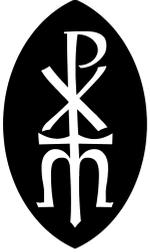


the messenger



Newsletter of St Neots & Eynesbury Parish Churches



June 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	370312 /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 Green , 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	370312
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
Holy Terrors 9-10yrs	Mrs Eileen Raggatt The Ferns, Berkley St. Eynesbury	213884
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St Mary's School	Mrs Jenny Overs (Headteacher) Wintringham Road	398048
Restoration Team	Mr Kevin Minney Mr Colin Freeman (Treasurer) colfre@virginmedia.com	219759

New Ministries

June is going to be a month of important new ministries and affirmations. I'm writing this in mid-May having just got back from a two day conference on Supervision Skills for Training Incumbents where those of us in the diocese of Ely who are receiving newly ordained deacons this year, joined with colleagues from the dioceses of Peterborough, St Albans, Norwich and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich to think about the requirements of the new curate training programmes that will impact not just on the newly ordained ministers themselves, but also on us who are entrusted with their learning and supervision. It has been a very full two days!



So, as we look forward to welcoming Eleanor Whalley into the parish as our newly ordained deacon at the beginning of July, there are some important things to think about and some changes that have been made to the training pathway, even since Sarah came five years ago.

The first significant change is that a curacy will now be for a period of three years instead of four. For quite some time it has been instilled in those of us who take on the training of curates, that the post is to be regarded as a training post from beginning to end and that neither the vicar nor the parish should ever regard the curate as an additional member of staff or an extra pair of hands. The days when curates shadowed their training incumbents at a gentle pace in a master-apprentice model, picking up wisdom, knowledge and experience in a haphazard way as a result of (or sometimes in spite of) the relationship that they formed, have long gone. Training will now be more structured, with evidence-based supervision and assessment built in. The three years of curacy are a continuation of the ministerial formation that has begun in training, a formation that is as much about the person and her or his ability to reflect theologically on a range of pastoral situations and encounters, as it is about the nuts and bolts of being a parish priest. The aim is that by the end of her time here, Eleanor will be a fully formed 'reflective practitioner', committed to lifelong learning and deepening of her knowledge of the faith as we all should be, who will be ready to move into her first post of responsibility, typically as vicar in a parish or team ministry.

Eleanor knows all this, and we are both looking forward to sharing this trajectory together knowing that it will be both busy and demanding. From the point of view of the church and parish much will be as you would expect; we will be gaining an exciting new ministerial colleague who is going to want to be fully

engaged with the pastoral and liturgical life of the parish, and who will bring much that is new from her own experience that we will be able to benefit from. What we will have to bear in mind is that there may be times when the demands of the training schedule will have to take precedence over our day to day life and ministry here, and we should just be aware of that.

I am sure that you will all enjoy meeting Eleanor when she arrives, and I am looking forward enormously to working with her in this important stage in her formation as a priest in God's Church.

June is also a very exciting month for us because on 4th June, we will be interviewing the shortlisted candidates for the post of Pioneer Minister on Love's Farm. Just to recap, this is an ecumenical five-year appointment, funded by the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church, for a dedicated minister for the new development as it is now and as it expands into Wintringham Park. The post was advertised in March and we were astonished to receive a large number of applications. We have invited the most promising to come for interview and have every confidence that we will be able to make a really exciting appointment. So please pray for me and for my ecumenical colleagues as we seek to discern who God is sending us to spearhead the church's ministry in this rapidly expanding part of town.

Confirmation and admission to communion are, with baptism, the most significant stages in our lifelong journey of faith. In past weeks we have admitted three children (James Neuhauser, Suzanna Pepper and Billy Fawcett) to their first communion and Julie Playford and Cathryn Neuhauser, James's mum, have also been admitted to communion as adults. Julie and Cathryn, with others from our church and from Eynesbury have both been pilgrims on the journey exploring the new Pilgrim Christian discipleship course. Cathryn has now decided that the time is right to make her own affirmation of faith and come to confirmation. The confirmation service itself, conducted by Bishop John Flack, will be at Buckden Parish Church on Sunday 15 June at 6pm. Do come along to support Cathryn and the other candidates and please pray for them as they take this significant step in their Christian journeys.

Whatever the future holds for Christian life and ministry in St Neots, this is an exciting time to be joining in with the work of God in our town.

Yours ever in Christ

Fr Paul

A word about Little Saints

As everyone knows, Little Saints is the name given to our children's activities that take place during the principal 9.30 Sunday morning Sung Eucharist. It is in effect, our Sunday School though we took the decision a couple of years ago to abandon that rather formal and outdated title. I would however like to take this opportunity to emphasise that although our Sunday children's activities have been rebranded, and the emphasis shifted to learning through creative engagement rather than formal teaching, the primary purpose remains the same. Little Saints is an opportunity for our children aged three and upwards, to learn about the Christian faith at a level appropriate to them, using material that has been carefully selected by the Children's Leaders team in consultation with me, while the 'grown-ups' in church engage with the scriptures at a different level.

Parents are always welcome to accompany their children to the church rooms for Little Saints, but it is important to point out that those who do should have in mind that this activity is happening within the context of an ongoing act of worship of which it forms part, and that they should engage with their children and the material being offered. Unfocused conversation should be avoided and, although quiet toys may be available for younger siblings to play with, there should be no sense that this is a time of general play. An important part of what we do as we come together as the Christian community to worship God is to instil habits of reverence and stillness in our children. The children should know that although they are no longer in the same sacred space as the adults, theirs is still a sacred space where Christ is intensely present, that they are still part of the worship being offered, and that when they return, it is to an act of corporate celebration that they have in a real sense, never been apart from.

All of our children's leaders and helpers hold current DBS certificates in line with diocesan and parish safeguarding policy. Parents should feel completely secure and confident in leaving their children in the leaders' care and may themselves wish to consider remaining in church during that part of the service.

I am happy to talk to anyone with any concerns about our children's work

Fr Paul

Elections at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our APCM was held on Tuesday 29 April in the Church Rooms. This is the meeting at which we elect the Churchwardens, the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and in addition this year, our three representatives on Deanery Synod.

At the 2014 meeting, Jacky Isaac and Philip Barrett were re-elected as Churchwardens for this year, Catherina Griffiths, Peter Raggatt and Ann Williams were elected to serve on Deanery Synod, and Alan Ashton, Val Freeman, Julie Playford and David Read were elected to PCC. This leaves two vacancies on the PCC and we have the option of co-opting members to serve in the current year. It may be that you have thought about standing, but don't know enough about what it entails, so I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to be co-opted for a short time, or even just to attend a meeting or two to see what goes on.

The APCM also heard the presentation given by our Children's Leaders team that was reported in last month's Messenger.

Fr Paul



Our May meeting featured a talk from Lottie Taylor on "Seed Time and Harvest", which included reflections on the Parable of the Sower as well as the chance for us all to do some hands-on planting. Thank you very much Lottie for a thoughtful and inspiring evening.

On June 5th Sue Claydon, a Mothers' Union member from our Ely Diocese who has been doing voluntary work in South Sudan, will be coming to speak to us about her recent experiences there. She has a unique understanding of the difficulties faced by the 53,000 Mothers' Union members in South Sudan as a result of the desperate crisis that has arisen in this area. Please do join us to hear her speak at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms on Thursday June 5th—all welcome.

LEADRSHIP?

Every organisation needs more than one leader.

That is as true of the church as it is of a factory, a hospital ward or a Grand Prix racing team! One person simply does not have all the qualities, gifts and experience to lead an effective organization. If we think that this is not the way the church should work then we need to read the Acts of the Apostles or St, Paul. Yet many Christians slip into thinking that the Vicar is the only leader. That simply isn't true. Every church needs a number of people with some of the qualities of leaders and the opportunities to use them. Big churches need a lot of them

So what qualities and gifts do leaders need ? I believe that -

- 1 They need ENERGY. People with energy energise others.
- 2 They must have VISION. As our bishop puts it they must 'imagine the future ' and commit themselves to shaping it.
- 3 They must be RISK TAKERS. Doing the imaginative thing is not always an easy or predictable path.
- 4 They must be THICK SKINNED. Being a leader does not mean that you must always do the popular thing.
- 5 They must be GOOD COMMUNICATORS. To lead a team you must listen to others and share your ideas and vision with them.

O.K. Not every leader will have all those qualities, but key leaders will have most of them.

So can I suggest that you look around and see who our leaders are and pray for them. They may not be people in official positions .Then ask yourself 'Could I be a leader somewhere in the church or community?' I believe that in every church there is real but unrecognized leadership potential So perhaps we need to help people believe they can be leaders, if only in a small way..

Derek Draper

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.

An Opportunity not to be missed Wanted—Messenger Co-Editor

I am looking for someone to Co-Edit The Messenger magazine with me, learning how it is done, contributing new ideas, and producing the monthly publication when I am not available. There is also the possibility of taking over as Editor if and when you feel confident.

Requirements:

- You may already have desktop publishing skills, but this is not essential as I am very willing to teach anyone the basics of Microsoft Publisher which is used to publish The Messenger, but can also be used for other purposes including producing fliers and posters.
- You would need to have a total of about one day a month to give over to the production, it actually takes less time than this (about 4 hours).
- You would need to have an email address and be reasonably confident in using it (although it is something which could be easily taught).

Interested? Contact John McLeod, email john_mcleod@ntlworld.com

A message from John Lobei

John, the theology student we are sponsoring for his studies at St Andrew's College, Kabare, Kenya, has sent us the following message.

"I salute you in Jesus' name. I am well in the Lord. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to study in one of the best institutions of higher learning in Kenya.

Thanks a lot for helping me to achieve my dream. My challenge in St Andrew's is that the climate is very cold and I am forced to wear warm clothes and to adapt.

In terms of achievement I have gained more knowledge and learning. I have learnt to do my ministry in a new way, and can do my ministry work with a lot of confidence.

From last September when I entered the college my life has changed.

The following are my results from last semester:

Introduction to the Old Testament - 53

Introduction to the New Testament - 54

Church History 1 - 56

Introduction to Psychology - 55

Introduction to World religions - 54

English and Writing Skills - 51

During the December holiday I helped my vicar. It was very enjoyable time and I thank God for that.

Thank you so much for your support and concern. God bless you all"

John is a Turkana and lives in the far north of Kenya, in Marsabit diocese, one of the hottest and driest parts of the country. St Andrew's college is at a high altitude, on the slopes of Mt Kenya, hence his reference to the climate!

Crosslinks, through whom we support him, have informed us that John has been having a difficult time since he started his studies, mainly because his mother died, but there have been other family problems too. Let us continue to pray for him in his studies and for his family.

Parish Quiet Day

This year's quiet day will be held on Saturday 6 September and like last year, we will be going to Buckden Towers. The day will be led by Fr Paul and is open to anyone from both St Neots and Eynesbury. Further details with the cost (including lunch) will be available soon, and a sign-up sheet will be in church from the beginning of June.

Fr Paul

The Leprosy Mission

Nashir is a bright 14-year-old who was doing well at school and had hopes of studying for a degree in engineering. But a recent diagnosis of leprosy has seen him face disability, rejection and his career aspirations in jeopardy.

As well as being treated for leprosy, Nashir is battling painful leprosy reaction – the body's response to fighting the dead leprosy bacteria in his body. His bloodshot and swollen eyes reflect just some of the muscle pain and fever he is currently enduring. The fear on his face is from knowing he is at risk of becoming permanently disabled as a result of leprosy reaction.

Nashir is one of six children from a family in the India state of Jharkhand. He travelled to the adjoining state of West Bengal to the Leprosy Mission's Purulia Hospital after hearing of its reputation from a fellow villager. Nashir's symptoms were severe pains in his hands and legs. His parents are very poor but managed to take him to several doctors. Nobody, however, seemed to be able to cure the problem. It was a villager who discreetly told him about the care and compassion he received free of charge at Purulia Hospital. He had been treated for leprosy but, due to the stigma surrounding the disease, did not want this to be made public knowledge.

Nashir is praying that he will leave Purulia with no lasting disability. He is deeply worried that he will not be able to keep up at school after such a long absence. He is also worried about being rejected by his classmates as a result of the disease. He feels his dream of gaining entrance to engineering college is becoming more distant.

As you know, leprosy is a cruel disease often robbing a person of many areas of their life – health, family, friends, marriage, education and employment prospects. Nashir is consoled by the fact that he is being helped with his schoolwork by staff at Purulia Hospital. He has also been told he can apply for a scholarship to help him with his fees at engineering college or, should he not be successful, there may be the opportunity of a place at one of the Leprosy Mission's Vocational Centres in India. He can there learn skills such as motor mechanics and train to do a skilled job. He says he is grateful to his family for sticking by him during his battle with leprosy and would love to be able to help support them.

Nashir said "My mother who brought me here has gone back home to look after my three brothers and two sisters but she visits me when she can. I brought my school books and am trying to do some study each day if I feel up to it.

The staff at the hospital are kind and say that since I can read English, I can help with administration in the outpatients department which stops me from getting fed up.

Please pray for the work of the Leprosy Mission which we support through our stewardship money.

Appeal for Help

Since the death of Victor Knibbs, the organiser of the Care Centre on behalf of Churches Together in St Neots, and another member of the team moving away from the area, there is a real need for help with the Tuesday and Thursday coffee mornings at the Christian Care Centre at the United Reformed Church.

If you feel you may be able to help, please drop in and talk to Serena Gilbert, who will be very pleased to hear from you.

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 June 2014

Sunday 1st June 2014

08:00 Holy Communion

09:30 All Age Eucharist

16:00 Cafe Church at Round House School

Tuesday 3rd June 2014

11:00 Tuesday Fellowship Group

11:15 Funeral of Les Brand

14:00 Service at Aisling Lodge

19:30 Standing Committee

Wednesday 4th June 2014

12:30 Holy Communion

19:30 Wednesday Fellowship Group

Friday 6th June 2014

09:30 Holy Communion

10:30 St Mary's School 'wedding' in church

18:00 Wedding rehearsal

19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice in church

Saturday 7th June 2014

13:00 Wedding of Mark Duell and Stephanie Prentice

19:00 Destiny Africa Concert

Sunday 8th June 2014 Pentecost

08:00 Holy Communion

09:30 Little Saints during Eucharist service

09:30 Sung Eucharist with Ministry of Healing

11:30 Baptism of Zachary van Nieuwkerk

18:30 Taize liturgy

Tuesday 10th June 2014

12:30 Prayer lunch at the URC

Wednesday 11th June 2014

09:00 Church cleaning

10:00 Tots' Praise Church Rooms

12:30 Holy Communion

Friday 13th June 2014

09:30 Holy Communion

18:00 Wedding rehearsal

19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice in church
Saturday 14th June 2014
11:00 Messy Pentecost Activities and lunch for all the family
15:00 Wedding of Kevin Morgan and Elaine Stratheed

Sunday 15th June 2014

08:00 Holy Communion
09:30 Godly Play
09:30 Sung Eucharist
18:00 Deanery Confirmation Service Buckden Parish Church

Tuesday 17th June 2014

11:00 Tuesday Fellowship Group

Wednesday 18th June 2014

12:30 Holy Communion

19:30 Wednesday Fellowship Group

Friday 20th June 2014

09:30 Holy Communion

18:00 Wedding rehearsal

19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice in church

Saturday 21st June 2014

13:00 Wedding of Robert Holmes and Gemma Pitcher

Sunday 22nd June 2014

08:00 Holy Communion
09:30 Little Saints
09:30 Sung Eucharist
15:00 Civic Service

Tuesday 24th June 2014

14:15 Service at Bethany Francis

Wednesday 25th June 2014

09:00 Church cleaning

12:30 Holy Communion

Friday 27th June 2014

09:30 Holy Communion

17:00 Wedding rehearsal

18:00 Wedding rehearsal

19:30 Choir and bell ringers practice in church

Saturday 28th June 2014

11:30 Wedding of Scott Wells and Stephanie Mason
13:00 Wedding of Lee Jacques and Julie Playford
19:30 St Neots Singers A concert of songs old and new

Sunday 29th June 2014

08:00 Holy Communion
09:30 Sung Eucharist
18:30 Choral Evensong

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 20th May 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 June 2014

Sunday 1st June

Acts 1.6-14
1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11
John 17.1-11

Sunday 8th June – Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21 *or*
Numbers 11.24-30
1 Corinthians 12.3b-13
or Acts 2.1-21
John 20.19-23 *or*
John 7.37-39

Sunday 15th June

Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31
2 Corinthians 13.11-13
Matthew 28.16-20

Sunday 22nd June

Genesis 21.8-21
Romans 6.1b-11
Matthew 10.24-39

Sunday 29th June

Genesis 22.1-14
Romans 6.12-23
Matthew 10.40-42

Prayer Diary June 2014

1 Sun	Easter 7	Resurrection hope	Duck Lane
2 Mon		The Queen and royal family	Hen Brook
3 Tues		European Union	Cromwell Road
4 Wed		Pioneer Minister interviews	Potton Road
5 Thurs	Boniface	Christian Teachers	Ridgway
6 Fri		Christian Writers	Chestnut Grove
7 Sat		Christian Composers	Saxon Place
8 Sun	Pentecost	The Holy Spirit	Springbrook
9 Mon	Columba	Iona Community	Laurel Close
10 Tues		Ferrar House	Howitts Lane
11 Wed	Barnabas, Apostle	Encouragement	Willow Close
12 Thurs		CMS	Ireton Close
13 Fri		Rachel Ullmer	Fairfax Court
14 Sat		Pakistan mission	Hampden Way
15 Sun	Trinity Sunday	Deanery Confirmation	Howitts Gardens
16 Mon	Richard of Chichester	Leprosy mission	Berkley Street
17 Tues		The Government	Berkley Court
18 Wed		Hospital Chaplains	St Mary's Street
19 Thurs	Corpus Christi	Thanksgiving for the Eucharist	Navigation Wharf
20 Fri		Military Chaplains	Toller Mews
21 Sat		Alban the Maryr	Brook Street
22 Sun	First after Trinity	Mayor and Town Council	South Street
23 Mon	Ethedreda, Abbess of Ely	The Diocese of Ely	Church Walk
24 Tues	Birth of John the Baptist	Discipleship	Cemetery Road
25 Wed		Marriage	Washbank Road
26 Thurs		Bible Society	Pope Road
27 Fri		Ordinands on retreat	Montague Street
28 Sat	Irenaeus of Lyon	Theologians	Luke Street
29 Sun	SS Peter and Paul	Eleanor Whalley, ordained today	Buckley Road
30 Mon		Flower arrangers	Silver Street

**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

Family News

Pray for those to be baptised:

Zachary van Nieuwkerk

Pray for those to be married:

Mark Duell and Stephanie Prentice
Kevin Morgan and Elaine Strathdee
Robert Holmes and Gemma Pitcher
Scott Wells and Stephanie Mason
Lee Jacques and Julie Playford

Pray for those who have died:

Les Brand



A Message from the Social Committee

Many thanks to all who helped with and came to the hot lunch - it seemed to be a great success and will certainly be repeated.

Dates for your diaries coming up soon are:

July 6th for our Parish Barbecue and to welcome our new Curate - tickets to be available in church very soon and help with providing puddings and with setting up and clearing away on the day will be hugely appreciated.

July 19th - Teddy Parachute Jump from from church tower and much more fun besides - more details to follow soon!

At the end of August, 30th and 31st, we will have a marvellous Exhibition of Inspirational Images in church and a summer evening concert.

Our Harvest weekend of October 4th and 5th will include a Gift Day and a Hot Lunch and for Christmas we hope to arrange an evening of entertainment and seasonal refreshments - date to be confirmed

Serena's Bowling Evenings will continue and can now at last be interspersed with evenings in our new cinema!

Many thanks as ever to all who contribute in any way to our social events, and ideas and offers of help are always very welcome - please let me know what you would enjoy!

Carol Way
210339
carol.way@btconnect.com



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

A BUSY HALF TERM

The first half of the summer half term always seems to pass very quickly. Often it is a short half term, especially when Easter is late, and then there are all the bank holidays leading to four day weeks. It is also SATs half term and a lot of time seems to be spent on testing and assessment rather than on the things that encourage children to love and engage in learning.

Our Year 6 children worked hard in preparation for their SATs, attending after school and breakfast clubs as well as revising at home using the internet and homework for support. During the test week itself they really applied themselves to doing their best. We were very impressed by their perseverance and resilience in tackling papers that were all slightly different in format to previous years and so different to anything they had seen or done before. We wish them all good luck with their results, they deserve to do well.

Following their hard work these children finished the half term with a quite different style of working. They applied themselves to raising money during an enterprise week, making and collecting things to sell, washing cars etc. in order to raise money for a trip to the new cinema in St. Neots. They have also been very lucky to be offered a trip to Wicksteed by the Rotary Club of St. Neots in early June and so will have an extra treat. We are, as ever, extremely grateful for the continued support of the Rotary Clubs in St Neots who do so much for us and other local schools throughout the year.

Other classes have also been enjoying educational activities off the school premises. Year 5 made their annual visit to the Safety Zone which always teaches them a great deal about personal safety, especially important at this time of year when they are getting older and allowed out more unaccompanied by an adult.

Children from years 3 and 4 were lucky enough to join in a tennis festival for Huntingdon schools. A great afternoon was spent learning and practising their tennis skills with the support of young leaders from local secondary schools. They then finished a long, hot afternoon with friendly matches against children from other schools. It was amazing to see the improvement in the children's tennis skills in the course of the afternoon, but also wonderful to see how much they enjoyed themselves. As usual the children behaved extremely well and we were very proud to accompany them. Watch out for Wimbledon stars of the future from our school.

Meanwhile our younger children are also enjoying the great outdoors. In our Early Years, Muddy Mondays and Forest Fridays are proving a great way of developing our children's teamwork, collaboration and problem solving skills. They are also very much a favourite part of the week for the children.

As we plan for the New Primary Curriculum being introduced in September it is very important to us at St. Mary's that, despite the demands of politicians, we continue to ensure that our children's school experience is enjoyable and exciting. We will be planning in lots of enrichment activities that take learning beyond the classroom and broaden our children's horizons. We want our children to see that learning is fun and that it can be applied to the real world, not just something you do to pass tests and exams.

Jenny Overs—Headteacher

Growing concern over hunger in the UK

Christian unease is growing over the issue of hunger in the UK. Now the Evangelical Alliance, which represents two million Christians across 79 denominations, has called on senior politicians to put the issue of hunger in the UK firmly on the political agenda.

It is also urging the cross parliamentary inquiry into foodbanks and food poverty in Britain, led by the Bishop of Truro, to include in its Terms of Reference an investigation on wage level stagnation, food price rises, and benefit changes and failures - as they relate to the rise of hunger.

“Hunger in the UK is a real issue which must be of concern to us all, including the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party,” said Steve Clifford, general director of the Evangelical Alliance. He went on: “Last year more than 5,500 people were admitted to UK hospitals suffering with malnutrition. ...Many of our member churches are playing their part hosting and stocking food banks and we need the political parties to play their part as well.”

The Department for Work and Pensions has also published research showing that a third of families affected by the Benefit Cap have already had to cut spending on essential items such as food, while more than one in ten of these families have needed to borrow money to make ends meet – often from payday lenders.

Pray for 33 North Korean Christians facing execution

The Barnabas Fund is asking UK Christians to pray for 33 North Koreans who face execution for allegedly helping a detained South Korean missionary to set up 500 house churches in North Korea.

The South Korean evangelist, Kim Jung-wook, has ‘confessed’ to spying, attempting to establish house churches, and having distributed Bibles. Dozens of people were arrested after the ‘confession’, and the 33, who had become Christians or allegedly received money from Jung-wook, now face execution in a secret cell at the State Security Department.

News from—Parish Pump

Holy Terrors—Term Dates

2 nd .	June	
9 th	June	
16 th	June	
23 rd	June	
30 th	June	
7 th	July	End of Term Barbeque - more information later

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

Pentecost and the Family of the Church

This June, the Easter Season comes to an end with the celebration of Pentecost, or Whitsunday. On Pentecost we remember how the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as Jesus had promised, sending them out into the world to share the good news of his resurrection and the forgiveness and new life he offers. Pentecost is really the birthday of the church, a day for all of us to celebrate our inheritance from these early apostles. In retrospect, it is easy to look back at these early church members as saints and super-men and –women. But what I always find so surprising when I think about Pentecost is that these apostles were just ordinary people—fishermen, peasants—who had been caught up in this movement that surrounded Jesus. The church has never been anything other than ordinary people who respond to God's love in their life.

In this season of Pentecost, and as Jesse and I prepare to welcome a new member into our own family, I have been thinking a lot about the church as a family. This is a metaphor that is often used for the church, and churches the size of Eynesbury can often feel like extended families. The hope is of course that the church will be a supportive and nurturing family, that helps its members grow in faith, celebrates together in good times and supports each other in difficult times.

I am thankful that Eynesbury Church is a welcoming community where people care for each other. My hope for the church, at all times, but especially as I begin maternity leave on 21 July, is that the congregation will continue to work together during this time to care for one another, welcome new people, teach our young people about the faith, and reach out to the community around us. This is what it means—and has always meant—to be the church, and it needs all our participation. I am thankful that many members of the congregation and colleagues from neighbouring churches are coming forward to help support ministry in the parish. Clergy from St. Neots Parish and others from the Diocese will be coming to celebrate Sunday services and the St. Neots' Parish Office will be managing inquiries for weddings, christenings and funerals. I am working with the wardens, the Rural Dean, Annette Reed, Rev. Paul Andrews from St. Neots, and representatives from the congregation to put a plan in place

to ensure all goes as smooth as possible and that there is clear communication within the congregation.

During this time, and at all times, I hope you will ask others for help when you need it and help where you see help is needed, welcome new people to the congregation and get to know them, call or visit someone if you haven't seen them in church for a few weeks and let Deaconess Mavis or one of the wardens know if someone is in need of prayer or a communion visit. All being well, I will return from maternity leave on 19 January, and look forward to being back among you with a new member of our church family!

-Rev. Debbie

Notices:

Saturday June 14 – Strawberry Tea, 2:00pm-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 St Mary the Virgin church, Eynesbury if weather is unsuitable). To help us to cater appropriately please email tara.skey@talktalk.net if you plan to attend.

Saturday 21 June, 9:00am.

Come and help with some projects around the church. No skills needed, though they can always be put to use if you have them! Contact warden, Tony Hopwood if you can help (tonyhopwood@sky.com).



Sunday July 6 – Concert, Afternoon or Early evening

St. Neots Concert Band will be playing a selection of lively toe-tapping band music. We hope they will also be joined by the Eynesbury Junior Church Band. Refreshments provided.

Tickets £10.00 on the door £8.00 in advance. Concessions available. Contact 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.

Combined All-Age Summer Service and BBQ- Sunday 20 July, 10:30am. A Eucharist to celebrate the end of the school year and beginning of summer holidays. There will be special prayers and gifts for school leavers and we will enjoy a BBQ and bring and share lunch afterwards.

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, June 6, 13, 20 and 27. 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.**

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 at 12 Bodiam Way at 2pm on the dates below.

11 July "Boy A" - Jonathan Trigell

5 September "Jamaica Inn" Daphne du Maurier (*Editor's note: Following the recent TV production, we thought it would be useful to read the dialogue that we couldn't hear!*)

Looking forward to seeing you

Sylvia Watson

Eynesbury Diary Dates for June

Sun 1st	Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:30am- Sung Eucharist 11:15am- Family Eucharist 1:00pm- Baptism of Thomas Graham
5 th	8:00am- Minister's Breakfast at Eynesbury 1:30pm- Pilgrim Course, St. Neots Upper Room (and 12 th)
6 th	9:30am- Little Giants (and 13, 20 and 27)
7 th	10:00am- Cake Stall 9:00am-2:00pm- PCC Away Day, Little Paxton Church, 9:00am-2:00pm
8th	Pentecost/Whitsunday 9:30am- Sung Eucharist 11:15am- Family Eucharist
11 th	11:00am- Poppyfields Eucharist
14 th	2:00pm-5:00pm, Strawberry Tea
15th	Trinity Sunday 9:30am- Sung Eucharist 11:15am- Family Eucharist 6:00pm- Deanery Confirmations, Buckden St. Mary's Church
21 st	Church Work Day, 9:00am
22nd	The First Sunday After Trinity 9:30am- Sung Eucharist 11:15am- Family Eucharist
27 th	Eynesbury Year 6 Prayer Stations, 1:00pm
29 th	The Second Sunday After Trinity 9:30am- Sung Eucharist 11:15am- Family Eucharist

Eynesbury St. Mary

Contact Information

www.stmaryseynesbury.weebly.com

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Contact	Judith Andrews Parish Office The Vicarage Church Street St. Neots (Mon - closed, Tue-Fri 9am-1pm, Sat 9am-11am) Tel: 01480 472297 Email: office@stneots.org	
Deaconess	Mavis Hinde 8 Burnt Close, Eynesbury mavishinde@virginmedia.com	218219
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Articles for July Messenger to the Editor by June 20th please