

## The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

A friend who is a Buddhist priest in Japan once said to me, 'You can't really imagine Christianity without music, can you?' I don't think I had realised until that moment quite how much music matters to the practice of the Christian religion, in a way that is possibly not true of other faiths. There are churches that have no instrumental music – the Orthodox and the Free Presbyterians of Scotland to name two extremes – but I have never heard of Christian groups or communities that do not at least sing.

It is one of the greatest regrets of my life that I have never developed whatever latent musical skills I might once have possessed. Yet I cannot imagine my life without music. I sometimes indulge in that mental game of trying to pick my own Desert Island discs, but it is impossible – there are too many pieces of music that I love for me to choose just eight. (One that is always there, however, is *Spem in alium* by Thomas Tallis. This is an astonishing choral work in forty parts, as opposed to the usual four. If you have never heard it, make sure you do – it will ravish your heart.)

We are very fortunate at St Mary's to have a strong musical tradition. This year our splendid Bryceson organ is 150 years old, and this is a good moment to thank God for the musical riches we enjoy at St Mary's, through the organ itself, the choir, the weekly and yearly round of worship, and through special musical events and concerts. It is also a good moment to record our gratitude to all who help us draw closer to God through music, and to Ken Diffey, Colin Thirlwall, and to the choir in particular.

Musical tastes vary – it is one of the challenges of my job as vicar to receive and try to reconcile the various and often vigorous opinions about what makes for good music for worship (and, of course, I do have opinions and prejudices of my own). But I am willing to bet none of us would be happier with no music of any kind in our church life. As we are instructed in Psalm 150:

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,  
Praise him with the harp and lyre,  
Praise him with tambourine and dancing,  
Praise him with the strings and flute,  
Praise him with the clash of cymbals,  
Praise him with resounding cymbals.  
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord.

With love,

*David*

**This month's cover**

Something to smile about. Enjoying the organ's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary are, left to right, Colin Thirlwall, Felicity White, Ken Diffey, Katherine Heeley and Tony Bird. Jean White pays tribute to them on page 11; and Tony Bird is the subject of this month's 'Who's who in the parish' (p4).

**Mothers' Union**

At our September meeting we were pleased to welcome Janet Cockcroft once again. Last year she gave an excellent talk on house exchange in Australia and this time she talked to us about 'Saints'. Janet started off by saying that the title 'Saint' could be applied to many, many people other than the Gospel writers and other saints who have been celebrated and revered over the centuries. She said that a 'saint' was an outstandingly virtuous person and that these people made a difference to the spiritual life of others. She cited not only those people who gave themselves entirely to the service of others, such as Mother Theresa, but also others such as the cathedral builders who worked so hard in creating our glorious buildings now used to give glory and honour to God.

We learned a lot about some very well known saints and Janet pointed out to us their particular strengths. Janet said that she had become interested in saints as a result of a childhood without television where stories were told and read out loud and also where scripture had played an important role. This reminded us of those days when imaginative play took up a great deal of our free time and when simple games were played with great enjoyment. We all enjoyed her talk very

much and went home in a reflective frame of mind.

In October Daphne Meats will be encouraging us to make cake decorations.

*Jean Morgan*

**Wives' Group**

Our annual autumn dinner on Tuesday 8 September was attended by a small but enthusiastic number of members.

The White Hart provided a wonderful meal that we all enjoyed and we agreed that it had been a great evening. Our thanks go to Sheila Hartwell who arranged everything for us.

Our next meeting on 13 October is a (Very) short AGM followed by 'Our Time in the Trenches' by Robert and Claire Hurd. All are welcome.

*Olwyn Hurd*

**Men's Social Group**

It was a bit of a trip down memory lane for members of the group as we visited the Museum of Military Intelligence at Chicksands followed by the Sopworth Collection at Old Warden. The main function of the Museum is to provide a record of the exploits of the Army Intelligence Corps during war and peace including WW2, the Cold War and the troubles in Northern Ireland. One of the exhibits is dedicated to the Special Operations Executive, which was responsible for dropping agents behind enemy lines during WW2, many of whom were members of the Intelligence Corps. The display contains examples, not only of the equipment they used in their work of disrupting the German communications, but also the disguised radios they used to transmit information back to England.

Another part of the Museum houses displays of the various pieces of equipment used in the interpretation of the aerial photographs taken to provide information about various German installations and group deployments in the occupied countries. During WW2 these were analysed at Danesfield House near Medmenham in Buckinghamshire, the work done here and the information produced was said to have been equally as important to the allied war effort as the signal deciphering carried out at Bletchley Park. For instance, the early identification of the V1 bomb launching sites along the channel coast enabled the allies to put them out of action before Hitler could fully utilise his weapon of mass destruction. Our enjoyment of this section was enhanced by being guided through it by a very knowledgeable and articulate former RAF intelligence officer!

After Chicksands we travelled the short distance to the Shuttleworth Collection which houses over forty aircraft and thirty vehicles, a lot of which date back to the early 1900s. Most of the aircraft are maintained in working order and fly in the several flying displays held at Old Warden during the summer months. There is a link with Chicksands in that one of the planes is a Westland Lysander which was the favourite aircraft used for landing and retrieving agents in occupied France. The oldest airworthy aircraft is the 1909 Bleriot XI, although this can only fly in very light winds. Although there are no very modern aircraft in the collection it is still possible to see the amazing progress made in aircraft design over a period of less than fifty years; the very flimsy looking machines constructed from wood and canvas and held together by tensioned wires giving way to the monocoque construction where the stresses are carried

by the aluminium skin of the fuselage itself.

Although the subjects covered by the two sites are entirely different they both provide a testament to the courage, endeavour and ingenuity of man in tackling problems and overcoming adversity, especially in wartime when his life is under threat.

Our next outing in October will take us even further back in time to the 16<sup>th</sup> century with a visit to Magdalene College, Cambridge. This will take place on 13 October – see the Newsletter for details.

*Peter Dawe*

### **Charity of the month**

#### ***Mission Aviation Fellowship***

MAF was founded in 1945 to overcome barriers in remote areas, transform lives, and build God's Kingdom by supporting the work of over 1,000 organisations in isolated areas of the world. MAF has 130 bush aircraft and works in 55 countries. If it were an airline, it would be the world's busiest, with a MAF flight taking off somewhere every 6 minutes. MAF transports missionaries, medical personnel, medicines and relief supplies, as well as conducting thousands of emergency medical evacuations in remote areas. MAF also provides telecommunications services, such as satellite internet access, high frequency radios, e-mail and other wireless systems to agencies and communities.

It is pioneering and sometimes dangerous work. For those used to the internet, if you go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yD1KmCMNf8&feature=related>,

you can watch a three minute video showing the skills of MAF bush pilots as

they land and take off at impossible-looking hillside airstrips or on rivers with float planes. It is exciting stuff, but the risks are real – last year a young Australian MAF pilot died when his plane crashed somewhere over the sea between Papua New Guinea and Australia. His body was never found. Yet there are many people alive today who would not be if it were not for MAF airlifting them to hospital, and many more whose lives are helped or transformed by the links and support that only MAF can provide.

### Who's who in the parish

#### Tony Bird



I was born way back in the dark days of 1933 in the village of Ellington. I saw no flags being waved, no glasses being raised or trumpets being sounded on my arrival into this world, the reason being my parents' dream was to have a daughter. They already had a son in the person of my brother, Dennis, born five years earlier in 1928, so you can imagine their devastation when faced with the reality of having another son instead of that lovely daughter they envisaged.

I don't remember too much about the first five years of my life but I do remember war being declared in 1939. My mother and I were gleaning in the harvest fields

on 3 September. Not much of that done nowadays.

There were the gas masks, which we had to take to school daily if we didn't wish to be in serious trouble. The blackout was a real pain together with rationing of numerous items including sweets, clothes and many food items. And yes, we had no bananas.

In the six years of the war we were completely surrounded by airfields, including Molesworth, Kimbolton, Alconbury, Warboys, Wyton and Upwood among others, so there was the persistent drone of aircraft noise at all times accompanied by much aerial activity overhead. We provided a home for several evacuees during these difficult years, including a Jewish couple who had been bombed out of their home in London during the blitz.

My ten years of school days were spent at Ellington C of E School where most of the work was done with the aid of blackboards, often with only one teacher to teach all age groups, and with equipment and teaching aids being very sparse.

School days being over I started work at an ironmonger's shop, Osmans of Huntingdon, where we sold all sorts of everything. Having taken up music lessons in my school days I eventually became assistant organist at Ellington church and remained so for a few years. When I was eighteen I did my national service in the Royal Air Force playing the organ at two RAF stations, which entailed playing for five services per Sunday, and which I enjoyed immensely.

Shortly after leaving the RAF I became an employee at Silent Channel Co. where I met my wife Daphne with whom I spent forty-seven happy years. We were married

at Ramsey church in 1959 and came to Godmanchester shortly after and lived in Pipers Lane, then Fox Grove and finally Rectory Gardens. My church life started soon after arriving at Pipers Lane when I joined the choir for one of Father Neil Munt's flower festivals. On some occasions I helped out with organ playing when needed. For about three years or so I was a member of the Godmanchester Town Silver Band, where my main instrument was tenor horn which I found to be a delightful pastime.

In 1966 our daughter Rosalyn was born – a very happy occasion indeed. She has since presented me with two lovely grandsons, Darryl and Matthew. They tell me I am going to be a great granddad in October. Wow!!!!

That's me.

*Tony Bird*

### **Sharpen up \*\***

It's time to attempt a crossword, or read a book, or play a board game, or card game, or get out a musical instrument. Why? Because all these activities help to keep your brain sharp. Recent scientific research has found that performing a mental exercise twice a day can help delay the rapid memory loss associated with dementia. Certainly dementia will be a growing problem. In the UK alone, it is expected that 1.4million people will develop dementia within a generation. Smokers and those with high blood pressure are more at risk.

### **Well done, St Anne's!**

The weekend of celebration at the beginning of September commemorating St Anne's first ten years got off to a flying start on the Friday evening. Mrs Kenna welcome the assembled company of

parents, pupils, ex-pupils and guests by saying 'how time flies.' (She didn't actually follow up with the words 'when you're enjoying yourself', but in her case one always suspects she is!). Mrs Kenna thanked: parents for being patient when the school opened – there was a noticeable absence of a hall floor and loo rolls!; the three teachers who have stayed the course from Day 1; and the governors, and particularly the outgoing Chair, David Morgan, for their time, energy and, in David's case, thoughtfulness. Mrs Kenna didn't have an office in the run-up to the school opening, so David and Jean gave her a key to their front door. And for his drive and passion in pushing for a church school in the town Mrs Kenna acknowledged the great contribution made by Neil Follett throughout the 1990s. But most of all she thanked the pupils for their enthusiasm and teamwork and for creating a school with a true Christian foundation.

Afterwards David Morgan commented on the community spirit that had developed at St Anne's over the years and said, on behalf of us all, how Mrs Kenna would be missed. She leaves at the end of term to take up an appointment at the Cathedral School in Chelmsford. The formal part of the evening over, guests were entertained with a short concert given by present and former pupils. The high standard of music injected into the school by Mrs Kenna was much in evidence, and provided the perfect start to a busy weekend.

On Sunday a sizeable contingent from the school were at the 9.45 service; appropriately enough, our patronal festival, for which the church had been decked out in flowers in the school's colours. David spoke of the mother and daughter relationship we enjoy with the school and gave particular thanks for the role played by three people instrumental in

the birth of St Anne's: the founding Head Anthea Kenna, Dai Morgan, outgoing chairman of the Governors, and Samantha Leigh-Smith, who has been clerk to the governing body since before the school opened. The Senoir Choir gave a lovely rendition of John Rutter's Clare Benediction.

That afternoon, the PSFA's Wild West day at the school saw extravagant hats and boots much in evidence. The Mayor could have passed for Doc Holliday, but the outstanding get-up was Mrs Kenna's squaw, though she modestly refused the prize for best costume. A country and western band and an energetic group of line dancers accompanied a range of suitable activities. These included an excellent barbeque, an archery range and a mechanical bucking bronco – Ian Barkshire, demonstrating steely determination, held on the longest. No one got shot and the day raised £815.72.

On Monday morning, Bishop David – who in his address drew attention to his own extravagant hat, and managed to set a record by fitting twenty four children beneath his cope – came to bless the new outdoor classroom and La Ronde. The whole school joined him in stretching out their arms, providing a moving conclusion to the weekend's celebrations.

*Peter Irving and Andrew McKie*

### **St Anne's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

I would like to express my thanks and warm appreciation to the parish community of St Mary the Virgin for their kind wishes, support and prayers during our recent celebrations. I thought the Service of Praise was beautiful and its message reached out to all members of the community. It was particularly touching to

see the church decorated with flowers in the school colours – a lovely gesture. The presentation made to me at the service took me by surprise – I was overwhelmed. This term is going to be one of 'lasts' and 'finals' but the link between St Mary's and St Anne's is one that I am sure will continue into the future, as one of the foundations on which St Anne's was built. I have been truly blessed by the strong relationship between us. Thank you all.

*Anthea Kenna*

### **Vitamin D \*\***

Make sure you get enough vitamin D this winter. Vitamin D does wonderful things for you; slowing the ageing process, strengthening your bones and building muscle, too.

Sadly, up to 80 per cent of us have unhealthy levels of vitamin D – but it's easy to get: just soak up some sunlight. So grab your jacket and head on outside! You could try gardening, walking, car washing, and cycling: all of which tone muscles, relieve stress, and help top up your Vitamin D levels.

### **Care and maintenance of the ashes burial plot**

This note is addressed to all those who are the next-of-kin or the relation of someone whose ashes are buried in St Mary's ashes burial plot, and to anyone else who may visit it or place flowers there. We are aware that some distress has been caused by recent efforts to tidy the plot, and we are sorry if this has been done without sufficient explanation. This note is to explain our approach to the care and maintenance of the ashes plot, and to ask for your understanding and support as we try to ensure that the plot is kept in a condition acceptable to all.

As you probably know, because space in the plot is very limited it is necessary to have some simple rules concerning what can and can not be placed there. This is to avoid inconveniencing or upsetting those who have a relative's ashes buried in the neighbouring spaces. It is also so that the small team of volunteers who work hard to keep the plot tidy can do their work as efficiently as possible.

The rule has always been that cut flowers only (not in cellophane wrapping or with ribbons or other additional decorations or ties) may be placed on the memorial tablets, or on the site of a burial where there is no memorial. This rule is clearly written on the notice board at the edge of the plot. Over time, other things such as potted plants and metal flower-holders on spikes have come to be left in the plot. Their number has increased to the point where we feel it is necessary to make this gentle reminder to all those concerned. If you have always been careful to keep strictly to the 'cut flowers only' rule, thank you.

If you have placed anything apart from cut flowers in the ashes plot, may we ask you kindly to remove it? We do know that whatever is placed there is in memory of someone close to you, and it is not our intention to cause hurt to anyone. However, potted plants are often blown over and their contents scattered, and spiked flower-holders make it very hard to mow the plot. Please can we ask all concerned to place cut flowers only – these will normally be left for a week or two, until they have begun to wither, and will then be tidied away by the volunteers if they have not been removed by whoever placed them. Anything else left on memorials or burial sites will be moved to the edge of the plot to await removal, and if they are not collected within a

reasonable length of time will be disposed of.

Please also note that small wooden markers with the name of a person whose ashes are buried at that spot can be left until a stone memorial tablet has been put in place, but should then be removed.

We do hope you will understand the reasons for trying to keep to the original rule, and will accept that our only motivation is to try to keep the ashes plot a place where all can peacefully remember those whom they love.

*David Busk (Priest in charge)*

*The Churchwardens*

*The Parochial Church Council*

If you would be cherished when you are old, be courteous while you are young.

*John Lyly*

### **St Mary's Youth Group**

St. Mary's Youth Group is for young people aged 11 to 18. We meet on Sunday evenings from 6.45 pm-8.30 pm, mostly in the Church Hall but sometimes we meet elsewhere or go out e.g. to the cinema or bowling. We are a church-linked group and so some of our activities offer the opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith in a fun and no-pressure environment. New members are welcome at any time, and you can come along as often as you like.

We also offer the opportunity to get involved in running the Church Fair Trade stall, do the Youth Alpha course, contribute to Church services and go to the Greenbelt festival. For more information see:

<http://www.stmarysgodmanchester.org/youthgroup.php>. Jen Weedon, the activity co-ordinator, can be contacted via email: [jen\\_watsonuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jen_watsonuk@yahoo.co.uk)

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**Youth Programme – Autumn Term 2009**

All activities run from 6.45 pm – 8.30 pm, meeting at Church Hall unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 13 September	Welcome and Team Challenge
Sunday 20 September	Chill-out...Feet special!
Sunday 27 September	Walk in the dark (if wet then games in Church Hall) TBC - Walk to Houghton or Hemingford (meet Church Hall)
Sunday 4 October	Youth ALPHA
Sunday 11 October	Youth ALPHA
Sunday 18 October	Prepare for November Parish Praise service and make up Christmas boxes to send overseas as part of <i>Operation Christmas Child</i>
(Sunday 25 October & Sunday 1 November - HALF TERM – NO MEETING)	
Sunday 8 November	Self-defence Awareness Course Part 1 Church Hall
Sunday 15 November	Self-defence Awareness Course Part 2 Church Hall
Sunday 22 November	10.30am Parish Praise service at St. Anne's School, then 6.45pm - Youth ALPHA in Church Hall
Sunday 29 November	Film night (film and location TBC – chosen by group)
Sunday 6 December	Youth ALPHA
Sunday 13 December.	Christmas Party

**Bryceson's Birthday!**

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church organ, built by Henry Bryceson at his London factory (275 Euston Road) and commissioned on October 3. 1859.

The organ's early life was nothing if not interesting. On completion in the factory, and having been tested by one of the leading organists of the day, it was then dismantled and dispatched to Godmanchester – by train! The original G.E.R. railway delivery label survives inside the organ, a reminder that the Victorians had the right idea about transporting freight.

Before the Bryceson the church had a barrel organ, and a brief history of this instrument can be found in F.W.Bird's *Memorials of Godmancheser* (1911), copies of which are on the shelves in the Huntingdonshire Record Office now located in the Archives Section

of the new Huntingdon Library. The barrel organ consisted of three barrels, each able to

play eleven tunes; there was also fitted a single voluntary, an excerpt from Handel's 'Coronation Anthem'. The choice of hymns was, therefore, somewhat limited... The tunes were ground out by a local shoemaker, Mr James Litchfield, and because he also had a useful bass voice his grinding duties were taken over by his son when he was needed to sing in the choir. The organ chamber was originally located at the west end of the church in a gallery above the present choir vestry where the choir also sat. Later it found a new home on brackets over the south entrance of the church, with the room above the south porch – then known as the records chamber – acting as an organ loft.

When Bryceson's instrument arrived in 1859 the old barrel organ, now surplus to

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requirements, was, according to Bird, 'relegated to one of the Stukeleys' although he doesn't know which one.

There were three competitors for building a new organ in church – Brindley of Sheffield, Forster of Hull and Bryceson of London. Such was the competition for the work that much of the correspondence with the builders was acrimonious. But with their seventh (!) tender – for £300 – Bryceson's sealed the order, and the rest, as they say, is history. The specification for the organ, and its subsequent modifications, are set out in Ken Diffey's splendid booklet, *The Bryceson Organ at St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester*, copies of which can be found on the bookstall at the back of the church.

Although modifications to the original specification were made in 1908, 1956 and the early 1970s, it is a testament to the quality of the organ's original craftsmanship that no major restoration work was required for over a century. Then, in 1976, a programme of cleaning and overhaul took place which included the replacement of the 1908 tubular-pneumatic pedal action with a new electric action; and modifying the stop specification, particularly on the pedal organ.

By the early 1990s it became apparent that more serious issues needed to be addressed if the organ was to survive, and in 1991 an Organ Appeal was launched to raise £60,000, with Mrs Norma Major, wife of the Prime Minister, as Patron. The contract was awarded to Peter Collins of Melton Mowbray, and between September 1994 and the end of the year the organ was dismantled, transported to Collins' factory in Leicestershire, and then reinstalled in church in time for a service of dedication by the Bishop of Ely on 11 December. At the same time the new gilded organ case was dedicated in memory of the Arnold family;

and a new adjustable organ bench, for the elevation of the organist, was given in memory of Dorothy Taverner (1909 – 1994). The final piece in the jigsaw of restoration came in 2002 when the organ's mechanical action for stops and combination pedals was finally discarded in favour of a completely new electric action.

*Crucial to the survival of such a piece of Victorian machinery has to be the care, attention and enthusiasm lavished upon it over many years. Never has this been more evident than in the case of the organ loft's latest incumbents - Ken Diffey (1986 to date) and John Dillistone, his predecessor (1976-86). Both men have worked tirelessly. Not only have they overseen the day to day welfare of the instrument, but each has been charged with supervising a major restoration project during their tenure. John has written widely on the instrument and had his work published in national journals. (A copy of his latest revision can be found pinned to the noticeboard at the back of the church where it will remain until the end of the month). In his latest revision John acknowledges the valuable technical advice given to him by the late Dr John Middlemiss – he of Godmanchester's Victorian steam engines - in manufacturing and renewing essential organ components that have been lost over the years.*

In 1984, to celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a series of organ recitals was held in church. At one of these, Tim Hone, Organ Scholar of Peterhouse, Cambridge, said: 'It sounds like a four-manual cathedral organ!'..At about the same time, Dr Peter Le Huray, Director of St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and

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Diocesan Organ Advisor, commented that the instrument was 'of exceptional musical and historical importance'. All the more reason, then, to be grateful for what the organ's custodians over many years have left us, and to wish our Bryceson many happy returns of the day on 3 October!

*Peter Irving*

### Thank you

As I sit in church on Sunday mornings waiting for the service to begin and see Ken Diffey walk up the aisle to take his place at the organ, I know that all is well. Ken is a great organist and inspired leader and trainer of our choir, and we are grateful to him for all the work and expertise he puts in to ensure that we have a wonderful service. Not only does he spend a lot of time preparing for services, weddings, etc., but he is also responsible for rehearsing augmented choirs for Lent and 'Caring for Carers' concerts. Ken prepares children for Diocesan singing awards and is also secretary of the Ely Branch of the Royal School of Church Music. He also edits the *Ely Music Rag*, which keeps choirs up to date with forthcoming events within the Diocese.

In his 'spare time' Ken is responsible for the maintenance of the organ, supervising its regular tuning. How lucky we are to have him as our own organist! As well as Ken, we have Colin Thirlwall who deputises for Ken at services and choir practices. Another very busy man, Colin is responsible for setting up and taking down staging when we have concerts and is also our Church Treasurer (an unenviable task!) He helps train RAF cadets and is extremely good at carpentry helping many people, including myself, with mending furniture and laying flooring.

In addition we have to thank Tony Bird, recently retired, who for many years played at Evensong when the others were away, and two young ladies who have recently been learning the organ, Felicity White and Katherine Heeley, who deputise when needed.

How blessed we are that all these musicians are able to play our wonderful organ and support our excellent choir. Having attended a parish church not far from here who had to sing their services to a harmonium, not very well played by their 'organist', I realise again our good fortune in having such a dedicated team.

*Jean White*

Refreshments of apple pie and cream, with juice, will be served to the children in the Church Hall after the concert.

### The Friends of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester

You are invited to attend the Friends' Annual General Meeting on Sunday 4 October 2009-

#### Programme

- 2.00 pm Annual General Meeting followed by a Special General Meeting – in church
  - 3.00 pm Concert by the choirs of St Anne's School and Godmanchester Community Primary School
- Presentations to the choirs by the Chairman on behalf of the Friends.

### Explorer's Holiday Club 2009

**'SHOWSTOPPERS'** at the Baptist Church

I went to the Baptist Holiday Club with my brother John in the school summer holidays. It was very lively.

Every day when I arrived everybody welcomed me and we were put into groups and shown our dressing rooms. I was in the green popping popstars group, my leader was

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Debbie, my brother's Beavers' leader. Each day of the week at the club had a theme:

Monday was God's creation.

Tuesday was the story of David.

Wednesday was Daniel and the Lion.

Thursday was Christmas.

Friday was Easter.

My favourite day was 'Christmas Day' as I got to do the 'challenge'. My challenge was to make Mary, Joseph and Jesus out of icing, I really love icing and I was tempted to eat it, but I didn't. On this day I also made a real clock, which is on my bedroom wall, and says Explorers on it.

Every day we sang songs with the band. John's favourite song was 'I've got a very big GOD Oh, he's always by my side'.

Thank-you very much to everyone who organised it. I can't wait until next year!

*Lucy Watts* (aged 9 years)

**A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his evening jacket, she objected, 'Oh, Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit'. Her father was bemused, 'And why not, darling?' The little girl explained, 'Because you know that it always gives you a headache the next morning!'**

### July PCC Meeting

*Minutes in full of PCC meetings are displayed on the south door notice-board. Here are some of the key points from the June meeting.*

### Salvation Army Hall

It has now become apparent, following further meetings with the Salvation Army Legal Officer, that a full repair lease will be required. This means that continuing to use the Hall is not viable.

### Ashes Plot

This issue was discussed further. It was agreed that David Busk would discuss the situation with the Fabric Committee and suggest that an early approach is made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee to ascertain their reaction.

### Child Protection Policy

It was reported that David Ferris was not aware of any changes that required to be made to the Child Protection Policy and that he was prepared to continue as co-ordinator of the Child Protection Policy for a further year. The Child Protection Policy was approved for one year and will be reviewed in July 2010. The Policy will be circulated.

### Plans for the Vicarage

A letter has been sent to Canon Malcolm Griffith. The PCC noted the response from Malcolm Griffith, which acknowledged receipt of the letter and stated that the letter would be discussed at the next Houses Committee meeting in September 2009. The PCC recorded its gratitude for all the hard work undertaken by Gordon Peacock in maintaining the vicarage garden.

### Church Keys

Jean Morgan agreed to take on the task of compiling, checking and updating a list of holders of church keys. Keys will be tagged with a number.

### Vacancy on PCC

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Christopher Vane Percy to the PCC for a term of one year. Christopher will have equal voting rights to other members of the PCC.

### Mission Action Plan

The group will now concentrate on consolidating feedback and will present a

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draft report to the PCC for consideration in due course.

### ***Ministry News***

Mary Jepp will be attending the Triennial Clergy Conference in France from 22 to 25 September. David Busk will be accompanying the Archbishop of Canterbury to attend the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Anglican Mission work in Japan during the same week in September.

### ***Swine Flu***

The issue of swine flu was discussed. It was felt important to keep the congregation informed and to give permission to those who wish to opt out of some aspects of the communion service. David Busk will prepare an article for the newsletter and make announcements in church. It was agreed that the Diocesan Guidelines should be followed and that copies would be made available. If any changes in practice need to be made whilst David Busk is away, the decision will be made by Mary Jepp, in conjunction with the Church Wardens. Mary also agreed to coordinate a list of members of the congregation who would be happy to act as flu friends for those who become unwell.

### ***Finance Committee***

The PCC agreed that it would be desirable to form a Fund Raising Committee, with committed leadership, to raise funds towards the repair of the north roof. It is hoped that such a committee will be formed in the autumn and volunteers will be required.

The PCC noted its thanks to Trafford James for all his work as Assistant Treasurer and other roles in the church over many years. A card and a gift will be sent to Trafford after consultation with those who know him best.

### ***Deanery Synod***

The Provisional 2010 Budget for the Diocese of Ely (attached) was tabled. David Busk reported on two presentations that were given at the Deanery Synod. The first report was from Martin Kettle who gave an overview of the prison system and the churches' involvement in prisons, including the value of prison visitors. The valuable work of the Mothers' Union with sex offenders was also discussed. The second report was from the Chaplain to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Chaplains will be available at local police stations.

### ***Worship Group***

The idea of a Book of Common Prayer Communion Service, in place of Evensong, on the Sundays when there is Parish Praise will be discussed and the outcome of the deliberations fed back to the PCC.

### ***Church Hall Committee***

Paving slabs will be placed outside the Church Hall to alleviate problems with water. The new water heater had been plumbed in, but the location caused some concerns and it was removed. Plans are in place to relocate it.

### ***Churches Together***

Mark Savage, the Chair of Huntingdon and Godmanchester Churches Together is standing down. A new chair is being sought and the idea of a rotating chairmanship is being considered.

In Godmanchester, there will no longer be a presence from the Salvation Army. St Mary's and the Baptist Church will alternate the monthly services at Rectory Gardens. The possibility of a midweek communion service at Rectory Gardens is being considered.

Gala Weekend was a success with an excellent attendance of more than 200 people at Worship in the Park, and a strong church presence on Gala Day. Thought is being

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given to ensuring that the organisation of events is shared fairly between the churches in future years.

### ***St Anne's School***

David Busk updated the PCC on the current situation. It is hoped to appoint a new Head Teacher to start at the beginning of 2010 to replace Anthea Kenna.

### ***Any other business***

The Deanery Evensong will take place at 6 pm on Sunday 25 October in at Kimbolton Church. Evensong at St Mary's will be cancelled. The event will be publicised.

Ken Diffey also informed the PCC of the sad news that Professor David Yeandle, Organist

All Saints' Church, St Ives had collapsed on Saturday evening and was in Intensive Care at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

*Andrew Wright*

PCC Secretary

### **And finally..**

We know what you mean. As we celebrate ten years of achievement by the pupils of St Anne's let's not forget that under the surface howlers are alive and flourishing in British schools. Here's one that caught our eye: 'Volcanoes are mountains which send out smoke and palaver'

## **Registers**

### **Baptisms**

13 September	Madeline Olsen
	Jake Olsen
	Daniel Olsen

### **Weddings**

5 September	Benjamin Duncan Jones and Camilla Elisabeth Wells
25 September	Adam James Trevett and Ruth Jane Fasham

### **Funerals**

11 September	Rex Wells
18 September	Richard William (Bill) Looker
21 September	Darren Marsh

## **Lectionary**

4 October	<b>Harvest Festival – Trinity 17</b> Joel 2: 21-27; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33
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- 11 October                    **Trinity 18**  
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 4:12-end; Mark 10:17-31
- 18 October                    **Saint Luke**  
Isaiah 5:3-36; 2 Trinity 4:5-17; Luke 10:1-9
- 25 October                    **Bible Sunday**  
Isaiah 55:1-11; John 3:36b to end

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### Donation c 484 martyr

Some Christians today have the curious idea that being a Christian guarantees a prosperous life in this world. St Paul was more realistic – throughout his epistles he urges Christians to pray for patience and endurance in this world. Donation is a timely reminder that we are called to be witnesses, and that that may not be easy. When Hunneric, the King of the Vandals, closed all the churches in North Africa in the late fifth century, Donation and his friends were tortured, driven into the desert, and left to die of exposure. Many Christians in Muslim Africa today face similar dangers for Christ. Pray for them, that they find the courage and endurance they need

### GIFT DAY

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

**The Church will be open from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm .**

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available, so do try to visit.

It is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain buildings like St Mary's, so any donation, however small, is welcome

Gift envelopes are available in Church and in this magazine. They may be left in Church or put in the collection plate.

Thank You

### Dates for your diary October 2009

Thu	1	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades Club
		7.45 pm	MAP Meeting	Vicarage
Fri	2	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	3	10.00 am - 3.00 pm	<b>GIFT DAY</b>	
Sun	4		<b>Harvest Festival</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Holy Baptism: Olivia Kirsten Varey	
		3.00 pm	St Anne's & Community Schools Concert	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group – Alpha Course	Church Hall
Mon	5	9.15am	St Anne's Harvest Service	Church
		10.45 am	Churches Together Clergy Meeting	Baptist Church Centre
		1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	22 Porch Close (Tel: 436737)

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		8.00 pm	Worship Group Meeting	10 East Chadley Lane
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Road
Tue	6	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union	QE School
		7.30 pm	Men's Group (see Newsletter)	Magdalene College, Cambridge
		7.30 pm	Listening Skills	59 London Rd
Wed	7	11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Chestnuts
		7.30 pm	Home Group	37 Post St
Thu	8	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	9	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		8.00 pm	Deanery Evensong Rehearsal	Church Hall
Sat	10	10.00 am	Working Party	Parish Office area, Vicarage
Sun	11	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Holy Baptism: Henry Lill	
		12.30 pm	Autumn BBQ	Church Hall
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group – Alpha Course	Church Hall
Mon	12	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	22 Porch Close (Tel: 436737)
		8.00pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Road
Tue	13	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		8.00 pm	Wives' Group AGM	Church Hall
Wed	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Oak Tree Court
		7.30 pm	Home Group	37 Post St
Thu	15	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	16	7.30 pm	Deanery Evensong Rehearsal	Kimbolton
Sun	18	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist – Preacher: Canon Andrew Wingate	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group – Christmas Boxes for Operation Christmas Child	Church Hall
Mon	19	All day	St Anne's Headteacher interviews	
		1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	22 Porch Close (Tel: 436737)
		8.00pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Road
Tue	20	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		All day	St Anne's Headteacher interviews	
Wed	21	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Woodley Court
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church Hall
		7.30 pm	Home Group	37 Post St
Thu	22	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
		7.30 pm	GMC 800 Meeting	QE School

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Fri	23	7.30 pm	Deanery Evensong Rehearsal	Kimbolton
Sun	25	<b>BIBLE SUNDAY</b>		
		8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Parish Communion with Baptism: Alexandra Prince	
		4.00 pm	Ecumenical Service	Rectory Gardens
		6.00 pm	Deanery Evensong	Kimbolton
		6.30 pm	<b>No Sung Evensong in Church</b>	
			<b>No Youth Group (Half Term)</b>	
Mon	26	1.30 pm	<b>No Stepping Stones (Half Term)</b>	
		8.00pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Road
Tue	27	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
Wed	28	9.45 am	Holy Communion	McCartney House
		7.00 pm	Monastic Supper & Compline	
Thu	29	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	<b>No St Mary's 0s – 5s (Half Term)</b>	
Fri	30	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	31	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		2.30 pm	Annual Readers' Service & Admission and Licensing of Readers	Ely Cathedral
		7.30 pm	Concert – Huntingdon Male Voice Choir	



**The Editorial Committee meeting** for the November magazine will be held on **Sunday, 18 October 2009**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date and if possible not later than **Friday 16 October**.

**Peter Irving** (Editor), 26 Post Street ([pjibooks@aol.com](mailto:pjibooks@aol.com)); **Joan Jackson** ([joan.Jackson@ntlworld.com](mailto:joan.Jackson@ntlworld.com)); **Victoria Richardson** ([DIRandVMR@aol.com](mailto:DIRandVMR@aol.com) or **Claire Hurd** ([esmeuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:esmeuk@yahoo.co.uk)))

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Any enquiries regarding advertisements should be addressed to Victoria Richardson.