

Diary Dates MARCH 2008

Sunday 2nd	8.45am Holy Communion 10am Family Service for MOTHERING SUNDAY
Friday 7th	WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Look out for posters with details of town wide events
Sunday 9th	8.45am Holy Communion 10am Family Communion
Sunday 16th	PALM SUNDAY - Start of Holy Week 8.45am Holy Communion 10am Morning Worship
Tuesday 18th	7.30pm Joint Church Council Meeting
Thursday 20th	7.30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Traditional Meal- see notice sheets for more information
Friday 21st	GOOD FRIDAY 10am - 12 All Age Workshop 2.00pm An Hour at the Cross
Sunday 23rd	EASTER DAY 6.00am Sunrise Service 8.45am Holy Communion 10am PALM SUNDAY Family Service
Tuesday 25th Wednesday 26th Thursday 27th	EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB -:details and application form from Margaret Noble
Sunday 30th	8.45am Holy Communion 10am Service

The Season of Lent

Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection.

Lent begins on 6 February and ends on 22 March, the day before Easter.

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

All items sent in are considered for publication in the magazine, although they may not always represent the views of the whole Church. We are grateful for the financial support of our

The Parish Magazine of St Hugh and St John Church ~ Chells ~

An Anglican & Methodist Ecumenical Partnership

February - March 2008



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Living life to the full; With God as our King

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Diary Dates FEBRUARY 2008

For more detail see the weekly notice sheet

Saturday 3rd	2 - 4.00pm	NEARLY NEW SALE
Sunday 4th	8.45am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 11th	8.45am 10am	Holy Communion Family Communion - Anglican
Wednesday 14th	7.30pm	Joint Church Council Meeting
Sunday 18th	8.45am 10am	Holy Communion Morning Worship Led by Local Preacher Chris Bryant
Tuesday 20th	8.00pm	'Wednesday 'Evening Fellowship re-starts with a Pancake Party
Sunday 26th	8.45am 10am	Holy Communion Family Communion - Methodist Celebrant Rev Julian Blakemore

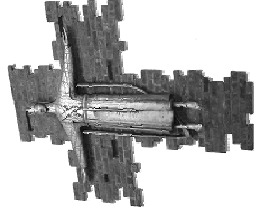
The Cross BY Moira Weekes

Ash Wednesday opens up again the time for repentance. I view these weeks so daunting in a very humble sense.

I cannot help but tremble at His power and mighty love. God gave us first a message via the Spirit as a dove. I close my eyes and feel a chill as I view Gethsemane. Then shame and sorrow fill my heart as I think of Calvary.

What can I do to show my love for the cross in the middle of three? I'll get down on my knees and bare my soul by this symbol of victory!

When I'm lost or lonely and struggling in pain I'll cling to the redemption tree. Then I'll see beyond through wondrous light the road to eternity



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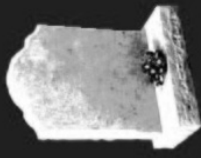
...remember what peace there may be in silence

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Dear Friends

It's all about me, me, me ... according to the letter attached to my store loyalty card!

Who will it be about for us as individuals, as families, as a church in 2008? Will it be all about *me* or will we have the faith to put Jesus Christ at the centre of our lives and seek him at the centre of every community to which we belong?



Early in January at Epiphany we celebrated the visit of the **Wise Men** to Jesus. They were not "all about me, me, me". They made a long and probably dangerous journey just because God called them. Their faith and insights may have been far from perfect but they used what faith and insight they had. They gave valuable gifts to

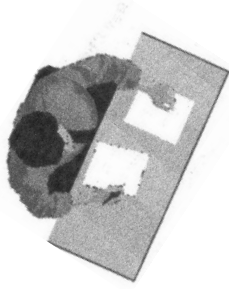
Jesus but far more valuable was the fact that they came to see Jesus in the first place. That we come to Jesus wholeheartedly outweighs any thing else we might offer. We need not, we cannot wait until our faith and our lives are perfect, either as individuals or as a church before we try to serve Christ.

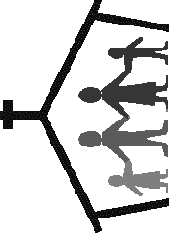
Lent is traditionally a time when we attempt to **mute the voice which yells "me, me, me"**, at least for a while. We aim to recover our true selves as children of the Great King, and allow him to reign over all aspects of our lives. Giving up something is one way of disciplining ourselves to be fit for God's purposes. Another way is to meet with other Christians to learn, to pray and encourage each other.

This year's Lent groups will be looking at people Jesus met on his journeys and relating that to our own faith journey. In addition we will be offering everyone "Love Life. Live Lent" booklets which suggest one achievable task for each day of Lent, such as a specific act of kindness towards a neighbour or work colleague (see www.liveLent.net)

This year, 2008, I invite you to put Jesus right at the centre of your life and seek his love, his joy, his hope at the heart of all our communities.

Duncan Campbell





JUNIOR CHURCH NEWS Margaret Noble

January is with us again and by the time you read this we may have had cold weather and even snow!! But in December we had a wonderful time at the Christmas Holiday Club. Each group made up cut out figures for a Nativity scene and Fiona told the Christmas story as the children added the figures to the scene. We all enjoyed watching and following the music DVD and learning the actions to 'A band of Angels'. This was after a fraught 15 minutes while I checked all the leads to the speakers, projector and computer to find why the sound was not coming through. Then I remembered a previous occasion when this had happened at home and some young gentlemen who will be nameless had switched off the sound on the computer!!! The children made table decorations, Christmas tree decorations with chocolates inside—they did have chocolates inside when they were made, but perhaps not by the time they arrived home!! The usual Christmas tree, angel, bell and star biscuits decorated with icing and various toppings were creatively and enjoyably finished by the children but they were not too keen on the bird feeder activity, where they had to squeeze oatmeal into lard using their hands!! But I'm sure the birds will have enjoyed the result. The final activity was the decoration and embellishing of a Christmas cracker and filling it with the usual innards. Fiona brought our morning to a close with the final worship by reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas. **My thanks go to all who helped in any way to make the day a success.**

The usual group of 'Christingle Friends' congregated at church on Sunday afternoon to stick cocktail sticks into sweets (managing to avoid their fingers) and assemble the Christingles. The Church was once again overflowing for the Christingle Service when we just managed to have enough Christingles for all the children. Carols were sung with gusto and the Nativity Story figures were carefully guarded until they were needed for inclusion round the Crib. We listened to Bible readings and prayed especially for those who would receive our gifts.

Junior Church held a Christmas Party on Sunday 6th January. John who is our games expert, organised the fun for the children and food and games were enjoyed by all.


Many thanks to all the leaders and helpers in Junior Church who give their time so willingly during the year.

Margaret, for the leaders and helpers in Junior Church.


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Annual Appeal -

Please support the publication of your magazine

It's that time of the year again when I ask you to dig deep and help make our magazine self funding.

Firstly a huge thank you to those of you who have been putting a little extra in the plate to help pay for the cost of producing the Magazine over the last twelve months. Due to an extremely good production cost and through your efforts I was able to splash out at Christmas and produce our first full colour edition! I have had a lot of positive feedback from many of our readers and have been asked if we can produce another colour edition in the summer.

To this end we would be extremely grateful if you would use the envelopes and make a one of contribution (Gift Aid if you are able to). It makes budgeting so much easier when I know how much we have in the kitty!

A one of contribution is not always possible I know, which is why we will stay with showing a suggested 'donation' on the front of the magazine and we will keep the donation box alongside the magazine on the display table in the Narthex, please 'top it up' when ever you can!

Again, we need more advertisers. Preferably small local businesses and clubs. If you know someone who might be interested ask them to call Hazel, she will be happy to discuss terms to suit both parties.

The cost to advertise in the magazine are:

Full page - £210 per year, Half page £120 per year,

Third or Quarter page (depending on layout) £72 per year.

These amounts can be paid half yearly. For a one of the costs are £ 12 per 1/3 or 1/4 page £20 per 1/2 page or £35 per full page

Please, support us in whichever way suits you best to enable us to fund the magazine separately from the everyday Church costs..

With the cost of postage getting more expensive, if you receive your copy by post, please also consider a donation of stamps.

Help us to continue and to improve YOUR Parish Magazine.

If you have any questions please speak to Marianne or myself, Hazel, either at Church or by telephone - 01438 369 083

**ENVELOPES CAN BE RETURNED AT ANY CHURCH SERVICE OR
 DELIVERED TO THE VICARAGE AT ANY TIME**

Thank you in anticipation,

Hazel, on behalf of THE PRODUCTION TEAM

METHODIST CHURCH E-NEWS

QUIET SPACES - SACRED PLACES

When and how do we find our quiet space or sacred place? How do we make a place sacred?

What do we consider to be sacred space in our world? These questions and more will be explored at a weekend residential event, organised by the Women's Network in the Methodist Church from 18-20 April 2008. Other highlights of the weekend include sessions on creative writing, art appreciation, retreats and leading retreats. Children will be specially catered for too.

The venue is the Hayes Conference Centre, which is set in the beautiful Peak District at Swanwick, Derbyshire.

The full programme and a downloadable booking form can be found at: www.methodist.org.uk



DON'T JUST CHANGE YOUR LIGHT BULB, CHANGE YOUR LIFE

The climate is changing and droughts, floods and extreme weather are having a big impact on the world's poorest people. To stop climate chaos we need to act together and act now, says Sarah Hagger of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.



Reflecting the urgency of the situation, MRDF has published a study pack on climate change which includes discussion questions on Bible passages, stories from MRDF partners and practical ways to respond. The pack is ideal for use in housegroups, youth clubs or Lent groups. Why wait for Lent? Act now. There is no charge for the pack which can be ordered by calling MRDF on 020 7567 5132

The Methodist Church will focus this Lent on how we follow Jesus in today's world, with a special emphasis on climate change. An alternative 'credit card' has been produced encouraging us to 'Buy Less: Live More'.

The card cannot be used to make purchases, but is designed to be placed in a wallet in front of other credit cards to remind people to think before they spend.



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JEWEL OF THE WELSH RIVIERA

Helen Quenault is coordinating a coach trip to the Welsh Riviera. Details below. If you are interested please contact Helen on 01438 237126. There will be a £30 non refundable deposit.

The Resort

The west and south west coast of Wales covers an area of spectacularly different landscapes. The coastline is dotted with small villages, ports and towns all steeped in rich history. Tenby is famous for its quaint streets, full of interesting little shops, within ancient walls and split by a rocky headland into two beaches.

The Hotel

The Cliffe Norton is situated on the sea front and only a few minutes walk to the main shopping area, this hotel offers a high standard of service, excellent menu and friendly atmosphere to all of its guests. The hotel has two lifts.

Itinerary

- **Sunday:** Depart from your home area with comfort stops en route, we will arrive late afternoon at your hotel in Tenby
- **Monday:** Travelling along the magnificent coastal road to St David's, a beautiful and unique city surrounded by some of the finest coastline in Europe, continuing our scenic journey via the Preseli Hills.
- **Tuesday:** Fee day to explore this medieval town, or take an optional cruise to Caldy Island—home of the Benedictine Monks. Today, the community of around 20 monks lead their lives according to the austere Rules of St Benedict and attend 7 services each day in the simple dignity of the Monastery Church.
- **Wednesday:** Time to look around Carmarthen and its market. In the afternoon we visit Laugharne where Dylan Thomas lived, and is buried in the local church. Enjoy a walk around this charming town and harbour, returning to Tenby via Pendine.

Thursday: After breakfast we leave and begin our journey home with comfort stops en route.

Holiday Includes

- * All Coach Travel
- * 4 Nights Dinner, Bed and Breakfast,
- * Nightly Entertainment
- * Full Excursions Programme
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WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP ~ Rita Killick

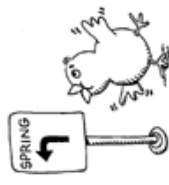
Our two Christmas evenings proved most enjoyable. The Bedford Gallery Quire came dressed in 18th century costume with their period instruments and gave us a convincing performance of an 18th century Christmas concert including readings from Thomas Hardy. We were truly taken back to times long past. Afterwards, thanks to Cathy Smith, Mark and Stephanie, everyone was able to enjoy some eats and the opportunity to talk to members of the Quire still in their costumes. The Quire's secretary has since written to thank us for being a welcoming and receptive audience.

Our usual evening of carols and readings was led by Fiona, who managed to find readings which we had not heard before, with Joan Hillman leading our carols. We sang well and for a second week enjoyed some festive eats.

I'm pleased to say that our patchwork quilt has been sold, raising £220 for our Church Extension Fund

Our spring 2008 programme commences at 7.45pm on **TUESDAY 5th FEBRUARY** (Shrove Tuesday) with a Pancake Party, and everyone is welcome whether you normally come to fellowship evenings or not, just turn up Meetings are held in the Church Hall on Wednesdays at 7.45pm, and the charge of £1 includes a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

SPRING PROGRAMME 2008



- | | | |
|--------------|------|--|
| Feb | 13th | OUR VISIT TO JORDAN
an illustrated talk by Jennie Stockwell |
| | 20th | HOUSES AND GARDENS IN NORTHUMBRIA a slide show by Colin Killick |
| | 27th | CRAFT EVENING make an Easter or birthday card |
| March | 5th | LONDON TRANSPORT IN THE 20TH CENTURY a talk by Mike Leverton |
| | 12th | ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS an illustrated talk by Joy Trevarthan |

Mother's Day
**Especially for Mothering Sunday
2nd March**

WHY WOMEN CRY!

A little boy asked his mother, 'Why are you crying?' 'Because I'm a woman,' she told him.
'I don't understand,' he said. His Mum just hugged him and said, 'And you never will.'

Later the little boy asked his father, 'Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?' 'All women cry for no reason,' was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry. Finally he put in a call to God. When God got on the phone, he asked, 'God, why do women cry so easily?'

God said:

'When I made the woman she had to be special. I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children.

I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue with out complaining.

I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very badly.

I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart.

I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unflatteringly.

And finally, I gave her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed.'

'You see my son,' said God, 'the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart - the place where love resides.'

Sir Edmund Percival Hillary,
KG, ONZ, KBE

20 July, 1919 – January 11, 2008



As I write this on 11th January I have just heard on the news that Sir Edmund Hillary, who along with Tenzing Norgay were the first men to climb Mt Everest, has died at the age of 88. Sir Edmund Hillary was one of my first true heroes.

I can just about remember the Coronation of our Queen but I do remember him being interviewed about climbing the world's tallest mountain that was then known as the Third Pole. He seemed like such an adventurer to me, someone who announced the climbing of Everest to the world by saying "Well, we finally knocked the B*****d off."

The climbing of the mountain instantly made him a worldwide celebrity and he used that celebrity well. He is the founder of the Himalayan Trust that he created to help the Sherpa natives of Nepal who gave him so much support when climbing the

mountain. He has built schools, water purification systems and sponsored programs to help the Sherpa's maintain their beautiful and unique culture. He also was the chair of a US not for profit dedicated to preserving the ecology of the Himalayan mountains. He lived the life of a great man and adventurous spirit. He demonstrated courage, fortitude and integrity. He gave full credit to the successful first ascent to Tenzing Norgay and they remained friends until the end.

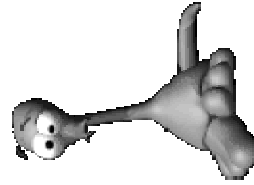


Take a moment when you read this to remember the time when exploration and adventure were truly noble pursuits and brought people together to share in the triumph of what humans can accomplish when they set a goal for themselves

Hazel Roethenbaugh

FEELING NEGATIVE? - GOD HAS A POSITIVE ANSWER

YOU SAY	GOD SAYS	BIBLE VERSES
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(I Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)



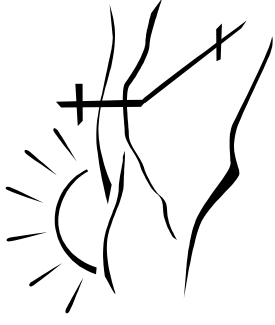
How Smart is Your Right Foot?

This is so funny that it will boggle your mind. And you will keep trying at least 50 more times to see if you can outsmart your foot, but you can't.

While sitting in a chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction.

I told you soAnd there's nothing you can do about it! If this drives you as mad as it did me, the man to blame is Terry Budin-Jones!



Lent Journeys!

You are invited to join our Lent groups, to travel together down the road towards Easter

This year we are offering a choice of venues to enable as many people as possible to join in. If there is sufficient demand additional groups at different times will be organised. We will be sharing :-

On the Road Again

(James W Moore)

A series of seven discussions based around the people that Jesus met on the road to Jerusalem. 'Each year as we move towards Easter, we make a road trip. We join Jesus on the road as he moves to and through the Cross. Some of Jesus' most powerful and poignant experiences happened on the road – he was born on a road trip, died on a road trip and appeared on the Road to Emmaus.'

When and Where?

Mondays – 8pm - (Come and join the Housegroup) 101 Wheatlands February 11th, 18th & 25th, March 3rd, 10th & 17th

Tuesdays – 7.45pm – in the homes of church members

(kindly and generously offered)

February 12th, 19th & 26th, March 4th, 11th & 18th

(Post Easter follow up on 25th March)

Wednesdays – 12.00 (soup and sandwiches) in the church hall

February 13th, 18th & 27th, March 5th, 11th & 18th

(Post Easter follow up on 26th March)

For more information and to put your name down to join us – speak to Duncan (01438 354307) or Fiona 01438 745971). Further details will be posted on the board in the lobby.

It's nearly Pancake Day – and that means the beginning of the penitential season of Lent.

Traditionally Christians give something up for Lent, whether that is chocolate, coffee or alcohol. This year, though, people are being invited to sign up to a new multimedia campaign to spread a little generosity and happiness.

By texting the word 'Lent' to 64343, mobile phone owners will receive daily suggestions, such as:

- ✚ Give up your place to someone in a traffic jam or a queue
- ✚ Have a TV-free day and do something you have meant to do for ages
- ✚ Take part in an environmental clean up
- ✚ Watch the news and pray about what you see
- ✚ Leave a £1 coin in the shopping trolley or where someone will find it.

The text messaging service costs 10p per day. The Love Life Live Lent campaign runs from Monday 19th February through to Easter Monday, and is supported by two colourful booklets and an interactive website, www.livelent.net.

The website will feature each day's actions, games, resources, and an opportunity to share experiences with others. There is a special area with activities designed for the under 15s.

The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, Acting Bishop of Oxford, said: "Doing something positive or generous can be as transforming as giving something up. It helps us to reflect on how we normally behave, and how we can make changes to our lifestyles that reflect God's love more fully."

Love Life Live Lent started life in the Diocese of Birmingham in 2006, inspired by a local pilgrimage. The booklet was such a hit that the original print run for the booklets had to be increased repeatedly, and 70,000 copies of the booklets were distributed through churches, schools and community centres.

Church leaders hope that 'Living Lent' this year could be the beginning of a journey of faith, and the campaign's dedicated website offers a range of resources and links to help explore Christianity and the Bible.



With a difference
Our focus...

'Y' is the Bible real and relevant to us, today, in the here and now?

We ran this over two half terms: the first half term we looked at Old Testament characters, then in the second half term we looked at New Testament characters...culminating in Jesus, with the end of term being Christmas. We used the format of telling the story of the character which the children had a mini quiz on. We then had our Y-Factor panellists who had to each give their reasons for relating to this particular character (for those of you who are old enough to remember 'Call My Bluff' it was a bit like that).

The children enjoyed learning about the characters and were eager to know who was our character for the following week.

The problem for me came with Jesus!! Without re-telling the story of the nativity how did we tell the story of Jesus....after all, at this point He hadn't done anything....It was an opportunity NOT to be missed. But how could we get that WOW-Factor about this baby who was to go on to save US. Does anyone remember the M&S advert over Christmas? They built up a collage of shopping which then had it's shadow projected behind it to reveal a woman walking her dog?



Well after much thought, that's where we went.... Tim and I acted out some drama whilst building a collage of 'things' associated with Christmas...loads of pizza boxes and Jacobs cracker boxes to depict the excessive over indulgence...cos that's what Christmas is all about! We then dressed the cross up with Santa suits to depict our imagery of Christmas....cos that's what Christmas is all about! We had a Christmas tree with gifts at the foot of it which we covered over....to show that Christmas eventually just ends up back in the loft...cos that's what Christmas is all about! A large computer box at the centre with screwed up paper and a football sticking out of the top....showed our extravagance...cos that's what Christmas is all about! The children were very focussed on this imagery and not all agreed that 'that's what Christmas is all about'. We then dimmed the lights and shone a light on a backdrop and revealed an image of the nativity scene.....my closing statement was 'and that my friends is what we feel Christmas is all about'...it worked. **Tracy Plumptre reporting on behalf of Launchpad Local**

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 25 FEB - 9 MARCH 2008

Fairtrade has improved the lives of millions of people - farmers, workers and their families - in developing countries. But, we need to keep promoting Fairtrade to ensure people know that buying Fairtrade products can make a positive difference.



As part of Fairtrade Fortnight there will be a Coffee Morning and Fairtrade stall on Friday, 29th February at St. Hugh & St. John.

As Stevenage Borough Council are working towards Stevenage becoming a Fairtrade Town there should be some special events organised by them and CTIS - so more information to follow nearer the time and will be posted on the Church notice board



To find out more about Fairtrade visit the web site at www.fairtrade.org.uk or have a word with our Fairtrade contact Judith Harrison after Sunday morning worship

The Easter Season

The Easter begins on Easter Day and lasts 50 days, ending on Pentecost. The name Pentecost comes from a Greek word which means 'fiftieth'

✠ What happened on Easter Sunday?

It was on **Easter Sunday** that **Jesus rose from death**. Jesus had told his disciples before he was arrested that he would be crucified and on the third day he would rise from the dead. Sunday was the third day from Good Friday (Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Day). The second day after Good Friday.

✠ What happens on Easter Sunday today?

Christians gather together on Easter Sunday for a **Sunrise Service**. This service takes place where everyone can see the sun rise. Some Christians take part in an Easter vigil, lighting a new fire outside the church early on Sunday morning. The **Paschal candle**, decorated with studs to celebrate Christ's wounds, may be lit from the fire and carried into the church where it is used to light the candles of the worshippers. The Easter Eucharist is a particularly joyful service. It is a popular time for baptisms and renewal of baptism vows. The traditional Easter gift is a chocolate egg.

✠ Why do we have eggs at Easter?

Eggs are a forbidden food during Lent, making them a welcome return to the menu on Easter Day. For Christians, Easter eggs symbolise new life. They believe that, through his resurrection, Jesus defeated death and sin and offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings. Eggs have been a symbol of continuing life and resurrection since pre-Christian spring celebrations.

Eggs had a religious significance in many ancient civilizations; Egyptians buried eggs in their tombs as did the Greeks; A Roman proverb states, "All life comes from an egg". It's probably no surprise that Christianity should also adopt the egg to symbolise the resurrection of Christ.

✠ The Traditional Egg Gift

The first eggs given at Easter were birds eggs. These eggs were painted in bright colours to give them further meaning as a gift. As chocolate was becoming more wide spread in the 20th Century, a chocolate version of the traditional egg was developed.

NOTES AND NEWS OF THE FAMILY

We welcome into this Church, by Baptism :

on Sunday 25th November

LISLE DAVID WEEKES

We send our loving prayers and good wishes to all who are, or have recently been unwell, at home or in hospital including,

RALPH SAPSTEAD, DOROTHY PICKERING, SHEILA ARCHBOLD, KAREN FIELDSSEND MARIANNE WEST

Lord, look upon these our friends with eyes of mercy, may your healing hand rest upon them, may your life-giving powers flow into every cell of their body and into the depths of their souls, cleansing, purifying, restoring them to wholeness and strength for service in your Kingdom Amen

We also send our love and sympathy to all who have recently been bereaved, especially the family and friends of :-

GORDON CAMPBELL, HEDY POCOCK, CYRIL HUGHES, LILLIAN BRIDGE, PHILIP ESCANDELL, LEN BUTLER, MARGARET FARTHING, LIONEL RENDLE, VERA TAYLOR DAVID ALLEN, RONALD BOOSEY and MARY GILFORD

Whose funerals took place recently

Lord Jesus, you know the darkness of our grief: the pain and emptiness that fills our hearts, as we grieve the passing of those we love.

We thank you for the gifts we have received through them. Amen

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 7th MARCH 2008

Over 3 million women worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer on Friday 7th March. They will be using an order of service prepared by Christian women from Guyana. In the British Isles, there will be well over 6,000 prayer services in different places. In this country, 270,000 service sheets will be distributed, including some in Braille. Further information and resources can be found on the UK Women's World Day of Prayer web site at www.wwdp-natcomm.org or for news of local services contact Marianne West - 232252

A Month of Sundays - Ruth Jermy

How many people come to our church on a Sunday? Well averaging the attendance figures for the 17 Sundays of September to December the answer is 377.75 per month or 88.88 per week.

During the two weeks from Monday December 10th to Thursday December 20th, we experienced something special.

St Hugh and St John opened the doors of the church to 1959 people. That is equivalent to 22 Sundays (OK - it isn't quite a month of Sundays!).

Where did they come from? Well this is the result of the outreach by Duncan and Fiona to our local schools. For the first time, all our local schools - Lodge Farm, Nobel, Marriotts and Camps Hill held evening Carol Concerts or Services in church.

Even more remarkable were the five year group assemblies held by Nobel School during the day on Thursday 20th December. One by one, years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 walked along the road to our church, filling it almost to capacity each time, to hear the Christmas message told in bible readings, narrative, carols and music.

The presentations on all these occasions were the work of staff and pupils - but they felt welcomed in our church and they are looking forward to coming again.

Roll on Easter - What a fantastic way for us to open our doors to our community.

Working Together



Building the Church

THE NEXT EDITION OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM SUNDAY 30th MARCH

Please send items of news, articles, reports, dates of forthcoming events, etc by the deadline for items for this edition which will be SUNDAY 2nd MARCH either by email to:

churchnewsletter@ntlworld.com or post to Hazel Roethenbaugh

Spider Cottage, 67 Beane Avenue Chells Manor SG2 7DL

or phone 01438 369 083 or give to Marianne West