

## GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS

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### The Curate's Letter

Dear Friends,

September...and the children are going back to school. Can you remember what it felt like going back after the long summer break? Can you remember what it felt like starting in a new school, especially on the first day, when you hardly knew a soul? I don't expect that I am the only one who experiences collywobbles at the thought of walking into anywhere new for the first time, and sometimes it is even harder to come back to somewhere you know, if you have been away for a long time. Questions race through our minds, 'Will they ask where I have been?' 'Will they welcome me?' 'Will they turn their backs on me?' And then when we finally manage to get through the door, and the ice is broken, we can hardly remember what all the fuss was about.

The same is true for people who have drifted away from church. The reasons why they have drifted away are inconsequential. The fact is that there are many people who have, and chances are that each of us can name several. It may be hard to believe that many of these people, who once regularly attended church may be reluctant, nervous to come back to church.

Those of us who regularly attend can hardly comprehend what all the fuss is about. I know for myself that this was true... After we moved to Bury near Ramsey I had a period of time when, I wanted to go to church but just didn't, just couldn't. I knew when the services in our local church were but couldn't muster up the courage to walk up the hill and in the door. It was only when a friend invited us, the family, to attend the Easter service that I managed to get back on track (and I doubt that I would be here today if the invitation had not been made).

September 27 is *Back to Church Sunday*. This is the Sunday which has been designated as the day when we are asked to personally invite someone we know who know longer attends church to come back to church, for just one service, with no strings attached. The initiative is based on research that says that three million people, that is six per cent of the adult population, would come back to church if they received a personal invitation.

Research by the Diocese of Lichfield in 2008 following *Back to Church Sunday* suggested that 6,000 people came back to church on that day and that, six months later, between 700 and 900 (12-15 per cent) had become regular members. Now I think those figures are pretty impressive. It's amazing to think what a difference to someone's life and also to our church community your invitations could make.

Now, if by chance you don't feel able to offer the invitation on September 27, that doesn't mean that you shouldn't invite someone back on another Sunday.

So....who are you going to invite *Back to Church*?

Yours in Christ,

*Mary Jepp*



## G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S

### This month's cover

For the second year running St Anne's pupils have taken an active part in Godmanchester in Bloom. Our picture shows Class One pupils hard at work in preparation for the Anglia in Bloom judges' visit to the school in early July.

### Mothers' Union

Tuesday 4 August was the day for our annual garden party and we had been anxiously watching the weather forecasts, which were not very promising. A group of us gathered at Trish Pope's house at 10.00 am to put up gazebos but by then it was raining. We sat and drank coffee while trying to decide what to do. It was not raining much but the grass was very wet, despite being freshly mowed for the occasion, which wouldn't help with erecting gazebos. Eventually we decided to risk it but no sooner had we started getting things out of the garage than it started to rain again. Thus it was that for the second year running we had to hold the event in the Queen Elizabeth Hall and even more galling was the fact that both Monday and Wednesday were really lovely days! Not a great number of people came but we all had a very enjoyable time listening to Heather Moger and Jodie Baker (an old St Anne's pupil) play some lovely pieces on their recorders. After this everyone had time to try and find the answers to some quizzes on old money (some of the younger people there found this a challenge) and flowers, while they consumed tea and cakes. All in all it was a good afternoon but we do hope that next year we will be able to enjoy Trish's beautiful garden once again.

At our next meeting Janet Cockcroft will be giving us a talk on 'The Saints'.  
Jean Morgan

### Men's Social Group

On a rather damp and overcast evening in early August a band of intrepid explorers could be seen slowly making their way across the wild expanse of Port Holme. Undeterred by the wind and rain and the oppressive heat they pressed on in an effort to reach their base camp at Brampton Mill before the darkness subsumed them. Reaching their objective they were able to rest and recuperate as well as taking the necessary steps to ameliorate the effects of their debilitating dehydration. Fully restored the gallant band set out in the darkness for their return journey across the featureless landscape. With no landmarks to guide them they had to rely upon their well-honed natural instincts to navigate their way home. Eventually they were relieved to see some faint lights in the distance, which eventually led them to the safety and relative comfort of Godmanchester.

Perhaps a little over exaggerated account of the Men's Social Group summer walk which, despite the weather, turned out to be a most pleasant occasion. A chance to catch up with each others news as well as putting right all the world's wrongs.

For our September meeting we are planning a morning visit to the Museum of Military Intelligence at Chicksands, followed by lunch and a tour of the displays at the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden.

*Peter Dawe*

**Wives' Group** did not meet in August but on Tuesday 8 September they will be holding their annual dinner at The White Hart. Further details from Sheila Hartwell (Tel.45333) or Barbara Thirlwall (457018)

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### Charity of the month

#### *Mashambanzou Care Trust*

St Mary's has been a long-term supporter of Mashambanzou Care Trust – a small Zimbabwe-based charity that offers comfort and reassurance to poor people infected – or affected – by HIV/AIDS. The term Mashambanzou means 'dawn of a new day' and was chosen to offer inspiration to those suffering from HIV/AIDS. Mashambanzou Care Trust's vision is 'to contribute meaningfully towards a reduction in the vulnerability associated with HIV prevalence, so as to witness healthier individuals that are better able to take responsibility for their own lives.'

Through six community outreach programmes, Mashambanzou offers holistic health care to the poorest suburbs of Harare. This includes:

- Care for the sick in their homes and provision of counselling for their families
  - Support to AIDS orphans including school fees and uniforms; blankets, food and counselling
  - Raising public awareness in order to fight stigma and discrimination
  - Providing palliative care
  - Mobilising community support centres, care givers and counsellors
- AIDS is one of the most serious problems confronting Africa today and in Zimbabwe over a million people are living with the disease. Nevertheless – and despite the political difficulties the country has faced in the last few years – the prevalence of HIV is slowly declining, showing that Africa in general, and Zimbabwe in particular, is not a lost cause. The testimony of one person helped by Mashambanzou shows what

a difference a small organisation can make.

'I had lost hope. I was 42 and had severe oral thrush, I could not eat well and had lost weight. I thought I was not going to last another week of life. Mashambanzou Home-based Care team came to my house. They counselled me and I was able to disclose my status to my children. I got treated and was later admitted into the Care Unit at Mashambanzou in Waterfalls. It took two weeks for me to respond to treatment. I gained weight, the oral thrush disappeared, my appetite returned and sleepless nights became a thing of the past.

Thanks to Mashambanzou I am now on the feeding scheme, my children are taking good care of me and they seem to be coping well with our situation.'

Please give generously – a little of our money can make a vast amount of difference.

#### *Dilys Ward*

### **Sponsored Ride and Stride 12 September 2009 – 10.00 am**

As in previous years, there is to be a sponsored cycle/walk around the Diocese, in support of the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust. Of anything we raise, we get 50% back! We at St Mary's have always been very successful in getting sponsorship and we hope to do well again. Please get a sponsorship form from Nicholas Leigh Smith (433467), who returns from holiday early in September, and join us on bike or foot on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking for volunteers to staff the church hall during the day to welcome and offer refreshments to riders from other churches. Or you could sponsor a rider...

Peter Irving has kindly agreed to set up a church hall rota and will take your name to ride or walk until Nicholas returns. Nicholas

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will manage the riding side and collect sponsorship money

### Who's who in the parish

Andrew, Angela, Matthew, James and Katie Wright.



We moved to Godmanchester in 1999 when Matthew was six months old, having moved to Huntingdon with a two week old when Andrew became a GP at Priory Fields Surgery. It's always a gamble choosing where to live in a new area – but let's just say we've moved again, but it was within Godmanchester!

We both like getting involved – Andrew has been Godmanchester Scouts' treasurer for the last few years, chaired Stukeley Meadows Youth Football Club, hosts the Bible study group, is a sidesperson and has recently become Secretary of the PCC. I've been chair of Huntingdon NCT, on St Mary's 0-5s committee, helped run Building Blocks, on the Community School PTA and a volunteer at the Citizens' Advice Bureau for the last few years. And I also help run Children's Church, including Nativity plays and sitting on the Worship Committee, as well as standing at the front telling you all what we've been up to over in the church

hall. Plus I'm on the 0-5s coffee rota, as well as working two days a week for the charity Scope. We like to keep busy!

Andrew was born in Nottingham, moved to Leicestershire at the age of six weeks where both his sisters were born, then on to North Wales at the age of seven and where his parents still live. There he developed his lifelong passion for Wrexham Football Club. He got to attend Sunday School in Welsh (but he claims not to understand a word anymore!)

I'm a Yellowbelly, from generations of Lincolnshire folk, being born and brought up in Louth with my two brothers, and where my Mum still lives. Both of my parents were very active in their respective churches – Dad was a lay preacher for the Church of England and Mum has been a Methodist local preacher for over forty years.

After school, we both went to Christ's College in Cambridge, Andrew to read medicine in 1987 and me law in 1989. We overlapped by a year, and romance blossomed. Andrew then went to London for his clinical training, leaving me to finish my degree in Cambridge, then on to London to Bar School. I did pupillage in London and was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, whilst Andrew moved on to hospital jobs in Basingstoke and Luton. After getting married in Louth at Easter 1994, we started married life in the staff accommodation at the Luton and Dunstable hospital. Andrew's shifts and the long hours at the junior Bar were not ideal, so I joined a City solicitors' firm specialising in insurance litigation. A move to Watford and our first house purchase saw us settled for a while in Hertfordshire, Andrew doing his GP training at and around Watford General.

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After some memorable trips abroad (we managed China, Russia and India in a year!) in 1999 Matthew joined us just in time for the move to Cambridgeshire and my leaving work. James was born at home in Godmanchester in 2000, as was Katie (in a larger house mid-renovation at the time) in 2002. All were baptised at Christ's College chapel and now attend the Community School. They've been travelling – Katie's godmother lived in China for two years, so we went to see her, and visited Australia too. We've also spent time in the USA, and the photo shows us in Egypt earlier this year – and next year it's South Africa for the football World Cup.

We now feel settled and part of the community, having made so many fantastic friends through the church, Mums and Tots and school. Both boys play football for local teams and are in Cubs, with Katie having recently moved up to Brownies. We intend staying around (and involved!) for a long time to come.

*Angela Wright*

### **St Mary's Church Youth Groups**

*Continuing our series of memories from our church youth groups, this month Helen Rogers (née Turrell) remembers her time there and one occasion in particular.*

I had finally made it, at the age of twelve I was old enough to join the church youth group. Meeting at 6.30 pm on a Friday night the youth group was an opportunity to meet with friends and to enjoy fellowship together. Although, at the time, it simply felt like a fun evening of games and a chance to chat, really the youth group was my first introduction to worship songs and praying in groups. It was also an opportunity to discuss my faith with other people the same age as me as well as

the leaders, Paul Sibley and Claire Hurd, who did a fantastic job of keeping us entertained with games while also helping us to develop our understanding of God.

I have one very special memory of the youth group – our music hall evening! Weeks and weeks of rehearsals, agonising hours spent over which pieces we were going to perform and poor Mrs Hardy roped in as our pianist and singing coach; Pop Idol eat your heart out! So once I had decided I was going to deliver my best renditions of 'Diamonds are a girl's best friend' and 'Goldfinger' there was just my dress to consider. No, of course I could not borrow a dress from my Mum; it was Granny to the rescue and to the sewing machine! After hours of slaving over the sewing machine Granny had produced a fantastic dress to rival those seen at the Oscars. Finally my big night had arrived. Wearing the amazing black dress, evening gloves (borrowed from Granny's friend Clare Wells!) and an array of diamanté jewels, I stood on that stage and became Marilyn Monroe and Shirley Bassey; well in my head anyway. Overall the night was a great success which I remember was enjoyed by all. I was quite a shy girl when I was younger but I found that I gained a lot of confidence, not only in my dreams singing in the youth group, but also from an early age taking part in concerts given by the choir (another most enjoyable part of my church life at St Mary's) and from reading the Bible during services.

The youth group was a great experience and a really good way of keeping me connected to the church during my teenage years. It is so important to have this resource available to young people and it is wonderful to hear that St Mary's still runs a vibrant youth group.

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**St Mary's was there in the beginning!**

In our February magazine you may remember that there was an article in praise of church magazines, in which it stated that it is one hundred and fifty years since the Revd. J. Erskine Clarke launched what is thought to be the first 'parish magazine' on the world. This made me wonder when the first of our own parish magazines was published, since I remember that our former editor, Ian Dunbavan, at one time did a series with extracts from our magazines of one hundred years ago. I determined that once our new library opened I would take myself to the Archives Department and try to find out and this I did a few days ago.

I found that our first magazine was published in 1871, although there was no copy of that. The first magazine I actually discovered was entitled *All Saints and St John's*, Huntingdon, and at first I wondered why I had been given this particular copy, but then, as I read it, I found there were two pages right at the very end devoted to St Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester.

It appears the future of the magazine was, for some time, doubtful, since the first article reads:

'It was uncertain whether we should, as a magazine, live to wish our readers the compliments of the season, for though our circulation has on the whole been fairly steady, it has hardly been sufficient to pay its expenses. We have however arranged to continue it for some time longer, hoping for increased support, and we shall be much obliged to any one who will help us in adding to our list of subscribers. For those who desire to have the numbers of 1871 joined together, Mr A Ward can provide a good strong cover for one shilling (5p!). We have not, therefore, yet to take leave of our

readers, but are once more enabled, with thankfulness for all God's mercies, to our country, to our parish and to ourselves, to wish them one and all a happy New Year.'

This combined magazine at that time was 22 pages in length and contained a variety of articles. Of course, we all know *All Saints' Church*, but where I wonder was *St John's*? The magazine was professionally printed and bound, presumably by Mr Ward mentioned above, but as you can imagine it is now quite flimsy and has to be handled with much care. In its 22 pages it contained a story entitled *A visit of angels*, and a complaint by a local vicar (not our vicar of the time!) of a cart load of hay passing the vicarage in the street and dropping bits and pieces making a mess of his garden which he had tended with much care. I do sympathise with this as, at the present time, many tractors of hay seem to be making their way down the High Street here in Brampton, scattering remnants of hay into all our open plan front gardens. Nothing changes! There was also Chapter 1 of a serialised story entitled *Harry the Ringer*, a short sermon but with no mention of the author's name (perhaps our vicar at that time), an article on the Crusades and finally a second short sermon by Edward Harold, Lord Bishop of Ely. One thing that I found strange in these old magazines was that the name of the then vicar was never mentioned – I suppose the editors thought that their parishioners didn't need this information! There was no letter from the vicar or other member of the clergy as there is today.

It was not until January 1897 that Godmanchester began to have a magazine of its own, but in fact you could hardly call it a magazine, since it comprised one page of what (in those days) was called 'quarto', somewhat wider and shorter than our now familiar A4. Again it contained a note from

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the Bishop of Ely saying: 'I cannot let this your magazine begin its second year without a word of greeting from your pastor, to wish you a happy New Year and God's blessing on all you do in it'. This would intimate that we had a magazine in the previous year, although I couldn't find this in the Archives.

Once we had our own Parish News in January 1897 things obviously became more relevant to St Mary's alone. In March there had been a supper and entertainment provided for the choir by Mr P. E. Tillard in the Constitutional Hall. The final sentence of this report may interest our readers: 'An abundance of games had been provided after supper for the juniors, whilst the seniors beguiled the evening with conversation, song and the fragrance of smoke'. I wonder where the Constitutional Hall stood in Godmanchester?

In March 1897 the marriage was recorded on April 19 of Arthur Arnold to Charlotte Agnes Gadsby. Were these the parents of Vera I wonder? – I'm sure she will be able to tell me. In July there had been national rejoicings to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Queen Victoria's reign. In Godmanchester tea had been organised for between 1500 and 1600 people, and, through public subscription, a costly and elegant chain of office had been provided for the then Mayor Mr P E Tillard, which was presented by Mr G. Hunnybun on behalf of the subscribers.

In November much of the magazine was devoted to the possibility of forming a branch of the MU in Godmanchester, so it seems our branch reached its centenary some time ago, having been in existence for around one hundred and twelve years.

In July 1898 mention was made of the first meeting of the Council of Church Workers at

the vicarage (is this the forerunner of our present PCC I wonder?). At the same time it was recorded that Mr Edgar Thackray (John's grandfather?) was elected to be on the council of the boys' Sunday School, and Miss G. Baumgartner to be District Visitor.

In August 1901 the event of the month had been the completion of the 'Bevan memorial' in the parish church, as well as the reredos and the screen in carved oak, which were blessed by the Bishop. The Archdeacon of the time remarked that the screen was a partial restoration of the older and larger 'Rood loft', which had formerly stood in the same place. He went on to say that everyone would be reminded of what we all owed to the Cross of Christ.

In November 1901 it was noted that the parish blankets would be issued between 12 and 1 in the Parish Room; in fact this annual distribution continued right up to 1910 and perhaps beyond, but this is as far as I had time to research. I wouldn't like to swop my duvet, although I believe the blankets were washed each spring when they were returned to the church!

Unfortunately, although I had spent the whole morning in the Archives section of our magnificent new library, I only managed to see the magazines up to 1910, and I have just picked out one or two items which I thought might be of interest to our readers. I might go in again at a later date – it would be very interesting I think to read our magazine (be it only one page) for the years of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War when many young men from both Huntingdon and Godmanchester joined the Huntingdonshire Cyclists' Battalion. I will try to do this sometime and write another article. However, I hope that maybe this will have given you a taste of our magazine all those years ago, and I would recommend you

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to visit the Archives section if you have time to spare. My visit concluded with a delicious lunch in the most attractive Café where the food is sold at very reasonable prices.

On reading this through I see that I have left a number of loose ends, questions to which I have no answers. I hope all the Gumcestrians who read this will be able to enlighten me, and other readers. I am sure the Editorial Committee will be pleased to publish any further information you can provide for us.

*Joan Jackson*

By the way, when researching the above I was surprised to discover that no copies of our Parish News have been deposited in the Archives' Library since 1993. I don't know how this has happened, but we must try to put it right. Do any of our readers have copies of magazines for these missing years I wonder? If you have, would you please let me know.

*Joan*



Churches together in Godmanchester include  
St Mary's, The Baptist Church and The Quakers

### LUNCH CLUB for SENIOR CITIZENS

The Lunch Club for Senior Citizens operated by The Godmanchester Churches Together since November 2008 is taking a summer break, but is expected to recommence on Tuesday the 22nd of September at the new venue of Godmanchester Baptist Church. We look forward to welcoming all those who attended on a regular basis prior to the summer break and hopefully greeting some folk who have not attended before.

The Lunch Club has proved most popular, not just for the meal but also for the fellowship obtained through contact with friends and colleagues. We expect The Revd. Mary Jepp to be involved, although appreciate that her busy schedule of Parish duties may occasionally take priority. Also, we look forward to welcoming other Clergy from the Godmanchester Churches as and when their diary permits.

Importantly we need volunteers to strengthen the team who weekly decide on the menus, and purchase and prepare the food for the cooking on Tuesday mornings of each week. In addition helpers are required to lay out the room and tables and deal with the washing up etc. **If you have time to spare on a Tuesday and would like to be part of this team, please contact John & Elizabeth Callaghan on 01480 354188. They will be very pleased to hear from you.**

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**St Anne's celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

In September 2009 we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St Anne's. During the weekend of 4 – 7 September we have planned a number of opportunities for you to join the celebrations. Please consider the activities below and let us know if you would like to join us. All activities will be FREE but donations will be welcomed. There will be donation baskets at each event.

**Friday 4 September – 7 pm, School Hall**

**Formal Opening of 10<sup>th</sup> Celebrations** - Cheese and wine with short concert – 150 tickets available. Present and former pupils are welcome to perform – please inform Mrs Kenna

**Saturday 5 September, 2 pm – 4 pm**

**School will be open for a short while so visitors may view displays**

(Light refreshments available)

**Sunday 6 September, 9.45 am**

**Service of Praise, Parish Church** – Suggest your favourite hymn and tell us why. It might be included in the service. Current Senior Choir to sing 'The Clare Benediction' – Y6 leavers may join us and wear their new secondary school uniforms.

**PSFA 'Wild West' Extravaganza – Family fun day (see PSFA news) at school**

**1 pm – 4 pm**

**Monday 7 September – normal school day**

**St Anne's birthday celebrations in school**

9.15 am - Bishop David (Bishop of Huntingdon) to lead our worship then dedicate the outdoor classroom and La Ronde. All welcome to this act of worship.

12 noon - Picnic party lunch and cake. School kitchen will supply the picnic lunch at normal school lunch price or you may bring your own. Please book – pupils and staff/governors only, I'm afraid!

Please complete the enclosed flyer and leave it in the box on the table at the back of the church. We look forward to a wonderful weekend of celebrations.

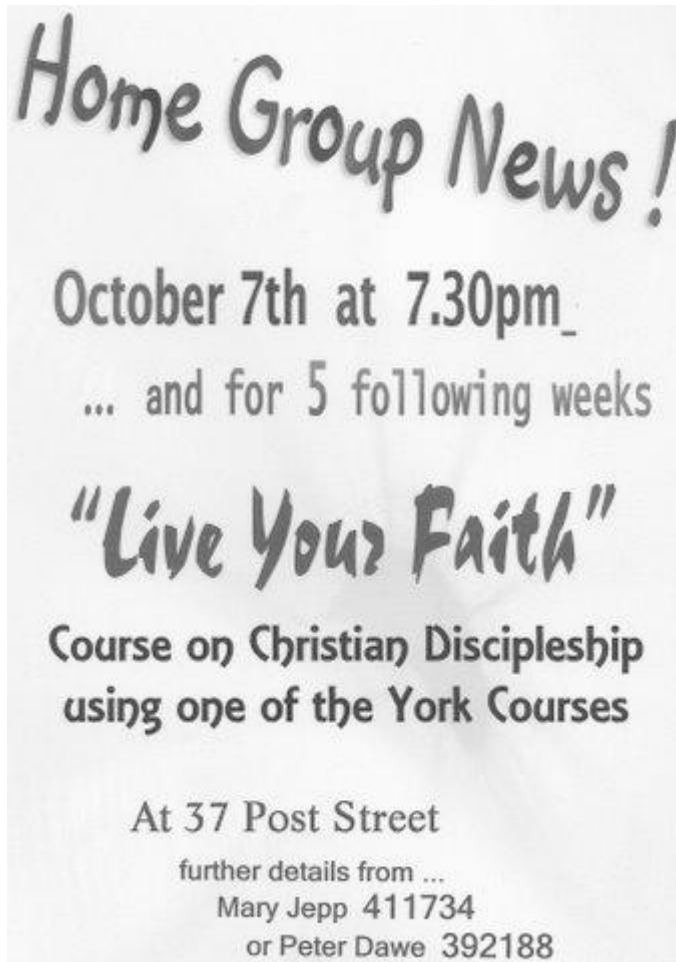
Best wishes

*Anthea Kenna*

**And finally ...** Education is what is left over when you subtract what you have forgotten from what you have learned.

\*\* Items taken from *The Parish Pump*, the Church News Service on line.

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**Registers**

**Baptisms**

2 August

Tilley Skinner

Laura Fawcett

23 August

Macie Mae Garnham

30 August

Sidney Zoe Prior

Floella Kathleen Elizabeth Bland

**Weddings**

1 August

Jonathan David Clitheroe and Faye Catherine Dunbavan

22 August

Mark Ernest Smith and Rebecca Louise Hurst

**Lectionary**

6 September

**Patronal Festival**

Isaiah 61:10-end; Luke 1:46-55

13 September

**Trinity 14**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-end

21 September

**Trinity 15**

Jeremiah 11:19-20; Mark 9:30-37

28 September

**Trinity 16**

Numbers 11:4-6; Mark 9:38-end

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### Dates for your diary

#### SEPTEMBER 2009

Tue	1	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union	QE School
		9.45 am	Men's Social Group Visit	Chicksands
		7.45 pm	MAP Group Meeting	Vicarage
Wed	2	11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Chestnuts
		7.30 pm	Pastoral Visitors meeting	59 London Rd
Thu	3	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0 – 5s	Comrades' Club
		8.00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal	
Fri	4	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	5	2.30 pm	Wedding: Benjamin Jones/Camilla Wells	
Sun	6	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary - Patronal Festival</b>		
		8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Service of Praise & Eucharist (St Anne's 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group	Church Hall
Mon	7	10.45 am	GMC Churches Together meeting	Vicarage
		1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	22 Porch Close
		8.00pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	8	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.45 pm	MAP Group meeting	Vicarage
		8.00 pm	Wives' Group Annual Dinner	White Hart
Wed	9	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Oak Tree Court
Thu	10	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
		7.30 pm	Shalom – Service of well-being & wholeness	
Fri	11	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	12	10.00 am	Historic Churches' Trust Cycle Ride	Church Hall
Sun	13	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Holy Baptism – Madeleine Olsen	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group	Church Hall
		8.00 pm	Children's Church Planning meeting	Vicarage
Mon	14	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	Contact Naomi 436737
		8.00pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	15	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church Hall
Wed	16	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Woodley Court
		7.30 pm	Churches Together members meeting	Huntingdon Methodist Church
Thu	17	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
		7.30 pm	Governors' Meeting	St Anne's School

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Fri	18	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sun	20	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Civic Service	
		3.00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group	Church Hall
Mon	21	<b>David Busk away until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>		
		1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	Contact Naomi 436737
		8.00pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	22	<b>Mary Jepp away until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>		
		7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
Wed	23	9.45 am	Holy Communion	McCartney House
Thu	24	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	25	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	26	3.00 pm	Wedding: Adam Trevitt/Ruth Fasham	
Sun	27	<b>Back to Church Sunday</b>		
		8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		10.30 am	Parish Praise	St Anne's School
		4.00 pm	Ecumenical Service (GBC)	Rectory Gardens
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group	Church Hall
Mon	28	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	Contact Naomi 436737
		8.00 pm	Communications Committee meeting	23 Earning St
Tue	29	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
Wed	30	8.00 pm	Bible Study Group	10 East Chadley Lane

**The Editorial Committee meeting** for the October magazine will be held on **Sunday, 20 September 2009**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date and if possible not later than **Friday 13 September**.

Peter Irving (Editor), 26 Post Street ([pjibooks@aol.com](mailto:pjibooks@aol.com))

Joan Jackson ([joan.jackson@ntlworld.com](mailto:joan.jackson@ntlworld.com))

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### September means back to school time

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether aged 20 or 80.

When praying, don't give God instructions – just report for duty.