

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
TERRIERS



ST GEORGE'S DAY
23 April

Parish Magazine

50p

APRIL 2008

www.terrierschurch.org.uk

Who's Who at St Francis

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Gift Aid Officer	Mary Phipps	816416
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Julian Group	Jean Finlan	528090
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PCC Treasurer	Mick Relf	530808
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Resurrection and renewal

Easter-tide is a seven-week party running from Easter Day to Pentecost. During those seven weeks we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and we proclaim the mighty acts of God. This year, with April beginning nearly ten days into the Easter season, the party ought to be rocking through the whole of this month and the mix of preachers at the Parish Communion in the coming weeks will, I hope, offer us a lively time as we celebrate God's renewal of his creation.

April is also the month in which the life of our church is renewed. At the end of March we brought the church's Electoral Roll up to date in preparation for choosing new churchwardens and new members of the church council. Everyone who thinks of St Francis's as "their church" and who cares both about its life now and about its future ought to have their name on the roll (whether it is or not can be checked against the copy on the notice-board in the porch). Anyone whose name isn't on the list should pick up an application form when next in church, complete it, and return it as soon as possible to Dennis Mayger, our Electoral Roll Officer.

On 20th April we hold the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is an important opportunity to review the past year as well as to elect churchwardens and members of the Church Council. In 2008 we are also electing three members to Wycombe Deanery Synod. They are an important channel of two-way communication between our parish and the wider Church and, as deaneries play an increasingly important part in planning for the future of the Church of England locally, their voice will carry weight.

During the past year members of our Church Council and others have been engaged in the second stage of the diocesan programme "Developing Servant Leadership". At the beginning of March, as the course drew to an end, they were invited to express their vision for the parish and for the Church Council as the leadership team in the parish. They described their vision as:

"Enabling the people of God to share the good news

of Jesus Christ and living out a Franciscan concern for peace and respect for creation.”

The Church Council’s mission they defined as being
to build and develop an active Christian community sharing the gospel of Christ throughout the parish and moving our church from survival to growth.

Is God calling you to help make this vision a reality? The Church Council meets for a maximum of two hours between eight and ten times in the course of a year to work out solutions to the problems arising in the course of our church’s life:

- 1 supporting the vicar and lay minister in their ministry
- 2 facilitating the smooth running of the church
- 3 enabling communication between church groups, church officers and members of the congregation.
- 4 representing the parish in the diocese and the wider world

If you feel that God may be inviting you to serve him in this way, please complete a nomination form and hand it to the Churchwardens before the Sunday of the Annual Meeting. Anyone over 16 years of age who is on the Electoral Roll of the parish is eligible to stand. If you want to know more about what is involved, please talk to one of the wardens, or to a member of the ministerial team.

With every good wish this Eastertide,

Tony Dickinson

Desmond Bath R.I.P.

We were sorry to learn of the death on 11th March of Dr Desmond Bath, who for a quarter of a century was a GP in High Wycombe and who with his wife Eleanor (also a GP) worshipped regularly at the 8.00 a.m. service at St Francis. He died peacefully at home in Edinburgh after a long illness. His funeral took place in church on 19th March and was followed by interment in Wycombe Cemetery, where his daughter Melanie is buried.

Another good Lent with the York Course

I am pleased to report that twenty-three people signed up for this year's York Course which focused on **The Lord's Prayer**. The increase in number meant that we had to form a third group to accommodate everyone [a very happy problem]. Two others opted to follow the course at home due to their heavy commitments. Val Jones led the group at Jim and Lynn Carey's on Wednesday evenings, Eileen Chapman led the group at Dennis and Jean Mayger's on Thursday mornings, and I led the group which met at my home on Thursday evenings.

How to describe it? Well, you would have needed to be a fly on the wall! However, we all agreed that the course was inspiring and thought provoking. We enjoyed listening to the speakers on the CD but more especially listening to each other's thoughts, views and experiences. In the light of this course, praying the Lord's Prayer will invoke a deeper and wider understanding.

The last session took place on the week commencing 9th March, and we shared in the Home Communion held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Holy Week - a fitting culmination to all that we have learned and shared together during Lent.

Might **you** join us next year?

Val Evans

Dear God

I like the Lords prayer best of all. Did you have to write it a lot or did you get it right the first time? I have to write everything I ever write over again.

Lois

[Used with permission from 'Children's Letters to God' by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall, Kyle Cathie Ltd, 2006]

Celebrating St Wul[f]stan

The millennium of St Wulfstan (also known as St Wulstan), Bishop of Worcester 1062-95 and the only Anglo-Saxon bishop to survive in office after the Norman conquest, is being marked ecumenically in High Wycombe by St Wulfstan's Roman Catholic Church and All Saints Parish Church [which Wulfstan consecrated in 1076].

As Bishop Peter Doyle pointed out in his homily at St Wulstan's on 18 January [the eve of St Wulfstan's Day], the saint piloted his diocese, and the wider English church, through the difficult transition from Anglo-Saxon to Norman rule, making him a good rôle model for Christians living in times of great change.

A specially written hymn was sung at the confirmation. Plans for the rest of the year include a pilgrimage to Worcester in September, a play to be performed by local children, a short history of the saint's life and an exhibition at All Saints, where a public lecture on 'St Wulfstan of Worcester' will be given by Dr Julia Barrow of Nottingham University on Sunday 11 May.

**'St Wulstan was a godly man
Who came to High Wycombe
And in an inn he knelt and prayed
In Christ our Saviour's name'**

[Taken from the Oxford of Diocese 'Ecumenically Yours' edited by Tony Dickinson, published by Churches Together in England, see www.oxford.anglican.org]



The Unlock London Walk

19 April 2008 9am to 5pm

Chelsea, the Thames, East Fulham and Battersea.

The aims of the Unlock London walk are:

To raise money for Unlock's work in deprived area across the UK

To raise awareness of the issues of exclusion that Unlock exists to address

To showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas—come and see what God is doing in the city

To encourage churches in more affluent parts of the country to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city

To give 100s of people an opportunity for an unusual and enlightening day in London

Unlock works by running local projects in UK cities, where a trained Unlock Development Worker, accompanied by a local support group, is employed to encourage and enable local people and their leaders to grow in faith and confidence by:

Unlocking real life stories of urban people

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

Releasing life changing skills and confidence.

[Further details from Keith Gordon and from the Unlock website www.unlock.urban.org.uk]

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

"VISION DAY"

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2008

Wendover Christian Centre from 2.30pm

***IDEAS EXCHANGE**

***CTiB HAPPENINGS**

***SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

CTiB NEWS IN BRIEF

With the recent appointment of The Revd David Wilbrahams as Chaplain to the Thames Valley Police, there continues to be ongoing conversations as to how CTiB can be involved within the County Major Incident Plan. Gordon Dixon is our CTiB Representative and will keep CTiB advised on Progress.

Bucks Chiltern University College, High Wycombe, has received University status and is now known as Buckinghamshire New University. The University Chaplaincy is revising its Covenant to include two new representative Chaplains from The Kings Church and The Salvation Army.

A Prayer of Saint Bernadette

O Jesus, keep me under the standard of your cross. Let me not just look at you crucified but have you living in my heart.

"GOOD IDEA FROM WENDOVER"
Scripture Union Resources for Schools

For the past few years Churches Together in Wendover has been pleased to offer support to children leaving the Junior School through the distribution of the Scripture Union's publication "Its Your Move". These books are a friendly guide to that somewhat daunting transition into secondary schooling. The books are given out by the vicar on behalf of the Churches Together at the school leavers' assembly.

Following the success of this initiative Churches Together wanted to give those children entering school for the first time similar support through Scripture Union's book "Get Ready To Go". After considering how best to distribute these books we approached the Head of the local Infant School who was happy for the books to be distributed at their meetings for new parents each term. These books have been well received, especially the book for parents whose children are about to embark on their school career which is entitled "Get Ready to Let Go".

These books offer an opportunity to reach out into our local community in a practical way. Each book bears a bookplate stating simply that it is a gift from the Churches Together in Wendover.

CONTACT: Gill Osmond - Tel: 01296 582419

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.'

NIV John 6:35-37

PRAYING THE PARISH

Among members of our congregation in particular need we pray for:

Gaynor Chambers, Eileen Chapman, Sheila Charlton, Linda Courtney, Ida Davies, Hilda Graham, Val Jones, Elizabeth Lampson, Gwen Liverpool, Hazel Noakes, Honey Tyllyer, Jill White, Diane Young and her family.

Among others for whom our prayers have been asked:

Vince Amer, Malcolm Bailey, Pat Baldock, Sue Bocking, Wendy Brown, Christopher Browne, Jenny Butterfield, Roy Coombe, Rachel Crampton, Norman Critchell, John Edmonds-Seal, Stuart Evans, Nikki Ferguson, Julie Free, Phyllis Fudge, Michael Fudge, Adam Gill, Norah Glennon, Mary Harris, Kathleen Harrison, Olive Harvey and her family, Peter Kerwood, Brian L'Anson, Patrick McNally, John Maybury, Bettina Michels and her family, Rhiannon Nicholls, Angela Norton, Marie Norton, Paresh Pankhania, Robert Phillis, Marcia Powell, Jan Relf, Billy Rolls, Reginald Simmons, Maureen Smyth, Irene Solomon, Ann Stephenson, Jo Streeter, Rhiannon Streeter, Tom Wickens and his family.

Recalling a brief visit to Lourdes

During the Lent house groups, Lourdes was mentioned, which reminded me that in 1989 my husband and I were on holiday near Biarritz, and decided that Lourdes was close enough to visit, although it turned out to be quite a long drive. As St Bernadette's day is on 16 April, it seemed to be a good time to share the recollection.

We went out of curiosity, really because it was there. Our worst fears were realised when we walked down the narrow main street and all the shops were full of goods with the Virgin Mary in the Grotto printed on them - there were pens, candles, glasses,

serviettes - well anything on which a picture could be printed. We then went into the Basilica, which, to us, was just another big Catholic Church.

In the pretty considerable heat, we then wandered down towards the Grotto, where St Bernadette (Marie Bernarde Soubirous; 1844-79) had a vision of 'a Lady', who told her to dig, and water flowed, and it has flowed ever since. Sick people went to Lourdes on pilgrimages, and many people were cured, although I understand, not so many in recent years. Bernadette entered the convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame at Nevers, well away from Lourdes, and never left the convent, not even when the aforementioned Basilica was opened. She died on 16 April 1879, but her legacy lives on.

Now the Grotto, and its surroundings, was a very different experience from the rest of the town. There were chairs arranged in rows in an area the size of, say, a Cathedral. It was quiet there, almost silent, although there were many, many people about, some disabled, some on stretchers, and some just walking. Sitting in the seats, people watching, we were just taken up with the feeling of holiness about the place, it was amazing, we ceased to be aware of traffic noise and aircraft, and sat and let the peace take us over. If it's not too fanciful to say so, it was as if there was a cool, reverent bubble surrounding us. The Grotto was full of unwanted crutches, sticks etc, though we didn't actually see anyone abandon their crutches or sticks, or indeed do anything else very dramatic - but that didn't seem to be necessary, it was sufficient just to be there.

It was a wonderful experience, and the highlight of our holiday, and it was so good that I wanted to share it with everybody, and could recommend a visit there very highly.

Eileen Chapman



CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2008

Dates for your Diary

The diary is also available on the parish website

www.terrierschurch.org.uk

where it is regularly updated with additions and changes

Tuesday, 1st April – St Joseph of Nazareth

7.00 p.m. – Holy Communion

8.00 p.m. – Julian Meeting

Wednesday, 2nd April

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

1.30 p.m. – Skylarks

Thursday, 3rd April

7.45 p.m. – PCC Meeting

Sunday, 6th April – Easter 3

8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion (all-age service)

Preacher: Val Evans

Wednesday, 9^h April

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday, 13th April – Easter 4

8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion

Preacher: Tony Moore

12.00 noon – Lunch Cub (The Terriers)

****DEADLINE FOR MAY MAGAZINE****

Wednesday, 16^h April

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday, 20th April – Easter 5

8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion

11.15a.m. – Meeting to elect churchwardens

11.30 a.m. – Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1.00 p.m. – Bring and share lunch

Wednesday, 23rd April – St George

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

1.30 p.m. – Skylarks

8.00 p.m. – Holy Communion

Friday, 25th April – St Mark

7.00 p.m. – Holy Communion

Sunday, 27th April – Easter 6

8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion

6.30 p.m. – Songs of Praise

For the Anthony Nolan Trust

Wednesday, 30th April (Pandita Mary Ramabai)

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

1.30 p.m. – Skylarks

On Wednesdays in April we celebrate:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (9th)

Isabella Gilmour (16th)

Pandita Mary Ramabai (30th)

We welcome into Christ's Church by baptism

On 2nd March

Kobe Zachariah McBarnett

On 30th March

Luke Ashton Ellis

We commend into the Father's keeping

On 19th March

Desmond Sackville Gwyn Bath

Readings for April 2008

Sunday, 6th April Easter 3

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP – David Picken)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AM pres: VE pr)
Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
Luke 24:13-25

Sunday, 13th April Easter 4

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Nicky Skipworth)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AM)
Genesis 7
Acts 2:42-end
(John 10:1-10)

Sunday, 20th April Easter 5

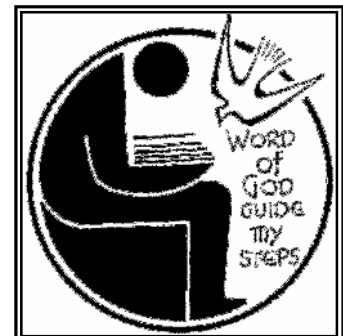
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD pres. VEpr)
followed by APCM
Acts 7:55-end
1 Peter 2:2-10
(John 14:1-14)

Sunday, 27th April Easter 6

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD) with Holy Baptism
Acts 17 :22-31
(John 14:15-21)

Thursday, 1st May Ascension Day

8.00 p.m. Parish Communion (AD)
Daniel 7:9-14
Acts 1:1-14
Luke 24:44-end



Songs of Praise for Anthony Nolan

On 27th April at 6.30 p.m. we will be holding a "Songs of Praise" service with a difference. People are invited to nominate their favourite hymns at £1.00 a time in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust, which takes back lives from leukaemia by providing lifesaving donors for patients in need of a bone marrow transplant. The Trust owes its existence to the vision and determination of one woman, Shirley Nolan.

When Anthony Nolan was born in 1971 he was diagnosed with the extremely rare Wiscott Aldrich Syndrome, the only known cure for which was a bone marrow transplant from a compatible donor. In 1971, however, there was no such thing as a bone marrow register. There were no mechanisms or processes to analyse or record the variations in each person's cell tissue which determine whether he or she could be a match. In other words, finding a donor for Anthony was like looking for a needle in a haystack - but far worse. The haystack was spread all over the world - and there was no simple way to recognise the needle.

Anthony's mother, Shirley, was shocked that a cure for Anthony could literally be in the house next door, but she, we, the medical profession, all of us had no way of knowing. So Shirley directed her energy towards establishing a register. She started working to create a system - a system which would analyse a person's tissue type, record it in accessible form and keep the details of each person, one by one, who declared themselves willing to donate bone marrow tissue in the event of a match.

Sadly, Anthony died in 1979 without a donor being found. Shirley died in 2002.

We aim to sing at least one verse from 50 (yes, fifty) hymns. Your favourites could be among them. Watch out for nomination forms (and sponsorship forms) when they appear in church during April.

A letter from God

My Dear Children (and believe me, that's all of you),

I consider myself a pretty patient Guy. I mean, look at the Grand Canyon. It took millions of years to get it right. And how about evolution? Boy, nothing is slower than designing that whole Darwinian thing to take place, cell by cell and gene by gene. I've even been patient through your fashions, civilizations, wars and schemes, and the countless ways you take Me for granted until you get yourselves into big trouble again and again. I want to let you know about some things that are starting to tick me off.

First of all, your religious rivalries are driving Me up a wall. Enough already! Let's get one thing straight: These are your religions, not Mine. I'm the Whole Enchilada; I'm beyond them all. Every one of your religions claims there's only one of Me (which, by the way, is absolutely true). But in the very next breath, each religion claims it's My favorite one. And each claims its bible was written personally by me, and that all the other bibles are man-made. Oh, Me. How do I even begin to put a stop to such complicated nonsense? Okay, listen up now: I'm your Father and Mother, and I don't play favorites among My Children.

Also, I hate to break it to you, but I don't write. My longhand is awful, and I've always been more of a "doer" anyway. So all your books, including the bibles, were written by men and women. They were inspired, remarkable people, but they also made mistakes here and there. I made sure of that, so that you would never trust a written word more than your own living Heart. You see, one Human Being to me - even a Bum on the street - is worth more than all the holy books in the world. That's just the kind of Guy I Am. My Spirit is not an historical thing, It's alive right here, right now, as fresh as your next breath. Holy books and religious rites are sacred and powerful, but not more so than the least of You. They were only meant to steer you in the right direction, not to keep you arguing with each other, and certainly not to keep

you from trusting your own personal connection with Me.

Which brings Me to My next point about your nonsense: You act like I need you and your religions to stick up for Me or "win souls" for My Sake. Please, don't do Me any favors. I can stand quite well on my own, thank you. I don't need you to defend Me, and I don't need constant credit. I just want you to be good to each other. And another thing: I don't get all worked up over money or politics, so stop dragging My name into your dramas. For example, I swear to Me that I never threatened Oral Roberts. I never rode in any of Rajneesh's Rolls Royces. I never told Pat Robertson to run for president, and I've never ever had a conversation with Jim Bakker, Jerry Falwell, or Jimmy Swaggart! (US tele-evangelists) Of course, come Judgement Day, I certainly intend to....

The thing is, I want you to stop thinking of religion as some sort of loyalty pledge to Me. The true purpose of your religions is so that you can become more aware of Me, not the other way around. Believe Me, I know you already. I know what's in each of your hearts, and I love you with no strings attached. Lighten up and enjoy Me. That's what religion is best for. What you seem to forget is how mysterious I Am. You look at the petty little differences in your scriptures and say, "Well, if this is the Truth, then that can't be!" But instead of trying to figure out My Paradoxes and Unfathomable Nature - which, by the way, you never will—why not open your hearts to the simple common threads in every religion? You know what I'm talking about: Love and respect everyone. Be kind. Even when life is scary or confusing, take courage and be of good cheer, for I Am always with you.

Learn how to be quiet, so you can hear My Still, Small Voice (I don't like to shout). Leave the world a better place by living your life with dignity and gracefulness, for you are My Own Child. Hold back nothing from life, for the parts of you that can die will surely die, and the parts that can't, won't. So don't worry, be happy (I stole that last line from Bobby McFerrin, but he stole it from Meher Baba in the first place.) Simple stuff. Why do you keep making it so complicated? It's like

you're always looking for an excuse to be upset. And I'm very tired of being your main excuse. Do you think I care whether you call me Yahweh, Jehovah, Allah, Wakantonka, Brahma, Father, Mother, or even The Void or Nirvana? Do you think I care which of My Special Children you feel closest to - Jesus, Mary, Buddha, Krishna, Mohammed or any of the others? You can call Me and My Special Ones any name you choose, if only you would go about My business of loving one another as I love you. How can you keep neglecting something so simple?

I'm not telling you to abandon your religions. Enjoy your religions, honour them, learn from them, just as you should enjoy, honour, and learn from your parents. But do you walk around telling everyone that your parents are better than theirs? Your religion, like your parents, may always have the most special place in your heart; I don't mind that at all. And I don't want you to combine all the Great Traditions into One Big Mess. Each religion is unique for a reason. Each has a unique style so that people can find the best path for themselves.

But My Special Children - the ones your religions revolve around—all live in the same place (My Heart) and they get along perfectly, I assure you. The clergy must stop creating a myth of sibling rivalry where there is none, My Blessed Children of Earth, the world has grown too small for your pervasive religious bigotry and confusion. The whole planet is connected by air travel, satellite dishes, telephones, fax machines, rock concerts, diseases, and mutual needs and concerns. Get with the programme! Importantly, make your own everyday life a shining example of kindness and good humor. I've given you all the resources you need, if only you abandon your fear of each other and begin living, loving, and laughing together.

As I love Him, so do I love each one of you. I'm not really ticked off, I just wanted to grab your attention because I hate to see you suffer. But I gave you Free Will, so what can I do now other than to try to influence you through reason, persuasion, and a little old-fashioned guilt and manipulation? After all, I Am the original Jewish Mother. I just want you to be

happy, and I'll sit in The Dark.

I really Am, indeed, I swear, with you always. Always. Trust In Me.

Your One and Only,

GOD

[Although this has an American bias, hence the spellings, I found it very thought provoking, and am grateful to Tony for forwarding it to me]

From our friends at St Anne's Lutheran Church

Beneath Thy Cross

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy Blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

Christina Rossetti



Operation Noah

Operation Noah exists because God's creation faces the most urgent environmental peril. Global warming threatens the life of many millions of people within the lifetime of our children. We have a very short window of time available to avert this catastrophe. If we act together now we can avert this threat. But we can't do it as individuals. We can only do it together and under bold government leadership.

We are an inclusive group of committed Christians from across Britain with a London-based office. We welcome people of faith, and none. Operation Noah was founded in 2001 by Christian Ecology Link (CEL) and later became a joint project of CEL and the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. It was the first Christian campaign to focus exclusively on the issue of Climate Change and this continues to be its mission. The campaign was launched at the end of 2004 in response to mounting concern over the risk of catastrophic climate change.

At the end of 2006, Ann Pettifor, of Advocacy International Ltd one of the architects of the widely-praised Jubilee 2000 'drop the debt' campaign, became part-time campaign director.

Join our campaign to call on our churches and government to exercise their mandate for leadership.

Operation Noah, Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London, N1 6HT. telephone: 020 7324 4760, email: campaigns@operationnoah.org, website: www.operationnoah.org

From 'The Good Hope'

[The official newspaper of the Diocese of Cape Town]

Global Warming is a moral issue

God has called each one of us to be stewards of creation. There are things that we can do, each person can influence another.

As individuals and families

The motto of combating global warming has long been part of Christian faith - 'live simply so that others can simply live'. Our actions now will impact on our children and grandchildren. Reduce electricity use, turn down your thermostat by a degree or two, insulate your water tank, don't fill your kettle full, replace light bulbs with energy saving bulbs, run only full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher, take showers rather than baths.

Recycle and re-use

Each thing you throw in the bin has to be manufactured from scratch. Look for recycling bins for paper, glass, plastic and tin.

Start composting

When organic waste, such as kitchen scraps, are disposed of in your rubbish bin, they end up in landfills. Without oxygen to assist in their natural decomposition they ferment and give off methane, which is 23 more times lethal than carbon dioxide in global warming terms.

Buy local

Use less petrol

Share lifts, consider using public transport, buy fuel efficient cars, don't use the air conditioning until really necessary, walk or cycle whenever possible.

The Rev Rachel Mash,

[extracted from a much longer article, kindly passed on by Hazel and Mike Noakes]

Some lighter moments!

I asked my nephew whether he had bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day. 'Yes', he said, 'I bought her a belt and a bag.' 'That was very nice of you', I replied, 'I hope she appreciated the thought.' He said, 'So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now.'

Why Elijah did that...

The Sunday School teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times. 'Now,' said the teacher, 'can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?' A little girl at the back of the room started waving her hand. 'I know, I know!' she said, 'To make the gravy!'

Lot's wife

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My mummy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

Church notices

The talk for next Friday night will be 'What is hell?'. Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The regular Monday night choir practice of this church will be held on Tuesday night instead of Friday night.

And finally...

Notes from the Editor's chair

[To pinch a phrase from the Bucks Free Press!]

I have been thinking about having a 'green' page every month, not in the sense of global warming, but in the sense of our gardens. I have asked Martin Braisher if he would be willing to help, and he is happy to answer questions which I will put to him. He is very knowledgeable about all things to do with gardens, so I really think that we should use him, as a great asset in our congregation. If you would like to give me any questions I will do the rest. Remember that the questions should be relevant to the month concerned, and remember that the magazine goes to the printer in time for the next month. I would be grateful for your feedback, and perhaps we could use this inside back page each month.

Something else which always interests me and, I'm sure, many others, is the wildlife we see in our gardens/woods/villages etc. Have you seen an unusual bird? For instance, to my great surprise, I saw a jay in my garden a couple of years ago, I'm not near any woods, so to see this beautiful creature in my tree was a real thrill. I've also had bats flying around at dusk on summer evenings, foxes jumping my fences, a rat in the compost bin and a frog in a flower bed despite the fact that there is no pond in my garden, particularly as I don't like frogs! Don't mind bats and rats—can't stand frogs or anything faintly snaky.

I know that lots of you have bird tables, so share your joy with the rest of us. As our church is dedicated to St Francis, it seems to me to be the logical thing to do. If you don't feel able to write an article, let me know and I will write it for you.

Eileen Chapman



Accessibility at Terriers Church

Sidesmen are on duty at the main church services to welcome you.

Please ask for assistance if you need it.



There is a car park at the church. Although no designated disabled parking spaces are available, those with accessibility difficulties are welcome to park in the area adjacent to the church doors.



Access is down steps. A lift is available at the left-hand entrance.



There is a hearing loop in church.



A large-print version of the service book is available.



The toilet in church is reached only via steep stairs. A disabled toilet is normally available in the church hall

