed urgent repairs. Now we must replenish our funds for the next phase of the work that was identified by the Quinquennial review. Thus early in 2008 we shall again be leafleting the village to appeal for more support, and any suggestions of offers of help would be most welcome; do please contact 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.

January, 2008

Members and visitors enjoyed the talk by Rev. Will Adams following his visit to Argentina. Will and Linda showed photographs of their trip and Will explained what a privilege it was to officiate at the wedding of their friends in a Catholic church. Will said that he would not have missed the experience for the world.

31st March 10.00am Lady Day Holy Communion at Farthinghoe Church.
23rd April 8.00pm - 'The Beacon Drop-in Centre' at Helmdon Church
Nigel Deakin will be talking to us about the work of the Centre
28th May 8pm MU Quiet thinking evening at Helmdon Church
led by Dorothy Micklethwaite

Visitors are always warmly welcomed to our meetings.

Jenny Saunders on 01295 760721.

WOMEN TO BEFRIEND WOMEN

Our link charity, Northampton Women's Aid, would be glad of volunteers to give supportive friendship to the nervous and burdened women they are helping to make new lives out of reach of men who have abused them. There are various things women could do to help, in Daventry and in the Northampton office. Guidance would be given by the professional staff. If you would like to do something in this field, let me know. And also book yourself to hear one of the staff, Jean Fenton, talk at the Patronal Festival, in the 9:30 service on July 20th.

Jean Spendlove

OTHER ASTWELL EVENTS

March 08

Sun 2nd CKERS in Helmdon Church 6:30-7:45pm
Fri 7th Women's World Day of prayer service in Helmdon Church
Sun 9th CKERS Pancake Evening in Helmdon Reading Room
Sat 15th Antiques Road Show in Wappenham
Sun 16th CKERS in Helmdon Church 6:30-7:45pm
Mon 17th Helmdon School Service 10:30am in Church
Mon 24th Helmdon Acorns with Church – Duck Hunt 2-3pm in Church
Fri 28th 'Pontiflunk' an evening of theatrical storytelling describing travels through the C19th English Countryside. 7:30pm in Helmdon Church

April 08

Wed 23rd MU "The Beacon Drop-in Centre" – Nigel Deakin 8pm @

Helmdon church
 Sun 20th CKERS BINGO in Helmdon Church 6:30-7:45pm £1 per night
 Sun 27th Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm. All ages welcome – refreshments
 available.
 Mon 28th Antiques Valuation by James Miller 7pm in Syresham School
 Hall
May 08
 Fri 2nd Helmdon Friends Open Supper 7:30pm in Church
 Tues 6th Deanery Synod meeting
 Sat 10th Astwell Benefice Motorcycle Charity Ride Out for Christian
 Aid – Chiltern Hills
 Sun 11th Start of Christian Aid week –
 Sat 17th Lunchtime jazz concert in Whitfield
 Note-ability - A welcome return of the popular and
 entertaining chamber choir 7:30pm in Syresham Church.
 Sun 25th Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm
 Wed 28th MU Quiet thinking evening – Dorothy Micklethwaite 8pm @
 Helmdon Church