

Granta Deanery Chronicle



Reaching out to everyone in our Deanery and even beyond

Lent 2011 Issue No 56
Chronicle Editor: Nigel Pett
29 Priam's Way Stapleford Cambridge CB22 5DT
npa.cantab@ntlworld.com
Tel: 012223 562241

Contacts list

Rural Dean: Michael Goater 843654
mikthevik@btopenworld.com

Lay Chairman: Andrew Walker 01799 530360
andrew.w@dsl.pipex.com

Deanery Secretary: Jane Martin 8470453
pandjmartin@btinternet.com

Deanery Treasurer: Bob Doel 843946
bob_doel@doel-shelford.fsnet.co.uk

MU Deanery President: Joanna Sanders 893063
sanderschimneys@aol.com

HOLY TRINITY BALSHAM, ST MARY WESTON COLVILLE, ST MARY WEST WICKHAM AND ST ANDREW'S WEST WRATTING - REVD DR JULIE NORRIS

Balsham: William Sanders – sanderschimneys@aol.com

West Wickham: Jane Scheuer – no email

West Wrattling: Mary Streater – marystreater@waitrose.com

Weston Colville: Steve Wheeler – steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

ST PETER DUXFORD, ST MARY AND ST JOHN HINXTON AND ST MARY MAGDALENE ICKLETON

REVD DR JESSICA MARTIN

Duxford: Simon Portman 830499
simonportman@hewitsons.com

Hinxton: Andrew Walker 01799 530360
andrew.w@dsl.pipex.com

Ickleton: Rosemary Hayes 01799 530373
r.hayes@btinternet.com

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GREAT AND LITTLE ABINGTON WITH HOLY TRINITY HILDERSHAM

REVD DR JULIE NORRIS

Patrick Daunt patrick.daunt@keme.co.uk 891485

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GREAT SHELFORD

CANON MICHAEL GOATER

Great Shelford: Stella Nettleton 693971
stellanettleton@btinternet.com

ALL SAINTS HARSTON, ST EDMUND'S HAUXTON AND ST. MARGARET'S NEWTON - VACANT

Harston and Hauxton: sara.ball@buttonend.co.uk

Newton: Denise Dent DentPhilnDenise@aol.com

ST MARY THE VIRGIN LINTON, ST MARY BARTLOW, ALL SAINTS CASTLE CAMPS, ALL SAINTS HORSEHEATH AND ST MARY SHUDY CAMPS – REVD DR STEVE GRIFFITHS

Linton: Glynis Younger glynisyounger@hotmail.com
Bartlow: Tom Breitmeyer bartlowestate@hotmail.com
Castle Camps: Patricia Haylock – no email
Horseheath: Nelson Cornish ncornish@artcontact.co.uk
Shudy Camps: Robert Manning robertmanning@btinternet.com
ALL SAINT'S LITTLE SHELFORD AND CHRISTCHURCH
SOUTH CAMBS REVD SIMON SCOTT
Little Shelford: David Jones davidjhjones@netscape.net
Christ Church South Cambs:
 Tim Chapman Timandlucy@yahoo.com
ST. MARY'S, SAWSTON AND ST PETER THE APOSTLE
BABRAHAM – REVD ALAN PARTRIDGE
Sawston: Sue Hunting suehunting@ntlworld.com
ST ANDREW STAPLEFORD – CANON JOHN PINDER
 James Shaw jimshaw@waitrose.com
ST MARY & ST ANDREW WHITTLESFORD AND ST JOHN THE
BAPTIST PAMPISFORD – REVD RUTH WHITEHEAD
Whittlesford: Deborah Knowles
D.S.Knowles@westminster.ac.uk

Other Clergy and Readers (LLM)

Revd Stephen Anderson NSM Curate Great Shelford
 Revd Tim Chapman – Asst Curate Little Shelford and Christ Church South Cambs
 Revd Lesley Gore – Curate Linton Team
 Revd Tony Heywood – Curate Little Shelford
 Revd Graham Ridgewell – Team Vicar Linton

 Mrs Maureen Dobson and Nigel Pett – Great Shelford
 Mrs Rita Ollett and Mrs Jose John - Sawston
 Dr Ian Hinton and Peter Smith - Whittlesford
 Mrs Julie Baillie - Hinxton
 Mrs Sara Ball - Harston, Hauxton and Newton
 Dr Robin Church - Little Shelford
 Graeme Walker - Linton
 Stephen Wheeler - Weston Colville
 Mrs Judith Wright - Ickleton

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL BARTLOW THREE COUNTIES CHARITY WALK BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY 1ST MAY 2011

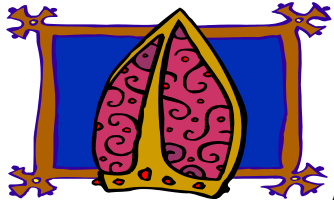


Bartlow Church badly needs funds for its roof work but this walk is also for the care of the living as it aims to also raise funds for Linton Health Centre and the Paediatric Gastroenterology Unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

9.15 am Walkers Service in Bartlow Church
 10.00 am start on walks through beautiful local countryside, and by special agreement with local landowners:

- The 'Classic' 13½-mile Three Counties Walk
- The 9½-mile 'Family Route'
- The 5-mile option which includes a lift back to Bartlow
- And the enormously popular 1½-mile Junior Nature Trail for the under 10s, incorporating a Nature Quiz, a Balloon Release and many other games and adventures. In dry weather this is a pushchair-tolerant route.

For more details and to download a sponsorship form visit www.bartlow.org.uk or simply call Graham Howat -Walk Organiser - on 01223-891732



As many of you will know the Rt Revd Stephen Conway was installed as the sixty-ninth Bishop of Ely on 5 March 2011 in the Cathedral. As numbers were so restricted I thought that you might like to have the opportunity of saying 'Welcome to our Diocese' and this was his sermon:

When I was a small boy...Well, let me say when I was a boy, my grandfather would tell me stories about **his** grandfather who lived in Steeple Morden, a parish in the south of this Diocese. Although my grandfather was not particularly tall, great-great-grandfather Jarman was a big man who sported a high hat and rode a large horse. It was said that you could see him coming from miles away. So, now his great-great-grandson is back in Cambridgeshire and West Norfolk, another big man with a high hat whom people will see coming towards them!

Since I have arrived in Ely, I have had the opportunity to travel in company with incumbents and other ministers around the Cambridge South and Wisbech and Lynn Marshland deaneries. This has encouraged me hugely as I have listened to colleagues describing lives and ministries rooted in God and committed to drawing others with them on that journey of discovery. I look forward joyfully to being at the heart of this pilgrim band with all who want to join in during the years to come. I shall be a pilgrim in all of our communities as this year progresses.

Going on a journey is a theme to be drawn from two of our readings today. I have been re-reading Bishop Lancelot Andrewes' famous sermon about the coming of the Magi, and T S Eliot's poem inspired by it. Arriving in cold January from Wiltshire drew me into the story of those who set out to discover Jesus. Wise men set out on a journey which left behind what was known and safe and brought all their wisdom to the feet of a Saviour who had yet to speak. They went back

another way because the whole landscape of their lives had changed.

Travelling for its own sake does not take us anywhere, however. I watched a film recently called 'Up in the Air' in which George Clooney lives on aeroplanes and keeps all commitment at bay. It is a dark film for all its comedy. His journeys are all revealed to be without purpose and his hope of love is revealed as fantasy. Our travelling together as pilgrims in fen, town and city needs to be purposeful. The writer and artist, Jennifer Lash, sister of the former Norris-Hulse Professor in Cambridge, used her time of remission from cancer to travel to the famous pilgrim shrines of France and Spain as a spiritual quest for someone who had been brought up in the life of the Church but had moved away from it. She wrote about her journey in a very moving book entitled *On Pilgrimage*. Not surprisingly, the journey was a celebration of love and hospitality and a renewed sense of God at work.

I have met nothing but love and hospitality so far, both from clergy and other colleagues, from friends in sister churches, and from people in the wider community with whom I look to be partners in serving the common good. I thank you all; but forgive me if I mention no names to avoid invidious omissions. I have come into a goodly heritage; but what I pray for most now is that we shall all be infected together with a renewed sense of God at work in our midst.

Today, I have taken the oaths on a 1611 edition of the Bible. I applaud all that I have already seen and heard about the commitment to studying and praying with the scriptures across the Diocese. Our journey is given shape and purpose by our being drawn as individuals and communities into the Exodus of the Israelites into freedom, the Exodus into freedom completed in the resurrection of Jesus.

The Book of Deuteronomy, which contains a series of addresses attributed to Moses to Israel before they enter the Promised Land, would not win many votes as the most popular book in the Bible. It is sometimes written off as a dull book of rules. Actually, it is a book which says much about justice for the oppressed and the stranger; and it carries the astonishing message which is for us, too. Israel does not need to be anxious about provision on this last part of their journey because God is providing everything. Even more astonishing, God has

been with them on all their journey and in the whole forty years they have lacked nothing. God's blessing has been unfailing. In the desert they may have expected that they might have lacked everything in a trackless waste. Yet, this is our hope that our God's love even makes the desert bloom. Even when we cannot see our way clearly, God is always coming towards us and renewing His covenant with us.

This is not pie in the sky, but God being down to earth, inviting us and every community to enlarge our sympathies and to dare to hope that all may flourish. As a big bishop, I am keen to participate in a big society. This morning nearly 200 children have led me to the Cathedral. I am very much concerned about what the future will be like for them. What we need is a generous society in which we strive to release gifts, create real jobs, celebrate serious scholarship, support innovation, treasure the earth and honour those with the weakest voice – the young, the elderly and those imprisoned by disability.

A generous society will desire that everyone has people to love, a decent place to live and worthwhile opportunities to participate and contribute. We must break free of the seesaw of boom and blight which can beset us simultaneously in different parts of our region. It is said that we Christians are so heavenly-minded that we are no earthly use. Actually, we are dual citizens already of God's kingdom and God's earth. It is only by being heavenly-minded that we shall be any use at all. I rejoice at all the ways in which Christian people are exercising their discipleship in all sorts of volunteering and public service. I pray that we can be even more vivid in our commitment to the public square, to sacrificial service and to mutually transforming relationships and conversations. One scholar has written that Deuteronomy expounds a profound 'neighbourly ethic'. I hope that we can live this out across the Diocese, whether here through the Cathedral, in settled rural villages, in our universities, our urban centres or in the new communities which are springing up. This neighbourly ethic also takes us beyond our local interests and unites us with our partners in Germany and South India. Beyond that, God invites us into a deeper commitment to the flourishing of our neighbours across the Two-Thirds World, where we build respectful partnerships - rather than play Lady Bountiful.

The hospitality and engagement of our churches enables us to invite people not yet part of our life to join the journey of the first disciples from Jerusalem to Galilee. The Bishop who ordained me used to say that you can't keep a good God down. Outside the city gate, life and hope seemed to have been extinguished as Jesus died on the cross; but in a garden the New Creation burst from the tomb. The women bore the message that everything was now possible. God sent His Son to destroy the barriers of sin and death so that we might be transfigured by his resurrection life; and that we should want to be immersed in that life so much that anything else would be as rubbish to us.

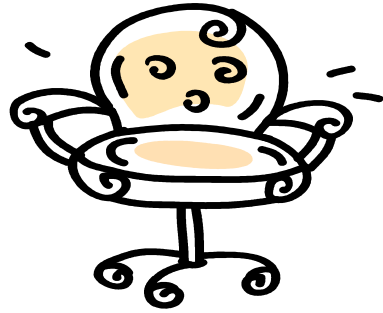
At the end of this service I shall go to the Galilee Porch at the West End of the Cathedral to bless the City and Diocese. It is a sign of the invitation to follow the Risen Christ to the Galilees of today and join in what He is doing in the Spirit's power. This is the great commission we have received together as the whole People of God as those baptised into the death of Jesus that we might share his life.

I am confident that God continues to form us by His Spirit as we live lives of thankfulness and praise. I pray that we shall have years together as God's people, growing into the character of Christ as we gather to give thanks around many altars, rejoicing in the real presence of Christ in the Word shared, in the bread broken and in the lives of those who become what they eat, the Body of Christ. One of the saints of the Early Church wrote that the 'glory of God is a human being fully alive.' I really take this to heart. I commit myself to continuing to be formed as a disciple in the character of Christ, ready to be changed and grown by you and to entrust my well-being to you. I shall seek to serve your formation and flourishing, too, so that we can all reveal Christ at the heart of everything. It is very important to me that I have been anointed by my colleagues at the Shrine of Saint Etheldreda. I pray that we shall all be anointed by God to follow in the steps of all the saints of this land and be united with them in praying for the coming of God's kingdom.

I have enjoyed already the wonder of big East Anglian skies I have experienced very long views and a sense of earth and sky merging

Page 4

together in a glorious pattern. I look forward to taking the long view as we pray for a future of growth and renewal in the Diocese of Ely. This is all possible because our lives now are shot through with God's glory. Amen.



Mutterings from the Lay Chair.

March is here and so we can be encouraged to think that the worst of this winter's rather cold and grey weather is close to its end. No doubt there will be a sting in the tail!

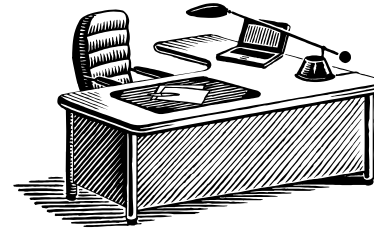
At the time of writing we look forward to the installation of Bishop Stephen in the ancient and remarkable surroundings of Ely Cathedral. Ancient is obvious but remarkable it is because of the skill ability and energy of all those masons and other trades that caused this majestic "ship" to rise out of the fens. A clear testament to their faith.

So it will be a new beginning for this diocese and the energy of a new man will be felt throughout the deaneries and parishes. To a mere Lay Chair it seems a daunting and humbling task. We must wish Bishop Stephen well and pray that his ministry will be significant and relevant. I am certain we are all looking forward to welcoming him among us as soon as the opportunity arises.

I note our Editor's comments in the Christmas edition of this little Chronicle and I sense his disappointment that we are perhaps not supporting him – and ourselves – enough. It would be easy to let this small organ of communication die the death. But it would be a real pity to do so. It is good to read what is happening in other

places and it provides food for thought and spawns new activities for other parishes at which to try their hands.

I hope we can support Nick in his endeavours and let him have both news of things past and of things yet to come which is worth sharing. I encourage all to do this when the cry for articles goes out.



From the Rural Dean's Desk

In the days when I was involved in making health education programmes on television, the received wisdom among broadcasters was that the input we received from our specialist advisers would change, on average, every 40 weeks. This appeared to be the gestation period not only of your typical human baby but of the latest wheeze for prolonging active life. 'Tell them to brush their teeth *this* way,' our advisers would urge, only flatly to contradict themselves 9 months later with a proposal that doing *that* way would be even better.

That was 30 years ago, but little seems to have changed. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old that generally it was more nutritious to eat the cardboard packaging than the contents of the breakfast cereal box; but I say to you that toxic chemicals (mineral oils from the printing inks) are now found to have contaminated the food sold in many recycled cardboard cartons. So Kellogg and Weetabix are reducing the oils in their packaging, and Jordans has stopped using recycled cardboard altogether. Again, and even as I write this, the BBC informs us that doubts have been raised over the idea that being "apple shaped" increases the likelihood of a heart attack. While excess weight is still a major risk factor for heart disease and other serious medical conditions, a study in *The Lancet* has contradicted previous advice that people who are 'centrally

obese' are three times more likely to suffer heart attacks than those with more generally distributed fat.

Truly ours is an uncertain age, for where shall wisdom be found? It was to reflect upon the relationship between the eternal verities and his contemporary world that Jesus entered the wilderness of Judaea. The truth of his calling as Messiah received in his baptism at the Jordan had to be interpreted in the light of the expectations of his people. How was he to love and serve them in his Father's name? And where Jesus went, we follow. Always he goes before us, drawing us ever more deeply into the adventure of discovering the length, breadth, height and depth of divine grace in our lives. That is the journey of a lifetime, as it was for Jesus' forebears on their way to the Promised Land, but Lent brings it sharply into focus for us, as we reflect with Jesus on the nature of our calling through baptism. How are *we* to love and serve the Lord, to mediate His enduring loving-kindness here beneath the inconstant moon?

As for those boxes of frosted nutrigrain which clutter our larders and the breakfast table, the television company I worked for all those years ago produced not only wholesome health education programmes but one of the earliest 'soaps', *Crossroads* – a series so unremittingly awful it was mercilessly guyed. I still recall the reviewer (Clive James) who wrote of it, 'such is the vestigial verisimilitude of the characters in these scripts that to call them even 'cardboard' is an insult to the British packaging industry'.

Measure for Treasure

Our politicians are facing a conundrum! That elusive sense of well-being for which we yearn may be less closely connected to the economy than we had thought. Improving happiness now seems to be at least as important so that should become a new goal. But how on earth are we to measure it?



Measurement, the experts tell us, is the key to successful management, whatever the enterprise. Without measured data how can we know we're making progress? And of all the statistics we might latch onto, financial data are the firm favourite, partly because they are so easily measured. Accounts and Balance Sheets have their uses but what can they possibly tell us about happiness or other such goals to which we commit? The truth is that what we most treasure we find hardest to measure!

Over recent weeks, like many other Treasurers, I've been preparing accounts for 2010. These show the financial consequences of activities and decisions taken this past year. Our new Deanery Accounts are telling us that in 2010 the Deanery Parish Grant Fund contributed £2,216 more towards our Ministry costs than it did in 2009. The increase was achieved despite a £458 fall in the Diocesan rebate that replenishes the Fund. We were able to commit to the extra support because we hold reserves. And the outcome was that 13 of our 24 Parishes directly benefited from that support. For 2011, we have committed to raising the support by a further £1,648 to help 16 of our Parishes meet their Ministry Costs in the current year.

The Deanery Accounts are a useful source of financial facts and figures. But we mustn't expect them to answer the deeper questions about how well we are stewarding the many gifts and opportunities presented to us. The Deanery's role is to enable and encourage all our Parishes in their Ministry and Mission. It is in the fulfilling of that role that our real treasure lies.

We are quite rightly asked to measure and account for the money entrusted to us. But as Treasurers, we have a duty to steward the even more important treasure that lies elsewhere. Accounts and Balance Sheets will be of little worth if we cannot sustain our Ministry and Mission in the world.



A successful year of various Deanery events culminated in a very well attended Advent Carol Service at Little Abington on a very murky day and much credit must be given to the refreshment ladies who overcame countless odds to provide hot drinks for us.

Branch programmes have been planned for 2011 incorporating two Deanery events, one Archdeaconry and one Diocesan. Dr Mary Archer will talk to us about Addenbrookes Past Present and Future at a Deanery Event in May and we shall round off the year with a Deanery Carol Service in Balsham Church to which Arlette Eggleton from Newton hopes to bring a Children's Choir.

Please continue to pray for Ely's link dioceses in Nigeria (Ogoni) and Rwanda (Kigali). Remember also the Sudan as the Southern Sudan moves to independence from the north in July and particularly our link dioceses of Juba, Maridi, Yambio and Yei.

Our parishes write

The four parishes of the Balsham benefice have continued to work closely together and a very well attended service was held at West Wrattling when the Bishop of Huntingdon came to be with us. This was the first 'cluster' service and included the parishes of Great and Little Abington and Hildersham of which Dr Julie Norris also has charge.

Our link with these other parishes is helped by the fact that Hildersham has had a long term link with Balsham in connection with the Sponsored Horse Ride each September which has now been part of the programme for 30 years. The latest Ride in September 2010 raised a sum of £1,600 each for Balsham and Hildersham and a substantial donation is made to a different charity each year.

All the parishes are now looking forward to a visit from the Bishop of Ely who will celebrate and preach at Balsham on Palm Sunday, 17th April and it is hoped to join together for the Rogation Day walk. An office has been created for Dr Norris in the former choir vestry at Balsham but this has not been very pleasant to use during the extremely cold weather!

Finally, we must record our deep sense of loss by the death of Canon John Cotgrove whose services we have been privileged to enjoy over a long period.

Since our last edition and with the exception of Christmas, it almost seems at **St Mary and St John Hinxton** as though we have been in hibernation as far as church activities are concerned. The exception to this was our Silent Auction which yet again proved to be an excellent fund raiser whilst also being a great village social occasion.

Just over a year ago our interregnum came to an end and we were very fortunate to be offered a new Priest in Charge. When we came to fill out our "Enquiries" we were asked, as we usually are, what had encouraged us most and it was particularly rewarding to be able to say "our new Vicar". One of a number of reasons for wanting to say this is that with the support of lay people there has been greater progress in providing ministry for the young in our three parishes than there has

been for a while. Providing a personal invitation to families to come and join us in church combined with some inspired service planning has opened new vistas. It is very early days but we can only hope that what has started in a small way can be built upon in the future. We now look forward to longer and brighter days and especially to the joys of Easter. May our brother and sister parishes rejoice in a happy and peaceful Eastertide.

In **Ickleton** the Sunday school is thriving, with thirty-five children on the books and seldom fewer than fifteen children or so at any given service. The 'Hinkleduck' family magazine has had a short rest over Christmas, but we hope soon to see him rise from the ashes (or is that only Phoenixes?) We are also looking forward to the confirmation of some of our young people (and indeed some of our grown-ups) in July, and are trying to find different ways to support them in worship and in our common life. From March our second Sunday evening service will become shorter and more informal, with time for reflection (the first being a Taize service supported by our small new music group) and we are also trying out services with room for discussion and reflection on fifth Sunday afternoons. On a different tack, our 'Cranmer and cake' evenings ('all the fun of Evensong and twice the calories'), where we look at the history, the spirituality and the strengths of the BCP Evensong service, are proving popular. I think word has spread about how good the shortbread is. The coffee mornings, currently only monthly for the wintertime, are going strong, and we are looking forward to spring and the warmer weather, when we will meet weekly and enjoy the sunshine outside!

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP

On Saturday 25 June at 5.30pm by

choristers from Churches of the Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Society

Proceeds will go towards the costs of staging the Festival at Kings College Chapel which the ACCMS hold on alternate years with The Ely Royal School of Church Music. All are cordially invited to join us for the service in our beautiful historic church. Gordon Woolhouse [gordonwoolhouse@gmail.com] 01799 530155

At **St Peter's Duxford** we have been trying out a new 'take' on our short and informal all-age service on the fourth Sunday of the month: in January a procession of wise men came to see the baby Jesus, and in February we considered (including drawing and sticking) the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Things are sometimes a little disorderly, but quite fun.

Our evening services with laying on of hands continue on third Sundays, as part of the healing ministry we share with our immediate neighbour churches; in the coming months these will be enhanced with contemplative Taize elements, supported by a small music group. And our main parish Eucharists have included some joyful baptisms just recently, even if the Paschal candle invariably insists on going out at the crucial moment!

Abington Amble Saturday 4th June 2pm onwards



Come for a stroll around ten beautiful Open Gardens in the village of Great Abington, with different stalls in each and a Treasure Hunt for children. There will be organ recitals in church, tea and scones will be served at The Paddock, just off the High Street next to The Three Tuns pub.

Family programmes £2 available from the Church on the day or telephone
Mrs. Audrey Bugg 01223 891250.

Proceeds in aid of Great Abington Church.

Put these dates in your diary NOW!



Rave in the Nave 15 July 7.15 pm to midnight with Doctor Who's Tardis!

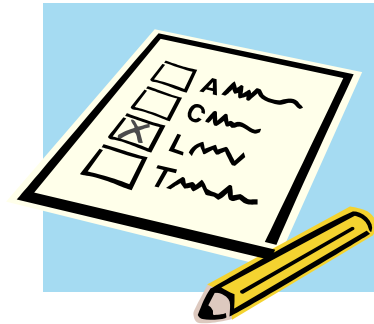


Deanery Confirmation with Bishop David is at Ickleton 5 July 7.30 pm and the contact if you have candidates is Revd Dr Jessica Martin 01223-832137 or jhm28@cam.ac.uk



Deanery Ascension Service is at Stapleford on 2 June at 7.30 pm.

DEANERY SYNOD ELECTIONS



YOUR DEANERY NEEDS YOU!!

The current terms of office for parish representatives to the Deanery Synod end on 14 July. The current post-holders have seen much change and not least in reducing meetings! Now whatever you may think of synodical government it is here and the Deanery needs to have members. From its austere membership representatives to Diocesan Synod are elected. So, power to the people!!

Your current lay chairman, Andrew Walker, and the treasurer, Bob Doel, are masochistic enough to offer themselves for re-election. Secretary Jane is not! However all three need to be thanked for their commitment and the way that they work in partnership with the Rural Dean and other clergy in their demanding roles.

Nominations have to be sent to Jane Martin by 14 June and she will also explain the system to you! She will be e-mailing papers to current reps but you can contact on 01223 8470453

pandjmartin@btinternet.com

All Saints Little Shelford report that their Christmas services were again very popular and a good opportunity to reach out to those who only attend Church on “high days and holidays”. The crib service and Carol Singing in the Navigator pub are ever popular and this year the Christmas Eve communion service was much busier than normal as was the Christmas day service itself. We thank God that all of the Christmas services went so well and that the talks at each of the services touch the hearts of those that attended.

The normal pattern of services and outreach events now sees a “Coffee @ All Saints” in our North Building on the last Friday of each month event. Started last year it is now an established and popular event for all ages who find themselves in the locale. Many friendships have been made and conversations enjoyed. We have also run “Christianity Explored” from the end of January into March, a great opportunity for Christians and non-Christians to explore the core beliefs of Christianity and they always attract a few enthusiastic participants, keen to learn and understand the Christian Faith.

A very well attended occasional hearty Men’s Breakfasts on a cold and frosty Saturday morning in February enjoyed hearing Mike Schluter, founder of the Jubilee Centre speaking about “A Christian Perspective on Social Reform”. It was a very interesting session and left us thinking deeply as to how Christians should react to the challenges of today’s financially constrained economic situation. I would encourage you to look at the Jubilee Centre web site to find out more: <http://www.jubilee-centre.org/>.

Our recent confirmation service for four of our young people and two members of Stapleford Church was a great delight and we pray for God’s blessing on them having made this public stand of allegiance to Christ. Bishop David led the service and he preached on “The Bible, Book for today”.

We are looking forward to a full calendar of events for Lent and Easter, beginning with an Ash Wednesday Communion and then hosting the Deanery Synod with a meditation on the Temptation Narrative from Matthew’s Gospel in the King James Version.

Forthcoming highlights include a Church Weekend Away when we will be exploring our Church Vision statement, “Growing together and reaching out”. We will be starting to plan for our week of outreach events from 12-19 June, when there will be a programme of events to help people investigate the Christian faith.

St Andrew, STAPLEFORD have no great excitement to report, which is how we like it, but we have had a great success of an art exhibition in our Johnson Hall by Catherine Spencer, a member of our choir. This sounds at first to be parochial but isn’t, being actually a contribution to education in Africa, but with a difference.

Catherine’s paintings and the associated activities raised over £3000 for ‘Alive and Kicking’, which is the best of results, but for the worst of reasons. Catherine’s grandson, resident in Norway, became suddenly ill last year with a very rare and fast-moving cancer which soon brought to an end his young life, so Catherine was moved to help other young people to stay alive. ‘Alive and Kicking’ supplies to the young in Africa that universal breaker-down of boundaries and inhibitions - the football. These are made locally from local leather, but the special bit is that they bear simple messages about AIDS/HIV and malaria, so as the young rush around bell-ending the ball they see those messages again and again and again.

Our senses have been further spoiled by a concert in church by professional harpist Lucy Bunce who, as an active member of Cambridge City Church, is ‘one of us’. She was supported by her father Barry Hart on guitar, Joanna Hall playing flute and our own Trevor Barlow, Musical Director of the ACE Foundation here in Stapleford, who added clarinet and saxophone. March rounds off rather well with the honour of a visit and sermon by the diocesan bishop of our Tanzanian link parish of St Andrew’s Nachingwea, Bishop Patrick Mwachiko, who will be accompanied by his wife Emma.

St Mary’s Church West Wickham tell us that one cleric who came to lead our services remarked that our congregation could be viewed as a family. At the end of the communion service we say “send us out” - look outside. One way to try to do this is to include members of the

wider community. We involve all at our Family Service when parents and children share the reading of the lessons, lead the prayers and help in other ways. Imaginative scenarios are used to involve all those attending. The warmth and informality together with the theme of the day give a positive experience.

For the Christmas Eve service, those who play a role in our local organisations were asked to select readings. One chose a poem, "The Holy Night" by Eleanor Fargeon, a second an extract from the diary of John Wollaston. He emigrated to Western Australia and set up a church. The diary extract recounts a service held on the ship which took them to Australia. It was Christmas Day and in his prayers he remembered those living in West Wickham. Different readings help the congregation to think afresh, and the children see those who they meet in everyday life being involved in the service and sharing the experience. One family who came to the service were on a visit from their home in Crete. The two daughters aged six and three went to the microphone and sang "Jingle Bells" in Greek. Everyone joined in, spontaneously fun. Some of the magic that can be found in the unexpected

At the united service for Four Parishes the Hand Bell ringers from West Wickham played three pieces. After the communion "Quelle cette odour" with the melody being played with single bells for the last verse. Combined with the acoustics of the church, the overall effect reflected the nature of this part of the service

House Meetings have been introduced. These take place once every six months. There is an open invitation for people to come to discuss and share their thoughts. We are privileged to worship in a lovely part of South Cambridgeshire, in a small intimate church. Many activities contribute to maintaining the life of the church in West Wickham. It is hoped that by involving the wider community seeds are sown which over time will mature to the benefit of all.

AN ADVERTISEMENT – CARDS FROM AFRICA

Rachel was just 13 when her mum died – her sister was 9 and her brother just 6. Their father was dead and, unwanted by relatives she became the head of the household, barely surviving by whatever she could grow on their meagre plot of land. **Cards from Africa**, a small business on the outskirts of Kigali in Rwanda, learned about Rachel when she was 18, and offered her work making absolutely beautiful greeting cards from recycled office waste paper.

Cards from Africa is a fair trade business idea founded by Chris Page in 2004. He lived in Rwanda and was inspired by the people who were trained to make beautiful cards. Employment now exists for over seventy orphans and holds the largest range of fair trade cards in the UK. It helps young people to pay for food, shelter, health care, and school materials for their younger siblings and start saving for the future. For every 13 cards sold, 1 day of dignifying employment is created.

We need volunteers to help them become self-sustainable. You can get involved by hosting a coffee and card event in the local community at least once a year, being an office volunteer calling potential retailers and organizing fun events for selling the beautifully crafted cards. Becoming a representative is a great way to get involved while generating income for your chosen cause or for yourself. A Hampshire school is helping to build an English speaking secondary school and a Cambridge church is raising money to send some of their youth to Rwanda – presumably they'll bring them back again! **You can make a difference! Please get in touch with us at info@cardsfromafrica.co.uk or call us during office hours on 01223 778 525. Together we can make a difference. www.cardsfromafrica.co.uk**

The Friends of Whitworth House is a registered charity (1091682) which supports the residents of Whitworth House, a supported housing scheme managed by Orwell Housing Association, providing accommodation to vulnerable, homeless young women in Cambridge.

We are keen to recruit a motivated and reliable committee member with experience in the role of Treasurer. Our current Treasurer will be resigning at the next AGM in May and the Committee wishes to hear from anyone who would be willing to take on this important role with us as early as possible, to facilitate a smooth handover.

*Please look at our website for further details
<http://www.friendsofwhitworthhouse.com/default.html>*

*If you are interested in this position, please contact
Sarah Martin, Chair, in the first instance
at sarahmartin@talk21.com*



Your editor writes

I thought that I might adopt the last page for a change, probably because I do not have much to say this time around!! I could pedal my views on the selection of the whole range of lay ministry but I would only get into trouble. The great danger of grids is that people have to conform to them and so often the real skills and natural disposition of us as God's children are lost. See, now I will be chastised by those who know better, or patronize with their perceived status!

Once again we have a limited supply of local news and notes but much to celebrate in the previous pages. Can the 'Big Society' be seen in Granta Deanery? There are some crucial activities that we all need to support; the confirmation service and Deanery Synod elections.

Membership of an organization is important in so many ways. One of the big problems though is sharing views as far too often sides are taken and members ostracized or marginalized to such a degree that they leave. This is so apparent in our parishes, in our Church as seen by the members who are going over to Rome and of course in our secular organizations, all of which are the life blood of our society. Rather, should we not evaluate all of the evidence, accept our differences and build on the common ground? Too often the responsibility for actions is not accepted and there was a very good discussion on Radio 4 recently on the concept of freedom. I wonder how often we think about freedom and responsibility as we are tempted to ignore what we do; and I include me in this collective! What a great time to reflect on these two words in Lent. Perhaps if we did then we Christians actually might love one another!!

Hope that you all enjoy the exercise at Bartlow and Abington – walk those pounds away and chat gleefully as you go!!

And so shall we have another copy? DEADLINE WILL BE SOMETIME IN OCTOBER SO THAT WE CAN BE READY FOR ADVENT!

EASTER GREETINGS from all of the Deanery

