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HELMDON CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

Sep - Nov 2008

THE RECTOR WRITES

Keep Your Fork

A woman was getting her things in order after being diagnosed with a terminal illness. She contacted her priest to discuss her final wishes and told him which songs and readings she wanted at her funeral. She asked to be buried with her Bible and then added, "There is one more very important request. I want to be buried with a fork in my hand."

The Priest was puzzled, but she went on to explain, "My abiding memory of church events over the years that when we have sat down together to eat and the dishes of the first course were being cleared, someone would always lean over and say, 'Keep your fork'. It was my favourite moment because I knew that something better was still to come, such as my favourite chocolate cake or apple pie! So, I just want the people who see me in my coffin to

notice the fork in my hand. The message they are to take away will be, 'Keep your fork. The best is yet to come.'"

The priest assured that all her wishes would be fulfilled.

Colin Simpson

A warm welcome to our new Curate

It was a great pleasure to welcome Colin and his wife Sandie and their two children, William and Serena to the Astwell Benefice on Sunday 13th July '08. They are resident at 6 Wappenham Road, Syresham. We hope they will have three very happy years with us.

Astwell Benefice Motorcycle Charity Ride-Outs

I am delighted to report that the Ride-Out in aid of Christian Aid on Saturday 10th May '08 raised £460. It was a beautiful day and a great ride with more bikers than ever.

We shall be on the road again on Saturday 20th '08 and this time we presently have our sights on Herefordshire. We shall be raising money for Livability, Radstone's link charity. If there are any bikers out there that I have missed and who would like to join us, please get in touch.

Bell Ringing Chamber & Sunday School Room and Bell Ringing Workshop

Sunday 31st August '08 from 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

I am sure that by the time you receive this newsletter the new ringing chamber in the church tower will have been completed and the Sunday School Room will have been fitted out. The PCC has been very fortunate to have received a very generous donation to have a first floor ringing chamber fitted in the tower thereby affording space for a Sunday School Room below. Christine Klein Wassink is holding a Bell Ringing Workshop on Sunday 31st August '08. Please come and have a go. We are eager to re-establish a team of Helmdon ringers. It is great fun.

Harvest

Our Harvest Festival service this year will be held on Sunday 5th October at 9.30 a.m. and the Harvest Supper will be on Saturday 4th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Reading Room.

Parish Registers

from March-August 3rd '08

Funerals/Burial of Ashes

Ben Humphrey	died 23 rd March '08
Richard Lloyd	died 30 th March '08
Mary Turnham	died 19 ^h May '08

Geoffrey Cleaver died 4th July '08
Margaret Duncombe died 9th July '08

Baptisms

Anya Buzzard baptized 27th April '08
Charles Poole baptized 4th May '08
Jake Holt baptized 3rd August '08

God bless,
Will
The Rector

THE FRIENDS OF St MARY MAGDALENE

Our AGM on Monday 2 June was well attended and we were pleased to record that the response to our Spring 2008 appeal amounted to £1060, some £200 better than last year. Recently we have received some further individual donations, which are very much appreciated as we continue to rebuild our reserves in readiness for the impending next round of necessary repairs to the church building.

Minutes of the AGM are available and show a few changes in the officers and committee members; in particular Julia O'Brien has taken on the Treasurer office following the resignation of Jean Humphrey who was thanked warmly for her sterling work in this role. We were also delighted to welcome Pat McAuliffe to the committee.

The return of the Ocho Rios Steel Band on 7 June was much appreciated by a good audience and the evening added £500 to our funds. We are planning something different for 2009 but hope that they will be able to return in 2010.

Our next major event is the Guitar and Lute concert on 27 September at 7.30. Early details were posted on the Helmdon website in July and further publicity will follow. We are very pleased that the performers, Ben and Jon Salfield have agreed to run a workshop for local guitarists from 2.30 to 4.00; this is a rare opportunity to learn from two very accomplished artists.

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

Roger Miles (Chair of the Friends)

ASTWELL EVENTS

September 08

Sat 6th Wappenham Village Fete
Sun 7th Electric Church Rehearsal 2-4 Syresham Church
Sat 20th Motorcycle rideout & MU sponsored walk.

Sat 27th Ben Salfield Renaissance Concert in Helmdon Church

Sun 28th Trains at Pimlico 3-5pm. All ages welcome.

October 08

Wed 1st MU Quiet Day 10:30-3pm

Sat 4th Helmdon Harvest Supper 7:30pm in the Reading Rooms

Sun 5th Electric Church Rehearsal 2-4 Syresham Church

Sun 26th Electric Church 1:45 rehearsal 3pm Service in Syresham

November 08

Sat 8th Crafts in Action 10-4 in Helmdon Church Ploughman's available Craft demos & Sales.

Fri 14th Supper Evening 7:15 for 7:30pm Speaker: Rt Revd. John Flack

Fri 21st Confirmation Service in St Peter's Brackley

Wed 26th MU Members sharing time 8pm @ 12A Church St, Helmdon

Sat 29th Helmdon Christmas Bazaar

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.

Last quarter's events:

June 25th 08 Members and friends enjoyed a delightful tour around Charles Rennie Mackintosh house, Derngate. Coffee and home made biscuits were served before the tour.

July 23rd 08 We held a children's workshop in church. The theme was *The Parable of the Lost Sheep*. 27 primary school children attended this fun event. We began with prayers stories and songs, followed by making sheep, masks and decorating biscuits. All the children helped to make a large collage depicting the parable. A very enjoyable morning.

Future events:

Sept 20th Sponsored walk in aid of MU Relief fund.
Starts 1:30pm from Colready Farm, Farthinghoe.
Sponsor forms available from Ann Smith.

Sept 24th The Work of the Children's centre.
12A Church Street

Oct 1st Deanery Quiet Day 10:30-3pm led by Will Adams
Cost £5 includes lunch. The day will end with a communion service. All are welcome - names to Ann Smith by September 21st please.

Oct 22nd AGM
12A Church Street
Nov 26th Members Sharing Time
12A Church Street

Visitors are always warmly welcomed to our meetings.

Jenny Saunders on 01295 760721.

<p>SUPPER MEETINGS Good food and debate</p>	<p>November 14th 7:15 for 7:30pm in Helmdon Reading Room</p> <p>Speaker: Bishop John Flack</p> <p>SPIRITUALITY IN MUSIC</p> <p><small>QuickTime™ and a TTF (TrueType) font are required to see this picture.</small></p> <p><small>QuickTime™ and a TTF (TrueType) font are required to see this picture.</small></p>
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