

St James Church Magazine



September - November Edition

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CO-ORDINATION...

We have all been amazed at feats from the Olympic Games, not to mention the opening ceremony – feats of physical and technical brilliance demanding phenomenal coordination. For the athletes, coordination of their own bodies and auxiliary equipment such as cycles or canoes, as well as coordination with others in the team events. For those who made it all happen in London and at the venues, coordination of myriad component parts of the massive programme. No wonder it took so long to prepare and provided much pleasure to many who went including quite a few from our church.

A large part of the success has been in ensuring that things were overseen properly, and that the parts all fit together to best advantage.

Churches, while on an altogether different level, also need oversight and coordination. ‘Overseer’ is a Biblical concept sometimes translated ‘Bishop’ in older Bible versions. It is meant to reflect how God oversees us - with love, patience, forbearance, wisdom, forgiveness and all the other flavours of the fruit of the Spirit - sacrificing himself in the process.

So no pressure on our new coordinators in church then!

Actually, remembering God’s ‘big picture’ is the most important aspect of their (and my) work: how all that we do as a church needs to be what God wants us to be doing at this time – and that may be different from what he wanted a few years ago or will want in the future. We have been through a long process to discern to the best of our abilities what God is saying, and the appointment of overseer coordinators seems to be right for us now. This has received confirmation in the willingness of people to be suggested and how smoothly the process has run so far.

The purpose of having coordinators is to free us all up to use whatever gifts we have been given in God's service. Their job is certainly not to do everything in their particular area of ministry but with me to ensure that we are listening to God and ensuring that his mission and ministry is carried out as well as we can across the church. The vital hands-on work continues to be done by so many of our church members, many giving sacrificially of both time and money. I hope you will feel all better supported.

So please encourage and pray for those who have offered themselves for these roles – apart from the administrator's oversight role which requires office hours, all have done so without any form of payment for the hours they will be giving:

Administration - Karen Gamblen

Teaching - Geoff Treasure

Children and Young People's Ministry - Kate Taylor, liaising with Alison during her last few months as Children and Families worker.

Worship - Richard Lucas

Pastoral Care - Annie Reid, taking over gradually from Jane Melton who has spearheaded this way of ministering.

Annie and Kate will be commissioned in a Sunday service soon. Please pray for each one, and for the PCC in its strategic role in assessing God's priorities and apportioning resources. There are still one or two other important roles to be filled, but I believe we should be encouraged by these new developments and look to see how God uses us all to *'Know Christ better and to make him better known'*.

Tim



A HARVEST PRAYER

God, we thank you for your harvest which feeds us so many times each day

We are nourished with your forgiveness and hope
We are sustained with your strength and patience
We are filled with your grace and compassion

God, we thank you for feeding us with a harvest of plenty

We are restored through your generosity and healing
We are replenished with your abundance and joy
We are reminded of your selfless abandon

God, we thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven

Your gift of Christ sustains our lives
His presence restores the promise of your love
His life fills our hearts with your everlasting light

God, we thank you too for filling us with the water of life

May we drink deeply that our thirst may be quenched
May your river continue to flow
Over us, in us, through us
And out into the world you love.

Written by Christine Sine 2009



ONE DOES WHAT ONE CAN

A traveller found a small bird lying on its back with its feet in the air. “Bird,” the traveller said, “Why are you lying upside down like that?” “I heard the heavens are going to fall today,” the bird replied. “I suppose,” the traveller laughed, “you think your spindly little legs are going to hold it up.” And the little bird said quietly, “Well sir, one does what one can.”

I found this little story in the midst of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Watching athletes facing both triumph and disaster, I was encouraged to see that each time a British athlete of whatever discipline was interviewed, whether a medal winner or not, they responded with the phrase, “We are here to inspire a generation.” Their response was like that of the little bird, “One does what one can.”

The Brazilian priest, Dom Helder Camara who was committed to the Christian vision of a just world and of a humanity made in God’s image reflected: “We who are charged with announcing the message of Christ need to learn the incomparable lesson that he taught by his own example. He taught first of all with his life and only then did he preach.” Each of us can teach with our lives. One does what one can.

The Bishop of Rouen, St. Victrius who lived from 330- 407, spoke of his own calling. “I inspired the wise with the love of peace. I taught the unteachable. I explained it to the ignorant. I imposed it on the obstinate insisting on it in season and out of season.” One does what one can.

We are called like the Olympic athletes to “inspire a generation”. Too often in the church we “migrate inwards” as Dietrich Bonhoeffer once observed of the church. The Olympic dream is to inspire outwards, and it is at the heart of our calling.

Our lives, our words, must be the message of Christ, who did not migrate inwards but came among us to save us from ourselves, our obsessions, our injustices and our wrongs. Like St. Victrius, “He did all he could, even if he did not do all that wanted doing.”

+Peter Bath and Wells

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF



Steve Kirby

Steve was a member of St James for many years. For several years he was caretaker and a regular member of a home group.



Ray Marks

Ray was a member of this church for many years. He was on the PCC during this time, and enjoyed singing in the choir and the cricket at St James . Pam wishes to thank the Church Family for all the love and support.



Eric Lander

Eris was a member of St James for 80 years. He was involved in many ways, PCC, CEMS. He was also a Covenant secretary and most recently he helped with the counting of the weekly collection and banking of it.

We also remember Doris Watts who was a long standing member of St James

BAPTISM

Our good wishes to the Buckman family on the baptism day of Iris

INTRODUCING 3 OF YOUR NEW COORDINATORS



TEACHING

How old are you? Now that is rather a personal question, isn't it? One which you would rather not answer, perhaps. But how old are you as a Christian? How many months or years ago since you became a Christian?

Do you look your age? Or, perhaps more important still, do you think and act your age? The New Testament writers longed to see those who had come to faith continually grow in that faith and its expression in their everyday lives. Paul's longing was to see spiritual maturity in his converts and was saddened by the Corinthians who were still on baby food and behaving rather immaturely. Peter had similar concerns and a longing to see his Christian readers grow in their faith. He told them straight that knowledge and understanding of scripture was the only way to grow and to live in a hostile world. He wanted his converts to be able to share with others what they believed and why they believed it. That required teaching.

They get my vote. I shall be working with Tim and others to encourage us all to use the opportunities presented 'until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.' (Ephesians 3v 13)

Geoff Treasure



ADMINISTRATION

The church office is a busy place and there is plenty of variety in my work.

My role involves general office work, taking bookings, meeting people, arranging appointments and with God's help, supporting anyone who walks through the door.

The role of Administrative Coordinator is set to evolve gradually as the other Coordinators take up their roles. The aim is for me to liaise with the other coordinators and support regular and effective communication between them and other members of the congregation. I pray that God will equip me for this new and exciting role that lies ahead.

Karen Gamblen



WORSHIP

Christianity is unique among religions in that it is based upon a personal relationship with God. “Do not worship any other god” The core of our faith is our personal interaction with our creator. Worship is an act celebrating that personal relationship. The church is the collection of all who call on the name of God. Each member of the church is called to worship God. As a body of believers, we are to be consistently involved in worship through praise, through prayer, through the Word and through

the exercise of our spiritual gifts for the benefit of the church and the Kingdom of God. Worship is of the highest priority for the church.

So what is the role of the Worship Coordinator? Worship is so much more than a few hours spent in our services; it is about who and what we are and how we connect with God and the community in which we are placed. Worship planning is more than leading and singing songs it is about having an overview of the way that our services are constructed and of their content, of how God would have us be in them so that worship flows into all that we are and do. The role of a coordinator is not to do everything oneself but with God’s leading discern the giftings and talents of others and encourage them to be involved and grow and develop in this area of ministry. This will be done through a close working relationship with others in particular the Vicar the Musical Director and other coordinators. We will be looking for people to be involved in all areas of the worship at St James , be that with the sound system, music, singing, leading, drama, dance and multimedia. It is about worship in all our services, be that in the hall with the young people or in the Sunday morning service.

The words of Graham Kendrick sum up and explain what worship is what it should be and what I pray it will be in our part of the church

You’re calling us and so we are gathered here
You’re building us Into a house of prayer
A holy place where stories of grace are told
A sacred space where miracles unfold
And praises rise from the offering of our lives

Call the seeker call the stranger call the children
Let’s hear their praises
Call the lonely call the broken young and old
Will sing hosannas
Let’s fill this house With praise



This is what I’m asking you to do, this is what I want my church to be,
This is what I want the world to see who it is you follow



AUGUST LETTER

Bishop Peter Bath and Wells and I have just been on another of our excursions into the deaneries of the Diocese – this time Glastonbury Jurisdiction in all its wonderful variety. On one and the same morning I found myself visiting the nature reserve at Shapwick Heath managed by Natural England and then a local Peat works near Burtle.

There is considerable controversy about the use of Peat, particularly around the release of carbon into the atmosphere when it is extracted thereby increasing the greenhouse effect. I am told, however, that the peat bogs of Somerset pose very little risk in this regard because they have been there for so long and are now virtually carbon neutral. There is also huge care taken in restoring the excavated peat bogs back to their natural wetland habitat and so beginning the cycle all over again!

Not only that, but it is precisely because of the extraction of peat on the levels that so many people are able to enjoy the extraordinary wetland habitat that plays host to a wonderful variety of wetland birds. What is increasingly clear to me is that we are stewards of an increasingly complex environment.

Writing about this, Sara Maitland comments, 'We have to struggle to replace a functionalist, bureaucratic God with an artist God – that is to say a God who loves beauty and risk. The goodness of God may be hard to argue from the creation – the flamboyance, the abundance, the sheer ebullience of God however is not. The generosity of a God who can create a universe so highly complex, so intricate, so random should encourage not only gratitude, but awe. All those things are essential to what it is to know God. I do not need to be able to explain God, only to look at the works of that mighty power, accepting all their complexity and ingenuity, and be impressed, enchanted – it is beauty, delight, joy, creativity – it is love!'

As the summer unfolds and we see once again something of the beauty of this fragile world, I hope we will all make some time and space to rejoice once more in the generosity of our God, and to realise what we have truly been given, so that we can act with due reverence and responsibility for the world that God loves so much!

+Peter Taunton



Tuesday 4th September

Diamond Jubilee Tattoo with the Band and Bugles of the Rifles nearly 2 hours of non – stop military music and marching displays in the beautiful grounds of Montacute House. The Gardens are open 5.30pm, concert 7.00pm Tickets £15.00 Adults Tel 0845 230 5170

Sunday September 9th

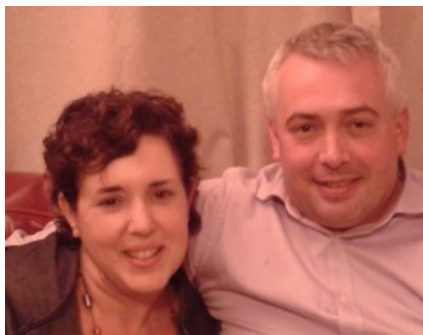
Sunflower Motorcycle Run 10am start at Yeovil Rugby Club 110 Mile ride through the heart of Somerset. For more information tel 01935 429913

Sunday 16th September

Sponsored Abseil at Split Rock Quarry in the Mendips Registration £10 Tel 0845 3459671

INTRODUCING.....

It would be hard to find anyone has come further to St James than Alex and Jane. Only 4 years ago they were living in New Zealand, but following the birth of their son Ben, they decided to return to England, so that Ben could have the opportunity of growing up knowing his wider family.



Alex and Jane McCallum

Alex and Jane were both brought up in rural Cambridgeshire, living in villages 2 miles apart. Their families belonged to a interdenominational and very active house church in the heady days of the charismatic seventies and eighties. As members of the church they were encouraged to be involved in a range of activities, church 4 or 5 times on a Sunday, helping with children and young people and mission events in other East Anglian parishes. Alex recalls an incident where he nearly fell foul of the KGB, when he went with his parents to Russia, taking with them bibles for persecuted Christians. Their early experiences were important for the formation of the faith. Jane had a steady awakening of belief, culminating in commitment aged about ten. She recalls how her mother became a Christian as a result of her being a Sunday school teacher; her father, an atheist, came to faith more slowly following a serious accident that left him immobilised, recovering in circumstances that can only be described as a miraculous answer to prayer, together with a challenge from the great granddaughter of William Booth. Alex's journey was a harder one and didn't take real form until he was 16, following the death of his 19 year old brother. This and other family circumstances left him feeling angry and confused, but then came to the realisation that God was 'big enough for him to kick against', which helped him make the real decision.

Jane and Alex have known each other since primary school, however so say they were childhood sweethearts would be far from the mark. While Jane was more conventional and matter of fact about her belief, Alex struggled more with his church background, and wouldn't want to admit it to his mates. It was not until he was 16 and at college and Jane 17 that he commented with a twinkle: "the scales fell from my eyes". University followed, with Alex in London and Italy studying Romanian and Italian. He wryly admitted that his learning experiences were enhanced by being an impecunious and almost homeless language assistant in Italy. Jane sought to follow a career in child development, working for social services and

a spell with Youth for Christ in Coventry. She was keen to work with children who had experienced traumatic backgrounds in a Christian context and landed a job with the George Muller organisation in a centre based on the Southmead estate, Bristol, during which time she also studied for an OU degree. Alex followed her to Bristol, and after a lot of difficulty finding work, downplayed his qualifications and found a job in a hospital laundry, where some of his co-workers had different and often unexplained pasts. These were tough and challenging years, but Jane felt accepted by the community and during that time the centre was able to achieve a great deal working with some very complex families. She worked there for 10 years, 2 of these were spent living on the estate. At this time Alex was working for the church they attended in various capacities. The church was large and very active and had many world wide links. It encompassed many different views, but what was important was the sense of family and relationship. It was through their friendship with a New Zealand couple that they decided in 2003, to go to New Zealand, with no clear plans but a spirit of adventure. While Alex worked as a manager for an architectural firm, Jane was employed by Parentline a charitable organisation offering counselling, therapy and social work services to children who have been abused and traumatised. (<http://www.parentline.org.nz/>) It is impossible to do justice to their 5 years in New Zealand in a short article like this. To get the full flavour you need to talk with them both, about what it was like to live and work in this diverse and fascinating cross cultural community.

Following their return to the UK, Alex, Jane and Ben moved to Taunton when Alex started working for an architects firm in Taunton. They looked at a number of churches, all of whom were welcoming. However it was the open plan crèche, enabling them to still be in the service, the parent and toddler group and a sense that “people seemed genuinely glad that we were here”. Jane has valued the parent and toddler and house groups; enjoying opportunities to meet people in an informal way and has assisted with parenting groups. Alex has valued both the cricket team (which he has organized this summer) and pub theology, which discussions he finds refreshingly open and honest. Alex has also become “Mr. Climber”, which is why you may not have seen so much off him as twice or three times a month he is out in the halls with the under 6’s.

Summing up how they see their role, Alex commented that he “likes helping creative people to be creative”; Jane also is a creative person with an interest in seeing people holistically and helping them to grow and develop. What is important for them in church is the importance of relationship and being a family – not always agreeing but fundamentally you, me and God.



Love God, Love Others
Love Ourselves

Year 6 Visit to Wells Cathedral



Thirty eight children, three members of staff and one volunteer from St. James and a coach – and we were all set to travel to Wells for a special day at the Cathedral for those moving on to Senior school in the autumn. It was the first time for Archbishop Cranmer leavers, and no one knew quite what to expect. The journey took a little longer than expected, and had its moments when two of the girls decided their breakfast wasn't sitting too well in their tummies!

On arrival at the cathedral we eventually found the way in and a very helpful usher directed the excited group to find some seats. The children were then divided into different groups mixing with

others from about 30 other different Church schools from all over Somerset.

The day was really good, each group of about 15 children had a guide who shepherded them from one activity to another. There was a tour of the Cathedral, a bit of Latin to translate, a visit to the chained library, and to the amazing mechanical clock, where prayers are said every hour. Another activity involved the children

experiencing what life was like for people in Zambia, with the priorities health, water, farming, debated in small groups. Another group experienced a presentation by a manic juggler, helping them to understand the challenges of moving on and getting involved in a different community of people; important lessons for their next stage of life. These and more. The final worship in the cathedral was very impressive – each





school paraded behind their Banner – you may remember a number of people being involved in creating the Banner with the children last year when ABC came second in the Diocesan competition.

Each school was presented with a candle, and one of our children read a prayer and

another was chosen to help present the candles.

The children really enjoyed the day, and the adults with them were really proud of how well they involved themselves and volunteered to participate. Please pray for those 38 children as they move on to their new schools in September 2012, taking with them lessons they have learn during their time at our church school.





GOING FOR GOLD WEEKEND

The speaker at a convention I attended in the summer was telling us about his young people's leader who encouraged him to study the Bible for all it is worth. He had many methods to encourage the youth to study God's word but the one which the speaker remembered was this.

'Imagine you are in heaven,' said the leader, 'and as you are walking along, you find yourself approached by a man of some authority.

'Hi,' he says, extending his hand. 'I am Habakkuk. It's good to meet you. Tell me, what did you think of my book?

You hurry by with your head down, only to be accosted by another man with a similar question.

'Hi there. Hosea's the name. What did you make of my story?'

The potential meeting was intended to drive the young people to their Bibles and especially to some of the lesser known writers found in it.

If we are honest, many of us do have a limited number of acquaintances in the Bible. The Minor Prophets, I believe are particularly short of friends. It's often difficult to discover where they live let alone drop in and get to know them.

Well, we are going to meet three of them at our weekend – Habakkuk, Haggai and Hosea. They are amazing people with teaching which I feel is relevant to many of our situations as individuals, members of a church and of society today. They don't offer easy reading to the 21st century reader but it profits to stay with them.

In preparation for our weekend you might like to read the following passages, just to get a flavour of their teaching and to make their acquaintance.

Habakkuk chapters 1-2.1. and chapter 3 v17-19

Haggai chapters 1 and 2

Hosea chapters 1, 3 and 14

As you read, do pray for the weekend, for all of us going as well as those unable to join us and, in the words of St Paul, 'Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.' (Eph.6 v19)

PS The title for the weekend was chosen before the speaker who has almost totally ignored it. Jenny has ingeniously suggested that we will be digging for gold. If you look carefully in at least two of the books, you will find a reference to gold! Not intentional, I must admit.

Geoff



"Mrs Hargreaves, you've been watching too much of the Olympics gymnastics!"



I discovered whilst clearing out my parents' home a notebook of events in the family and articles written by my grandmother (Susan Elliott - died 1926). I never met her. She owned a village shop in Devon was well loved locally and became the village confidante. Poorly educated but an intelligent lady of great faith. I would like to share some of these writings with you.
Joyce Lander

1. The Healing of the Multitude Written 20.5.1926

Saviour we have gathered, like that
crowd by the Eastern Sea.
With all our cares and weakness
For we long to be healed by Thee.
The Multitude sought to touch Thee
Thy power came forth to bless
And no-one was left in sorrow
Who needed Thy tenderness.

2. Still is Thy presence

Still is Thy presence near us
We may touch Thee by faith today
Thou wilt give Thy strength to cheer us,
Thou will guide us upon our way.
Thou wilt show us the path of duty
Thou wilt lead us by ways of joy
Till our life is a song of beauty
And praises our lips employ.

3. Realisation of Divine Power Written June 1st 1926

Blessed is the man who realises the hand of God or supreme power.
It's manifestations are varied and often perplexing yet when looked at in the fullest aspect one can see His hand has led us step by step. Great and wonderful are his designs, intricate, delicate even and uneven ever weaving the pattern of our lives. Often we wish to see the design in it's finished state, but when the design is woven and the last threads are drawn, we are in another sphere of action, from whence we can look on it and see how it's pattern was worked out, ever bringing to greater perfection the design God intended it to take. Friends God designed your lives, work it out to it's greatest perfection and you will receive the reward, when you look back to earth and see it's design.

More of Joyce's Grandmothers notes in the next magazine

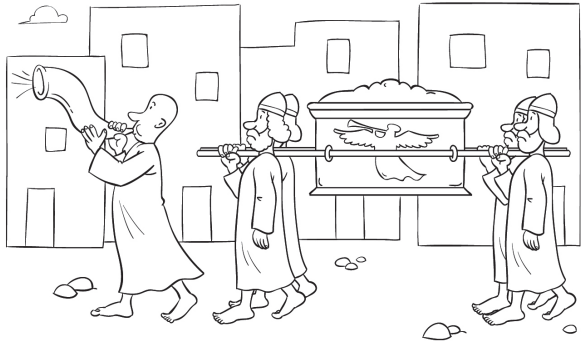
Sporting hero!

Healthy living: Look after your mind!

Human body fun fact

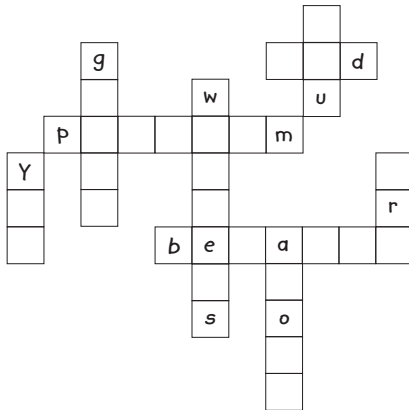
The average person's body contains enough: sulphur to kill all the fleas on an average dog; carbon to make 900 pencils; potassium to fire a toy cannon; fat to make seven bars of soap; phosphorus to make 2200 match heads and water to fill a ten-gallon tank.

Colour the picture below. (Find the story in 2 Samuel 6:12–23.)



Place today's memory verse (Psalm 86:10) in the crossword grid.

'You perform great wonders because you alone are God.'



Look after your body—it's got to last a lifetime!

Cross out what David isn't!

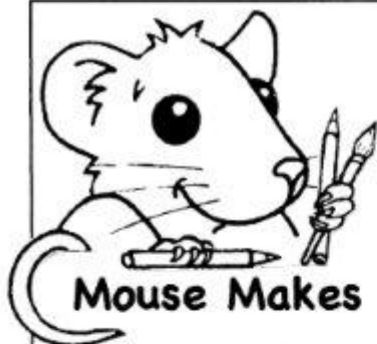
David is:
a musician
a great shot with a sling
a big head
a songwriter
a giant killer
a lion tamer
a shepherd
a weakling
a man of God
a show off
a king

'Sporting hero!' word search

Find the words below in the grid.

David captured the chest
God is king

I	K	I	C	D	T	H	E	N	K
D	F	S	C	A	P	T	H	E	G
E	D	O	Z	V	T	R	D	A	G
R	V	A	R	I	S	E	M	C	O
C	O	S	F	D	R	U	R	C	D
A	Y	O	U	U	I	H	S	E	D
S	O	O	T	O	G	V	O	P	D
E	C	P	L	V	O	N	E	A	N
E	A	F	R	E	E	H	I	R	A
C	H	E	S	T	D	N	T	K	P



Mouse Makes

Do you remember to
PRAISE and **THANK**
God for all He is and
all He does?

Psalm 89 verse 52
says:

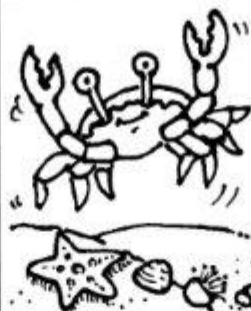
**"The Lord
deserves praise
for ever more"**

Cut out and keep
these cards to remind
you to praise God at
all times!



**"You are my
source of
strength -
I will sing
praises to you"**

Psalm 69:34



**"Praise God,
O heaven
and earth,
seas and all
creatures in
them"**

Psalm 69:34



**"Shout out praise to God
all the earth!"**

Psalm 66:1

**"I will praise
the Lord
who guides
me"**

Psalm 16:7



**"O God..
..I will
sing and
PRAISE
you!"**

Psalm 57:7

						7	9	
	8	1	6			5	3	4
				4	8		2	
4			5			8	7	
7			3		9			2
	5	8			4			6
	6		7	3				
2	9	5			6	3	4	
	7	3						

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 8, Grandchildren. 9, Pro. 10, Marvelled. 11, Strut. 13, Startle. 16, Babysit. 19, Orate. 22, Eucharist. 24, Map. 25, Commissioners.

DOWN: 1, Egypt's. 2, Favour. 3, Edomites. 4, Thorns. 5, Blue. 6, Armlet. 7, On edge. 12, Tea. 14, Adoption. 15, Lot. 16, Breach. 17, Become. 18, This So. 20, Armies. 21, Expose. 23, Avid.



A HARVEST RECIPE FROM AMERICA

Sweet Potato Bake

1 tin of pineapple chunks packed in juice (undrained)
5 cups mashed sweet potatoes
½ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 small packet mini marshmallows
1/3 cup pecan halves

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees C.
2. Cut pineapple chunks in half. In a bowl, stir together pineapple chunks and juice, potatoes, salt and butter or margarine.
3. Place half of the potato mixture in buttered casserole. Top with half the marshmallows.
4. Add remaining potato mixture. Arrange pecans on top.
5. Cover and bake for 30 minutes. Remove cover for last 10 minutes of baking.
6. Add remaining marshmallows. Cook for 10 more minutes.

Serve with cream and enjoy!

The Street Pastors

Jenny Edmonds

I was invited to go to the Street Pastors Conference on June 28 at North Street Cong. Church.

The main speaker was Les Isaac, head of the Ascension Trust, which is the umbrella organisation for Street Pastors.

It was an extremely encouraging day and there were people there from London, Southend, Leicester, Worcester, Cardiff, Glastonbury and many other areas as well as from abroad. There was a couple from the Dominican Republic, where the Street Pastors have just started up.

I think there were several hundred there and the conference was over three days. I was there for only one of them.

Les Isaac and the others have a great vision for this country. They are getting the cooperation of the Police, and the Ambulance Service, also many of the main Charities, as well as members of Parliament and the Prison services. All working together to reach the young people who are being caught up in drug abuse, alcohol and violence.

With all these organisations working together, there is bound to be a difference and a reduction in crime. Also, people are being encouraged to pray for streets, either where they live or streets in the town.

Since this has been started there has been a better atmosphere and crime has been reduced.

However, they do need more people to pray - nothing will happen unless we pray.

Jack and I go to pray with the Street Pastors once a month, and that is very encouraging as we see answers come so quickly after praying, often within minutes. But we do need so many more people, who will be committed to pray regularly. We pray in 'Chamberlains' with people from many other Churches when the Street Pastors go out. Prayer requests come in by phone and we pray! We usually stay until about 2 am.

If you feel able to do this, please contact Rosemary Marsh Tel: 667544, she will be so pleased to hear from you.



"You should have a motto for your sermons, dear – Better, Clearer, Shorter ."

French Weir Fun Day

The weather forecast for the annual French Weir Fun Day did not look too promising with overcast grey skies as we set up our 'St. James in the Park' stall for the second time we have been invited to participate.



However it turned out to be a lovely warm day, with only a hint of rain and families turned out in considerable numbers with opportunities to talk with parents, grandparents and canines, who were glad to flop for a few minutes while their children played on the giant snakes and ladders, turned the Jenga into a construction kit or made plastcine models celebrating the

recent Olympic triumphs.

Four o'clock came all too soon, and on such a warm day, many people were content to continue enjoying the relaxed atmosphere of the park. Many thanks to the Friends of French Weir for inviting us.



OH NO IT ISN'T!!!!



OH YES
IT IS!!!!

We are pleased to announce that the 2012 St. James Panto is happening in December this year. This year we are presenting Red Riding Hood, with a cast of townsfolk, fairies, wolves, beadles, barons and bandits and of course a heroine and hero. No experience necessary just a willingness to come and have fun making Panto together and helping raise funds for a local charity. Please contact John Newton Tel: 272588 or Jenny Wakefield Tel: 277318 for further details.

First script run through Thursday 6th September 7 pm at Babblingly
Quick before we send in the Wolves!!

UPCOMING DATES

2nd Sept

All Age Worship 10:30 – 11:30

Sat 22nd Sept

Puppet Ministry Workshop – 10am to 4pm

7th Oct

All Age Worship 10:30 – 11:30

(Church Weekend Away)

21st Oct

Messy Church in the halls from 10:30 – 11:30 looking at 'Psalms'

31st Oct

Alternative Halloween Party for primary school children 5.30 – 7.30pm

4th Nov

All Age Worship – 10:30 – 11:30

18th Nov

Messy Church in the halls from 10:30 – 11:30

1st Dec

Advent Antics Activity Day for children aged 6 - 11

2nd Dec

Taunton Churches Together All Age Worship Service

9th Dec

All Age Worship 10:30 – 11:30 – Family Carol Service

9th Dec

Christingle Service – 4.30pm

16th Dec

Nativity Play as part of the All Age Worship Service from 10:30 – 11:30

24th Dec

Crib Service – 4.30 to 5.30 for very young children



OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 30th Sept

There will be a Bring and Share Harvest Lunch after the Harvest Service. Everyone warmly welcome.

Baked Potatoes and Ice cream will be available to complement the different dishes you chose to bring.

Please see Jenny Wakefield for further details

5th - 7th October

Church weekend away

Harvest Lunch



WELLS CATHEDRAL

Would you like to be part of the Cathedral Community?

Are you able to donate 1 or 2 hours of time per week?

Do you have good communication skills and enjoy meeting new people?

We rely on our volunteers to provide a warm welcome to everyone visiting the Cathedral. Working as part of a team you will be a point of reference for visitors for information and help. Various roles are available including Welcoming, Information Desk and Library Assistants.

Our volunteers say their reward comes from the satisfaction of meeting and helping so many different people. They also value the privilege of being part of the family of this beautiful Cathedral.

Training and support given.

For an application form please email visits@wellscathedral.uk.net or telephone the Cathedral Office on 01749 674483.

PCC ROUNDUP

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in June and July (no meeting in August).

Strategy and Vision

The main item on the PCC's agenda continues to be the strategy to enable the church to grow. Richard Lucas has been commissioned as Worship Coordinator, along with Geoff Treasure as Teaching Coordinator; Karen Gamblen's coordinating responsibility as Administrator was recognised at the same ceremony. Kate Taylor has been named as Children and Youth Work Coordinator, and Annie Reid has been accepted to take over as Pastoral Coordinator when Jane Melton's appointment comes to an end. Other coordinator roles are under discussion.

Financial matters

The church has received a legacy of £10,000 from a Stanley Edgar Fieldgate, "for the Fabric Fund". The executors are unaware of the gentleman's connection with St James.

Tina and Les Andrews reported on a diocesan meeting encouraging the appointment of "Planned Giving Promoters". The idea is for someone in each church to promote the "Six Steps in Christian Giving" model, which aims to help people move onto the next "level" up, rather than expect a full commitment immediately from new Christians. A leaflet is available, and it would be good if someone feels led to volunteer for this role.

Money Ministry

Martin Ingrams and Graham Reid presented a proposal to establish a ministry to offer help with personal money management. The average personal debt in the UK in April 2012 was £7,880 (excluding mortgages). Advice for those in difficulty is poor and can be expensive. Churches are seeing the need to provide a trustworthy and free service, but there is a gap in the Taunton area.

Volunteers from the church would be trained as Personal Budget Coaches, and would take referrals from a wide range of organisations. They are accompanied by a "Befriender" so they do not work alone. At no time is financial advice given, nor is the ministry to be confused with "debt counselling".

The PCC approved a one-year trial of the scheme, and a number of PCC members will participate in the training, in order that the PCC can monitor and support it effectively.

Archbishop Cranmer School

Tim Jones briefed the PCC on the recent developments at ABC School, which had resulted in the removal of the entire Board of Governors by the Local Authority (LA). This includes the three foundation governors from St James. In 2007, Ofsted had judged the school as “good with outstanding features”, but in March 2012, using different criteria, failed the school on all counts, which placed the school in Special Measures. From January 2012, the Secretary of State for Education requires such schools to become academies.

The PCC has written to the Local Authority to protest that it had not been informed that the governor that it had appointed had been removed; also to enquire about the future arrangements for church-school links (about which nothing has been said); and to express its concern for the position of the outgoing governors.

“The Peace”

Please see the separate article about the PCC’s discussion about the conduct of “The Peace”.

Premises matters

Work on converting the SW Porch into an extension for the crèche is complete. All that remains is to obtain a suitable rug for the floor.

The repairs in the Side Chapel are complete, as is the refurbishment of the Ringing Chamber. The hearing aid induction loop system in the church has been fixed.

A CCTV system has been installed in the link corridor to enable Karen and others to see what is happening outside the office.

It has been decided to proceed with the refurbishment of the hall. A first draft statement of requirements has been prepared. As a preliminary step, it was agreed to remove the old room dividers.

PCC minutes and agendas are displayed on a board near the coffee area, and previous minutes can be inspected in the office. The “Contact Points” leaflet is available near the photograph board; this tells you who to talk to about the various things we do as a church.

Martin Wakefield

SHARING “THE PEACE”

This article is taken directly from the section of the PCC minutes which record the discussion in the July meeting.

Concerns had been expressed at the Annual Meeting in April about the way that ‘The Peace’ impacts on newcomers and visitors, and the PCC undertook to review the matter.

Nicki Bradford presented a report to the PCC summarising church members’ views, gathered mainly from feedback from home groups. The PCC also received a letter from Jane Melton, writing in her capacity as Pastoral Coordinator, and emails from Kate Taylor, on behalf of her home group, and from Vicky Dykes.

The PCC noted the following points arising from the report and the ensuing discussion:

- There is a very wide range of views, from those who value spending a lot of time sharing The Peace, through to those who find it uncomfortable. The majority of members, however, appear to take the middle ground.
- There is a lack of clarity about what The Peace means and what are its origins, which makes many people uncertain about how they should be sharing it.
- People who are unused to hugging and kissing fear that they are meant to do likewise, without realising that a handshake is sufficient (unless this is stated by the service leader).
- The main group of people who might be put off by The Peace are the ‘unchurched’ rather than all newcomers and visitors.
- There is a tendency for many church members to ‘starburst’ from their seats at the start of The Peace, which can be confusing for visitors. But it is nevertheless right to do this in order to include people sitting on their own.
- It has also been observed that the ‘starburst’ can leave some people ignored, especially where an established member has left their seat without first sharing The Peace with those around them.
- While there are other aspects of the communion service that may seem odd to visitors (singing, eating bread and wine, raising hands, waving flags), it is only The Peace that invades their personal space, so deserves special consideration.
- We need to be more aware of visitors and newcomers generally. For example, we do not leave seats available in the nave, relegating visitors (who generally do not arrive early) to the periphery.
- Sitting in the same place each week means that many members greet the same people during The Peace.

- It is not ideal to use The Peace as a time to try to put right anything that may have been said or done during the week. This should be done as soon as possible after the event.
- We need to be more aware of how to read people, to see how effusive or restrained we should be when sharing The Peace.
- Shaking the hand of one person while looking away to see who is next, is disrespectful.

Mike Gillingham explained the origins of the present Anglican practice, which had been introduced with the Alternative Service Book of 1980. There is no Biblical record to use as a basis, other than general exhortations at the end of many of Paul's letters to "Greet one another with the kiss of peace" (e.g. Romans 16:16). There is a single description of its use in the second century church, but this seems to have been reserved for confirmed members, after the Catechumenate (those being instructed in the faith) had left after the first part of the service; it therefore offers only a partial model for present practice. Nevertheless, the intention in 1980 was to reintroduce something which had been lost from Anglican services.

The PCC agreed that:

- There is no intention to abandon the use of The Peace in St James, but rather to make it clearer how it should be shared, for the benefit of all.
- There is a need to explain clearly in each service what is about to happen. [A note has since been placed in the Bulletin as an ongoing reminder for members as well as for the benefit of visitors.]
- There is a need for teaching and explanation about The Peace. This may need to be given over a number of services, as not everyone will be present on any one occasion. The subject matter would lend itself to being demonstrated through a sketch.
- We do not necessarily need to share The Peace the same way each time, as long as there is a clear explanation of what is going to happen.

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS LIST

Contacts for Pastoral Matters

Vicar: Rev. Tim Jones 01823 333194 e-mail: timjones@tesco.net

Pastoral Care Coordinator - Jane Melton 01823 412370

Church office: 01823 272931 e-mail: info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

Children and Family Worker - Alison Buckman 07783 883053

Magazine Editor - Andrew Slade 01823 259440 e-mail: 3waypersonalprint@gmail.com

Churchwardens - Jacky Gillingham 01823 270044 / Mandy Slade 01823 259440

Associate Churchwarden - Stan Wojcik

HOME GROUPS

EVENING GROUPS

Tuesday 8.00pm

25 Whitmore Rd Contact Kathryn Clarke 283691

Wednesday 7.30pm

13 Giffarde St Contact Mark Stevens 365714 (hosts Bethan and Tim Baigent 271655)

28 Killams Crescent Fortnightly Contact Les Andrews 254344

28 Comeytrowe Lane Contact Steve Bradford 337690 (hosts Wakefields 277318)

Wednesday 7.45pm

42 Ashley Rd Contact Richard Sainsbury 284688

Wednesday 8.00pm

Hesperia, The Avenue Contact Richard Carpenter 277916

57 Beadon Rd Contact Julie Kimber (church office) 272931 or Mark Johnson 07796525094

Thursday 7.30pm

69 Richmond Rd - **Women's group** Contact Margaret Jones 333194

Gable Cottage, West Lyng Contact Geoff Treasure 490458

94 Sherford Road Fortnightly Contact Andy Hall 274656

Thursday 8.00pm

12 The Avenue Contact Sue Doyle 271223 (host Annie Reid 277865)

HOME GROUPS

DAYTIME GROUPS

Tuesday 10.30am

56 Manor Orchard Contact Celia Wojcik 443287 (host Joyce Lander 278387)

Wednesday 2.30pm

15 Barrington Close Fortnightly Contact John Gould 272597

Thursday 2.30pm

27 Priorswood Rd Contact Kay Seed 251077 (host Sue Collard 271858)

OTHER GROUPS

- Mondays** Parent and Toddlers Group 10am-11.30am in the Church Hall
Contact Alison Buckman (07783 883053)
- Tuesdays** Jungle Club 4.30pm – 5.45pm for children aged 6-11
in the Church Hall Contact Tim Jones (333194)
- Tuesdays** 11+ Club 7pm – 8.30pm for young people aged over 11 years
in the Church Hall. Contact Nicky Bradford (337690)
- Tuesdays** Bell ringing (alternate weeks) Contact Marian Gentile (275278)
- Wednesdays** Art Group in the Church Hall Contact Church Office (272507)
- Thursdays** Thursday Fellowship (first Thursday of the month)
in the Church Hall Contact Vicky Dykes (282507)
- Friday** The Ark Support Group for parents/carers of children
with special needs. Meets once a fortnight.
Contact Alison Buckman (07783 883053)

