

the messenger



Newsletter of St Neots & Eynesbury Parish Churches



May 2014

Price 40p

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

Vicar	The Rev'd Dr. Paul Andrews The Vicarage, Church Street P.d.andrews@btinternet.com	472297/471297
Associate Priest	The Rev'd Roger Henthorne 45 Berkley Street, Eynesbury	472548
Retired Clergy:	The Rev'd Derek Draper The Rev'd Bill Taylor The Rev'd Canon Robert Sibson	
Reader in Training	Mrs Ann Williams	394709
Authorised Lay Ministers:	Mrs Rosemary Darrington , Pastoral Asst. 476334 Mrs Catherina Griffiths , Pastoral Asst. 393372 Mrs Christine Titmus , Worship Leader 07757665099	
Children's Coordinator	Mrs Jane Plumb 30 Arundel Crescent, Eynesbury J.plumb1@ntlworld.com	350137
Parish Administrator	Mrs Judith Andrews Parish Office: Tues—Fri 9:00-1:00, Sat 9:00—11:00 office@stneots.org	472297
Church Wardens	Mr Philip Barrett 24 Barringer Way barrett@philip895.orangehome.co.uk Mrs Jacky Isaac 164 Cambridge Street jackyisaac@hotmail.com	471871 476366
Treasurer	Mr David Jones 6 Murrell Close david151085@googlemail.com	211379
PCC Secretary	Mrs Catherina Griffiths 7 Parkway catherina.griffiths@ntlworld.com	393372

Gift Aid Secretary	Mr Godfrey Wilson 38 Honeydon Avenue g_wilson11@sky.com	391739
Stewardship Recorder	Mrs Jane Gill the.bield@ntlworld.com	476904
Director of Music	Mr Lloyd Barnett 43 Ridgeway, Eynesbury l.barnett@ntlworld.com	217153
Churches Together Men's Group	Mr Mike Fletcher 11 Dovehouse Close fletcher1993@btinternet.com	470827
	Mr Geoff Browne gbrowne61@hotmail.com	474152
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Mrs. Catherina Griffiths 7 Parkway catherina.griffiths@ntlworld.com	393372
St Mary's Guild	Mrs. Bev Rawlings	475651
Tower Bell Captain	David Griffiths 5 Rycroft Avenue St Neots drgrrr@yahoo.co.uk	07818 685502
Hand Bells	Mrs. Catherina Griffiths 7 Parkway catherina.griffiths@ntlworld.com	393372
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May is Mary's Month

May is a time for rejoicing — a time when we have endured the rigours of a quixotic winter (not cold, but goodness me, how wet), when we have come through the self-discipline of Lent, our time of preparation for Easter and we have celebrated that festival itself, and rejoice again in our great fifty days of celebration of Christ's resurrection. Ascension comes in May. We take leave of our Lord as he takes our humanity into the heart of God himself (29th May this year) and we make ourselves ready for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



May is also a time of growth and fertility. It's not for nothing that our pagan ancestors who worshipped the sun god as the days lengthened towards the summer solstice, celebrated their fertility rites with maypole dancing. For lo the winter is past, the rain is over and gone (we hope). The flowers appear on the earth and the singing of birds is come.

When I was studying for my English A level, many years ago, I fell in love with the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins. He is a master of rich allusive verse, his words flinging out alliterative imagery like a centrifuge, and above all he is a master of rhythm. He needs to be read aloud to appreciate the 'sprung rhythm' (his phrase) of his poetry.

So for no better reason than that we should all rejoice in this lovely month, and because in it, Hopkins who was a Jesuit priest as well as a poet, celebrates May as the month of our own patron saint, Mary the mother of Jesus, here is one of his loveliest nature poems.

Hopkins was not always so optimistic. His vocation took him to some difficult places, and he was probably bi-polar—some of his work is very dark. But here we can join with him in sheer exultation in God, who is our salvation.

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

May is Mary's month, and I
Muse at that and wonder why:
Her feasts follow reason,
Dated due to season--

Candlemas, Lady Day;
But the Lady Month, May,
Why fasten that upon her,
With a feasting in her honour?

Is it only its being brighter
Than the most are must delight her?
Is it opportunist
And flowers finds soonest?

Ask of her, the mighty mother:
Her reply puts this other
Question: What is Spring?--
Growth in every thing--

Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,
Grass and green world all together;
Star-eyed strawberry-breasted
Throstle above her nested

Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within;
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell.

All things rising, all things sizing
Mary sees, sympathising
With that world of good,
Nature's motherhood.

Their magnifying of each its kind
With delight calls to mind
How she did in her stored
Magnify the Lord.

Well but there was more than this:
Spring's universal bliss
Much, had much to say
To offering Mary May.

When drop-of-blood-and-foam-dapple
Bloom lights the orchard-apple
And thicket and thorp are merry
With silver-surfed cherry

And azuring-over greybell makes
Wood banks and brakes wash wet like lakes
And magic cuckoo call
Caps, clears, and clinches all--

This ecstasy all through mothering earth
Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth
To remember and exultation
In God who was her salvation.

ALTAR SERVERS :

We have an urgent need for additional Altar Servers for the 9.30 Eucharist Service on Sundays.
No experience is required as full training will be given.

If you can assist please contact David Read at Church or e-mail davidread09@btinternet.com

Presentation to the PCC by the Children's Leaders

Jane Plumb introduced the team. There are at present 3 leaders and 3 assistants and there are several different aspects to the work with children: Little Saints and Godly Play take place during the 9.30am service on Sunday; Tots Praise, a midweek worship session; Children's workshops; and Messy Church. The children's Leaders also help to plan and support All Age Worship.

The Children's Leaders have regular meetings and an e-letter goes out to 89 families connected with the church including Baptism Families, giving details of all church and children's events. There is also a link to the website and the children's page is regularly updated.

Little Saints – Jane Gill and Helen Blackhurst lead using **Bubbles and Splash!** Scripture Union Resources to give ideas and inspiration. These resources follow a theme which does not always link with the lectionary as this may not be age appropriate. The resource materials may be adapted to suit age and ability and use The Big Bible Storybook with suitable language. Sessions are interactive using props such as puppets and the children are encouraged to ask questions. There are games and craft activities and each session finishes with the body prayers, a simplified Lord's Prayer with actions, also used in Tots Praise. Parents are actively encouraged to join in and also get a lot out of the session especially if they are new to church. Resources are funded by the Newton and Hatley Trust but human resources are in great need.

Godly Play – Jane Plumb uses this to tell Bible stories using simple artefacts from a basket (stories) or a box (parables). After the story there is a time for wondering to help the children to think and discover for themselves about God.

Tots Praise – This is held midweek twice a month in the Church Room for pre-school children. Activities follow the Lectionary where possible, but other stories may be used. Mothers Union support by providing refreshments and cake. There is a playtime with a quilt for very young children to sit on. There are art and craft activities linked to the theme, a short service during which the same 2 songs are sung for children to learn and be able to join in, with percussion instruments. The Bible story is introduced through Godly Play and the session finishes with the Body Prayer. It is a good platform to build

relationships with parents and grandparents.

Messy Church – there have been 2 to date which have both attracted a very mixed age range and it has been good to see the older members of the congregation coming along to mix with the younger families. It has been a time of fun, food and fellowship but at the next event it is proposed to hold the service before the meal. The next Messy Church dates are 14 June and 29 November. Messy Church gives people time to spend together.

Good Friday Workshop – this is intended as a family workshop with suitable activities. The Easter Garden will be made to go into church, there will be a time for reflection and then all will join with those attending the Good Friday service in church for a frugal lunch in the Church Rooms.

Other activities planned are a Teddy Parachute Jump, a Fun Day on 19 July, and the team support family activities at the Parish Barbecue and the Harvest Festival.

Peter Raggatt reminded the meeting that there is also **Holy Terrors** a social group for 10 and 11 year old children which has been running for 30 years, but thought should be given to provision for those youngsters when they leave to go to secondary schools. Fr Paul said that it was possible that youth work could be linked across the churches in the town.

Fr Paul thanked the team for the presentation and all that they have achieved.

Putting local Christians into public political debate

The Evangelical Alliance has launched a programme to find leaders from local congregations and put Christian voices into public debate. The EA's long-term vision is for the Church to have a strong culture of leadership in the public sphere. The programme will train, equip and encourage men and women to step out into Public view and take the lead.

Source—Parish Pump

Report on South Sudan

At the recent Mothers Union Spring Day, Sue Claydon, an MU member from March had recently returned from VSO in South Sudan and reported on the situation there which I thought would be of interest. Ely Mothers Union has links with the dioceses of Yei, Maridi, Juba and Yambio in South Sudan.

There has been some improvement in Yei. The percentage of Anglicans in the population of South Sudan is the highest in the world and the Anglican Church is working with the Sudan Development and Relief Agency (SUDRA). There are a million internally displaced people – a tenth of the population, many of them unaccompanied children. SUDRA works with 5,000 households providing soap (there is poor sanitation and disease), food packs, medical packs which include hydration kits and a malaria testing kit as well as first aid supplies. Some people have moved across the borders into Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. Registration has been set up to plan for needs and to unite families and trace children. 3.7 million people are at risk of malnutrition.

The planting season, important for food security is imminent, but many of these people have settled in the fields used for planting. South Sudan has disappeared from the media due to other crises in the Ukraine and Syria but the crisis is still severe according to the Red Cross and likely to be long term. The cease fire has been broken many times. The MU Co-ordinator in Yei is involved with a diocesan risk reduction team, trained by Christian Aid. The rainy season has started and infrastructures terrible so roads become impassable and air lifts are needed. All is calm in Yei, Maridi and Juba at present but tensions rumble due to the numbers on displaced people. The churches and mosques are helping using their own resources.

Our prayers are still desperately needed for this new country especially as it is no longer the centre of media attention.

Sue Claydon will be coming to speak about South Sudan at the MU meeting at 7.30pm on 5th June in The Church Rooms, to which all are welcome.

Catherina Griffiths

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: Eddie Edwards, Terry Underwood, Keith Stokes, Scarlet Bail, Mike Mitcham, 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 names in our weekly pew sheet, and remembered at Sunday services.

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.

9 May - "Stoner" - John Edward Williams *(For those of us who have already read Stoner, it comes highly recommended. Originally written in the 50's it has been re-published recently and has only just been appreciated for the excellent piece of literature that it is: comment by the editor)*

11 July "Boy A" - Jonathan Trigell

Looking forward to seeing you

Sylvia Watson

The St. Neots Parish Chest

The St. Neots Parish Chest can be viewed in St. Neots Museum, protected within a glass case. It is now an object of curiosity, but for about 450 years it occupied a vital place in the Parish Church. In 1583 Thomas Cromwell, the Vicar General laid down that all parishes were to have a "sure coffer", in other words a secure chest, to provide a safe place in which to keep records of each Christening Marriage and Burial at which the parson had officiated. These were to be written up in Church on the Sunday after they had occurred with a Church Warden as witness. Some accounts state that two, and some that three keys were to be held by different persons, the Parson, and Churchwardens, so that the chest could only be opened with at least two people present.

The earliest church records were written on sheets of paper, but in 1598 Canterbury directed that all records were to be kept in parchment books, which became known as the Parish Registers. Old records were to be transcribed into these books, and in future the Church Warden had to make a copy of that year's entries (within a month of Easter) and send it to the Diocesan Registry. These copies were known as the Bishop's Transcripts.

Until the registration of births marriages and deaths became compulsory in the 19C the Parish Registers were the main source of information about family history, and until the mid 20C most were still kept in the Parish Church. Now of course, they have all been gathered into the safety of County Record Offices where they can be preserved from the dangers of damp, loss, theft, woodworm, or being eaten by mice.

The Parish Chest was also used for storing money, accounts, wills, relics, vestments, documents, and church plate. They were strongly built, usually of oak, and as well as two, if not three separate locks, also had metal bands around them.

With so much of value likely to be stored in these chests, it is not surprising that they would become the target of thieves, and this is what happened in to the St. Neots Chest.

Although many Parish Chests were made of oak, often from a single trunk, the St Neots Chest is actually made of pine, and was imported from Scandanavia. It has three locks, and as can be seen in the photo, has

multiple as an 'iron chest'

In his "History of St. Neots" Cornelius Gorham wrote - ***the Iron Chest containing the Parochial Registers was stolen from the Church on July 22nd 1848 and was found the next day in the Henbrook. The oldest book was injured by water and was rebound, but the leaves so carelessly transposed as materially to lessen the value of the document.***

The St. Neots Advertiser for 29th July 1848 reported- ***St. Neots Church was broken into last Saturday and the Iron Chest was stolen in which the Parish Records were kept. The Chest and its contents were found in the Brook at about noon on Sunday.***

These tantalising reports leave many questions unanswered. How did the thieves get into the Church? How many of them were there? To carry such a heavy object there must have been at least two. Why did they abandon the Chest in the Henbrook? Having failed to get it open by force, were they so disgusted that they wanted nothing more to do with it, and in any case could carry it no further.

A further report in The St. Neots Advertiser dated 9th December 1848 reported that - ***Some villains broke into the Parish Church and damaged the Organ. A reward of 33 guineas is offered for information. It is thought the same ones as stole the Parish Chest were responsible.***

Again, this report raises questions. Was the damage caused by the frustration of not being able to steal anything? It sounds as if there were suspicions as to who the culprits were, but the authorities were unable to lay hands on them.

The date when the Parish Records themselves were removed from the Chest, and kept in a safe in the Vestry is not known, but they were certainly there when I studied them in about 1975. The damage inflicted by their immersion in the Henbrook was very obvious. Soon after, they were gathered in to be kept at the Record Office in Huntingdon.

The Parish Chest remained at the back of the Church, looking more decrepit as time went on. When Father Arguille carried out the re-ordering of the Church in 1998, he was keen to find another home for the Chest, and it was offered to St. Neots Museum, which had just opened. The offer was

eagerly accepted, and with a very generous bequest from the Will of Mr. Callcut, (known throughout St. Neots for his shop on the Market Square) the Chest went off to be restored and preserved before finally taking its place in the Museum. The Chest, is still however, the property of the Church, and is on permanent loan to the Museum and this is renewed every five years.

Nell Marshall

Sketch of the Parish Chest by Joseph Rix F.R.S.,(1803 -1878) the well known St. Neots doctor and antiquarian. There is a window at the back of St. Neots Parish Church in memory of Joseph Rix and his wife Helena



Our next meeting is on Thursday 1st May at 7.30pm in the church rooms. Our guest speaker will be Lottie Taylor, talking about 'seed time and harvest'.

Please come along, all are welcome, *those who wish to participate, please bring gardening or rubber gloves.*

ACTIOS HOLIDAY CLUB 2014



July 28th to August 1st

9.30 – 12.00

At New Street Baptist Church

**Please speak to Jane Gill for more details
or if you are able to offer help or would like
your children to go.**

**ACTIOS is also looking for volunteers to help
with Prayer Spaces, an activity aimed at helping
children to transition to secondary school. It is
being run in all the primary schools in town and a
session will be held at St Mary's school on the
morning of 24th June.**

**Please speak to Jane Gill if you feel you may like
to help with this.**

Calendar for May 2014

Friday 2nd May 2014

09:30 Holy Communion
19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice in church

Saturday 3rd May 2014

14:30 Wedding of James Webb and Lynette Underwood

Sunday 4th May 2014

08:00 Holy Communion
11:30 Hutchinson Family Baptism
12:00 Hot Lunch in Church Rooms
16:00 Cafe Church at Round House School

Tuesday 6th May 2014

11:00 Tuesday Fellowship Group
14:00 Service at Aisling Lodge Simple service with communion and hymns at Aisling Lodge care home. Visitors welcome

Wednesday 7th May 2014

12:30 Holy Communion
19:30 Wednesday Fellowship Group

Friday 9th May 2014

09:30 Holy Communion
14:00 Book Group Meet at 12 Bodiam Way
19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice in church

Saturday 10th May 2014

19:30 Auction in aid of church funds

Sunday 11th May 2014

08:00 Holy Communion
09:30 Little Saints during Eucharist service
09:30 Sung Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
09:30 Baptism of William Pratt
16:00 Christian Aid Week Service

Tuesday 13th May 2014

12:30 Prayer lunch at the URC

Wednesday 14th May 2014

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

Thursday 15th May 2014

19:30 Christian Nurture and Discipleship Committee

Friday 16th May 2014

09:30 School Eucharist St Mary's School
19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice in church

Saturday 17th May 2014

09:30 Children's Leaders Meeting Upper Room

Sunday 18th May 2014

08:00 Holy Communion
09:30 Godly Play
09:30 Sung Eucharist
11:30 Baptism of Sam Greenwood

Monday 19th May 2014

16:00 Eynesbury Brampton schools set up for rehearsal
17:00 Eynesbury Brampton schools rehearsal

Tuesday 20th May 2014

11:00 Tuesday Fellowship Group
19:00 Bowling evening

Wednesday 21st May 2014

12:30 Holy Communion
16:00 Eynesbury Brampton schools set up
18:00 Eynesbury Brampton schools concert in church
19:30 Wednesday Fellowship Group
19:30 Worship Committee

Friday 23rd May 2014

09:30 Holy Communion
19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice in church

Sunday 25th May 2014

08:00 Holy Communion
09:30 Little Saints
09:30 Sung Eucharist
15:00 Deanery Rogationtide Walk at Midloe Grange Farm
18:30 Evensong

Tuesday 27th May 2014 08:30

14:15 Service at Bethany Francis Simple service with communion and hymns at Bethany Francis Care home. Visitors welcome

Wednesday 28th May 2014

09:00 Church cleaning
12:30 Holy Communion
14:30 Full Staff Meeting Upper room

Thursday 29th May 2014

19:30 Ascension Day Sung Eucharist

Friday 30th May 2014

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

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 23rd April 2014—please note that more up-to-date information can be found in the weekly service sheets, and the Church website www.stneots.org

Readings May 2014

4th May – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.14a,36-41
1 Peter 1.17-23
Luke 24.13-35

11th May – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.42-47
1 Peter 2.19-25
John 10.1-10

18th May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7.55-60
1 Peter 2.2-10
John 14.1-14

25th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17.22-31
1 Peter 3.13-22
John 14.15-21

29th May – Ascension Day

Acts 1.1-11 *or* Daniel 7.9-14
Ephesians 1.15-23 *or*
Acts 1.1-11
Luke 24.44-53

Prayer Diary – May 2014

<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1	SS. Philip and James, Apostles of Jesus
2	Old Market Court
3	World Press Freedom Day
4	Waterside Court
5	The Close
6	Aisling Lodge
7	That we may be an inclusive church
8	The writings of Julian of Norwich
9	For all who use the river for boating
10	For the Community Centre and lunch club
11	Christian Aid Week
12	Christian Aid collectors
13	For allotment holders
14	St Matthias the apostle
15	For playgroups and nurseries
16	Christian Aid workers in South Sudan
17	Christian Aid sponsored events
18	Tots' Praise
19	Little saints
20	Little Giants
21	Eynesbury and Brampton Schools concert
22	European Parliamentary elections
23	Air and Army cadets
24	John and Charles Wesley, hymn writers
25	Paxton Pits nature reserve
26	St Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury
27	Bethany Francis House
28	All in training for ministry
29	Ascension Day
30	New Christians
31	All preparing for baptism

A Message from the Social Committee

The Social Committee has planned a hot lunch for Sunday May 4th - 12.30 in Church Rooms

Tickets are available from Angie in church this Sunday

Family News

Pray for those to be baptised:

Hutchinson Family
William Pratt
Sam Greenwood



Pray for those to be married:

James Webb and Lynette Underwood

Pray for those who have died:

Roger George Peplow

Pilgrimage:

Pray also for Catherina Griffiths and Jenny McLeod who are embarking on a Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela on 1st June. They will walk over 100km along the Camino Way in northern Spain following the route of St James. They will travel with a group from Gransden church and hundreds of others who will be walking in the steps of the Saint.

Christian Aid plant sale

Here is a final reminder to all you green fingered gardeners of our **Plant Sale on Saturday 17th May**. **I will need help on the Friday evening before and the sale will commence at 9.00 am behind the URC in Moores Walk. The end time will depend on how many people volunteer to help.** Many hands will make light work so if you feel you could help on the day please let me know. Meanwhile, please keep tending your precious plants. Please come and buy too.

ALSO please tell your friends and neighbours.

Lottie Taylor, 01480 211595, lottie.taylor@virgin.net



A Concert by the Aragon Singers Saturday 14th June 2014.

Berkley Street, Methodist Church.

Tickets £6 to include light refreshments.

Proceeds to be split between ACTIOS and Christian
Performing Arts – The Passion 2015.

Please see Jane Gill for tickets



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

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT A CHURCH SCHOOL?

In the second part of our school's Lent Challenge, we held a special Distinctiveness morning to look at what makes a church school so special. Things we considered included our values, our familiarity and application of Bible stories to our everyday lives, opportunities for reflection and prayer, the church year and our patron Saint Mary. The children had a wonderful morning, working in mixed age family groups, trying out the different activities around the school.

Often the world we live in is very hectic and there is little time just to stop and think. This is the same for our children. Of the morning itself and the relaxation activities, based on our daily Quiet Club, the children said:

"It made me feel like I can achieve anything. I feel relaxed and calm. I forget about all the bad in the world and start afresh. It's like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders."



"I felt peaceful, like I was asleep because it was quiet. It was like resting, very quiet, very still."

"It made me think of nothing at all. It cleared my mind so nothing could get in. For a moment I couldn't hear anything because it was so peaceful and calm. It relaxed me and made me still."

During the morning the children wrote some wonderful prayers to share with the school and the wider community: Dear God,
“Please help me to have hope, love and faith in other people and to respect other people.”

“Please bring peace once again. Make war stop.”

“Look after our friend Leo who is in Addenbrooke’s hospital and make him well again.”

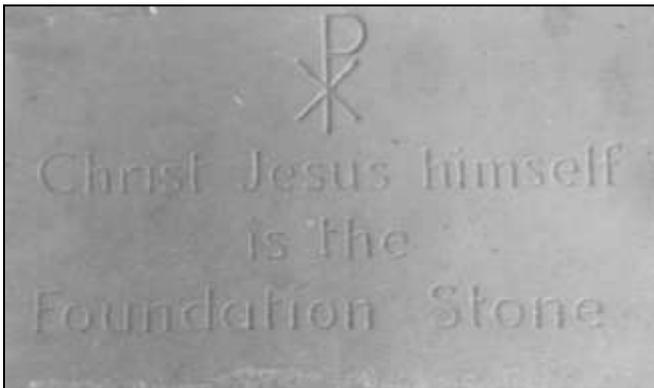
“Thank you for our lovely school and our amazing values. Please forgive us if we have do anything wrong.”

“Thank you for all the food and drink we have and please help the people who are not as lucky as us.”

“Please help the people who are homeless and have nothing to eat.”

“Thank you for our school and our values. Please make people forgive and forget the things that are bad to bring peace.”

Amen



In another groups we thought about Saint Mary. We thought about Mary’s feelings as a mother at various times in Jesus’ life especially thinking about His birth, crucifixion and resurrection. We

also thought about St. Mary’s as our Mother Church and the younger children made a visit to the church with Father Paul. We looked at the physical signs of our faith around the school and what they say about us. Our foundation stone reflects the Christian Foundation of our school and Jesus as the foundation to our beliefs. It was lovely to take out to be able to take time out to think about this and how it impacts on our lives everyday in school and beyond.

Jenny Overs—Headteacher

Bell ringing news

On Easter Day, Fr Paul dedicated 2 peal boards which will be hung in the tower. The first board commemorates 2 peals rung in 1984 and 1985 which were to celebrate the last peal before the bells were augmented from 8 bells to 10 and also the first peal on 10 bells in the tower. Each peal took over 3 and a quarter hours to ring. The other board records a peal rung by family and friends to celebrate the life of Tim Griffiths who died in 2009.

After the dedication, George Bonham was presented with a painting of the church tower (painted by Tony Murfin) and some vouchers to celebrate 50 years' service as Tower Captain at St Neots. George retired from office in January but continues to ring as part of the band.



Ringers and friends look on as George is presented with his gifts by Fr Paul.

Holy Terrors—Term Dates

28th April
5th May **May Day Bank holiday - no meeting**
12th May
19th May
26th May **Half term - no meeting**
2nd. June
9th June
16th June
23rd June
30th June
7th July **End of Term Barbeque - more information later**

All at 'The Ferns' 5.30pm until 7.00pm

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 or carolinefoster@stneots.org



A Message from Reverend Debbie Good News to Share

In the Easter Season we hear readings from the book of Acts about Jesus' disciples going forth to share the good news of his Resurrection. It was an exciting time, as people were baptized and the first churches were created. I always find these readings inspiring and challenging, as we also seek to share the good news of Christ's Resurrection here in St. Neots in 2014.

As the days grow warmer, we have many fundraising and outreach events on the church diary. I have been thinking about how these events are great opportunities to share the good news of what is going on at the Church and to be out there meeting people who might not normally come to church on a Sunday. For although fundraisers have the goal of raising funds to maintain the church and pay our ministry share— concerts, table top sales, teas, open church days and other events are also a great time to welcome our neighbours into the church. They are an opportunity to get to know people, and share with them some of the exciting things going on at church: courses and bible studies, our baby/toddler group, and much more. Of course, they are just a starting place, but a chance to show that the church is a warm and welcoming place and connect with those people who might be interested in something more.

So let us pray for all the upcoming events over the summer, that they might give us opportunities to share good news with our neighbours and get to know them better. On a practical note, help is certainly needed for all of these events. Please contact our Fundraising Committee Chair, Tony Hopwood (01480 382834 tonyhopwood@sky.com) or any of the organizers of the events below if you can help.

-Rev. Debbie

Saturday May 17th, 10:00am-3:00pm



Find hidden bargains and treasures, enjoy refreshments in the church and TOMBOLA. Help is needed setting up, running stalls, serving refreshments and clearing up. Donations of items to sell are always needed. Contact Christine Miles if you can help on the day or need

donations to be collected (c.milesk@gmail.com, 01480 214 085).

Strawberry Tea- Saturday June 14th, 2:00-5:00pm.

Enjoy delicious homemade scones with whipped cream and Strawberry jam together with a refreshing cup of tea in the, hopefully, blazing sunshine. Soft drinks and homemade biscuits also available. Hosted in the garden of 13a Chestnut Grove, Eynesbury (or in the Eynesbury Church if weather is unsuitable). To avoid disappointment and help us to cater appropriately please email tara.skey@talktalk.net if you plan to attend. Contact Tara or Christine Thomson if you can help with the event.



Sunday 6th July - Evening Concert with the St. Neots Concert Band.



We are also hoping to add one or two other elements and will be providing refreshments and perhaps hold a raffle. We already have an organised team controlling the main elements but will need help distributing leaflets and helping out on the day with various things like setting up, selling tickets on the door, selling raffle tickets etc. If you are able to help please let me know. Tony Hopwood (01480 382834 tonyhopwood@sky.com).

Eynesbury Manor Family Fun Day, Sunday 13 July, 3:00-6:00pm

On the Sidney Banks Memorial Field (behind One Leisure). Games, craft and fun for the whole family. Help needed setting up, running games and craft stall and cleaning up. Organised together with Berkeley St. Methodist Church. Let Rev. Debbie know if you can help.

Save the date for our Autumn Table Top Sale and Cambridgeshire Historic Trust Ride, Drive and Stride. Saturday 13th September.

Little Giants – Fridays at 9:30am, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. 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.**

Help with Open Church Days

Who? You! We are looking for pairs of volunteers to host Open Church Afternoons on Saturdays this spring and summer.

Why? It's great to have the church open so people can come in for a chat, some tea and cake or perhaps just to light a candle and say a prayer.

How? Find a friend, bring some cake/refreshments, put the kettle on and the Open Church sign out on the pavement. Ask Christine Miles or Christine Thomson if you need some advice on what to do.

When? The date and time is up to you, as long as the church is free. Sign up on the sheet in church so that we can put them in the diary and on the

ACTIOS QUIZ

Saturday 10th 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

Please see Jane Gill for tickets

Eynesbury Diary Dates for May

- 1st 1:30pm-Pilgrim Course, St. Neots Upper Room (and 8, 15, 22 and 29)
- 2nd 9:30am-Little Giants, Church Room (and 9, 16, 23 and 30)
- 3rd 10:00am- Cake Stall
- Sun 4th Third Sunday of Easter**
9:30am- Sung Eucharist
11:15am- Family Eucharist
3:00pm- Baptism of Jessica and Jake Baxter
- 6th 9:30am- Journey Together, Church Room
- 7th 7:00pm- Archdeacons Visitation at the Cathedral
- Sun 11th Fourth Sunday of Easter**
9:30am- Sung Eucharist
11:15am- Family Eucharist
4:00pm- Christian Aide Week Service, St. Neots Church
- 14th 11:00am- Poppyfields Eucharist
- 17th 10:00am-3:00pm- Table Top Sale
- Sun 18th Fifth Sunday of Easter**
9:30am- Sung Eucharist
11:15am- Family Eucharist
- 22nd 7:30pm- PCC Meeting, Church Room
- Sun 25th Sixth Sunday of Easter**
9:30am- Sung Eucharist
11:15am- Family Service
1:00pm- Logan Hoffsetter Baptism
3:00pm-Betsie Mae Andrews Baptism
3:00pm-Deanery Rogation Day Walk
- 29th **7:30pm- Ascension Day Eucharist, St. Neots**

Eynesbury St. Mary

Contact Information

www.stmaryseynesbury.weebly.com

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	Gordon Depledge 3 Howitts Lane Eynesbury Tel: 01480 391123	
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Articles for June Messenger to the Editor by May 16th please