The Green Spire

The Parish Magazine of

St Andrew, Orford with Longford

###### September 2014

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The *Green Spire* is published monthly. Copies are 35p per month, or £3.50 for a year’s subscription – normally payable in January. Enquiries about advertisements welcome.

School News

The weather is improving so it must be time for school to start a new academic year. Not that we’ve had a bad summer overall, but the weather always seems to pick up in early September.

Given that school has been closed for six weeks, there’s little to report, except to note that some members of staff who have served the school faithfully have now moved on and others are about to start.

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to Claire Hutt who taught at St Andrew’s for twenty-three years, almost exclusively in the infant department. For the past few years, she has welcomed children to school by leading the Early Years (Reception) class. We also said goodbye to Mrs Harrington and to Mr Roberts (who is moving to neighbouring Cinnamon Brow School). We wish them well.

The ‘line-up’ for the coming year includes a number of new teachers who will be led by Mrs Wendy McKinnon. Following the resignation of Mr Cahilllane, Mrs McKinnon will be Acting Head Teacher for the foreseeable future as governors seek to make permanent appointment.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Leader will be Mrs Gorman, a highly experienced practitioner with young children, who will get them off to a flying start. Mrs Gorman is also a talented musician and will lead on RE. In Year 2, Miss Evans will prepare her children for Key Stage 1 SATs and becoming Juniors!

Mr Browning and Miss Hicks, both recently qualified and full of exciting ideas, will lead Years 1 and 4 respectively while Mrs Chappell will lead Year 3. Mrs Moore, assisted by Mrs Blake, will lead Year 6 in a very important year for them all, and Miss Humphreys, who has made quite an impact on last year’s Year 4 children, will move up with them into Year 5.

Next year promises to be a challenging and also rewarding year for everyone – staff, children and governors. They would greatly appreciate your prayers and continued support.

From the Vicar:

I can’t help feeling that I’ve just been upstaged by Churchmouse! He frequently delivers his letter before I write mine and this month he and I have come up with much the same idea! In case you think otherwise, I really did come up with my idea before reading his column.

While thinking about what to write, I was reminded of that glorious evening hymn “The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended” sung in many churches up and down the land at the end of Evensong. It has been used at countless ‘drum head services’ in the field by man and women of the Armed Forces, and is now included from time to time in funerals. I’m sure most of you will know it.

The hymn paints a picture of the continuity of time. Although we think in terms of discreet days, starting with the sunrise and ending at sunset, the hymn reminds us that when evening approaches in this part of the world, a new day is beginning at the other side of the earth. One day rolls into the next – the continuous nature of our world. Verse four begins:

“The sun that bids us rest is waking

our brethren ‘neath the western sky”

and it struck me that this not only applies to individual days, but also years too.

September marks the beginning of the academic year, something almost as important for many people as the calendar year. Teachers and students will be thinking about the tasks ahead of them, to be completed by next July. Many people use academic diaries rather than calendar diaries because it fits their lives better.

There is a sense in which September marks the beginning of a year for the Church, too. Activities which have been put on hold for a month or two start up afresh and with renewed enthusiasm. But there is a difference – or there ought to be.

The hymn writer, John Ellerton, paints a picture which includes the unchanging nature of God. There is a certainty in it – certainty of the love of God and the purpose of the Church. The last two lines, though, hint at a gradual and steady movement to time when God’s kingdom will have grown to the point that every creature on earth will recognise the power of God at work in his world.

The rotation of the earth is now so well understood that its position can be predicted far into the future to fractions of a millisecond. The pattern is defined beyond doubt or question.

I find September quite exciting. Congregations, which have been thinner than usual, return from holiday breaks (though I know one or two go away in September). Meetings start to take place again and, of course, school reopens. Diaries fill up and plans are made for the rest of the year.

The coming year is not going to be like last year, or the year before. If we are working with God, our Father, to build his kingdom, we need to be moving forward. We need to reflect on the past year and learn from it, building on the best of the past and looking for new ways in which we can achieve our goal.

We need to find new ways to invite others to join us and share the great commission we have been given to spread the good news in all the world. It may be that our particular calling is to spread the good news in Orford, and that is particularly important because it’s a cause we share with just a handful of others – mostly our brothers and sisters in other local churches. We can’t rely on others to come in and do it for us, any more than we can go to other parts of the country and share our faith there. We are a link in a huge chain that together will cover the whole country.

Rather than see parish life as cyclical (one that goes round and round endlessly) a more helpful picture might be that of a spiral. We sometimes hear of people getting themselves into a downward spiral when things seem to get worse and worse, but our spiral is the opposite – an upward spiral in which we offer hope and confidence to those around us. We need to set before others a vision of the kingdom of God which includes them and us.

I sometimes worry that when I speak like this, eyes glaze over or people say “that’s the vicar’s job” when in fact, it is a shared task – shared by every baptised Christian, not just one or two. And that is where it gets exciting, because working together gives us the potential to really make a difference. Look at some of the campaigns that have really changed the world – they have been achieved by growing numbers of people working together for the common good.

I’m looking forward to September - and I hope you are too!

 Michael Raynor

What’s on in September...

Tuesday 2nd School re-opens

**Sunday 7th The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 18)

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

 **12 noon Holy Baptism**

Wednesday 10th 7.30pm Clergy Chapter meet in church

**Sunday 14th The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 19)

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

Tuesday 16th 8.00pm Hall Meeting (to be confirmed)

Thursday 18th 10.30am Year 5 children attend the Eucharist

Saturday 20th 4.30pm Wedding of Michael Hough and Sarah Pritchard

**Sunday 21st Saint Matthew, Apostle and evangelist**

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

Tuesday 23rd 8.00pm PCC Meeting in church

Thursday 25th 10.30am Year 6 children attend the Eucharist

Saturday 27th 7.00pm Christian Aid “Sing for your Supper”

**Sunday 28th The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 21)

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

Wednesday 1st 9.30am Distinctiveness Committee meeting in school

**October**

**Sunday 5th The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 22)

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

 **12 noon Holy Baptism**

There are regular weekly celebrations of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) on Wednesday evening at 7.00pm and Thursday morning at 10.30am. Celebrations on Saint’s Days are published on the Sunday sheet. Everyone is welcome.

Christian Aid

Joan Devereux and Lynne Giblin successfully completed the Sponsored Walk in July and helped to raise £880.50 Given that there were ten walkers and Joan and Lynne raised over £100 themselves, that is a marvellous achievement and they would like to thank everyone who supported them.

Anyone shopping in Morrison’s at the beginning of August might have seen Joan Devereux collecting on behalf of Christian Aid – a collection of £561.40 to support the general emergency fund. Given the huge demands on the fund, this is a welcome boost that will make a difference to many people’s lives.

On their website, Christian Aid wishes to thank the many people who helped with Christian Aid Week this year:

### *****“Thank you so much for everything you did during Christian Aid Week.*****

***We are again truly humbled by your efforts: your organising, collecting, abseiling, prayers, cake sales, worship, supermarket collections, flute recitals, concerts, ventriloquism and so much more.***

*Words are inadequate to express our deepest gratitude for what you have done and the money you have raised.*

*But most importantly, thanks to you, many more people in Colombia, Iraq, South Sudan and elsewhere will be able to lead a life free from fear.”*

The local Christian Aid Committee is organising three events for the autumn:

On Saturday 27th September at Friar’s green Methodist Church on Cairo Street, they are hosting a “Sing for your Supper” evening. There will be a two-course supper with coffee/tea. The entertainment will be ‘home-made’ and choirs, drama and music groups are being approached to help. Tickets are £5.00 for adults and £3 for children under 12 payable on the night. Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile event should have a word with Joan Devereux or Fr Michael before 25th September please.

On Saturday 8th November, the Annual Autumn Fair will be held and further details will be available shortly.

On Saturday 29th November, there will be a bucket collection in Warrington Market. Anyone willing to spend an hour or two helping will be most welcome.

Who’s on in September?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2014 | sides-people | reader | intercessor | offertory |
| 7 Sep | I. AppletonM. Harrington | W. McKinnon | N. Lee | M. EllisonM. Loughead |
| 14 Sep | J. DevereuxM. Ellison | W, Forster | Don Miller | A. Yeamans D. Yeamans |
| 21 Sep | L. GiblinP. Smith | Dot Miller | Sunday School | K RowanP Smith |
| 28 Sep | F. GreatorexO. Vowles | D. Kirk | Dot Miller | J BlythL Giblin |
| 5 Oct | A. YeamansD. Yeamans | K. Rowan | D. Kirk | B. BoscoeB. Glover |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2014** | Prepare and serve tea | Wash up |
| 7 Sep | B. Boscoe / B. Glover | M. Ellison / P. Smith |
| 14 Sep | M. Ellison / P. Smith | M. Harrington / D. Miller |
| 21 Sep | M. Harrington / D. Miller | L Giblin / F Greatorex |
| 28 Sep | L Giblin / F Greatorex | B. Boscoe / B. Glover |
| 5 Oct | B. Boscoe/ B. Glover | M. Ellison / P. Smith |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2014** | **Sunday School**  | **Counting collections** |
| 7 Sep | D. Miller | V. Carter / J. Raynor |
| 14 Sep | J. Raynor | I. Appleton / M. Ellison |
| 21 Sep | J. Raynor | B. Boscoe / B. Glover |
| 28 Sep | L. Giblin | D. Miller / P. Smith |
| 5 Oct | L. Giblin | V. Carter / J. Raynor |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2014** | **Read on Weds Evening** | **Hall Cleaning** |
| 31 Aug | Dot Miller (3 Sep) | Fr Michael |
| 7 Sep | Fr Michael (10 Sep) | J. Devereux |
| 14 Sep | D. Yeamans (17 Sep) | C. Worrall |
| 21 Sep | Don Miller (24 Sep) | Fr Michael |
| 28 Sep | N. Lee (1 Oct) | J. Devereux |
| 5 Oct | D. Kirk (8 Oct) | C. Worrall |

10 Reasons to be an Anglican

Robin Williams tragically died last month at his home in California. He will long be remembered for some powerful and moving roles in film where he played “an airman, a doctor, a genie, a nanny, a president, a professor, a bangarang Peter Pan, and everything in between.”

Sadly, what he is less likely to be remembered as is an Episcopalian (a member of the Episcopal Church which is in communion with, and shares a great deal in common with, the Church of England). Robin once gave 10 reasons for being an Episcopalian, and for Episcopalian you can substitute ‘Anglican’, or Church of England. You may have seen it in the *Green Spire* once before, we felt it was worth repeating:

10. No snake-handling.

9. You can believe in dinosaurs.

8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.

7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.

6. Pew aerobics.

5. Church year is colour-coded.

4. Free wine on Sunday.

3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.

2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you."

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In our day of thanksgiving...

In the more catholic parishes of the Church of England, it is customary to sing the hymn *In our day of thanksgiving* at the Dedication Festival, and for good reason, as the words of the hymn are beautifully matched to the occasion. While recognising the beauty and importance of the building, it really honours those whose lives have been shaped by the worship that has taken place within the church and who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Church (with a capital “C” – that is, the Body of Christ, the people of God in this place).

St Andrew’s isn’t unique, but certainly unusual, in that it was consecrated on the feast day of the saint it honours. For us, that is 30th November. On that day in years gone by, we have celebrated both the dedication of the church and our Patronal Festival, St Andrew’s Day.

Since 2010, when we returned to church having spent nine months in the Hall while the church was refurbished following the fire, we have celebrated the Dedication in early September while keeping St Andrew’s Day at the end of November. This year, the Dedication Festival will be held on Sunday 14th September.

It is an opportunity to look back and reflect on the past, and also a chance to think about the future and where we believe God is leading us. The collect for the Dedication Festival sums it up rather well;

Almighty God, to whose glory

we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer:

we praise you for the many blessings

you have given to those who worship you here:

and we pray that

all who seek you in this place may find you, and,

being filled with the Holy Spirit,

may become a living temple acceptable to you;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord ... Amen

Thinking about the hymn, the third verse reminds us of the countless worshippers who have found God in this place and have gone on to follow him on a life-long spiritual journey which ultimately led them to the city of God. For those who are not familiar with the hymn, here it is:

  In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer

 for the saints who before us have found their reward;

 when the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,

 but now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.

 In the morning of life, and at noon, and at even,

 he called them away from our worship below;

 but not till his love at the font and the altar,

 had girt them with grace for the way they should go.

 These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,

 and dear is the ground where their feet have once trod;

 yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,

 and still they were seeking the city of God.

 Sing praise, then, for all who here sought and here found him,

 whose journey is ended, whose perils are past;

 they believed in the light; and its glory is round them,

 where the clouds of earth's sorrow are lifted at last.

St Andrew’s has been richly blessed by countless ‘saints’ whose lives have reflected God’s presence to the world around them. These are the people who have lived apparently ordinary lives in an exemplary way. We have all met them – people dedicated to God’s service and willing to put themselves out for the good of the gospel and the people around them.

Later in this edition of *Green Spire* we pay tribute to of the faithful who now rest in the Lord, Joan Roberts and Vera Donoghue, and a couple of months ago to Lilian Delooze. Looking further back, the list soon grows as we remember others who have helped shape each one of us into the people we are today. There will be others we have known personally, away from St Andrew’s, whose lives have undoubtedly been filled with the love of God.

At the Dedication Festival later this month, we will pray that we will follow the good example of the saints, so that, one day, we might be numbered with them.

Generous Giving

A new report has shown the importance of generous giving in parishes up and down the country. The report contains lots of details, but the headlines are:

Churchgoers in our diocese gave on average £7 per week in 2012 according to figures released by the Church of England. The official statistics also showed that this amount remained static between 2011 and 2012. However those giving through tax efficient schemes have increased weekly donations from £9.90 to £10.00

Added to this generous support for church work at a local level our church members contributed to the £46m that Church of England churches donate to other charities. A higher total than the £43.3m raised by Children in Need.

But with parish expenditure in our diocese amounting to £10.60 per person per week the message is that we need to continue to work to grow our giving base and find ways to breakthrough to the next generation of givers so we are less reliant on the older generation of faithful givers. This will inevitably involve looking at new ways of stimulating generoous Biblical giving.

It is quite enlightening to compare national figures with those here at St Andrew’s. Tax efficient donations (that is, giving that has been gift-aided) across the diocese amounts to £10.00 per person per week (taken from 2012 returns). This year, to date, our tax efficient planned giving amounts to £6.91. There is no equivalent figure for non Gift Aided planned giving, but our parish figure is £4.00 per person per week. Overall, our average income from all planned giving comes to £5.42 per person per week. Of course, there are many generous givers at St Andrew’s, and many people work hard in the Shop, cleaning and other ways that help us balance our books and keep our costs in check. We are most grateful for all the hard work and generous activity of everyone concerned.

One a year, the diocese produces a ‘dashboard’ (headline figures taken from our accounts) together with questions that help the PCC understand the parish’s finances. These are discussed at PCC meetings The figures for 2013 will be issued shortly, usually in October, and will give us a clearer picture as to where we stand.

Words of wisdom

An ancient Chinese proverb says: “There are two sorts of fool – the one who says ‘This is old, it must be good” and the one who says, ‘This is new – it must be better.’

For some reason, this made me think about our Charity Shop, mainly because, of course, many of the things we sell are old (or rather, second hand!) Luckily for us, a lot of people are happy to buy what we have – both old (pre-worn!) and new, often with the original labels still firmly attached. We also benefit from people who prefer old furniture for its quality of workmanship, or for those who buy wooden furniture to re-paint in a new fashion that is called ‘shabby chic’.

Above all, the Shop is a place where we can help the local community (along with others from further afield). They find they can afford things that would otherwise be impossible, or they can use their artistic talents to re-vamp and re-use things in different ways.

As for ‘old must be valuable’ – well, just look at our staff! They are priceless!

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It makes you think...

A farmer popped into his local restaurant for a quick lunch. Before eating, he bowed his head to give thanks. A couple of local smart-alecs who recognised him started poking fun and asked, “Does everyone on your farm do that?” The farmer calmly replied, “No, the pigs don’t.”

From *Tidings*, the magazine of Workingmen’s Mission

**“I’m inviting you” – Back to Church Sunday**

 **- or B2C Sunday in the modern idiom!**

For a number of years, Back to Church Sunday has gained momentum and we, at St Andrew’s have taken part on several occasions. This year, “Back to Church” is to cover the period from September through to Christmas by taking on a seasonal approach, and so increasing the number of opportunities for churches that found September to be less than ideal.

The **Season of Invitation**, as it is now known begins, as before, with Back to Church Sunday in mid September, followed by Harvest Festival (in October), the Remembrance Day service in November, Advent Sunday at the beginning of December and culminating in Christmas.

The Bishop Elect of Liverpool, Paul Bayes, is part of the leadership team of B2C and recognises that inviting people to church isn’t always easy. “If we have a Season of Invitation, church people will become more confident to invite, and the people they invite will come more often, and, who knows, they may stick with the faith. Invite your friends to these five moments in this particular part of the year”, the bishop says, “and we believe it will make a big difference. Share your faith with them... and the Church will grow.”

Though we are not formally following Back to Church Sunday this year, why not invite someone to join you one Sunday this month, and again at Harvest time?



***The fruits of the Spirit***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  Harvest Thanksgiving This year’s Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 12th October, tieing in neatly with School’s celebration of the Harvest. There will be a supper and we will support a ‘development project’. More details shortly. |  |

Room at the Inn fund-raiser

Room at the Inn is the Warrington project to hep homeless people. It provides a night shelter from october to March, additional facilities over Christmas for homeless and lonely people, and help for homeless people to find long-term accomodation. We at St Andrew’s have supported Room at the Inn since its inception through our Christmas collections.

On Friday 12th September at 7.30pm, Trinity Girls Brass Band, the UK's only women's band, will give a concert locally. Conducted by trombone star Danny Brookes, lately of the Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band, will raise the roof for Warrington's YMCA and Room at the Inn homeless project at St Oswald’s Club, Padgate Lane, Warrington WA1 3LB. Lots of favourites to sing along to; it promises to be a fun evening for all. Tickets £6.00: contact YMCA 01925 576678 or Janet 07847169157 or email janetkilmurray@gmail.com

Sunday Rota

It’s almost time to prepare a new rota for people who read, pray, bring up the bread and wine and act as sidespeople and we are always pleased to add new names to the list. We would welcome volunteers to make tea and wash up, too. If you are able to help, please speak to Fr Michael.

Electoral Roll

In order to vote at the Annual Church Meeting in the spring (or special meetings that might be called), your name must be entered on the church electoral roll at least six months before. If your name is not on the Roll, or your details have changed, please speak to Kathy Rowan, our Electoral Roll Officer for a form.

Bible Reading notes

Lynne Giblin has now circulated sample copies of Bible Reading Notes to those who requested them and is happy to take orders for the next quarter’s edition. Please speak to Kynne if you’d like a copy ordering.

Sunday Tea Rota

There is still room for a few more volunteers to make and serve tea on Sunday morning and now is the time to put your name forward. The men in the congregation are singularly missing from the list, so please don’t be shy!

We’ve had no comment either way about the idea of moving to a system where the same people make tea and wash up on the same Sunday so if you have strong feelings either way, please tell Fr Michael in the next week or two. The advantage of this would be that your turn would only come round once a month (or less if others joined the rota).

Bible Readathon

As part of the Bishop’s initiative to “Bring the Bible Alive”, a diocesan-wide Readathon is planned for the autumn. The launch will take place in the cathedral on Friday 10th October at 4pm in the Lady Chapel of Liverpool Catherdal. It will conclude on Bible Sunday (26th October) at 3pm, again at Evensong.

Deaneries have been asked to participate through collective reading sessions and here in Orford, it is proposed that we split into clusters (Orford Cluster involves St Margaret’s, St Ann’s and ourselves) to read our alloted portion (selected chapters from Acts and from Romans) before the whole Deanery comes together for a ‘bring and share lunch’. More details of dates and times will be announced shortly.

Macmillan Coffee morning

There will be a Coffee Morning in the Hall on Friday 26th September from 10.00 to 12 noon in aid of Macmillan – the cancer charity. Each year they hold the biggest cooffee morning at this time of the year and much needed funds raised by the Coffee Morning will go to support their work. Everyohne is welcome – just drop in for a cuppa if you possibly can.

The Big Mission

The Bible Society wants to pass on Bible stories to a new generation and has developed a campaign called *The Big Mission*.

They have produced a children’s booklet to share with parents, grandparents and goparents. We have a complimentary copy which can be inspected at the back of church.

Installation of the new Bishop

It was announced some time ago that the Right Reverend Paul Bayes will be the next Bishop of Liverpool and that his installation (official starting date) is to be Saturday 15th November. It has just been announced that each parish will be allocated up to five tickets for the occasion, in addition to robing clergy and parish representatives.

The closing date in the end of September.There will be a list in church and anyone who would like to attend the cathedral for the 3 o’clock service should put their names on the list as soon as possible. It should be possible to travel together as a group. If the list is oversubscribed, there will be a draw for tickets.

Welcome, web-viewers

We are always delighted to welcome new readers to *Green Spire*, including those who view it on the web. Our webmaster tells us that we regularly get hits from around the world. In the past, we have had followers from New Zealand and Japan; from South Africa and North America, as well as hits from Europe and this country. The most reccent countries to figure on the list are Alaska and Nigeria.

If you are reading this on the website and could spare a couple of minutes to tell us about yourself or your interest, we’d love to hear from you. If you are willing to have your comments included in a future edition, please say so. We’ll only reprint comments from those who are happy for us to do so. You will find a ‘contact us’ link at the top of the home page at [www.standrewsorford.btck.co.uk](http://www.standrewsorford.btck.co.uk)

The Car Boot Sale

on Bank Holiday Monday (25th Aug) raised £295.38. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Joan Roberts RIP

Full of fun and young at heart, Joan brought something very special to everyone who knew her, not least those who belong to St Andrew’s. Joan was second eldest in a family of seven, though being the eldest girl, was probably expected to play her part in looking after the rest of the family. She grew up in Bewsey and went to St Alban’s School where she was prepared for first communion and confirmation. From her childhood days, Joan loved Walking Day.

Joan’s first job was at Bennett’s where she learned the intricacies of sewing. After a shaky start, she soon learned the trade. When war was declared, Joan went to work at the Aluminium at Bank Quay and there is a photo in *Warrington at Work* of Joan, with her best friend Millie, at their benches extruding aluminium.

Joan married Tom at Christ Church in Latchford in 1949 after Tom returned home from active service. After living with family for a while, they moved to a new house on Ullswater Avenue where they brought up Barbara and David in a loving home. Joan and her neighbours were very close, so much so that they would all go off on holiday together and the children became lifelong friends.

Tragically in 1965, David had an accident and was killed. Understandably, this came as a great shock to Joan and the whole family. Up to this point, Joan had attended St Andrew’s for ‘high days and holidays’ but David’s accident brought a new perspectve and Joan became a regular and faithful member for the rest of her life.

Joan loved practical jokes and had a delightful sense of humour. No one was immune! Working at Rigby’s, there were many stories of the jokes they’d played on unsuspecting commercial travellers. Joan was equally thoughtful and caring, and took in a Hot Pot for everyone to share as they had to work on Christmas Eve. Possibly her favourite job, though not the one she expected when she applied, was as a Cook’s Assistant at Padgate College. It meant long hours but she made some really good friends and happily cycled to work each morning at the crack of dawn!

Joan loved her sport and got really excited watching cricket (those who do not know cricket might find it surprising that anyone can get excited about it, but Joan did!) She loved holidays on the Isle of Man, though there were memorable holidays such as the time they visited the United States to celebrate their Silver Wedding Anniversary.

Joan was naturally very proud of her grandchildren, Jenny and Martin, and teased mercilessly by her son-in-law Ian (though Joan was more than a match for him!) She related to young and old alike, always had that cheery smile when you met her, and was well ‘clued-up’ in many ways. Life was for living and Joan did her best to live up to that philosophy and ensure that everyone around her got as much out of life as possible. We pray that she will now rest in peace as she shares in God’s glory.

✠ ✠ ✠

Congratulations to Liverpool Cathedral

who have just celebrated their Ninetieth Anniversary of consecration in July this year.

The past couple of months have been momentous for cathedral staff and visitors, starting with a procession of historic cars for a celebratory Evensong on 6th July. Reflecting the engineering spirit and vision that spurred the building of the cathedral, the procession included three Deemsters, nicknamed ‘the little car of lion heart’, it was produced from 1914 to 1924, covering the year the cathedral was consecrated.

Part of the celebration was to launch an ambitious £24m campaign which will ensure that the cathedral is in good shape for the next hundred years when it celebrates its centenary in 2024. The Dean said, “this year our anniversary is incredibly significant. We look to the past, we look to the future. And through our vision with the 24 for 2024 campaign, we look to securing a future where Liverpool Cathedral remains an important part of the life of the city, region and diocese.”

Vera Donoghue RIP

In a conversation with Vera son after her last illness was diagnosed, she told me that her life had been full of love and how thankful she was for all the love she’d received. In many ways, that sums up Vera well. She was always positive, did her best for others and valued their love.

Vera was the eldest in a family of seven and grew up in Bewsey (where, she noted, her life would end too). Living through the deprivations of the pre-war years only served to make Vera more determined and resourceful.

Vera started work at Peter Stubb’s on the Causeway and it was at Stubb’s that she met Frank who was to become her husband in the fulness of time. They married at St Margaret’s Church, lived with Frank’s parent’s for a while before moving into their own home on Jockey Street where Lynne and David were born. In the mid 1950s, they moved to a new home on Ullswater Avenue where they completed their family with the brith of Allan.

Right from the start, Vera brought up her children well, and that included their spiritual well-being. Fr Norman Carter visited new families as they moved in and Vera and her family soon became founding members of St Andrew’s which met at that time in The Hut. As St Andrew’s grew, so Vera and Frank played an active part in the Pantomimes and everyone loved their *“There’s a hole in my bucket, dear Vera, dear Vera”*.

Vera balanced the demands of home and work with great dexterity. She worked for Frisby’s shoes in the market where her ability to get on with everyone must have been a real boon to management, and from there, Vera went to work on the butcher’s counter of the Co-op. She learned how to carry and prepare huge carcasses and served in shops in Padgate, Capesthorne Avenue and Poplars Avenue. She made many friends over the years – though Vera could stirke up a conversation on the bus and would remember you and the conversation years later. It was amazing just how many people she knew, most of whom she bumped into when shopping in town since.

Vera nursed Frank through twenty-five years of illness during which he had regular treatment for cancer. When Frank died, Vera threw herself into fund-raising for Clatterbridge Hospital and was a trustee alongside the senior consultant and Ken Dodd. Through coffee morning and sales, they raised enough money to buy a cyclotron, improving the lifvves of countless aptients since.

After ‘retirement’ Vera started cleaning for others and taking in students from the Internationsal School where English Martyrs’ School once stood. Vera also joined and ran the Blackbrook Senior Citizens’ Club.

Vera was proud of her family, and latterly grandchildren and great grandchildren. She moved to Arran Close after many years on Grasmere Avenue and enjoyed the peace and friendship of fellow neighbours. It was a good move despite taking her further away from St Andrew’s.

Vera never gave up and as a day-patient at St Rocco’s soon started the communal singing – something she had always enjoyed. She read and led intercessions in church for many years, only giving up when her sight made it impossible to continue. Vera has touched many loves for good and we pray that she will now rest in peace and raised to glory.

Chamboree 2014

The once-every-four-year Cheshire Scouts’ Jamboree was held in early August at the Cheshire Showground at Tabley and was a great success. A large contingent from the 33rd Warrington West took part – Beavers spending the Saturday at the site, Cubs attending for the weekend and the Scouts for the full week.

The camp used ‘Super Heroes’ as its theme and the site was subdivided into three areas, with fitting names such as Manhatten and Gotham City. Each Group was invited to set up a ‘gate’ to their site and ours showed the Manhatten skyline littered with cuperheroes from Marvel comics. We were delighted to win fourth prize – quite aqn achievement given that there were som many groups on site that week.

Chamboree is truly international even though the majority come from Cheshire. There were scouts from Ireland, Switzerland, Germany and Scandinavia that we met, and no doubt from many other countries too.

![C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\T751A23Z\MM900236461[1].gif]()The weather was not particularly kind, but the magnificent new Mess Tent (easier to dismantlle than to erect) provided necessary shelter against the rain when it came and was spacious enough for evenyone to sit in a leisurely fashion. Putting up the tents and establishing the site took place in pretty attrocious conditions and it was a great credit to all concerned that all was well when the majority of residents arrived. The galley was well equipped and two huge storage larders started out full and overflowing.

There were lots of activities laid on. There were two big marquees with space for groups to try their hand at craft andother activities, led by different groups, There was a shopping mall with Scout euipment, souvenirs, a food court with 24 hour vending machines and a ‘Tea Tent’ which offered peace and quiet from the demands of camp in which leaders could enjoy afternoon tea and meet with one another.

On the field, there was a series of inflatables to race through, archery and rifle shooting for everyone to try their hand, unusual activities such as catapult shooting and a whole series ofactivities you wouldn’t normally get a chance to try out.

On the Sunday, the whole Group was taken to a celebration in Liverpool city centre, which was a bit slow getting started, but picked up as the day went on.

Parents came and helped at the end of camp, and the final days being dry meant that the equipment could all be packed away without any need to be dried first. Tired, everyone returned home, wearinga specially created Chamboree tee-shirt and looking forward to the next camp in four years time!

![C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\6PPBD8LG\MC900441798[1].png]()In Concert

July saw two wonderful concerts in church, both given by young people from around Warrington.

On July 5th, members of Warrington Youth Orchestra presented a programme of classical music for a range of tastes, including well-known pieces and popular film music. We were even treated to an organ concerto – a first as far as I know – with orchestra at the front of church and the organ in the choir gallery. Not an easy task to keep both sections together, but one they managed handsomely.

This was an opportunity for the senior members of the orchestra to show their individual talents, and they performed to the highest levels.

later the following week, younger musicians from Warrington and Halton Music Service (now called Accent music hub) had their chance to perform. These are musicians in the earlier stages and the programme reflected their ability. It was just as challenging, and equally enjoyable, though the solos were played by the more talented and longer serving members of the group, together with one or two guests!

It is a great privilege to host these events and we hope to continue to do so. The church makes a pretty good concert hall, with its excellent acoustics. We’ll let you know when the concerts are planned so that you can reserve the date in your diary early.

In the news

Following the recent publication of the report *Elitist Britain?* by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, the Church Times has done its own survey of serving bishops in the Church of England and found that exactly half (as far as they could determine) had been privately educated. This compares with 71 per cent of senior judges, 50 percent of members of the House of Lords and 43 percent of newspaper columnists (who help shape public opinion).

The Archbishop of Canterbury was educated at Eton. When challenged at the time his appointment was announced, his response was that he was not defined by his education but “because I love and follw Jesus Christ.”

42 per cent of bishops went on to take first degrees at Oxford or Cambridge, while 71 percent of senior judges, 59 percent of the cabinet and 38 percent of the House of Lords did likewise.

Reent appointments (though sstatistically dubious) suggest that the trend is changing in the Church. 40 percent were educated at independent schools and 30 percent at either Oxford or Cambridge.

Snippets from the Church Times

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, contributed to the debate on Iraq recently. He said that Western military action against Iraq in the past had failed to create a society where Christians and other minority communities could feel secure. “The assumption that a little bit of tidy, surgical military action would create Western-style democracy in the Middle East is a terrible illusion,” he said. “As it is, we’re faced with a choice of a number of unpalatable alternatives. I think that the humanitarian, protective steps currently being taken are more or less unavoidable if we’re not to see complete genocidal breakdown.”

The outbreak of the Great War was widely commemorated and many services, including a vigil at Westminster Abbey which involved putting out candles as a reminder of the then Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey’s famous phrase “the lights are going out all over Europe” at the start of the war. Paul Vallely, columnist is the *Church Times*, wrote about using the next four years to learn the lessons of that horrific conflict.

Recent evidence unearthed in the grounds of Auckland Castle, home to the Bishop of Durham for hundreds of years, shows that bishops once enjoyed an opulent lifestyle. Archaeologists have discovered an eighteenth century pit used to force pineapples which, unlike today, was a rare and expensive delicacy costing the equivalent of £5,000 per fruit! Auckland Castle had space for no less than 400 plants – a veritable fortune, even by today’s standards.

Hazel Jones-Olszewski, a clergy widow, left £2.6m in her will to the Diocese of St David’s recently. £1m is to be spent on children’s and youth work and the balance will form a reserve to help parishes across the diocese with their parish share. The bequest came as quite a surprise to diocesan officials as Hazel had left the diocese many years earlier to live in London. She outlived her son and her estate was then left in totality to St David’s diocese in Wales.

At a time of heightened tension in many parts of the world, it was good to see a Lutheran pastor, a rabbi and an imam displaying a model of a planned prayer and education centre called *House of One* shortly to be built in Berlin. It will accommodate a synagogue, a church and a mosque.

September Saints

*On St Bartholomew’s Day (24th August), Fr Michael quizzed the congregation about some of the well-known and lesser-known saints and those present scored well. It is obviously, in part, from reading about the saints month by month in* Green Spire*. The modern calendar includes modern saints as well as traditional ones. Here is a further selection of saints who the Church commemorates this month:*

# ***3 September - Gregory the Great***

Gregory was born in 540, the son of a Roman senator. As a young man he pursued a governmental career, and in 573 was made Prefect of the city of Rome. Following the death of his father, he resigned his office, sold his inheritance, and became a monk. In 579 he was sent by the Pope to Constantinople to be his representative to the Patriarch. He returned to Rome in 586, and was himself elected Pope in 590. At a time of political turmoil, Gregory proved an astute administrator and diplomat, securing peace with the Lombards. He initiated the mission to England, sending Augustine and forty monks from his own monastery to refound the English Church. His writings were pastorally oriented. His spirituality was animated by a dynamic of love and desire for God. Indeed, he is sometimes called the 'Doctor of desire'. For Gregory, desire was a metaphor for the journey into God. As Pope, he styled himself 'Servant of the servants of God' -- a title which typified both his personality and ministry. He died in 604.

# ***4 September - Birinus, Apostle of Wessex***

Birinus was born in the mid sixth century, probably of northern European origin, but he became a priest in Rome. Feeling called by God to serve as a missionary, he was consecrated bishop, and sent to Britain by the pope. He intended to evangelise inland where no Christian had been before but, arriving in Wessex in 634, he found such prevalent idolatry that he looked no further to begin work. One of his early converts was King Cynegils and thereafter he gained much support in his mission, as well as the town of Dorchester for his See. He died in about the year 650 having earned the title 'Apostle of the West Saxons'.

# ***14 September - Holy Cross Day***

The cross on which our Lord was crucified has become the universal symbol for Christianity, replacing the fish symbol of the early church, though the latter has been revived in recent times. After the end of the persecution era, early in the fourth century, pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at the places associated with the life of Jesus. Helena, the mother of the emperor, was a Christian and, whilst overseeing excavations in the city, is said to have uncovered a cross, which many believed to be the Cross of Christ. A basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and dedicated on this day in the year 335.

# ***16 September - Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, Tractarian***

Edward Pusey was born in 1800 and educated at Oxford, where he became a Fellow of [Oriel College](http://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/) in 1823. He became an expert in biblical languages and criticism and in 1828 he was appointed Regius Professor of Hebrew in Oxford, the same year he was ordained. His patristic studies and firm adherence to a Catholic interpretation of doctrine made him one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement. He was significant in encouraging the revival of Religious Life within the Church of England and was a noted preacher. His austere way of life made him much revered by his contemporaries and they founded [Pusey House](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~mert0253/pusey.html) and Library in Oxford in his memory, following his death on this day in 1882.

# ***27 September - Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of Lazarists***

Born in 1581 at Ranquine in Gascony, Vincent was educated by the Franciscans and was ordained at the age of nineteen. He was something of a token priest until his conversion in 1609, when he resolved to devote himself and all he owned to works of charity. He founded communities for men and, with Louise de Marillac, helped to begin the Sisters of Charity, the first community of women not to be enclosed and which was devoted to caring for the poor and sick. Vincent worked for the relief of galley slaves, victims of war, convicts and many other groups of needy people. He became a legend in his own lifetime and died on this day in the year 1660.

Summer Fair results

It seems a very long time since we held our annual Summer Fair. In fact, it was just after the publication of the last edition of *Green Spire*.

We’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the Fair: running and staffing stalls, selling Draw tickets, making cakes and refreshments, providing prizes and gifts to sell and coming along to support us. We raised £558.10

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Prize No.** | **Prize** | **Ticket No.** | **Winner** |
| 1 | £50 | 0386 | F Greatorex |
| 2 | Bottle of Scotch | 0915 | S Baird |
| 3 | £10 Chip Shop Voucher | 0951 | S Baird |
| 4 | Toaster | 0314 | N Clarke |
| 5 | Bottle of Sherry | 0539 | P Worrall |
| 6 | Chocolates | 0294 | M Loughead |
| 7 | Baylis & Harding Gift Set | 0403 | J Rowe |
| 8 | Trolley Case | 1290 | L Giblin |
| 9 | Bottle of Wine | 0921 | S Baird |
| 10 | Terracotta Roaster | 0988 | S Baird |
| 11 | Electric Can Opener | 0385 | F Greatorex |
| 12 | Clock Radio | 0981 | J Crozier |
| 13 | Coffee/Tea Set | 0362 | Paul |
| 14 | Kitchen Roll Holder | 0806 | D Crozier |
| 15 | Garden Collection Gift Set | 0930 | S Baird |
| Door Prize | G Kenwright |

As I see it …

Oh it’s a long time from May to December,
and the days grow cold as we reach September.

So sang Granny and Grandad Mouse at the ‘old mouse reunion’ recently! They had got all nostalgic, and there were a few sniffles, until someone struck up with a rousing “Knees up Granny Mouse” and off they went in a frenzy of legs!

Of course, it’s lovely to look back, even if it does bring a lump to your throat, but the ‘old times’ are a spring-board to the ‘new times’, and there is so much to look forward to as well. Hopefully, some of you will have had a break, or maybe looking forward to one this month, so that come the autumn, we can go forward refreshed.

New Year’s resolutions aren’t just for January. Just look at the school year which is just about to begin. There will be tiny-tots (and mouselings) trotting down Mardale Avenue taking their first steps into a new life; and secondary children making the leap of faith into a pool of learning which will equip them for adulthood. What about the older ones? Granny Mouse is off to join a knitting group, and Grandad Mouse is going to learn how to be a “hairy-surfer” (searching the internet, where he has an unfair advantage being a ‘mouse’). So much to look forward to and so much to be thankful for – roll on the Golden Time of Autumn.

Did you see that August this year has been the coldest since 1993, not that I can remember 1993. We noticed one or two of you shivering in the pew but don’t worry, Sue, your secret’s safe with us!

The Bank Holiday Car Boot Sale was a bit of a wash-out, too. After a good forecast for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the full force of a Bank Holiday Monday struck. I guess we were luckier than some of the other local car boot sales, which were either cancelled or attended by just a couple of cars. At least we have space in the Hall, under cover and out of the rain (roof permitting). We may not have taken a lot from the pitches, but we did do remarkably well on the furniture. We kept hearing people shouting “Sid” – as he looks after that side of the shop, along with electrical goods we had for sale. The ladies in the kitchen did us proud with tasty bacon butties and a good time was had by all, including yours truly.

You can tell the autumn is approaching, even if it wasn’t for the cold. We were rudely awakened recently by banging in the church cellar (yes, there is one; it’s only small but that’s where the church heater is). It seems that ’the man’ has been to service the heater. It needs a couple of new filters but otherwise he said it’s in remarkably good shape given its age; probably better than Fr M, in fact.

The heaters in the Hall have had the ‘once over’ too in readiness for the winter. We’ve taken to popping over there at this time of year because it’s usually warmer in the Hall than in church. Not only that, but the dancers on Monday seem to party regularly, and you can usually count on a crust or two of toast on Wednesday. Our favourite, though, is when the scouts start practicing cooking. It seems to go everywhere, including in our direction, so we’re not complaining!

Talking of scouts, we did pop over to Chamboree with Fr M and the family and had a whale of a time (well, it did rain very heavily). You should have seen the food – two massive tents full from floor to ceiling! We heard that they’d scoffed most of it by Thursday. Hungry stuff this camping!

There was plenty to do at camp. We went yachting in a pair of cut down willies (I told it had rained hard) while Granny Mouse spent the afternoon looking for Noah and pairs of animals. It did dry up[ later in the afternoon, but only after Fr Michael and the children had been to the circus in the big top and managed to find a seat right underneath a joint in the canvas and came out much wetter than he went in.

After a fairly quiet summer, we’re looking forward to seeing everyone back again. See you soon

**Churchmouse**

St Andrew’s Charity Shop

every Wednesday

from 10am to 3pm in the Hall

Drop-in for tea and toast.

Advice desk 10 – 12am

**From the Registers**

**Holy Baptism:**

 6th July Dylan Jack Rowe

 Isla Rose Rowe

 Sarah Louise Wakefield

 Dakota-Jade Wheat-Hough

 Clayton-James Wheat Hough

 27th July Jack John Glover

 Lillie Mae Glover

 Penelope Redford

 31st August Connor Joseph Edward Brookes

 Leah-Emma Rose Byrne

 Joseph George Maclean

 Charlie Thomas Stokes

 Lucas James Stokes

 **Funerals:**

 11th July Leo Patrick (Lee) Neary

 21st July Joan Mary Roberts

 29th July Vera Donoghue

 31st July Christine Davies

 21st August Edith Riley

**Communicants and Collections:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2014** | **Sunday****Communicants** | **Midweek****Communicants** | **Loose****Collections £** | **Planned****Giving £** |
| 29th Jun | 34 | 6 | 3.50  | 167.70  |
| 6th Jul | 28 | 14 | 0.00  | 378.33  |
| 13th Jul | 43 | 18 | 111.00  | 229.75  |
| 20th Jul | 39 | 15 | 6.40  | 178.70  |
| 27th Jul | 39 | 67 | 267.85  | 331.50  |
|  | **Sunday****Communicants** | **Midweek****Communicants** | **Loose****Collections £** | **Planned****Giving £** |
| 3rd Aug | 33 | 15 | 0.00  | 306.33  |
| 10th Aug | 28 | 15 | 2.00  | 159.50  |
| 17th Aug | 30 | 12 | 7.00  | 212.50  |
| 24th Aug | 33 | 17 | 3.30  | 148.50  |
| 31st Aug | 40 | 17 | 62.91  | 287.50  |

D

**onations**

 We would like to thank everyone who has made a gift or donation to our various funds recently. Our special thanks go to:

##### General Fund

* In loving memory of Harry Burrell (31.7.2003) from his wife Beryl
* In loving memory of my father, Bert Lee, from Norma
* In loving memory of Joyce from Wilf Delooze
* In loving memory of Lilian Delooze from family and friends
* Warrington Youth Orchestra - for use of church for concert 5.7.14
* Contribution towards confirmation expenses from St James' Westbrook
* In loving memory of Joan Roberts from Barbara Richards
* In memory of Mildred and Austin Thompson from Edith Gosling
* From Wilf Delooze
* With loving memory of my husband whose birthday falls on August 20th and Year's Mind August 14th. Also my mother, Lilian Cade, whose birthday falls 1st August and Year's Mind 20th August, from Barbara Boscoe
* Thank you for prayers for Fred Brinksman from his sister
* Verger's fee (4)

##### Hall Fund

* In loving memory of Derek Bibby: Birthday and Year's Mind from Pauline and family

##### Flower Fund

* In memory of Joan Roberts from Harry and Eileen Whitehead
* In memory of Vera Donoghue from Harry and Eileen Whitehead

Winners of the Phoenix Club Draw

 **27th July 31st August**

First prize 43 J. Hetherington 10 R. Baird

Second Prize 24 J. Stamp 07 D. Yeamans

Third Prize 04 B. Glover 46 K. Rowan

*Elle and Esse*

Hair and Beauty Lodge

Unisex Hair Salon

**LYNETTE and SUE**

Lodge Lane, Bewsey

Warrington

Tel: 01925 232282

Greetings

The *Church Times* reports that Clinton’s the greeting card manufacturer, suggested recently that the traditional seasons for sending cards is changing. Last year, cards celebrating Eid, Diwali and Chinese and Jewish New Years all sold more than those for Hallowe’en (not a bad thing if it shows that Hallowe’en is in decline), St David’s Day and St Andrew’s Day (the latter two presumably having most sales in Wales and Scotland respectively – certainly not in Orford).

There was also a 48% increase in birthday cards for 95 year olds in the past year and a 22% increase in 100th birthday cards!

Noel Ford, cartoonist in the *Church Times*, penned a verse for a Back to Church Sunday card. It reads:

Roses are red,

Violets are blue,

Come back to church

And we’ll save you a pew.

**Prayer Intentions for September**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| Mon | 1st | Windermere Avenue | Mission Aviation Fellowship |
| Tue | 2nd | Ambleside Crescent | Our church school |
| Wed | 3rd | Pentland Avenue | Residential and Nursing Homes |
| Thu | 4th | Buttermere Crescent | Newly Qualified Teachers |
| Fri | 5th | Bowness Avenue | St Elphin, Warrington |
| Sat | 6th | Borrowdale Avenue | Gaza  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun | 7th | **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 18) |
| Mon | 8th | Brathay Close | Mersey Mission to Seafarers |
| Tue | 9th | Currans Road | GPs and their staff |
| Wed | 10th | Horseshoe Crescent | Syria |
| Thu | 11th | Harvey Court | Our Scout Group |
| Fri | 12th | Bexhill Avenue | St James, Westbrook |
| Sat | 13th | Those living outside the parish | Those preparing for college and university |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun | 14th | **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 19) |
| Mon | 15th | Achilles Avenue | Church Urban Fund projects |
| Tue | 16th | Kirkstone Avenue | Archdeacon Peter |
| Wed | 17th | Statham Avenue | Racial harmony |
| Thu | 18th | Chiltern Road | Local shops and businesses |
| Fri | 19th | Achilles Avenue | St Philip, Westbrook |
| Sat | 20th | Kirkstone Avenue | Sportsmen and women |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun | 21st | **S. Matthew, Apostle and evangelist** |
| Mon | 22nd | Honister Avenue | Guild of Church Braillists |
| Tue | 23rd | Swindale Avenue | Our choir and organist |
| Wed | 24th | Cooper Avenue | The Emergency Services |
| Thu | 25th | Pentland Place | Iraq |
| Fri | 26th | Loweswater Close | St Mary, Great Sankey |
| Sat | 27th | Mill Farm Close | Victims of natural disasters |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun | 28th | **The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 21) |
| Mon | 29th | Crawley Avenue | Christian Aid |
| Tue | 30th | Birch Avenue | Archbishop Justin |
|  |  |  |  |