

# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI TERRIERS



Parish Magazine

50p



February 2007

[www.terrierschurch.org.uk](http://www.terrierschurch.org.uk)

## Who's Who at St Francis

**Vicar:** Canon Tony Dickinson  
St Francis Vicarage  
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**Churchwardens:** Peter Gee (01494) 525739  
Valerie Jones (01494) 439154

**LLM:** Valerie Evans (01494) 531023

### Contact Telephone Directory

<b>What?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>(01494)</b>
Child Protection Rep.	Pam Helmers-Olsen	522016
Children's Society	Hazel Noakes	530273
Christian Aid Lunches	Joyce Dowsett	438859
Church Hall Secretary	Shelagh Whitlock	717438
Editor	Eileen Chapman	713530
Electoral Roll Officer	Dennis Mayger	523372
Flower Rota Organiser	Molly Braisher	436768
Gift Aid Officer	Mary Phipps	816416
Healing Group	Brenda Matthews	439685
Julian Group	Jean Finlan	528090
Magazine Subs/Distribution	June Findlow	524491
Organist/Choir	Tessa Shaw	441698
PCC Secretary	John Norton	437105
PCC Treasurer	Mick Relf	530808
Quiet Days	Jean Finlan	528090
Sacristan	Mary Phipps	816416
Saturday Morning Prayer Grp	Val Evans	531023
Skylarks Organiser	Tony Dickinson	520676
Stewardship Organiser	Mary Phipps	816416
Sunday School Contact	Pam Hancock	534634
Walkers Unite(d)	Keith Gordon	531570
Webmaster	Tim Edmonds	526346
Whist Club	Terry Dean	532016

**“Now quit your care...**

...and anxious fear and worry.”

Rarely in my life-time have these opening words of Percy Dearmer’s fine but sadly neglected hymn “White Lent” been more appropriate. We are in danger of being overwhelmed by worry and anxious fear is in abundant supply. At the “macro” level we are faced with the challenges of international terrorism (whether practised by fanatics or by states) and the continued agony of the Middle East, of climate change and environmental degradation, and of actual (HIV/AIDS) or fearfully anticipated (bird flu) pandemics. In the Church we have bizarre, headline-grabbing and frankly un-Christian behaviour from people claiming a hot line to God, which in turn both feeds and feeds off the prurience of the tabloid press (“red-top” and “middle-market” alike) and the rants of militant secularists whose attitudes and sloganising mirrors almost perfectly the irrationality of the extremist believers whom they so strongly condemn. And at the “micro” level people are burdened by a barely-sustainable level of debt, fuelled at least as much by the irresponsibility of the financial institutions as by the rampant consumerism which dominates Western European and North American culture. We buy, it would appear, and therefore we are.

Dearmer’s hymn is based on words from the 56<sup>th</sup> chapter of the prophecies of Isaiah (one of the Old Testament readings for Ash Wednesday). It reminds us that the predominant mood of Lent is not a self-indulgent wallowing, whether in worry or in guilt, but prayerful self-examination and purposeful amendment of life – to be more precise, a renewed commitment to seeking God in the struggle for justice and for peace, both in our own lives and in the world around us. “To bow the head In sackcloth and in ashes, Or rend the soul, Such grief is not Lent’s goal; But to be led To where God’s glory flashes, His beauty to come nigh, To fly where truth and light do lie.”

For this reason, I hope that as many as possible will sign up for this year’s Lent Course, another from the “York Courses” stable which members of our congregation have found helpful in recent years. In 2007 (the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in British possessions) the focus of the course is that famous Yorkshireman, William Wilberforce MP, who dedicated his parliamentary career to the cause of abolition. It is, however, far more than a history lesson. It also examines contemporary echoes of the interplay between Wilberforce’s deep, personal Christian faith and his life in politics. Equally, I hope that everyone who can will make finding time for prayer a priority during the coming weeks, not only in the sense of holding before God the needs of his world, but also listening for God’s word to us, in careful, reflective reading of the Bible and in those times of stillness when we succeed in putting aside the distractions of daily life in order to wait upon God.

“Then shall your light Break forth as doth the morning; Your health shall spring, The friends you make shall bring God’s glory bright, Your way though life adorning; And love shall be the prize. Arise! And make a paradise!”

**Tony Dickinson**

-oo0oo-

### **Can we build a better world?**

This is the title of the five session Lent Course we shall be following this year. As 2007 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of slavery in this country, this is reflected in the subjects for discussion each week:

Slavery: then and now  
Friendship and Prayer: then and now  
Change and Struggle: then and now  
The Bible: then and now  
Redemption and Restitution: then and now

We follow the course by means of booklets for all taking part and a CD featuring the Archbishop of York John Sentamu, Leslie Griffiths, Minister of Wesley’s Chapel in London, and contributor to Radio 4’s Thought for the Day, and television actress Wendy Craig. Each of the sessions ends with a reflection by a sister from BBC TV’s series The Convent.

This will be the fourth year we have followed a York Course, and those participating have found the courses highly stimulating both from the subject matter and discussion, and the way we have got to know each other. As the saying goes, ‘It’s good to talk’.

As this goes to print we are planning two home groups to begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> March:

10.30am Thursday mornings led by Eileen Chapman, at the home of Dennis and Jean Mayger,

32 Amersham Road, tel: 523372

8.00pm Thursday evenings at the home of Val Evans,

72 Totteridge Drive, tel: 531023

Other groups could be set up if there is sufficient demand. There will be a list for people to sign on the church notice board, but do ring me if you are interested or have any queries. I need to know numbers in time to order the booklets. All are welcome. More details in next month’s issue.

**Val Evans**

## Flower List

Thank you to everybody who kept our Church beautiful over the last year with flowers.

Here is the new rota for flowers in 2007. If you cannot do them, please let me know.

Thank you.

<p>January    6                      13 Joyce Dowsett                      20                      27 Eleanor Curtis</p>	<p>July            7 Mary Amor                              14                              21 Janet West                              28</p>
<p>February    3 Janet Banks                          10                          17 Mary Amor                          24 Lent</p>	<p>August        4 Hazel Noakes                              11                              18 Chris Bradbury                              25</p>
<p>March        3                          10                          17 Mothering Sunday                          24                          31 Palm Sunday</p>	<p>September    1 Val Evans                              8                              15                              22 Harvest—All                              29</p>
<p>April         8                          14                          21 Wedding—Mollie                          28 Brenda Pud-                              dephatt</p>	<p>October       6 Patronal Festival                              13 Dedication                              20                              27 June Findlow</p>
<p>May           5 Sylvia Dean                          12 Pam Hancock                          19                          26 Pentecost-June                              Findlow</p>	<p>November     3                              10 Remembrance                              17 Hazel Noakes                              24</p>
<p>June          2 Norah Franklin                          9                          16 Val Jones</p>	<p>December    1 Advent Greenery                              8        -do-                              15       -do-                              22 Christmas flow-                              ers                              29</p>

Mollie Braisher

## Parish Magazine—Subscribe for 2007

Terriers Parish Magazine appears ten times a year—monthly, but with combined editions in July/August and December/January.

This is the first edition of 2007, to renew for the year, or take out a new subscription, please complete and detach the form below and send it with a cheque for the appropriate amount (made payable to **St Francis Church Terriers PCC**) to Mrs June Findlow, either via the mail tray at the back of the church, or by post to:

11 Fremantle Road, High Wycombe. HP13 7PQ

*Subscription rates for 2007 are unchanged at:*

Collection from church: **£5**

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I enclose my cheque for £.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss:

Name:.....

Address:.....

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.....

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**Get out your dancing shoes!**  
**BALLROOM DANCE MARCH 17th—Strictly Come Dancing Fever!**  
**Curzon Centre, Beaconsfield**  
**7.30 to midnight**

An opportunity to trip the light fantastic. Tickets are £12.50 including Light Supper. There will be a licensed bar. If you wish to book tickets please contact **Ruth Pettitt** or **Susan Atkins** on **01494 537775** or email **ruth@sbhospice.org.uk**

### **THE SOUTH BUCKS HOSPICE**

The South Bucks Hospice in High Wycombe is a day care centre providing care for those with life-limiting illnesses, such as cancer and other chronic illnesses. In addition our Lymphoedema Clinic offers advice, treatment and support to those suffering with this debilitating condition, offering a service that is available at very few clinics in the South of England.

All services to our patients are free of charge, but special care like ours is not cheap. As a registered charity we have to raise in excess of **£400,000** per year, with just 18% funded by the Government.

As a charity, we rely heavily on voluntary donations and money raised from fund raising events to meet our targets and continue the vital service of the hospice.

### **PAUSE FOR THOUGHT (1)**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3: 5-6

## **CELEBRATION ON 2ND DECEMBER**

### **The Rev Joyce Bennett**



On 2nd December 2006 a thanksgiving service to celebrate the anniversary of Joyce's ordination 35 years ago, was held at St Francis, with Joyce presiding. Many friends from around the world thronged the church on what was a joyful celebration of Joyce's life and ministry. Visitors were welcomed by Canon Tony Dickinson, and then Canon Stephen Sidebotham (formerly Dean of Hong Kong) explained the background and significance of Joyce's ordination to the priesthood. Joyce then presided at Holy Communion and the sermon was preached by The Revd Nick Holtam, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, where Joyce's ministry had continued after her return from Hong Kong. The blessing was given by The Right Revd Simon Barrington-Ward, formerly Bishop of Coventry. It was of particular joy to hear Joyce's strong and commanding voice and to give thanks for her recovery from her recent serious illness.

After the service there was an excellent concert by an array of musical talent of all ages, then followed an equally excellent buffet lunch in the Church Hall where many old friends were reunited.



*Mary and Joyce pose by the pulpit*



*Joyce and Bishop Simon chatting during lunch*

Thanks go to Mary Bennett for masterminding the event and to all those who helped in any way towards a successful day. Our special thanks also go to the many visitors who attended and for their generous donations to the church of St Francis in Joyce's honour. As of 14th January the total donations amounted to £6155.07.

*Text and photos by Tim Edmonds based on material from the parish website [www.terrierschurch.org.uk](http://www.terrierschurch.org.uk).*

**Jean Hedgeland  
1921-2006**

**A tribute to his Mother by David Hedgeland**

When I searched through some of my mother's papers last week I found various notes about her funeral service. She had chosen her favourite hymns and made various suggestions. She said there was to be "no talk", but we're sorry we felt we had to ignore that instruction. She asked us to say thank you to everyone for their friendship over the years and especially for their support and prayers in recent months. In particular she wanted to thank Tony for all his help and support, a sentiment which we, the family, most heartily endorse. Tony will say more but I just wanted to say a few words to express my gratitude and admiration to my mother. To sum her up in just a few words I think I would choose devoted, selfless and amazing.

She was a devoted daughter, wife, mother and grandmother. She always put family first but she was also devoted to her life in the Church, and her work in the Sunday School and for the Children's Society. She was also a devoted teacher and derived great pleasure and satisfaction from helping her girls at Wycombe Abbey.

She was always completely selfless, putting others' needs before her own. Even towards the end she was more concerned about how the rest of us would cope than with her own situation.

She was an amazing woman in so many ways, both in what she did and how she did it. When she saw that something needed to be done she just got on and did it, calmly and sensibly. Most amazing was her extraordinary strength of spirit which shone through right to the end, to the amazement of the doctors and nurses at the Sue Ryder Hospice where she died.

She saw several of her old friends in her last months, and she told everyone not to be sad. This is difficult but we can be grateful she is now free from pain and worry. She felt she had a good life and she was ready to meet her Maker. She was comforted and protected by her faith, certainly an inspiration to us all.

## **Memories of Jean Hedgeland**

### **By Hazel Noakes**

Jean was a gentle and softly spoken lady who would do anything for anyone, always putting others before herself and worked tirelessly all her life. When in the late 1980s I was working full time and wanted some much needed assistance with the Children's Society my request for help was answered by Jean.

She joined our committee and became treasurer bringing her efficient and meticulous skills to my aid. She helped me to collect in and count the numerous house and shop boxes in our parish which she enjoyed for two reasons: 1) meeting the people who do not come to church, but have boxes, 2) helping counting the money - a job I really disliked! Jean would liaise with our local shopping centres and council for our annual street collections and get many volunteers on side to help. She herself would collect for 2 hours in the morning, rush home to get lunch for Michael and herself and then go back into town for another 1-2 hour's stint. Always our top collector, fundraising was most important to her.

As we both became older we shared our love of our families. She always enjoyed the tales of what my family and I were up to, not to mention the elderlies (parents). We had a common bond of friendship and she loved to talk about her own grandchildren and sons - all so special to her. With most of our chats Jean would say to me, "You are doing too much, dear", just like my mother, but waved away any concerns about her own health and busy life.

In the last few years as she and Michael became more frail and weary, she would always be ready to attend meetings and help at our fundraising events. Never say never.

In the last few months of her life she continued to run the house and care for Michael as he recovered from a fractured femur, whilst all the while she herself was becoming weaker from the cancer. Never once did I hear her complain, in fact she treated her illness as an inconvenience, and continually worried about Michael and her family. Refusing treatment for various reasons she faced death with an amazing calmness and serenity - a true Christian.

Her face would light up when visited especially when flowers accompanied the call. "Have a cup of tea, dear?", and we would sit and chat of past and present times, and laugh and grumble in equal measures.

When admitted to Sue Ryder Hospice on the 11 December she was not to return home. Her peacefulness and desire to make her final journey was a revelation to me - she just hoped it wouldn't be a long one. I know she was well received in heaven. A life well lived by an amazing lady. We shall miss her.

### **PAUSE FOR THOUGHT (2)**

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:14-18

## **FEBRUARY 2007**

### **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.*

- 2 Fri           **Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
8.30pm-Holy Communion (BCP)
- 4 Sun           **3 before Lent**  
8.00am-Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am-Parish Communion (All Age Service)
- 6 Tue           8.00pm-Julian Meeting
- 7 Wed           10.00am-Holy Communion (BCP)  
1.30pm Skylarks
- 8 Thu           7.45pm-PCC Meeting
- 11 Sun          **2 before Lent**  
8.00am-Holy Communion  
10.00-Parish Communion  
**\*Copy deadline for March Parish Magazine\***
- 14 Wed          (St Cyril and St Methodius, *Valentine*)  
10.00-Holy Communion (BCP)
- 18 Sun          **Sunday Next Before Lent**  
8.00am-Holy Communion  
10.00am-Parish Communion  
12.00noon-Lunch Club
- 20 Tue          **Shrove Tuesday**  
7.30pm-Lent Project Pancake Party
- 21 Wed          **Ash Wednesday**  
10.00am-Holy Communion (BCP)  
1.30pm Skylarks

- 21 Wed (cont) 8.00pm-Parish Communion  
*(imposition of ashes at both services)*
- 23 Fri 8.30pm-Meditation and Night Prayer
- 24 Sat 4.00pm-Farewell to Archdeacon Sheila  
(St Mary's, Aylesbury)
- 25 Sun **Lent 1**  
8.00am-Holy Communion  
10.00am-Parish Communion  
*Preacher: David Tester (Missionary  
Aviation Fellowship)*
- 28 Wed 10.00am-Holy Communion (BCP)  
1.30 Skylarks

On Wednesdays in February we celebrate:  
St Cyril and St Methodius, Valentine (14th)

**We welcome into God's Church by Baptism**

On 7 January **Ashton Thomas Robertson**

On 28 January **Finnian Drewett**

**Jodie Ashby**

**We commend into the Father's keeping**

On 11 January **Jean Hedgeland**

## **Readings for February 2007**

### **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 3 before Lent**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP - AD)

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD)

Isaiah 6:1-8

Luke 5:1-11

### **Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2 before Lent**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD)

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-25

Revelation 4

Luke 8:22-25

### **Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February Sunday next before Lent**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD)

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36

### **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February Ash Wednesday**

8.00 p.m. Parish Communion (AD)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> February Lent 1**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD: Preacher – David Tester)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

### Notes from the new editor

Well, I seem to have found myself a new job. I have never done anything like this before, but I do love a challenge! I intend to give you a thumbnail sketch of Eileen Chapman, then will disappear into the background and let others have their say.

When I first came to St Francis at Elizabeth Lampson's invitation, I was at a very low point in my life. My very much loved husband had died suddenly after 33 years of marriage, and the new incumbent at my previous church, and his ideas were not to my taste. Along with about 70 others I left that church to try others, and had great difficulty in finding somewhere where I felt 'at home'. Not going to church was not an option.

The friendliness at St Francis was amazing—never underestimate the power of a smile and friendly word. I found it difficult, but you all made it so easy, for which many thanks. After two or three weeks, whilst receiving the Eucharist, Val Evans administered the Chalice to me by name, never had taking Holy Communion been so personal. I felt that I had come home.

I then wanted to give something back and went on the PCC, however I had retire from that after a year as my ME makes it hard for me to get out in the evening, especially if I have to drive. When I saw that Tim intended retiring as editor, I thought that it might be something I could try. I prayed about it for a couple of months, then emailed Tim to see if the post was still vacant. It was, and here I am.

I feel that I have much to live up to after Tim's wonderful editing and would appreciate your prayers, support and feedback. Also I will be coming to you (yes you) for your life story/journey of faith, and/or your rôle in the church. Volunteers would be welcome!

My journey of faith is briefly as follows.

***'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life' John 3:16 AV***

I was born into a Christian home in Chesterfield (home of the Crooked Spire), which worshipped in the little daughter C of E

Church at the top of the road, and from this start I had always regarded myself as a Christian. It was some 30 odd years ago when there was a week's mission, 'Focus on Faith', at Holy Trinity, Hazlemere, where we then worshipped as a family, that I realised these were people who knew that God walked with them, and I didn't. We had housegroups after the week's mission, and at one of these a leader told me to put my name into the above quotation, 'God so loved Eileen...' wow, that was my 'Damascus Road' moment. From then I knew that Jesus walked with me—in my imperfect human way, I don't always walk with Him! He, however, is always with me, in good times and bad.

Quite recently I heard a mind blowing statistic. In Derbyshire, during the last war, only 14% of children survived pneumonia, I was one of them. I contracted it when I was 6 months old through going into the extremely damp air raid shelter. My parents were told not to go in there any more, and I have made 'old bones', as my Dad would have said. Our part of Chesterfield was not bombed, but nearby Sheffield was very badly damaged, so it really was an act of faith to keep out of the shelter. In hindsight, I feel that God was with my family and me at that time.

I am fortunate to have two lovely sons, two delightful daughters-in-law and four grandchildren, on whom I dote. I would like to relate a conversation I had with grandson Daniel, 6. I joined the family for the Christingle Service at St Andrew's, Hatters Lane on Christmas Eve, where they worship. Daniel was playing a King, complete with golden crown and silk cape.

Granny: 'Which gift are you going to give to Jesus?'

Daniel: 'The square one'

Well I did ask!

Eileen Chapman

**The editor can be contacted as follows:**

phone: 01494 713530

email: [editor@terrierschurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@terrierschurch.org.uk)

## **BEATITUDES FOR A GLOBALISED WORLD**

*'Irish musician Bono called the Millennium Development Goals "the beatitudes for a globalised world". This inspired me to see the 8 MDGs as Jesus might see them.'*

*Bishop Christopher Gregorowski, Cape Town*

Jesus said, "You are blessed when you are merciful: you will receive mercy." (Matthew 5:5)

1. You are blessed when you seek bread for the hungry: you will be filled.
2. You are blessed when you provide schooling for all girls and boys: you will see God's light.
3. You are blessed when you support women and girls in their quest for empowerment and equality: the power of God's Spirit is yours.
4. You are blessed when you bring vulnerable children to health and strength: you will be healed and strengthened.
5. You are blessed when you seek the health of pregnant women and young mothers: you will be called God's children.
6. You are blessed when you strive to combat HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other diseases: you will receive mercy.
7. You are blessed when you care for my creation, and seek clean water and sanitation for all, and a better life for slum dwellers: you will inherit the earth.
8. You are blessed when you open your borders to fair trade and your budgets to sound development: you will be richly rewarded.

You are blessed when you are persecuted for being just and seeking justice in the world: you are members of my family – for just as you do these things for your sisters and brothers in need, you do them for me.

## **Future dates for the diary—March**

Friday 2nd, Women's World Day of Prayer 7.30pm St Francis  
'United Under God's Tent'

Speaker: **Val Evans**

Saturday 3rd, at The Swan Theatre  
11am Lighthouse cool'n'crazy Praise Party  
4pm Worship Music Workshop  
7.30pm Encounter Evening Celebration with  
**Graham Kendrick**

### **PRAYING THE PARISH**

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

Joyce Bennett, Linda Courtney, Gaynor Chambers, Sylvie DaBriel, Elizabeth Lampson, Michael Hedgeland, Doreen Smith, Joy & Ray Smith, Jill White, Diane Young.

**Among others for whom our prayers have been asked:**

Vince Amer, Jean Barber, Stephen Benfell, Harold Blewitt, Jenny Butterfield, Roy Coomb, Rachel Crampton, Cath Cronk, Cathy Coleman and her daughter Ruth, Margaret Day, George Daniel, Brigid Dowsett, Marilyn Drew, Frances Edmonds, John Edmonds-Seal, Norah Glennon, Nikki Ferguson (Laura Mann's granddaughter), James Golightly, Phyllis and Michael Fudge, Lin Hallahan, Betty Hill, Florence Holmes, Anna & Frank Jervis, Zack Leeper, Gwynedd Merrett, Bettina Michaels and her family, Angela Norton, Marie Norton, Mary Pope, Marcia Powell, Claire Roberts, Sarah Rolls, John Stubbs, Betty Tetsall, Christine Solomon, Irene Solomon, Rhiannon Streeter, Steven Tomori, Bill Weinbauer, Julie Willis, Margaret Woolner, Thelma Wright

**WHIST CLUB**  
**Whist Club Meetings for 2007**

January	4—18	July	5—19
February	1—15	August	2—16
March	1—15	September	6—20
April	5—19	October	4—18
May	3—17	November	1—15
June	7—21	December	6—20

**NEW—STARTING 12 JANUARY**

**ROCKIN' TOTS**

New interactive and stimulating music sessions for babies and toddlers 0—4 years.

Fridays in St Francis of Assisi Church Hall

1.45 to 2.30pm

For more information phone Gaynor: 01494 713248

Website: [www.rockintots.co.uk](http://www.rockintots.co.uk)

**Rockin'Tots**

*Musical Play-sessions*

**Rockin'Tots** is a newly formed interactive and stimulating musical group for babies and toddlers - up to the age of 4 years starting January 2007. Parents and carers can come and enjoy 45 minutes of musical fun and quality time to share with their little one/s. The classes provide an exciting range of songs incorporating some imagination, improvisation with the aid of lots of instruments, props and puppets to bring the music to life!

**Rockin'Tots** runs every week, the cost of the classes is very competitive and operates on a 'pay as you go' basis. There is a discount for siblings.

Because of the structure of the classes which are theme based, whether you are a regular member or not, you can be assured that you'll be given a very warm welcome - so... come and join us -

'All aboard' for our musical journey of the week! (Feel free to bring a favourite toy!)

**Contact details:**

Gaynor Lam

**Rockin'Tots Musical Play-Sessions**

Tel: 01494 713248 or 07847 825130

Email: mail@rockintots.co.uk

-ooOoo-

**Children's Epiphany Party – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

This was something we hadn't tried before and which turned out to be a lot of fun. We began with a short dramatization of the arrival of the three kings [or wise men] at Bethlehem, followed by a party for the children. A large cupboard in the church hall had been made to look like the interior of a small house where Mary and Joseph, well played by Laura and Amy Gee, were caring for baby Jesus. Soon after four o'clock the three kings, Hugh Dickinson, Robert Cavanagh, and Sam Young appeared, splendidly attired, carrying their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They processed solemnly around the hall, following the star, beautifully played by Beatrice Dickinson, while we all sang 'We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts...' until they reached the house and knelt to present their gifts to the infant Jesus. The children listened to the account of the angel appearing to the wise men in a dream, warning them not to return to Herod who would harm the infant Jesus, whilst another angel warned Joseph to escape with Mary and Jesus into Egypt where they would be safe.

The children performed their parts very well and we gave them a round of applause before we began our party-games. The first game was a fairly quiet affair as the seventeen children, from three to fourteen years, slowly shed their inhibitions. The rest of the games were positively riotous, spurred on by Hugh, Robert and Sam who had completely shed their kingly dignity! Refreshments made a welcome break as they tucked into crisps, biscuit stars and sweeties etc.

Huge thanks to the children who took part, and the families who turned out on the damp and dark afternoon, and also to Sandra Dickinson, Jean Finlan, Pam Hancock, Irene Hasan, with Tania, Sonia and Ro-

zanne, and to Paddy Martin and Sally Jervis for baking the star biscuits. It couldn't have happened without you.

**Val Evans**

-oo0oo-

### **Inter-Faith Meeting**

The second community gathering was held on 11th December. Some thirty people attended, approximately half the number being Christian and half Muslim. Free and frank discussion took place, especially concerning Christmas and the exchange of Christmas cards between the two cultures. The atmosphere of the meeting was very positive.

It was agreed to continue with these meetings, probably holding four a year. The majority of people felt that to achieve anything definite, to bridge the gap, would take a long time. It was agreed to try and find a mutually agreeable joint project which would bring both communities together. This would be looked at this year.

On a personal note, when I went out of my house the next day, the Asian lady across the road was going to her car and she smiled and waved to me. I then realised she had been at the meeting, so my leaflet drop had produced at least one positive response

**Brenda M Matthews**

AND FINALLY

Dear God,

I keep waiting for Spring but it never come yet. Don't forget.

Mark

Reproduced with permission from *children's letters to God* compiled by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall. Published by Kyle Cathie Ltd, 2006. ISBN 978 1 85626 682 6



## **Volunteers needed for exciting new projects**

The Volunteer Centre Wycombe District is launching two new special projects locally. They are looking for **gardening and DIY enthusiasts** with some spare time that are willing to help older and disabled people living on low incomes in the community.

**The Gardening Project** offers basic gardening help with mowing lawns, trimming shrubs, planting bulbs perennials and annuals, forking-over beds etc.

**The Decorating Project** will offer a basic service - you could help to paint walls and brighten up someone's home. No woodwork painting or wallpapering will be involved, and the Project Co-coordinator is always available to help and advise.

So, if you would like to get your gardening gloves on and enjoy the Spring sunshine, or alternatively wield a paintbrush indoors, the Volunteer Centre would be pleased to hear from you. It's a good way of meeting new people, getting fit, and having fun.

If you are a member of the community fitting the above criteria, and would like your garden tidying or a room refreshing, please **get in touch, we're happy to help**

If you would like more information about how you can get involved contact the Project Co-ordinator on 01494 451700 or email [wycom-bevb@volunteerfocus.org.uk](mailto:wycom-bevb@volunteerfocus.org.uk) or go to [www.volunteerfocus.org.uk](http://www.volunteerfocus.org.uk)

## **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

**[www.terrierschurch.org.uk](http://www.terrierschurch.org.uk)**



*Front cover picture: St Francis, Terriers (photo by Tim Edmonds)*