

# the messenger



Newsletter of St Neots & Eynesbury Parish Churches



April  
2014



April 2014

Price 40p

**Who's who in St Neots Parish Church**  
**Website <http://www.stneots.org>**

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<b>Associate Priest</b>	<b>The Rev'd Roger Henthorne</b> 45 Berkley Street, Eynesbury	472548
<b>Retired Clergy:</b>	<b>The Rev'd Derek Draper</b> <b>The Rev'd Bill Taylor</b> <b>The Rev'd Canon Robert Sibson</b>	
<b>Reader in Training</b>	<b>Mrs Ann Williams</b>	394709
<b>Authorised Lay Ministers:</b>	<b>Mrs Rosemary Darrington</b> , Pastoral Asst. 476334 <b>Mrs Catherina Griffiths</b> , Pastoral Asst. 393372 <b>Mrs Christine Titmus</b> , Worship Leader 07757665099	
<b>Children's Coordinator</b>	<b>Mrs Jane Plumb</b> 30 Arundel Crescent, Eynesbury J.plumb1@ntlworld.com	350137
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<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mr David Jones</b> 6 Murrell Close david151085@googlemail.com	211379
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## ***Reaching out to children***

I'm often asked about our children's ministry and what we are doing for the younger members of our church. I'm always pleased to be asked this because the question itself shows that we are concerned about how we relate as a church to children and young people and we always should be concerned that what we do and say with our children and families is reaching and being received by them in a way that is appropriate and interesting.



It is one of God's blessings to us that our young families are increasing in numbers, and we will soon be admitting the first of our children who have completed the preparation, to receive communion which is a wonderful prospect. Indeed by the time you read this, that may already have taken place!

We are also blessed in having a first rate, imaginative and innovative children's leadership team, a group led by Jane Plumb who are initiating and delivering all sorts of interesting and exciting activities from Little Saints to Messy Church, from Godly Play to Tots' Praise, with a teddy bear parachute jump from the tower thrown in. But since a lot of the activities that go on are out of sight, in that they happen in the Church Rooms during the Sunday Eucharist or on other days of the week, it is important that their work is known about and recognised by the whole church. To this end I invited Jane and her colleagues to make a presentation to the PCC in March and this was so well received that I have asked now if they will do the same at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the evening of Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. I want everyone to make a special effort to be at this meeting and hear about all the exciting things that are going on. Maybe you might want to get involved too.

But in thinking about our work with young people, we need to get away from the idea that our success or failure to engage will be judged by the numbers attending church on a Sunday morning. Patterns of life have changed enormously in the past couple of decades and Sunday is a day in which a huge number of choices have to be made, of which church attendance is only one. This makes what we do in the week of even more critical importance, and we all need to realise that being church is not just about Sunday, it's about getting out there and taking church to where the people are.

Where children and young people are concerned, this means taking church into our schools and here we are enjoying a real measure of success. We are so blessed that we have such a fantastic and supportive church school in St Mary's School with which to work. Our relationship could hardly be better. I am in school every week for assemblies, for other meetings and work with the children, at our twice termly Eucharists and over the past three years we have prepared more than a dozen

children to receive communion. The children come to church for worship at least twice a term, sometimes more and some take part in the monthly All Age Eucharists. That they are not in church more often has more to do with their family situations than their own personal inclinations. Ask the children at St Mary's School which is their church and they are in no doubt – it is ours!

But I sometimes wonder if I were to ask our own congregation where our church children are, whether many would say 'in St Mary's School'. The enthusiasm that the children have for engaging with the Christian faith when we go to them is not I am sorry to say, matched by the enthusiasm of many of our own church members to go to the school to get to know 'our children' a little better. We have an open invitation. If you could spare an hour a week to hear children reading for example, you will be welcomed with open arms.

Our work is not just confined to the church schools. Between us, Revd Debbie and I are taking assemblies in all of the primary schools in our two parishes. Just to let you know how many that is, in St Neots we have St Mary's, Priory Park Infants, Priory Junior and Roundhouse Academy, in Eynesbury there are Eynesbury's own church school and Middlefield Academy and we share the load at Winhills which sits right on the boundary. That is seven primary schools receiving regular Christian ministry at least twice a term.

And there is another exciting development to tell you about. I have recently been talking to the Head of Longsands Academy about how we can interact with the older children and young people there, and between us we have come up with some ideas about engaging with the RE and History curriculum and offering pastoral support and chaplaincy. This is an opportunity that is a real gift of God's grace that, approached in the right way with sensitivity and care, will enable us to model the love of Christ in a way that is incarnational rather than doctrinal and may thereby be missional and evangelistic.

We need your involvement. If you can help at St Mary's School with any of their activities and show our wonderful children that you care about them to the extent of being prepared to reach out to them, not just waiting for them to fetch up at church on Sundays, then please let me or Ann Williams know. But even if you can't do that, you can do something very important – you can pray. Please pray constantly for our children's work. Pray for Jane and her team in church pray for Jenny and her staff at St Mary's, pray for all of us as we go into all the schools in our parishes, pray for the young people we meet and engage with, pray that the Holy Spirit will bless us in this most important work.

And come and hear the children's leaders talk about our work on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

***Yours ever in Christ  
Fr Paul***

## ***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 April in the Church Rooms at 7.30pm. This is the occasion at which we elect our churchwardens and PCC members and appoint sidesmen and women. There will be five ordinary vacancies on the Parochial Church Council and members are elected for up to three years. This is your annual opportunity to be a part of the decision making process in our church life here in St Neots.

Additionally, this year we need to elect three lay members to our Deanery Synod to serve for three years. This is an important role because the Deanery Synod in addition to being a forum for discussing issues affecting church life and practice and making decisions that affect all of us in the deanery of St Neots, the lay members of deanery synods form the electorate when it comes to electing lay members of General Synod, the decision making body that governs the whole Church of England. There will be such an election in 2015. If you remember that it was because the members of the House of Laity on General Synod failed in 2012 to achieve the required two-thirds majority needed to approve the legislation that would make the consecration of women as bishops possible, thereby putting the whole legislative process back by two years, then you will appreciate that it is important that we as a church and parish have our full say in the election of the lay representatives to General Synod in 2015. If you feel strongly about the issues that face the church in the next few years, and want your voice to be heard, then please consider putting yourself forward as a candidate for Deanery Synod at the APCM. Deanery Synod representatives also have an automatic place on our PCC.

Nomination forms for churchwardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives will be available in church, from the parish office or can be downloaded from our website <http://stneots.org/news-3772.php>

Apart from the business that we are legally required to transact at the annual meeting, there will be a presentation from our Children's Leaders team and an opportunity for questions and discussion about our work with children and young people.

I hope to see as many people there as possible.

***Fr Paul***

## ***Services for Holy Week and Easter***

- Palm Sunday: Blessing and Procession of Palms around the churchyard at 9.15, followed by Sung Eucharist at 9.30. Taize Liturgy at 6.30pm
- Monday and Tuesday: Midday Prayer with reflection at 12.30pm
- Wednesday: Holy Communion with reflection at 12.30pm
- Maundy Thursday: Eucharist of the Last Supper with footwashing at 7.30pm, followed by the Watch of the Passion for those who wish to stay with Christ in Gethsemane, until midnight
- Good Friday: Procession of witness leaves church at 10.45am. Service on the Market Square follows.  
Children's Easter workshop in the Church Rooms at 11am  
Liturgy of the cross in church at 12noon. Frugal lunch follows Stations of the Cross at 2pm
- Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil at 8pm
- Easter Day: First Eucharist of Easter at 8am (BCP)  
Sung Eucharist of Easter at 9.30

## ***Prayers for those who are ill or in any kind of distress***

Please remember in your prayers all who are ill and who have asked for our prayers, including: Terry Underwood, Keith Stokes, Scarlet Bail, Mike Mitcham, Linda Browne, John Dyer, Martin Atkins, Margaret Sibson, Sheila Green, Christopher, William Brown, Gerry Saunders, Mollie Walker, Jack Moate, Stuart Crabtree, Stephen Fitzpatrick, Anthony Brewer, Richard Bunyan, Chris Gates, Margaret Bilson, Brenda Royce, Les Brand, Julie Thomas, Sheila Rawlings, Claire Kay, Ann Rudd, Sarah Lewis

Prayers for all the sick are offered regularly at the daily services of morning and evening prayer in both St Neots and Eynesbury Churches. Those whose problems are more recent, or short-term are named in our weekly pew sheet, and remembered at Sunday services.

## ***Living Lent Attentively and Gently – some words written by Henri Nouwen***

Lent is the most important time of the year to nurture our inner life. It is the time during which we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, but also the death and resurrection that constantly takes place within us. Life is a continuing process of the death of the old and the familiar, and being reborn again into a new hope, a new trust, and a new love. The death and resurrection of Jesus therefore is not just an historical event that took place a long time ago, but an inner event that takes place in our heart when we are willing to be attentive to it.

Lent offers a beautiful opportunity to discover the mystery of Christ within us. It is a gentle but also demanding time. It is a time of solitude but also community, it is a time of listening to the voice within, but also a time of paying attention to other people's needs. It is a time to continuously make the passage to new inner life as well as to life with those around us.

When we live Lent attentively and gently, then Easter can truly be a celebration during which the full proclamation of the risen Christ will reverberate into the deepest place of our being.

A handwritten signature of Henri Nouwen in cursive script, written in dark ink on a light background.

Excerpt from the introduction to *Called to Life, Called to Love: Lenten Reflections from the Works of Henri J.M. Nouwen*, © Henri J.M. Nouwen. Published by Creative Communications for the Parish. The introduction was written by Henri Nouwen just weeks before his death on September 21, 1996.

There is always something satisfying and energising about the process of simplification. We acquire possessions and keep them until we forget what their original attraction or sentimental value was. At some point they just become things, heavy objects that

have no meaning or context any more.

Then they become encumbrances, attachments draining us of energy in wasteful ways. This accumulation of life's baggage, more than just the passing of time, is what lies behind ageing and the sad sense of inevitable decline. It just gets harder to let go. This applies to the emotional as well as material sphere of life. Whereas the spiritual dimension, like a mathematical 'point', has position but no magnitude.

That means it's real but you can't pin it down or measure it. In this dimension you can't hoard things and attachments dissolve almost as soon as they form. Getting into it and learning to 'live in the spirit' is hard work at times. Lent is the time to make sure this is a priority because, if we aren't, we are becoming absorbed in the very things that have lost their meaning for us.

***Laurence Freeman OSB***

## ***Book Club***

Belonging to St. Mary's Book Club has given us opportunities to read books that we might not have chosen ourselves. We have been introduced to new authors and a variety of genre and styles.

If you would like to share your enthusiasm for a particular author or book or are looking for something new to inspire you please join us a 12 Bodiam Way at 2pm on the dates below.

**2 May - "Stoner" - John Edward Williams**

**11 July "Boy A" - Jonathan Trigell**

Looking forward to seeing you

***Sylvia Watson***

## ***An Empty Celebration!***

Philip always seemed different to his eight-year-old Sunday school classmates. Several weeks before Easter, Philip's teacher told them the story of Jesus's death and resurrection. To make the point about new life, she gave each child a large plastic egg: 'I want you to take this home and bring it back with something inside that shows new life.'

Enthusiastically, the class responded and the eggs were opened as each child explained the meaning of their symbol. In the first egg was a flower; in the next a plastic butterfly, while the third contained green grass. Then the teacher opened the fourth egg; however the egg was empty! 'That's stupid', said one child. Another grumbled, 'Someone didn't do it right!' The teacher felt a tug on his shirt. It was Phillip, who said, 'That's mine, and I did do right! It's empty, because Jesus' tomb was empty.'

He got it right!! The greatest symbol of new life is an empty tomb! 'The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you.'" (Matt. 28:5-7).

Now there are three Empty Promises that we can celebrate this Easter:

**An Empty Tomb:** Without the empty tomb, we have no Saviour. For those who know Jesus as their Lord, there is no fear in death and we share the assurance of an eternity spent with Jesus and sharing his resurrection life.

**An Empty Cross:** The promise of an empty cross is that we can stand forgiven of our sins before God. Jesus' cry on the cross 'It is finished!' is a cry of triumph, because the barrier of sin between us

and God has finally and eternally been removed. God is with us and working through us.

An Empty Life: This world can only offer transitory satisfaction and security, while the joy of the Lord lasts forever. Our God specialises in filling up the emptiness of this life with his joy, peace forgiveness and new life. Nothing in this world will ultimately satisfy us except Jesus himself.

So Easter reminds us: 'The world gives us promises full of emptiness, but God gives us emptiness full of promise!'

**Source: Parish Pump**



**February:** we enjoyed hearing about policing for a safer community in St Neots from local PCSO Sharon Marsh.

**April:** please join us for a Quiet Evening in Church on 3rd April at 7.00pm which will include our "Wave of Prayer" focus.

**"April 5th:** Spring Diocesan Day at All Saints Milton, 10am (coffee from 9.30) till 1pm."

**May:** Lottie Taylor will be our guest speaker on 1st May, talking about "Seed Time and Harvest" in our gardens. 7.30pm in the Church Rooms: all welcome.

## ***News from Pakistan***

Rachel Ullmer is our Link mission partner working in Lahore for the Diocese of Raiwind. She is a primary school teacher and is using her skills to work with teachers within the Diocese, undertaking teacher training and curriculum development work.

**Dear friends,**

*How are you all?* Winter seems to have been particularly bad in the UK this year with floods in my home town and high winds. Here, it has also been unusually wet and stormy and some schools are very wet and muddy.

We have been busy since I last wrote. In October, John came to visit from a church in Beccles whom I met whilst helping at his church children's club; he was here to teach maths in the schools. The maths knowledge of the teachers is poor so John taught me algebra and geometry and we held two workshops for the teachers of the senior classes and taught in three schools to the children. The children enjoyed making Islamic star designs on transparent paper and making 3-D shapes and pyramids.

In November we checked on the teachers' lessons and I taught some geography lessons in the junior classes. The children loved looking at the globe and maps of Pakistan. The teachers liked to play a game of spinning the globe and then naming the country it stopped on. The nursery children enjoyed their new toys and puzzles.

A declamation contest was held, and the schools performed their dances, recited poems and sang local songs. The boys are expert playing the *dhols* (drums). One school had a "fun day" where they had various game stalls – skittles, lucky dip etc, and cooked traditional dishes.

Josephine, the school supervisor, wrote a Christmas play and all the schools came and performed it in the diocesan school hall. It was about three trees that grew up to be the manger, boat and cross of our Lord. I also attended Christmas programmes by other schools, and at one school had to frisk the children who tried to get two lots of gifts from Christmas Baba (Father Christmas). This was in contrast to the Convent school where the young ladies of the well off performed a magnificent play, wearing the most colourful clothes, about the birth of our Saviour, which was followed

by the head sister giving an evangelistic talk. Christmas is much a day of rejoicing, wearing new clothes and visiting the zoo! There is no commercialism and expensive gift buying, and one can worship and concentrate on the real significance of the birth. The churches and schools have choirs and they sing psalms and Christmas songs beautifully.

Come January, I moved into a flat, which is very nice with two rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom, and a balcony to sit out on and also do the washing – I have bought a twin tub machine (remember them?) which is more convenient when the electricity goes off. Recently, the gas and electric have been okay except when something happens to the pipe-lines! I have been busy doing repairs in the flat – tiling the bathroom, having the place rewired and plastering the cracks. As I look out over my balcony, I can see all the people in the *gulli* (small street) – children playing cricket, orange sellers, rickshaw drivers, ladies washing clothes and kids on motorcycles. Most days I am retrieving cricket balls from the roof!

Nowadays we are planning the syllabuses and choosing textbooks for the schools, and people from the local Bible school are coming to give training for the teachers.

Please pray for the schools as they start the new year, and for the bishop and his team planning worship in the churches. Also, pray that my arm will heal as I just tripped up on the road and dislocated my shoulder! The hospital was very good and my arm will be in a sling for six weeks!

Love

***Rachel***

## **The Children's Society**

**This year I have banked £831.58**

**This total combines Christingle 2013, Lloyd and the Choir Christmas carol singing and our annual house box return.**

**A HUGE thank you!**

**Jane Plumb Children's Society Coordinator 01480 350137**

## ***A visit to the MASADA EXHIBITION in London - 2014***

I have been to Israel several times, but a by a fluke of nature each time our tour was due to go to Masada we were unable to go at the last minute, and it's usually due to dangerous flash floods in the region. So it was with great excitement that Ann and I discovered this Exhibition at the offices of the Guardian & Observer Newspaper in February this year.

The reason for the Exhibition was to Celebrate 'fifty years' since the Observer asked it's readers to volunteer to go to Masada to excavate the site under the direction of Yigael Yadin the archaeologist. Many thousands of young people responded from 28 different nations, being told that they would have to fund their own flight, but that they would be housed in tents 'on site' and fed (frugally).

For those who are not aware of the history of Masada, it is one of the last great strongholds in Israel. King Herod the Great had a huge Palace built there. According to Flavius, Herod the Great built the fortress of Masada between 37 and 31 BCE. Herod, an Idumean, had been made King of Judea by his Roman overlords and "furnished this fortress as a refuge for himself." It included a casement wall around the plateau, storehouses, large cisterns ingeniously filled with rainwater, barracks, palaces and an armoury. It included a Synagogue, (see picture below) which is the oldest yet discovered. This synagogue is considered to be the best example of the early synagogues, those predating the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem in 70 CE. The Zealots prayed in it and scroll fragments have been found there together with a Dead Sea Scroll from the Essenes Community. This caused much discussion as to why the Essene Community, who were Pacifists, were found in the stronghold of a Jewish sect, the Zealots!

Masada (Hebrew for fortress) is a place of gaunt and majestic beauty that has become one of the Jewish people's greatest symbols. Next to Jerusalem, it is the most popular destination of tourists visiting Israel. It is perched high on a huge outcrop of rock sitting on the west shore of the Dead Sea. On the east side, the rock falls in a sheer drop of about 450 metres, and on the western edge it stands about 100 metres above the surrounding terrain. The natural approaches to the cliff top are very difficult.

Some 70 years after Herod's death, at the beginning of the Revolt of the

Jews against the Romans in 66 AD, a group of Jewish rebels overcame the Roman garrison of Masada. After the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple (70 AD) they were joined by zealots and their families who had fled from Jerusalem. There, they held out for three years, raiding and harassing the Romans.

Then, in 73 AD, the Roman governor Flavius Silva marched against Masada with the Tenth Legion. The Romans established camps at the base of Masada, laid siege to it and built a circumvallation wall. They then constructed a rampart of thousands of tons of stones and beaten earth against the western approaches of the fortress and, in the spring of 74 AD, moved a battering ram up the ramp and breached the wall of the fortress.

Eleazer Ben Yair the leader of the community in AD73 led around 960 Jewish Zealots to commit mass suicide before setting fire to the fort, rather than be ruled by the Romans. Modern day archaeologists say that they held out under siege for about eight weeks. Surprisingly, only a small number of skeletons were found, not leaving evidence for a mass suicide or massacre due to the fire! Josephus Flavius writes that everything was burnt except the stores – to let the Romans know that it was not hunger that led the defenders to suicide.

The heroic story of Masada and its dramatic end attracted many explorers to the Judean desert in attempts to locate the remains of the fortress. The site was identified in 1842, but it was only with the help of these volunteers in 1964 that intensive excavations took place.

As we went round looking at the exhibits we read personal stories from people who had been there at that time, telling of some of the highlights and difficulties of the period they spent there. Together with original photographs these helped us as visitors to get a real sense of the enormity of their task.

There was even an old scratchy film playing all the time, filmed by Yadin, of the volunteers sieving the soil and rock pieces, finding items of jewellery and shards of pottery as they take part in the dig. Others were moving huge rocks and clearing soil and sand from the site to reveal the walls and rooms of the palace, synagogue and other buildings. (see picture )

Of special interest among the items found were those used for the importation of wine from Rome (inscribed with the name C. Sentius Saturninus, consul for the year 19 BC), is one bearing the inscription: *To*

*Herod King of the Jews.* Several hoards of bronze coins and dozens of silver *shekels* and half-*shekels* had been hidden by the zealots; they were found in superb condition and represent all the years of the Revolt, from year one to the very rare year 5 (70 AD), when the Temple was destroyed

In these modern times visitors to Masada are taken to the top by cable car. However in 1964 the volunteers had to walk all the way from base camp before they even began work.



It may be that these young people who in giving of their time and talents to 'dig' at this time, did not realise how important that work would be, although fifty years on other people did.

And so on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February the Guardian & Observer, together with the Jewish Museum, in Albert St, Camden arranged for a reunion, and invited a speaker, Dr. Guy Steibel from the Archaeology Department of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to speak about the ongoing work at Masada. In doing this they invited some of the volunteers that were still alive, and it was amazing to talk to some of them and to see them all recognise one another fifty years on, reflecting on the work that had been achieved through their hard work and commitment. Funnily enough, as we are of a similar age to them right now, we were mistaken for volunteers several times.

This visit was the nearest yet that Ann and I had come to seeing this amazing place. Now we wanted more than ever to visit Israel again.

The story of Masada survived in the writings of Josephus but not many Jews read his works and for well over fifteen hundred years it was a more or less forgotten episode in Jewish history.

***Rosemary Darrington***

## ***Christian Aid Week 2014***

Each year Christian Aid Week focuses on a different area of the work the organisation is involved with and this year the theme is **Fear Less**, a theme of peace and reconciliation. As we have seen only too much recently on TV, conflict not only destroys lives but is also a major cause of poverty and destitution. Christian Aid is working in countries such as Afghanistan, Syria and Zimbabwe to care for those in the midst of it and to help people rebuild their lives in the aftermath of conflict.

This Christian Aid Week will feature Anoon, a mother from South Sudan, 9 year old Edile from Colombia and 15 year old Rojan from Iraq. In some of the toughest places in the world, Christian Aid is helping ordinary people caught up in the conflict to get the basics – medical care, water, food, shelter. When the conflict stops they are there to keep people safe: to try to heal emotional scars: to help communities on the long road to recovery, building homes and enabling them to earn a living again. Christian Aid also works to tackle the causes and not just the consequences of conflict.

Money raised by Christian Aid does not go to governments but is used by partner agencies already working in the country and so the money goes where it is needed.

The St Neots and District Christian Aid group was set up by my late father in law, Canon Stanley Griffiths, in the late 1960s under the umbrella of Churches Together. The district covers the area of the St Neots Deanery and each church in the area is responsible for a specific collecting area during Christian Aid Week. St Mary's area covers quite a lot of Eynesbury including the estates near to Ernulf School. It is a large area and each year we struggle to find enough collectors to cover our patch.

If you can spare any time during the week **11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May** and would be happy to drop envelopes through doors and collect them please contact me. Together we can help people like Anoon, Edile and Rojan conquer their problems and give them back a life.

***Catherina Griffiths***

## ***Diary for April 2014***

Tuesday 1st April 2014

- 09:30 Journey Together
- 11:00 Tuesday Fellowship Group
- 14:00 Service at Aisling Lodge

Wednesday 2nd April 2014

- 09:00 Church cleaning
- 12:30 Holy Communion
- 19:30 Pilgrim discipleship course
- 19:30 Wednesday Fellowship Group

Thursday 3rd April 2014

- 10:30 Common Rights meeting in church
- 13:30 Pilgrim discipleship course
- 19:30 Launch of The Friends of St Neots Parish Church

Friday 4th April 2014

- 09:30 Holy Communion
- 14:30 St Mary's School Easter service
- 19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice
- 21:00 Sung Compline in the Lady Chapel

**Sunday 6th April 2014**

- 08:00 Holy Communion**
- 09:30 All Age Eucharist**
- 11:30 Baptism of Mia Richardson**
- 16:00 Cafe Church at Round House School**
- 18:00 Deanery Evensong at Buckden**

Tuesday 8th April 2014

- 12:30 Prayer lunch at the URC

Wednesday 9th April 2014

- 12:30 Holy Communion
- 19:30 Pilgrim discipleship course

Friday 11th April 2014

- 09:30 Holy Communion
- 16:00 Wedding rehearsal
- 19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice
- 21:00 Sung Compline in the Lady Chapel

Saturday 12th April 2014

- 14:00 Wedding of Darren Faulkner and Nicola MacIntosh

**Sunday 13th April 2014**

- 08:00** Holy Communion
- 09:15** Procession with palms
- 09:30** Little Saints
- 09:30** Sung Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
- 18:30** Taize liturgy

## Monday 14th April 2014

- 12:30 Midday Prayer with reflection

## Tuesday 15th April 2014

- 11:00 Tuesday Fellowship Group
- 12:30 Midday Prayer with reflection

## Wednesday 16th April 2014

- 09:00 Church cleaning
- 12:30 Holy Communion
- 19:30 Pilgrim discipleship course
- 19:30 Wednesday Fellowship Group

## Thursday 17th April 2014

- 19:30 Eucharist of the Last Supper

## Friday 18th April 2014

- 10:45 Good Friday Procession of Witness
- 11:00 Children's Easter workshop
- 12:00 Liturgy of the Cross
- 13:15 Frugal lunch
- 14:00 Stations of the Cross

## Saturday 19th April 2014

- 20:00 Easter Vigil

**Sunday 20th April 2014**

- 08:00** First Mass of Easter
- 09:30** Sung Eucharist on Easter Day

## Wednesday 23rd April 2014

- 12:30 Holy Communion

## Friday 25th April 2014

- 09:30 Holy Communion
- 19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice

**Sunday 27th April 2014**

**08:00**            **Holy Communion**  
**09:30**            **Little Saints**  
**09:30**            **Sung Eucharist**  
**18:30**            **Evensong**

Tuesday 29th April 2014 08:30

14:15            Service at Bethany Francis  
19:30            Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the church rooms

Wednesday 30th April 2014

09:00            Church cleaning  
10:00            Tots' Praise  
12:30            Holy Communion

**Please note that there will be prayers in church:**

**Weekday mornings between 8:30 and 9:00**

**Weekday evenings between 5:30 and 6:00**

**On Tuesdays and Thursdays these will be at Eynesbury**

**The Diary is accurate at 25th March 2014—please note that more up-to-date information can be found in the weekly service sheets, and the Church website [www.stneots.org](http://www.stneots.org)**

***Ancient tradition of daily prayer available in new app***

The Church of England has recently released its newest free app, to enable people to pray with the aid of their smartphone and tablets.

**Daily Prayer** (a new app for iPhone/iPad) allows you to follow the daily pattern of morning, evening and night prayer in the words of the Anglican liturgy, as part of the rhythm of prayer followed by Christians across the globe.

Using text from both *Common Worship* and the *Book of Common Prayer*, the app provides an easy to use platform for accessing the Church of England's Daily Prayer website, which has more than 600,000 views each year. The app offers text for every day of the year,

## ***Could you walk 8 miles?***

The Unlock London Walk No. 31

9am to 5pm

Saturday 3 May 2014

This year the London 8 mile walk is a circular route round the Camden/Kentish Town area. The route is clearly marked on the map with 8 church checkpoints to stop for rest & refreshment, find out about the church & to get your map stamped.

Other options are a quiz with questions to answer as you walk & to get sponsorship in aid of 'unlock' although giving a donation is also acceptable.

Unlock is a Christian charity that was founded in 1972. It exists to help urban churches of any denomination to respond to the challenges in their areas.

All info can be found on the website: [www.unlock.urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock.urban.org.uk)

## ***Advance Notice***

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Berkley Street, Methodist Church.  
A Concert by the Aragon Singers .Proceeds to be split between ACTIOS and Christian Performing Arts – The Passion 2015.

## ***Off to Zambia again***

In June, I am leading, for the fourth time, a group of retired teachers to spend two weeks on the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia's capital city. Each day we shall go to work in community schools which receive no government funding and are supported by local churches. We do try to visit as many schools as we can to ensure each one has quality time with us.

This year we shall try to go to 8 schools where we shall work in classrooms with our Zambian colleagues. We shall also run weekend workshops for 100 -120 teachers whose schools we do not have time to visit. Last year we put together 20 large sacks of resources to be distributed to the schools. This year, because of airline constraints, we cannot take as many donated resources with us, and so are looking for alternatives.

Two of the secondary schools in which I shall be working are trying to teach science to their pupils with no equipment whatever. Not only can the pupils not carry out experiments themselves, they cannot even observe their teacher demonstrating it to them. Their only 'experience' of science is to copy the details for an experiment from the blackboard and try and learn it by rote for the exams. And yet, many still aspire to become doctors, nurses and engineers.

An equipped science trolley that can be used in every classroom, and purchased in Zambia benefitting the local economy, costs £640. I have undertaken to raise enough money for a science trolley for at least one of the schools – Garden Hill - and am hoping for support from as many people as possible to realise this. It would benefit a school where I will have been teaching English and Business to children I met and taught last year, and with teachers I worked alongside last year and who have been to our workshops over the last four years. For some teachers, our workshops are the only 'formal' training they have had!

If it is possible for you to support me in this, the benefit will be seen for years to come, just like the new floors in classrooms that our donations funded a couple of years ago. The children love having their photos taken and would enjoy knowing they have many friends in the UK who have seen their beaming faces. They are always so happy and positive, yet never know where their next meal will come from – or even if they will have one. Every penny of every donation goes to benefit the children.

Thank you for reading this and for any support you can give. Please remember that even if you are not able to support us financially, your prayer support is also very valuable.

***Ann Williams.***

## Messy Candlemas

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January (which seems a long time ago now) we held our second Messy Church - Messy Candlemas.

We had the pleasure of welcoming some familiar faces, and also many new faces.

We got messy with cardboard candles, candle headbands, wax decorated candles and candle face painting.

Not so messy activities included, Lego, Snakes and Ladders (very popular with all ages!) Connect 4 and Solitaire.

We had a wonderful lunch of cheeseburgers or hot dogs with ice cream cones and sprinkles to follow, with tea coffee and squash flowing throughout the morning.

We went into Church for a small service to conclude our morning's activities. **We sang together and also enjoyed a small performance of 'The Presentation Of Jesus In The Temple.'** Suzanna and Billy played the parts of Mary and Joseph beautifully, alongside Derek and Angela playing Simeon and Anna.

Many, many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it such a wonderful morning of fun, food and fellowship!

Our next Messy Church is Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June; 11am to 1pm, **the theme is 'Messy Pentecost'**

All are welcome - the more the messier!!

# *Journey Together*



- An informal group for young families to explore the Christian faith in everyday life
- Held on the first Tuesday of the month, 9.30 – 10.45 at the church rooms, Eynesbury St Mary's
- Coffee/tea/biscuits/toys provided

**All Welcome**

**For more information contact:**

[jennymcleod@stneots.org](mailto:jennymcleod@stneots.org) or [carolinefoster@stneots.org](mailto:carolinefoster@stneots.org)



## ***Readings April 2014***

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Romans 8.6-11

John 11.1-45

### **Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil**

Vigil Readings, to be arranged

Romans 6.3-11

Matthew 28.1-10

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday**

Gospel of the Palms: Luke 19.28-40

Philippians 2.5-11

Passion Gospel: Matthew 27.11-14

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day**

Acts 10.34-43

Colossians 3.1-4

John 20.1-18

### **Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12.1-14

1 Corinthians 11.23-16

John 13.1-17, 31-35

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Acts 2.14a,22-32

1 Peter 1.3-9

John 20.19-31

### **Good Friday**

Isaiah 52.13-53.12

John 18.1-19.42

## ***Prayer Diary – April 2014***

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Theme</u></b>
1	Independent food shops and their owners
2	Supermarkets and their staff
3	Clothes retailers and those who sell them
4	Newsagents and Post Office staff
5	Banks and Building Societies
6	Ethical and Green Traders
7	Street cleaners
8	Thursday Markets and traders
9	Farmers' Markets
10	Growers and producers
11	Farmers and butchers
12	Estate Agents and Property Developers
13	Producers of palm crosses in Africa and Asia
14	Producers of our communion bread and wine
15	Church candlemakers
16	Church musicians and singers, servers and sidespeople
17	Growers and pressers of oil for anointing
18	The Passion of Christ
19	The Harrowing of Hell
20	The glory of the Resurrection
21	The joy of Christ's victory
22	Children returning to school
23	Local scouts and guides
24	Beavers, cubs, rainbows and brownies
25	Music and drama clubs and societies
26	Sports and social clubs
27	Rotary and Inner Wheel
28	Probus
29	Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting
30	Our newly elected Churchwardens, PCC and Deanery Synod members

## ***A Message from the Social Committee***

Many thanks to all who came to the quiz and to those who worked so hard to make it such a successful evening - I'm so sorry I wasn't there ... as I think most people know I've had a hip operation and am stuck at home for a while.

As usual there will be a Frugal Lunch for Good Friday in the Church Rooms at 1.15pm - no need to book in advance and no charge but donations would be very welcome.

Looking further ahead there will be a hot lunch on Sunday May 4th, and on July 6th a Barbecue to welcome our new curate.

In addition Serena will continue to arrange the Bowling Evenings, next one May 20th, and we very much hope cinema evenings too once our long-awaited cinema opens!

As always we welcome ideas, comments, and most of all seeing you at these events.

Please let me or any committee members know your thoughts.

May thanks for all your support

***Carol Way***

### ***Family News***

#### **Pray for those to be baptised:**

Mia Richardson

#### **Pray for those to be married:**

Darren Faulkner and Nicola MacIntosh



## ***Christian Aid plant sale***

This will be on the Saturday of Christian Aid Week as usual. This year that means the date will be 17th May.

It will take place at the back of the URC as in the past two years and, as before, I shall need help on the Friday evening as well as on the day. This year I shall probably need a bit more help than usual as my energy levels and stamina are still not great.

However, there are lots of interesting plants to sell and we hope to top last year's total.

If you are planning to restock with shrubs in an area of your garden, you will find roses as well as many other shrubs in various sizes and at good prices. Don't rush out and buy them elsewhere till you have seen our stall! There will be many other plants too, both pretty and practical.

This is a community event so please plant a few extra seeds, dig up something that has self seeded in the wrong place, or pull off a few offsets to pop into pots. Bare rooted plants can be brought to me beforehand for potting up if not too last minute. People keep giving me pots so I can supply to anyone who needs them.

Please get involved and share the fun of growing things as well as supporting this very worthwhile cause.

Lottie Taylor, 01480  
211595, [lottie.taylor@virgin.net](mailto:lottie.taylor@virgin.net)





## St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Wintringham Road, St. Neots, PE19 1NX

Headteacher: Mrs. J. Overs 01480 398048

Chair of Governors: Ann Williams 01480 394709

www.stmaryscofe.co.uk office@stmarys.cambs.sch.uk

### ***SPRING CLEANING FOR LENT***

March is an interesting time at St. Mary's School, a time for spring cleaning our environment and ourselves through our behaviour and thoughtfulness. Each year we take part in the Bishop's Lent Challenges showing care and understanding of the people and world around us in preparation for Easter. Father Paul helps with this during his regular weekly visits and we follow Bishop Stephen's guidance on what the different challenge should be each week.



The beginning of Lent was special, when Father Paul came in on Ash Wednesday. Maggie explained, "In assembly, Father Paul came in and told us about Ash Wednesday and how people burn their last year's palm crosses and put them on their heads. I made the cross on Father Paul's head and then I repeated the words he told me, 'Remember you are dust, turn away from sin and be faithful to the Lord.' I then put an ash cross on his forehead. He then did the same with me, I thought the ashes felt like paste. Then Father Paul asked everybody if they wanted some ashes and nearly the whole school put their hand up. It was a new experience for me and felt calm and peaceful in the hall."

Following this our Lent Challenges started and in the first week we all thought about Christian values. Year 4 thought about the ingredients needed for a good life and Mia, Jakob and Adam made a recipe for a Christian Cake. This was:

1 pinch of care  
250ml of love  
5g of courage  
A sprinkle of belief  
Litre of faith  
A bowl of humbleness  
A pound of sharing  
A bucket of equality  
1000ml of strength



Their cake was beautifully decorated with the story of Jesus' life from birth to resurrection.

In the second week we were thinking about care for the environment and families joined us in a wide range of outdoor activities to spring clean the school grounds. Meanwhile Years 3 and 4 were very busy writing their own Easter production for the end of term.

Other activities included the start of our Quiet Club for lunchtimes, where we take 20 minutes time out in a busy day to be quiet, still and think. This happens every day when Mrs Overs is available and is a lovely chance to chill out, finding peace and calm. Something we all need to be able to do in an increasingly busy world.



***Wishing you a peaceful Easter from everyone at St. Mary's.***

**A Family**  
**• Easter Garden •**  
**Workshop**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

April 18th  
Church Rooms  
Church Walk  
St Neots

**11.00am to include a frugal lunch at 1.00pm**

**Making an Easter Garden**  
**Making an Easter angel**  
**Other Craft activities**  
**A short time of**  
**Good Friday reflection**



## **'WHO IS MY MUSLIM NEIGHBOUR?'**

Islam has had a bad press in this country so BELIEF, the Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute for Education in Faith, is offering us the opportunity to learn the reality rather than the distortions of fanatics or media myths. The Institute offers five evening lectures on Wednesday evenings beginning on 30th. April

April 30th. EXPLORING ISLAM

Dr. Attaullah Siddiqui, Reader in Religious Pluralism and Inter- Faith Relations at the Markfield Institute of Higher Education, Leicestershire.

May 7th. EXPLORING COMMUNITY in BEDFORD

The Aysha Academy of Queens Park Bedford.

So far there are no details but I hope the children will make a presentation, they are so much more clear sighted than adults.

May 14th. ARE WE LISTENING

A discussion evening lead by the Rev. David Dean, Inter-Faith Officer of the RUC, the Rev. Cass Howes, Chaplain at the University of Bedfordshire and Peter West, Vice-Chair of BELIEF. This is an opportunity to identify continuing questions and concerns.

May 21 EXPLORING A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

The Rev. Ray Gaston, Tutor in Inter-Faith Studies at Queen`s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham.

May 28th. EXPLORING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Professor Emma Loosley, historian, archaeologist with experience of working in universities in Islamic countries.

All lectures will be held at St. Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, from 8.00 - 9.30 pm.

BELIEF suggests a donation of £5 but stresses that it is a voluntary donation not a fee.

All BELIEF`s work is of a high standard and lecturers are carefully chosen. There are two celebrity lectures a year. The next one is on Saturday, 27th September when the lecturer will be our former Archbishop, Rowan Williams. We do not know the subject yet so watch this space.

## ***A Message from Reverend Debbie Alleluia Christ is Risen!***

We proclaim these words with joy every Easter, sharing this wonderful news that our God is alive, having broken the bonds of death. We say "Christ is Risen", instead of "Christ has Risen," because Christ's power to transform death into life is still at work around us and within us, transforming us and transforming our world. This truly is great news, and as Christians, the central point of our faith. We are people of the Resurrection, called to live out this truth in our lives.

This has been a very busy year at Eynesbury St. Mary's, as we met in June to dream about the future, put some of those dreams into a Mission Action Plan and started new bible studies, courses and outreach ministries, Little Giants and Sunday@4. There will be some shifts to this in the upcoming year (see more in the outreach update below) and time to evaluate and plan for the future. In the year ahead, may we continue to grow together, nurturing and encouraging each other in the faith while sharing the good news of Resurrection and new life with our community.

Of course, this is an exciting time of growth and new life for Jesse and I personally, as we prepare to welcome our first child in mid-summer. We appreciate everyone's prayers and support during this time. There will be many practical ways people can help with things at church while I am on maternity leave, and more will be said about this in the next few months.

In the meantime, let us proclaim this good news that Christ is Risen!

***Rev. Debbie***

### ***Eynesbury Notices:***

**Outreach Update-** After some reflection, the organizers of Sunday@4 have decided to discontinue these gatherings for the time being and focus our energies on other outreach efforts and on looking for what might better connect with the community in the future. An outreach group made up of members from Eynesbury and Berkeley Street Churches continues to meet and we are always looking for more people to be involved and new ideas. Please see Rev. Debbie if you would like to be a part of this. We

particularly will need help with an Outreach Table with Easter Crafts at the St. George's Day Fair on 19 April from 2:00-5:00pm and with the second Annual Family Fun Day on Eynesbury Manor on Sunday 13 July in the afternoon.

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting- 27 April 2014, 10:30am.** This meeting will be held on Sunday between the services to make it easier for people to attend and both services will be slightly shorter to accommodate this. Members of the church will be updated on the status of the finances, church fabric and activities of the church throughout the previous year. This is also the time when wardens, PCC officers, sidespeople (greeters) and a representative to Deanery Synod are elected, so please think and pray about nominating someone or about serving in this way yourself. Nomination forms are located at the back table in the church.

**Little Giants – Fridays at 9:30am, April 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.** This is our group for babies and toddlers and their parents and carers. There are songs, bible stories, crafts, refreshments, play-time for the kids and chat time for the grown-ups. **Rev. Debbie is looking for people to help set up the church room and welcome participants once or twice a month.**

**Spring/Summer Events-** The Fundraising Committee is planning several great events for the warmer months and there are also a few Outreach Events coming up as well. This is a great chance to welcome people into the church or go out into the community meet new people and of course, raise much needed funds for the church. Lots of help will be needed for each of these events so please see Tony Hopwood, our new Fundraising Committee Chair or the point person for each event if you would like to help.

- St George's Day- Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-5:00pm  
Outreach Event with Berkely Street Methodist (Rev. Debbie)
- Table Top Sale-May 17<sup>th</sup> (Christine Miles)
- Strawberry Tea- June 14<sup>th</sup> (Tara Skey or Christine Thomson)
- St. Neots Concert Band Concert-July 6<sup>th</sup> (Tony Hopwood)
- Eynesbury Manor Family Fun Day- July 13<sup>th</sup>  
Outreach Event with Berkely Street Methodist (Rev. Debbie)
- Ride, Strive and Drive/Table Top Sale- September 13<sup>th</sup> (Christine Miles)

### **Holy Week Services**

April 13th	Palm Sunday
9:30am	Sung Eucharist and Procession of Palms
11:15am	Family Eucharist and Procession of Palms
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday
7:30pm	Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
April 18th	Good Friday
9:30am	Good Friday Service
10:30am	Churches Together Good Friday United Walk of Witness, Meet at St. Neots Church for a procession to the Market Square Service begins at 11:00am
12:00pm-3:00pm	Church Open for prayer and meditation
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Saturday
8:00pm	Easter Vigil at St. Neots Church
April 20th	Easter Sunday
9:30am	Sung Eucharist
10:45	Refreshments and Easter Egg Hunt
11:15	Family Eucharist



## ACTIOS QUIZ

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014

St Neots United

Reformed Church

7.00pm for 7.30pm

### **Ploughman's Supper**

Please bring your own  
drinks and glasses.

Only £6.00

## ***Eynesbury Diary Dates for April***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:30pm-Pilgrim Course, Church Room (and 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>)  
3<sup>rd</sup> 1:30pm-Pilgrim Course, St. Neots Upper Room (and 24<sup>th</sup>)  
7:30pm-PCC Meeting
- 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30am- Eynesbury School Easter Service in Church  
5<sup>th</sup> 10:00am- Cake Stall
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> The Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
9:30am- Sung Eucharist  
11:15am- Family Eucharist  
6:00pm- Deanery Lenten Service at Buckden Church with Angel Voices Choir
- 7<sup>th</sup> 2:15pm- Bible Study on Johns Gospel, Church Room (and 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>)
- 9<sup>th</sup> 11:00am- Poppyfields Eucharist  
11<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-11:00am Little Giants, Church Room (and 25<sup>th</sup>)
- Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday (See Notices for Complete Holy Week Schedule)**  
9:30am- Sung Eucharist and Procession of Palms  
11:15am- Family Eucharist and Procession of Palms
- 19<sup>th</sup> 2:00-5:00pm- Outreach Stall at St. George's Day Fair on the Coneygeare
- Sun 20<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday**  
9:30am- Sung Eucharist  
11:15am- Family Eucharist  
4:00pm- Marriage of Marie Usher and David Naylor
- 26<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Easter  
**Sun 27<sup>th</sup>** 9:30am- Sung Eucharist  
10:30am-Annual Vestry and Parochial Council Meeting  
11:15am- Family Service and Sunday School

## **Eynesbury St. Mary Contact Information**

[www.stmaryseynesbury.weebly.com](http://www.stmaryseynesbury.weebly.com)

Rector	Rev'd. Deborah Noonan BA, M'Div 14 Chestnut Grove Eynesbury, PE19 2DW <a href="mailto:rev.noonan@gmail.com">rev.noonan@gmail.com</a>	390509
Contact	Judith Andrews Parish Office The Vicarage Church Street St. Neots (Mon - closed, Tue-Fri 9am-1pm, Sat 9am-11am) Tel: 01480 472297 Email: <a href="mailto:office@stneots.org">office@stneots.org</a>	
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Articles for May Messenger to the Editor by April 18th please