



The Reverend Will Adams
Rector Astwell Benefice
Brookdale Whitfield, NN13 5TQ
Tel +44(0)1280 850683
Email:rector@astwellbenefice.co.uk

HELMDON CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

September – November 2007

THE RECTOR WRITES

The Road to Life

For so long I had seen God as my judge, keeping track of me, so as to know if I merited heaven or hell when I died. Then I met someone who said he was the Son of God and I can only compare the experience that follows with a bicycle ride. The bike was a tandem and at first he was on the back, helping me to pedal. Then he suggested that we change places, and life hasn't been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was safe if predictable. It was mostly the shortest distance between two places. When he took control I realised he knew delightful 'long cuts', up mountains and through rocky places at break-neck speeds, and it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, he said, "Pedal!" But I was worried and anxious, and

asked, "but where are you taking me?" He laughed but didn't answer – so I was forced to trust. It was then that I entered into the adventure. And when I say, "I'm scared", he would lean back and reassure me.

He took me to people with gifts I needed – gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me their gifts to take with me on the journey, and we were off again. Then one day he told me to give the gifts away, and I was amazed. "Give them away; they are extra baggage – they weigh too much." So I did: to the people we met. And I found in doing so that I received more in return, but the burden of weight somehow got lighter.

You know, at first I didn't trust him to take control. I thought he'd wreck things. But he does know a lot of secrets about bike riding. He knows how to make it lean into sharp corners, knows how to make it fly to shorten the scary passages. And so I have learned to shut up and pedal, sometimes in the strangest of places. Now I am beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face, and most of all this person in front of me.

And when I am sure I just can't journey another foot, he just smiles, turns back to me says, "pedal – just pedal." (*Anon*)

Minor changes to the Service Schedule from September 2007

SUNDAY 8am HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)

2nd and 4th Sundays in the month from September

Because of a variety of changes to the service schedule in Helmdon over the past few years our Sunday 8am Service pattern has become a little uneven in its monthly distribution. Having discussed this with worshippers, we have decided to amend the pattern by holding the Sunday 8am Holy Communion Services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month. Our services for the next quarter will fall on: 9th & 23rd Sept; 14th & 28th Oct and the 11th & 25th Nov.

EVENING REFLECTION

in Syresham

As from September, the 6 p.m. service on the second Sunday of the month is called 'Evening Reflection'. This will replace Evensong (BCP) and we hope that the Evensong congregation will be happy at it.. The following description of the service may be helpful in affording some clarity about its nature.

We use 'Evening Reflection' as a more easily understood name for our 'Taizé' service. It is indeed a reflective service of at most half an hour, and Taizé chants are included. The chants gain in beauty from being led by some of the choir, but they work by repetitions, so they are easily learned.

Our service has no fixed form, but each one has a theme opened up by readings from Scripture and other sources with prayers and one or two hymns. Silences for reflection are always included.

Note. Taizé is an international and ecumenical monastic community founded during the war in eastern France, to seek peace and justice by reconciliation, and has groups of brothers living with the very poorest in several continents. The monks' life is simple, prayerful, celibate and self-supporting. The community attracts many thousands of young pilgrims every year who share its services of prayer, silent meditation and singing. Taizé chants are themselves prayers.

Infant Church & Electric Church

A particular joy for me is Infant Church. Statistically the number of pre-school youngsters who now regularly worship in our church in Helmdon has grown greatly thanks to the enthusiastic engagement of the Acorns. This worship takes place on the third Thursday of the month at 11.15 a.m. in the church. Do come along and join us but you will have to take part!

My aim now is to see if it is possible to enlist the help and support of secondary school students in the making of electronic music as part of the range of worship forms we provide. I have secured the commitment of a number of students but am always on the look out for others. If you can play guitar or keyboard, bang drums or sing please do get in touch with me. One or two of those who have come forward were in secondary school some little while ago! We are not ageist about this. It is remarkable how many dads have come forward. Presently we are rehearsing on pre-arranged Saturday mornings from 9.30 a.m. to noon in the Church.

God bless,

Will Adams
Rector

MOTHER'S UNION

QuickTag™ and
PDF DOCUMENT ASSEMBLER
are needed to see this picture.

Sept 26th 8pm Syresham Chapel
'My life in a children's home'- with slides. Mr Sid Sharp.

Oct 24th 8pm 12A Church Street AGM

Nov 28th 8pm 12A Church Street
'My visit to Bungoma'

Sue Tringham (former diocesan president)

Astwell Mother's Union 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 a number of men who are members of our branch.

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

On the 23rd May we enjoyed a very interesting and informative visit to Abthorpe Church to view the new altar frontals. Our hosts explained how they had been designed, how the colours were chosen and details of how they had been stitched.

In June the Mother's Union Brackley Deanery enjoyed a sponsored walk arranged by the Helmdon group. Afterwards there was a short service and tea was served by the Chipping Warden group in Helmdon Church.

On the 23rd July we held a Children's Holiday Workshop which was enjoyed by twenty children. The theme was Joseph and the children decorated a coat of "many colours", made face masks, puppets and decorated cakes and biscuits. It was a lovely morning of creative activities and fun for the children and adults who attended.

Please remember that all are always warmly welcomed to our meetings.

Jenny Saunders on 01295 760721.

THE FRIENDS OF St MARY MAGDALENE

The **Steel Band Concert** on Saturday 9th June was such great fun and so successful in raising £477, that we have booked them again for next year! So please put Saturday 7th June 2008 in your diaries now!

Our next event is the **Last Night of the Proms** on Saturday 8th September, once again at Home Farm thanks to the generosity of Gill and John Watson. Details will be publicised through the usual media!

As well as planning more fund raising events we are thinking about other ways of adding to our resources. Also we are working closely with the PCC on how best to schedule the programme of spending on the required repairs. Please contact me on 01295 768964 if you would like to know more about us and what we do; offers of help and new members are always welcome.

Roger Miles (Chair of the Friends)

OTHER ASTWELL EVENTS

September 07

- Sat 15th Astwell Chapter Motorcycle Ride-Out for Shaftesbury Society
(Radstone Link Charity)
- Sun 16th Clay Pigeon Shoot at Whitfield House Farm 10am onwards.
Contact Anthony Bonner 01280 850684
- Tue 18th Reading room Lunch 1pm
- Sun 23rd Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm unless wet
- Thur 27th Evening Green Welly Gardener's Question Time – Radio
Northampton in Wappenham

October 07

Tues 16th Reading room Lunch 1pm

November 07

Sat 3rd Wine Tasting at St Luke's Farm Helmdon

Tues 13th Benefice Supper Meeting 7:15 in Whitfield Village Hall

'Justice for young people'

Contact 01295 768196

Tues 20th Reading Room Lunch 1pm