

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

TERRIERS



LENT PROJECT 2007

Parish Magazine

50p



March 2007

www.terrierschurch.org.uk

Who's Who at St Francis

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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
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Refocusing

Lent is a time for refocusing. In particular, as we move through the first four weeks of Lent towards Passiontide, it is a time for focusing our attention away from ourselves and on the suffering and death of Jesus, so that we may discover afresh what they have to teach us about God's self-giving love for humankind. What does it mean for us to speak, as St Paul does in his letter to the Galatians, of "the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me"? How do we proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus as Good News for a society in which it has become old news or even no news?

To answer those questions we need to refocus on the world around us. Who are the people among whom we live or alongside whom we work? What are their values, their hopes, their dreams? We need to know what makes them tick, because they are the people to whom God has sent us. We need also to refocus on our own response to the love of God revealed in Jesus of Nazareth. What is the good news about Jesus for us? For me? Is it something abstract? Is it, perhaps, a form of words that I learned as a child and have never really grown into, never really earthed in my own experience? Or is it something that is real and vibrant, which I find difficult to explain to other people precisely because it is so real and so very personal?

If you find yourself in this situation, you may find a recent book by John Pritchard, the Bishop-elect of Oxford, helpful. It is called, quite simply, "How to Explain your Faith", and it is published by SPCK. The book is divided into three sections, "Why bother?", "Why believe?" and "Why get involved?" Each chapter deals with a difficult question which Christians regularly face when they are challenged by unbelieving friends. All follow a roughly similar pattern. The objections to Christian faith, as it is commonly understood, are raised, very clearly and readably. The key issue is identified and summarised in a few sentences. Some possible responses are set out, often with accompanying quotations and illuminating stories, and in many chapters "the heart of the matter" is opened up for reflection.

The book as a whole is very user-friendly. The stories and the quotes are, by turns, inspiring, amusing and poignant. They offer a great deal of food for thought and personal prayer, as well as helpful resources, enabling readers "to make [their] defence to anyone who demands an accounting for the hope that is in [them]." It can be used by individuals, or in a group situation (a helpful appendix suggests a structure for those who wish to use the book in a home group). There is a list of books for further reading by anyone who wants to take further some of the questions raised by Bishop John. At a penny short of £10.00 it is a bargain. We hope to have copies of this, and other books by Bishop John, on our bookstall during Lent. I encourage you to investigate them, as a way of deepening and refocusing your faith, as well as getting to know our new diocesan bishop.

Tony Dickinson

UNITED SOCIETY FOR THE PROPOGATION OF THE GOSPEL

You will no doubt be aware that 2007 marks the 200th anniversary of William Wilberforce's bill to abolish the British slave trade.

USPG is one of the key partners in a major commemorative event to mark this historical anniversary, namely a walk of witness on Saturday 24th March 2007, in London in the presence of Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Most Reverend Drexel Gomez, Archbishop of the Church of the Province of West Indies.

The walk begins in Whitehall Place at 12.30pm, and ends at Kennington Park at 2.30pm.

(Extract from a letter from Bishop Michael Doe, General Secretary, USPG)

COMMUNITY MISSION PRAYER POINTERS

1. For High Wycombe YMCA Housing Manager Mark Bruckshaw, his colleagues and all of the residents. Please pray for (a different) Mark who is leaving for a new job.
2. For the possibility of launching a chaplaincy service in the Council and the Eden development.
3. For All Saints' Church (and every church) to be "A place for our whole community to encounter God; a place which works to reveal God today, as Jesus did".
4. For a positive response from local radio stations
5. For our local schools, that they will be havens of learning, unity and Godly love.
6. For All Saints' Playgroup and every such group in High Wycombe, especially those connected with churches.
7. For all of us to see our town through the eyes of God, and to heed Christ's call to love our neighbours as ourselves.
8. For those who are obliged to work with the less savoury characters of our town.
9. For All Saints' Discussion Group, especially that good conversation will flow, that customers join us.
10. (*An addition for St Francis*) We ask a blessing on all who attend our Lenten Housegroups on the subject of William Wilberforce and slavery, then and now.

Nicky Tottle

Contact: 01494 526896

07725 106529

nicky.tottle@btinternet.com

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCHESES

There is a Christian Aid lunch each Friday in St Francis Terriers Church Hall, **except** during school holidays as follows:

Last lunch: March 30th—last before Easter

Restart: April 20th

Last lunch: May 25th -last before half term

Restart: June 8th

Last lunch: July 20th last before summer holiday

Restart: September 14th

Joyce Dowsett

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm

St Francis of Assisi

"United Under God's Tent": Speaker: **VAL EVANS**

10.30am

Union Baptist Church, High Wycombe

1.30pm

The Avenue Methodist Church, Castlefield

Jean Finlan

EASTER FLOWERS

We would be grateful for any donations to help with the Easter flowers. Any amount, large or small would be useful, please put cash/cheques into my pigeonhole. Many thanks.

Mollie Braisher

SATURDAY MARCH 3rd at THE SWAN THEATRE

11am Lighthouse cool'n'crazy Praise Party

(For families—£3.50 all tickets)

4pm Worship Music Workshop with Graham Kendrick and his band

(For church music groups-all tickets £3.50)

7.30pm Encounter Evening Celebration with

Graham Kendrick

(All tickets £4.50)

A group from church will be attending the evening event, for details contact:

Val Evans 01494 531023 or Pam Helmers-Olsen 01494 522016

(We need to support this event to encourage The Swan to put on similar days in future. There are market stalls from 6.30pm)

PRAYING THE PARISH

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

Joyce Bennett, Linda Courtney, Gaynor Chambers, Sylvie DaBriel, Val Evans Michael Hedgeland, Elizabeth Lampson, Doreen Smith, Joy 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

PREPARATION FOR BISHOP'S ORDINATION

Preparations are now underway for Bishop John's inauguration in June, and for him to get to know his diocese.

Bishop Colin writes: 'With thousands of Church members across the diocese, and well over 1000 people in licensed ministries, we are conscious of the need for as many of them as possible to meet Bishop John in his first weeks here. Coupled with that is the need to emphasise that he is here to serve the whole community, not just those who go to church.

'The inauguration of his Ministry in the Cathedral on **8 June** at 2pm will be a great event with representatives from many parts of the life of our three counties. It may also be posted on the web, so that many others can 'take part' in the service, individually or in small groups. All Licensed Ministers will also be invited to a service in the Cathedral on **10 June** at 3pm.

'Over the following three weeks, Bishop John will attend eight 'visitations' around the diocese, meeting many hundreds of churchwardens and lay members of our churches. By July, we hope that several thousand people will have had the chance to greet him, to hear him speak, and to pray with him.

'Clearly it is going to be a very demanding time for both John and Wendy. Please continue to pray for them as they become part of our life, and we of theirs.'

(Taken from the diocesan website www.oxford.anglican.org, 26 January 2007)

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Jesus took the command to love our neighbour as we love ourselves, and pushed the definition of who is our neighbour, out, out and still further out, until it reached to the ends of the earth, and included all of humanity—all of God's children.

Alvin Alexi Currier

*(From the **Sojourners** website, thanks to Tony)*

THE HEALING GROUP

The Healing Group was formed more than ten years ago. It grew from a small group of us from St Francis going to a weekend course at Great Missenden led by Canon Steven Sidebotham from the Acorn Healing Trust. Before the end of the course it had been decided that we wished to inaugurate a Healing Ministry at St Francis.

After months of training and prayer this was achieved. To begin with, a Healing Service was held on the third Sunday evening of the month. At first numbers held up well, sometimes even reaching double figures. However three stalwart attendees left the area, and gradually numbers fell and the Healing Service became a victim of the Evensong cut.

We still maintain a prayer for Healing at the Sunday morning Eucharist three or four times a year, and healing prayer is also available on an individual basis in the Lady Chapel after the Eucharist Service on the fourth Sunday of the month.

As has been said on many occasions members of the Healing Group are not 'Healers'. We have just committed ourselves to pray, alongside you, for the needs of the sick.

The members of the Healing Group at the moment are Tony, Sandra, Val Evans and me. We would dearly love to add to our number, so if you find yourself called to do this, please approach us and we will hope to welcome you into the Group

Brenda Matthews

A FURTHER PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Ultimately, we are reborn to love because in this expanding, gracious space within us, we arrive at the astonishing presence of God at the core of our life. We blunder into the heart of God and find our own.

Sue Monk Kidd

*(From the **Sojourners** website, again thanks to Tony)*

LENT PROJECT – MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

Flying for Life

For over 50 years, Mission Aviation Fellowship has been speeding physical and spiritual help to some of the world's most isolated suffering people. Without its light aircraft, countless thousands of men, women and children would today be without adequate food, clean water, medical care and Christian hope. They are cut off by the difficult terrain beyond which they exist, and deprived of basic necessities for a full and healthy life.

Where roads don't go, when time is short, where overland travel is dangerous, MAF flights make impossible journeys possible, often using very basic grass airstrips.

A 35-minute flight from Antananarivo to Marolambo, Madagascar, saves an exhausting three-day journey by foot and hitchhiking by truck. A one-hour flight to Bundibugyo, western Uganda, taking 2,000 copies of the Gospel of Mark in local Lubwisi language saved an eight-hour drive over rough and dangerous roads.

Formed in 1945 by former World War II air force personnel, the first MAF plane took off on a survey mission from Croydon Airport. On return, its pilots were in no doubt that a mission in the air would bring much needed help and hope to those in isolated communities. Today, MAF is a worldwide multinational team operating over 130 light aircraft in more than 30 countries.

Every three minutes, an MAF plane is taking off or landing, helping to bring hope and life. MAF works in partnership with indigenous groups, government departments, national churches, evangelists, missions, local aid workers and larger international aid agencies such as Oxfam, World Vision, UNICEF and Red Cross. Sometimes, an MAF plane is even converted into an air ambulance to be a vital link in saving a precious life.

Fifteen-month-old Kalika sustained major burns to his head, arm and back when he wandered too close to the fire and flames set light to his clothing. He passed out and fell to the

floor, smothering the worst of the flames. Coming in from milking the goats, his mother, Bolat, found Kalika lying in a smouldering heap. Kalika's arm was burnt to the bone, his left ear a mere stub. He was admitted to the local hospital in the Khovdin Bulgan area, far western Mongolia, but his burns were too severe for the hospital to treat. They were simply going to send him home which would have meant almost certain death.

But Australian missionary Jill Howe heard of his plight and contacted missionaries in Ulaanbaatar who quickly phoned MAF pilot Jan-Tore Foldoey. He was airborne over the Gobi Desert just over an hour away. He collected baby Kalika and his parents, flying them on to hospital in the capital. Jan-Tore reports, 'The doctor told us that if the boy had come to Ulaanbaatar one day later, they could not have saved him'. Six days later, Jan-Tore visited Kalika in hospital to find him out of intensive care and beginning to heal. He confides, 'The family still could not believe that a plane came just to help them'.

MAF's vital work is enabling thousands of men, women and children to receive both physical and spiritual care.

Find out more about the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship by writing to:

MAF, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2TN

phone:0845 850 9505,

email: supporter.relations@maf-uk.org or visit the website
www.maf-uk.org.

LENT PROJECT

Afternoon Tea - 29 March at 2.30pm

Arden House, 72 Hamilton Road

Come and enjoy an afternoon tea, and relaxing chat in aid of

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

Raffle donations gratefully accepted!

Hazel Noakes

MARCH 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 Friday **Women's World Day of Prayer**
7.30pm Service at St Francis
8.30pm Meditation and Night Prayer
- 4 Sunday **Lent 2**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Communion (All Age Service)
- 6 Tuesday 8.00pm Julian Meeting
- 7 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
(Perpetua, Felicity and their companions)
1.30pm Skylarks
- 9 Friday 8.30pm Meditation and Night Prayer
- 11 Sunday **Lent 3**
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion with prayer for
healing
***Copy deadline for April Parish Maga-
zine***
- 14 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
1.30pm Skylarks
- 16 Friday 8.30pm Mediation and Night Prayer
- 18 Sunday **Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)**
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion (All Age Service)
12.00 noon Lunch Club

- 21 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
(Thomas Cranmer)
1.30pm Skylarks
- 23 Friday 8.30 Meditation and Night Prayers
- 25 Sunday **Lent 5**
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
- 26 Monday **The Annunciation of our Lord to the
Blessed Virgin Mary**
8.00pm Parish Communion
- 28 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
1.30pm Skylarks
- 30 Friday 8.30pm Meditation and Night Prayer

LENT HOUSEGROUPS 2007

The five session Lent Courses **Can we build a better world?**
start on Thursday 1 March. There will be two groups:

10.30am at the home of Dennis and Jean Mayger,
32 Amersham Road. Phone: 523372

8.00pm at the home of Val Evans,
72 Totteridge Drive. Phone: 531023

(Future venues by arrangement, possibly in different homes)

The subjects are:

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

Val Evans

Readings for March 2007

Sunday 4 March Lent 2

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP-AD)

10.00am Parish Communion (AD)

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Luke 13:31-end

Sunday 11 March Lent 3

8.00 Holy Communion (AD)

10.00am Parish Communion with Prayer for Healing (AD)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13: 1-9

Sunday 18 March Lent 4, Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (AD)

10.00am Parish Communion (AD)

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:33-35

Sunday 24 March Lent 5

8.00am Holy Communion (AD)

10.00am Parish Communion (AD)

Isaiah 43: 16-21

Romans 3:4-14

John 12:1-18

Monday 25 March Annunciation

8.00pm Parish Communion (AD)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Hebrews 10:4-10

Luke 1:26-38

TIME FOR THE NEW ABOLITIONISTS

Many people believe that slavery ended with the American Civil War, but a look at reality in the 21st century quickly reveals otherwise.

As David Batstone writes in his new book, 'NOT for Sale: The return of the Global Slave Trade—and how we can fight it': Twenty seven million slaves exist in our world today. Girls and boys, women and men of all ages are forced to toil in the rug looms of Nepal, sell their bodies in the brothels of Rome, break rocks in the quarries of Pakistan, and fight wars in the jungles of Africa. Go behind the façade in any major town or city in the world today and you are likely to find a thriving commerce in human beings.'

In writing the book, Batstone travelled to Cambodia, Thailand, Peru, India, Uganda, South Africa and Eastern Europe, investigating the situation and interviewing hundreds of people whose stories the book tells. In poorer countries of the world, poverty and inequality create the conditions that lead to slavery. From destitute parents selling their children, to young rural women looking for work in the cities, to people being trapped in debt with no way out, the pool of potential slaves continues to grow. The International Labour Organization estimates that the work performed by trafficked individuals generates \$32 billion a year. Stories of these horrendous injustices have been trickling out over the past few years, but now somebody has put it all together, describing both the magnitude of the problem and the solution that could really stop modern slavery.

Two hundred years ago, William Wilberforce and his group of friends profoundly changed the political and social climate of their time by taking on the slave trade. Wilberforce was a convert of the religious revival that transformed 18th century England. His life and his vocation as a Member of Parliament were profoundly changed by his newfound faith; he became a force for moral politics. His mentor, John Newton, worked in the slave trade before he became a minister, and became well known for writing the beloved hymn 'Amazing Grace'. Later, Newton used his influence as a religious leader to lead the

battle against slavery. In light of his efforts, we can read his immortal words, 'Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me', not merely as a testimony of private guilt and piety, but also as a turning away from the sin of trafficking in human flesh. His conversion produced a social and political transformation as well as a personal one.

That kind of conversion became true in the life of Wilberforce, who first heard Newton speak when he was young but regarded his real conversion to be confirmed following a series of conversations in 1785-86. At the conclusion of their conversations, Newton said: 'The Lord raised you up for the good of the church and the good of the nation'. Two years later, Wilberforce introduced his first anti-slave trade motion into Parliament. It was defeated, and would be defeated nine more times until it was passed in 1807. It was an historic and moral victory, but Wilberforce wasn't satisfied until slavery was abolished altogether. Finally, in 1833, the House of Commons passed a Bill abolishing slavery in the British Empire, and Wilberforce died three days later, his work finally done.

Recently, I was preaching at an evangelical Christian college in the American Midwest. I called for a new generation of Martin Luther Kings and William Wilberforces. Afterward, two young women were waiting to talk to me at the end of a long line of students. When they finally got their turn to speak, they looked me straight in the eye and said, 'We are going to be the next Martin Luther King and William Wilberforce, and we just wanted to tell you that'. I told them I was glad to meet them now, before they became famous! But they were serious, and so was I. The history of earlier centuries can inform a new generation of Christians in their struggle to reunite faith and social justice in our own time.

David Batstone has been getting ready to write this book for a long time. His broad experiences in global issues, business ethics, and Christian social justice movements have all been forms of preparation for this work. When he talks about the modern slave trade, I can hear and feel the passion in his voice. Wilberforce was almost obsessed with slavery, and Batstone can't let go of it either. He has seen too much now: he has seen too many victims, and thought often of his own kids,

who are about the same ages as the children he's met who are being trafficked. Dave is on a mission, and invites us to join him. Read his book, see the film, and join the campaign to abolish slavery.

Jim Wallis

(This article has been extracted from the 'God's Politics' weblog at www.beliefnet.com. It is a good summary of the anti-slavery movement "then and now", the subject of our Lent housegroups)

A Book Review

'Change the World 9 to 5'

This is a book aimed at 'workers', but I feel it applies to us all. There are various boxes to tick under headings such as :

Enjoy a Fairtrade brew

Praise people

Smile when you answer the phone

Say thanks

Bring your kids into work for the day (Not sure about that one!)

The one which resonates with me is:

Aspire not to have more, but to be more (Archbishop Oscar Romero)

It is not a difficult book to read, in fact I read it over my cup of (Fairtrade) tea, and really enjoyed it, a thought-provoking little book. Although I am retired, it made sense to me.

Another Action is **Pass this book around**, I take that seriously, it was given to me, and if anyone would like my copy I will pass it on.

Eileen Chapman

*'Change the World 9 to 5, 50 actions to change the world at work'
Published by Short Books Ltd, 2006 ISBN 1 904977-48-0*

(Have you read a good book, relevant to us all? Then how about writing a short review for use in future copies of the magazine?)

EXTRACTS FROM ECO-CONGREGATION NEWS

www.ecocongregation.org/englandwales

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

For the Earth's sake, for our children's sake, for God's sake

Oceans warming

Ice caps melting

Calming, caring God

Help us act to still the storm

For now, forever.

Storms destroying

Chaos reigning

Calming, caring God

Help us act to still the storm

For now, forever.

Planet shaping

Hope rising

Calming, caring God

Help us act to still the storm

For now, forever

David Pickering

DID YOU KNOW?

Amid concerns about the amount of waste from plastic bottles used for bottled water, and that small amounts of plastic hormone-disrupting chemicals such as phthalates could leach into water, Belu Water, founded last year, now produce water bottles made from CORN STARCH. These are totally biodegradable. They leach only tiny amounts of harmless natural lactic acid, which is in the body anyway. Belu Water is available from Waitrose. Belu say on their website that all their profits go to clean water projects.

[Www.belu.org/home.asp](http://www.belu.org/home.asp)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Major David Scott

In September 2006, I was appointed on a part-time basis to the post of County Ecumenical Development Officer. My prime task is to act as the link between Churches Together in Bucks with member Local Ecumenical Partnerships and Churches Together groups within the county. The development aspect of my role relates to the encouragement of new Churches Together groups being formed, and a wider ecumenical brief extending contact to various organisations working throughout the county. In these early days of appointment I have valued the support that I have already received. During the months ahead a priority will be to visit as many member groups as possible, so look out for me arriving at your Churches Together Committee Meeting or associated event.

My own spiritual journey began in Methodism as a member of Bitterne Methodist Church in Southampton. In my early twenties I came into contact with The Salvation Army and in 1970 commenced a period of residential training in preparation for Ordained Salvation Army Officership. For the last 34 years I have enjoyed full-time Ministry with The Salvation Army. This service has taken both my wife Margaret and myself to many parts of the UK, and seen involvement in Church, Training, Youth and Personnel ministries.

I have a heart for the Christian gospel and for ecumenism, and I am only thankful that as a young adult I came into a personal knowledge of Christ as Saviour. I now look forward to continuing my own Christian journey endeavouring to support you in your God-given task. It's a journey that I hope we will continue together.

David Scott

LOCAL EVENTS

5-18 March Fairtrade fortnight. Local events

www.fairtrade.org.uk

8 March Enabling Group Meeting

2.30pm St Francis Church Hall, Terriers

CROSSING THE RUBICON...

The difficulty of finding solutions to many of the problems that we encounter, is that events have a point of no return, beyond which the situation cannot be retrieved, no matter how earnestly we strive to do so.

In the western world, we enjoy the benefits of an industrial revolution that caused its fair share of environmental and sociological damage along the way. Now many of us are concerned to conserve the planet's ecosystems and to protect populations from the ravages of industrial injury and illness. However, introducing controls and safety measures involves limiting the efforts of Third World countries to raise their living standards to catch up with ours. Do we have the right to demand that they remain underprivileged, so that we can attempt to preserve our own surroundings?

Nearly every proposed development involves such dilemmas, to a greater or lesser degree. The description of a conflict that follows is a stark example.

The purist water in Chile flows through the Valle de San Felix, from two rivers that are fed by two glaciers. Water is a precious resource in the region and wars have been fought over it. Indigenous farmers use the water to irrigate their crops. There is no unemployment. Farming is the second largest source of income for the area.

Under the glaciers, huge deposits of gold, silver and other minerals have been found. To extract these, it would be necessary to break up and destroy the glaciers. Historically, this has never before been contemplated. A project proposes to make two huge holes in the glaciers, each as big as a mountain, one for extracting the minerals and the other as a depository for the mine's rubbish.

The operation is planned by a multinational company, and the Chilean Government approved the project to start in 2006. However, the farmers have won a temporary stay of execution. If the glaciers are destroyed, not only will the source of especially pure water be destroyed, but the two rivers will be

permanently contaminated by cyanide and sulphuric acid, which are used in the extraction process. This would render the river water unfit for human and animal consumption, by drinking or for irrigating crops that were to be fed to them.

Every gram of the precious metals extracted will be exported to the multinational company, leaving nothing for the people whose land is being despoiled, except poisoned water, loss of livelihood and potential illness. The farms have been fighting for a long time to protect their land, but were banned from making a TV appeal by the Ministry of the Interior. Their only hope of permanently stopping the project is to generate support from international opinion.

An Internet campaign is informing the world about what is happening in Chile. Its leaders say that the only way to change the world is by each individual taking a stand. They are asking individuals to create an email petition to the Chilean Government asking it not to authorise the Pascua Lama open mining project in the Andean Cordillera on the Chilean-Argentine frontier. The aim is to protect the whole of the glaciers; the purity of the water of the San Felix Valley and El Transito; the quality of the agricultural land of the region of Atacama, and the quality of life of the Diaguita people and of the whole population of the region. Were the project to go ahead, it would be too late to reverse the effects, should someone decide at a later date that a mistake had been made.

So, where might your sympathies lie, or do you believe that such controversies have little to do with you?

John Machin

(This article was originally published in the Newsletter of the United Reformed Church, Hassocks, Sussex, and is used with permission, to spread the word. Contact email is: noapas-cualama@yahoo.ca)

THE GRAPEVINE

The Rev Nicky Tottle is to marry **Martin** at All Saints' on Friday 25th May, and they ask for our prayers as they plan their wedding and prepare for their married life.

Extract from an email to Tim Edmonds from Richard Putnam: I am writing to express my thanks at being able to access your parish magazine on the Internet. While browsing recently, I came across the 75th Anniversary edition that contained information about my great uncle. Herbert Putnam was killed in WWI and is remembered on a plaque originally located in St Andrew's Church, many thanks for the photo of the memorial. I now live in Australia and was fascinated to know that it exists. As for the Putnams, there may be some cousins still in the area, but none that we have been in contact with for many years. My family moved away from the area in 1953 just after I was born and have only made occasional trips back.

(Tim had emailed a photo of the memorial to Richard Putnam)

"Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn" (Keats)

We, the choir, are very pleased to have a new member, **Isaac Nahoor**, who has recently joined Hugh, Len, Tim, Martin and Michael. Isaac is a pupil at Sir William Ramsay School in Hazlemere, where he is studying for his GCSEs. The Music Group is also fortunate in having Isaac as he plays the guitar, and we hope to see and hear more of him at the Family Service on the first Sunday of the month.

If you, too, enjoy singing praises in the shower, come and experiment with the echo in the Church at 7.30 on Friday evenings, when we hold our rehearsals. We are always delighted to welcome new members.

Sally Jervis



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 or go to www.volunteerfocus.org.uk

AND FINALLY...

Our times are in Thy hands and we know not what any day may bring forth. Take us, we pray Thee, into Thy tender keeping, and help us to make a better use of the days that may yet remain.

Anon

(I found this in a children's book of biographies, which was a commemoration to King George VI. It is as relevant today as it was 55 years ago)

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

