

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
TERRIERS



HARVEST FESTIVAL 23 SEPTEMBER

Parish Magazine

50p



SEPTEMBER 2007

www.terrierschurch.org.uk

Who's Who at St Francis

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Editor	Eileen Chapman	713530
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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	880958
PCC Secretary	John Norton	437105
PCC Treasurer	Mick Relf	530808
Sacristan	Mary Phipps	816416
Saturday Morning Prayer Grp	Val Evans	531023
Skylarks Organiser	Tony Dickinson	520676
Spirituality Group	Val Evans	531023
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

Coming back: moving out

This is the month when most people (especially those with school-age children) return home after the holiday period. Sunday School and "Skylarks", too, start up again. And the Church Council begins to get to grips with the issues that were raised at its half-day conference in July.

For a change, we spent quite a lot of the time in silence, reading and praying through our choice of one or two from half a dozen short passages from the New Testament, mostly, but not all, from the Gospels. They included general reflections about discerning the mind of Christ as well as readings with a more specific mission focus. Interestingly, when we came back together to share our experiences, most people reported being drawn to one or both of the two passages from Luke (the sending out of the seventy [Luke 10:2] and the great banquet [Luke 14:16-23]) and/or to the passage from St Paul's letter to the Romans in which, after quoting the prophet's promise that "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved", Paul asks "How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?" [Romans 10:13-15] Some members of the Church Council were so caught up by the passages they were reading that they felt drawn to move physically out of the church building to where they could sense more strongly the rhythms of the world beyond our congregational life.

The needs of that world and the need to reach out were common themes in the time of shared reflection which followed. "Back to Church Sunday" and the "Songs of Praise" service were particularly mentioned as opportunities for us to make contact with people we seldom or never see in the church building.

We looked at internal factors which affect the way we do mission in this parish, and at some of the things that inhibit us. Some of us looked at things that we had thought about in the past with the fresh gaze of people who had just been through Keith Gordon's course on Servant Leadership. Importantly, we didn't concentrate our discussion on what happens in the church building for an hour or two each week

but on what goes on in the rest of our life. A great deal of what we talked about was practical. We thought about the way we publicise (or more often don't!) events beyond the regular congregation. We were encouraged by the response to the "Songs of Praise" service in July and, especially, the contribution made by residents of "Green Havens", several of whom we have been delighted to welcome at the Parish Communion since. We recognised the importance of making more opportunities for Christian-Muslim dialogue. We became quite excited about getting to know one another better through social events such as barbecues and supper parties, mixing regular worshippers and people we see less often. We wondered about more imaginative approaches to the Lent Project, especially in those years when we support a local cause. Someone floated the idea of organising courses in basic Christianity (not necessarily Alpha) and encouraging members of the congregation to explore ways of explaining their faith.

Some, if not all, of these suggestions will be piloted in the coming months. If you'd like to know more about our plans as they develop, please talk to me, or any member of the PCC.

Tony Dickinson

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM DOWN UNDER

The pewsheet header from the Anglican Parish of Ocean Grove with Barwon Heads, nr Geelong, Australia.

"Ministers: every member of the parish"

-ooOoo-

The vicar came to call on me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do— all the time. No matter where I am - in the parlour, in the kitchen, out in the garden—I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after?".

(Thanks to Tim Edmonds with acknowledgements to 'The Bridge' the pewsheet from his sister's church)

Harvest Festival - 23rd September

Harvest Festival at St Francis is a very 'wholesome' affair - we incorporate so much into it. Of course the church is beautifully decorated with flowers, greenery, fruit and vegetables, but we are not a farming community so our celebration has to reflect wider concerns. The congregation brings offerings of varied produce, fruit and veg. but also tinned food, packets of tea and jars of coffee, soap, toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, sanitary protection, towels, and all manner of clothing and shoes for the Whitechapel Mission. It is very moving to see the long procession of people filing up with their gifts to be stacked around the altar. But that isn't all, there will also be a display for the Water Aid Harvest Appeal to which people also contribute generously.

We have been supporting the Whitechapel Mission in London for over ten years now. A group from church visited their premises in Whitechapel and were so impressed with their work that it was chosen as the next Lent Money-Raising Project, and since then we have been donating necessary goods at every Harvest Festival. From 6.00am every morning people who spend their days [and some nights] on the streets form a long queue, waiting to be let in. Once inside they can have a shower, a change of clothing and a huge cooked breakfast which can set them up for the day. There is also a doctor, chiropodist counselling, and people to advise them on accommodation and Social Services on hand. They have a large and well-managed clothing store and a beautiful chapel. They hear difficult and sad stories, but also learn how people's lives have been turned around by the help they have received there.

The day after our festival the goods are sorted into boxes to await collection by the Mission's van which coincides with a similar collection by the pupils of Highworth School. The fresh fruit and veg. is taken to the 'Life House' and other residential homes in the parish. If you would like to be a part of this by donating goods or helping to sort them do get in touch.

[Towels which still have some wear left in them are particularly welcome as well as clothing and toiletries].

In the wider world, water for drinking, washing, sanitation and agriculture is the most basic need. As we celebrate the harvest of the good things we enjoy, we are glad to join WaterAid in helping some of the world's poorest people to gain access to life-giving water.

Come and join us at this festival to sing harvest thanks and express care for the poorest in such a practical way.

Val Evans

P.S. I'm really sorry to have to miss the service this year as I have

to attend the LLM Training Conference that weekend [learning, sharing, good friends and wonderful food!]. But I will be in church on Monday morning from 9.00am if anyone wants to join in sorting the goods.

GRAPEVINE

On a welcome break by the sea in Dorset with a friend from Hughenden Church, Val Evans found herself sharing a visit to John and Jane Eastgate at their retirement home at Swanage. The afternoon was spent by their beach hut on a very warm day, with swimming, sunning and catching up with news of friends. John has good memories of St. Francis Church where he stood in for Tony when on holiday. He sends his good wishes to all, but especially to Gaynor Chambers, Eileen Chapman and Elizabeth Lampson whom he knew well. It was great to meet John and Jane, they are nut-brown, full of vitality, John assisting with the worship in their local church, and serving various residential homes, and Jane is still engaged in home-nursing. They appear to be running an unofficial 'beach mission', interacting with the many friends they meet there each day!

ON THE MOVE

Michael Hedgeland has moved to be closer to his son and his new address is:-P M S Hedgeland

34 Castle Court

Hadlow Road

Tonbridge, Kent

TN9 1QU

Good wishes to Steve and Shelagh Sheppard in their new home

Good wishes also to Robin Crofton moving to Eaton Bray, Nr
Dunstable

LIGHTHOUSE at the RGS and Hazlemere was as successful as ever with increasing numbers, and children were turned away—please consider helping next year, it is hugely rewarding.

MONEY MATTERS

Lent Project

At the Service on 22 July we were able to present a cheque to David Tester of the **Mission Aviation Fellowship** in the sum of £1726.31 David expressed his gratitude on behalf of MAF.

Childrens' Society

On the same afternoon Hazel Noakes hosted the annual Garden Party, and the sum of £326.01 was raised. It was a lovely afternoon and well done to Hazel, her helpers and to all who attended—and enjoyed.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

We welcome into God's Church by Holy Baptism

8 July—Emily Christina Nailard

29 July—Freddie Joe Foreman

We congratulate on their Marriages

27 July—David Norton and Jenny Whitehead

28 July—Paul Chalwin and Claire Bradbury

and

Simon Banks and Louise Redknap

We commend into the Father's keeping

8 June—Joan Roberts

15 June—Muriel Smith

13 July—Muriel Daniel

13 August—Betty Cutler

PILGRIMAGE TO BURGUNDY

Seventeen of us, including Joyce Dowsett and myself, arrived at the Eurostar check-in at Waterloo on 8 June. We met up with our fellow travellers led by Canon Peter Ball, who co-led the pilgrimage to Sweden which I attended together with the Dickinsons and Tony Moore last year.

After a long delay we eventually left Waterloo and sped towards Lille. From there we caught the TGV to Montbard, where, much to everyone's relief, a coach was waiting with engine running and boot doors open, ready to take us on the last leg of our journey to the Hotel de la Poste et Lion d'Or in Vézelay.

The next morning we were taken on a 3 hour walking tour of Vézelay and the Basilica by a very knowledgeable guide. This was not as arduous as it might appear as the guide found us several resting places on the journey up through the village and to the Basilica standing proudly on the summit.

Vézelay has Roman origins and later Benedictine monks settled in a building on top of the hill. When the Saracens invaded Provence, history and legend became mixed and it is said that a monk was sent to bring the relics of Mary Magdalene to be venerated in Vézelay. Miracles were said to have taken place, the news of which spread quickly and pilgrimages abounded. The fame of Vézelay became equal to that of Rome and Jerusalem. The church was rebuilt several times due to increasing numbers of visitors and also fire. In 1217 St Francis of Assisi sent two friars to start the first Franciscan mission. They established a hermitage near the church of the Holy Cross where the second crusade was preached.

The Basilica suffered several misfortunes and being on the point of collapse in the 19th century the restoration began in 1840 and was entrusted to a twenty six year old architect who succeeded in giving back the venerable church its original splendour.

In our time pilgrimages have resumed and in 1946, 40000 pilgrims commemorated the eighth century of the second

crusade. On the Sunday Peter celebrated the Eucharist for us all in a cloister chapel of the Basilica, which was very special.

We went on a day's outing to Beaume, and did a guided tour of the Hospice Hotel-Dieu. Beaume is, of course, well known for its fine wine, which has made many people very wealthy. One such wealthy nobleman Nicholas Rolin built the hospital which welcomed its first patient in 1452 and the last ones 1983!

The hospice was Rolin's grand project and he employed the best architects, and the best materials were used. Standing in the courtyard one has a fine view of the multi-coloured tiles arranged in geometric designs of the many-dormered roof. Inside the large 'Room of the Poor' was just breathtaking. It is a high-ceilinged room with painted and decorated beams. Beds, end-ways-on line both sides of the room. These beds have vivid red curtains, canopies and blankets edged with turn backs of snowy white sheets. Each bed has a number and a cross above it. The whole room glows with colour and comfort. As one of our party remarked 'It was a vast improvement on our Workhouses!'

For the last three days we returned to Lille where we stayed in a town centre hotel close to the railway station. Most people who have been to Lille know this hotel, it is just so convenient for exploring Lille.

On our last day we went on an optional excursion to Ypres. All opted to go and first we went to the Flanders Museum, which was huge, very interesting and very interactive - how museums have developed in our lifetime!

Later we went on a tour of some of the war graves - all beautifully kept. The serried rows of upstanding white gravestones, each bearing the soldier's name, rank, regiment and age made for sobering reading - many of the soldiers were only teenagers. By contrast a German cemetery contained flat black gravestones, each bearing several names. A memorial of four black stone men, with no wall behind them, eerily outlined against the field, made us rather uneasy.

On the way back we made a brief visit to the Menin Gate, a magnificent edifice bearing hundreds, probably thousands and

names of Allied Forces who have no known grave.

We returned home with memories of a very interesting and varied pilgrimage. We felt part of History as we were pilgrims to Vézelay and to Ypres.

Brenda M Matthews

DID YOU KNOW...?

During a recent holiday in Russia my cousin and I discovered some interesting facts about a couple of churches in Moscow.

The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour—This beautiful white cathedral with the usual reddish/gold 'onion' domes appears to be old, but it isn't. In 1931 it was knocked down on the orders of Stalin - a swimming pool was built in its place. The replica which we saw was paid for by gifts of the faithful and built after the fall of communism in 1997 to mark the 850th anniversary of the founding of Moscow. It can hold a congregation of 10000 (now that's a mind-blowing thought!). Nicholas II and his family were canonized here in 2000 by the Patriarch Alexis II. We later saw where their remains were interred in St Petersburg.

Kazan Cathedral—This was another church which was demolished by Stalin in 1936, but this time to allow his huge parades to pass into Red Square, it stood at the north corner, the 'in' end of Red Square. It was rebuilt in 1993 after the religious revival of 1991.

We saw many rebuilt churches, but many of them had been done for the tourists, and very attractive they were too, but most of them were not 'working' churches, which we found rather sad. The encouraging thing is that churchgoing has increased greatly in Russia in recent years, particularly amongst the young people. Many churches had been kept going by the faithful older parishioners.

Eileen Chapman

(PS Remember what I said about Italian drivers? Russian ones are much less kind to pedestrians!)

BUCKS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST BIKE RIDE/WALK

On **Saturday 8 September**, the Bucks Historic Churches cycle ride takes place. Our church will, as usual, be open to receive cyclists and the Vicar would be very grateful to hear from anyone who is willing and able to spend an hour between 10am and 4pm to welcome visitors.

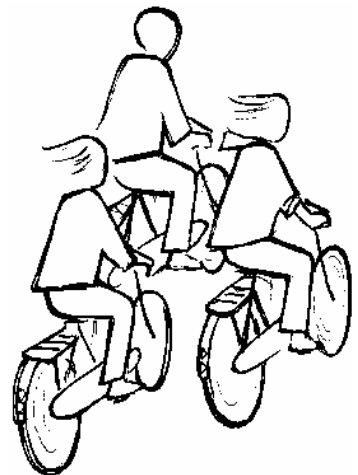
Although we haven't had any cyclists take part for the past couple of years, last year a group of walkers from the church spent the day visiting various churches within the Deanery. They raised a considerable amount for the charity through sponsorship from other members of the congregation, and 50% of all money raised would go to St Francis, the balance to the Trust. A good time was enjoyed by all who took part.

Are you able to sponsor a walker/walkers? Are you able to take part in the walk? Colin Banks is arranging the itinerary for this event, and if you would like any further information about sponsorship or to be part of the walking team please contact Colin.

BHCT celebrated its 50th anniversary in April, and in those 50 years the Trust has made a total of 640 grants worth more than £871,000 for the repair and restoration of Buckinghamshire churches, chapels and meeting halls. The Trust relies entirely on the gifts and efforts of its supporters.

The cycle rides have raised more than £630,000 (a huge percentage!) which has been shared between local churches and the Trust, so it is a very worthy cause, well worth our support.

Valerie Jones



SEPTEMBER 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.*

Saturday, 1st September

9.30 a.m. – Walkers Unite(d)!

Sunday, 2nd September – Trinity 13

8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion

Tuesday, 4th September

8.00 p.m. – Julian Meeting

Wednesday, 6th September

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

1.30 p.m. – “Skylarks” begin again –
Teddy-bears’ Picnic (Vicarage)

8.00 p.m. Musicians’ Meeting (Vicarage)

Saturday, 8th September

10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. –Historic Churches Cycle
Ride

Sunday, 9th September – The Blessed Virgin Mary

(transferred from 8th)

8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion

Sunday School begins a new year

6.30 p.m. –Choral Evensong

Deadline for copy for October Magazine

Wednesday, 12th September

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

1.30 p.m. – “Skylarks”

Thursday, 13th September

7.45 p.m. – PCC Meeting

Friday, 14th September – Holy Cross Day

7.00 p.m. – Holy Communion

Sunday, 16th September – Trinity 15

8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion

12.00 noon – Lunch Club (The Terriers)

Wednesday, 19th September

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

1.30 p.m. – “Skylarks”

Friday, 21st September – St Matthew

7.00 p.m. – Holy Communion

Saturday, 22nd September

7.30 p.m. – Harvest Supper and Quiz Night
(Church Hall)

Sunday, 23rd September – Harvest Thanksgiving

8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion

with prayer for healing after the service

Wednesday, 26th September

10.00 a.m. – Holy Communion (BCP)

1.30 p.m. – “Skylarks”

Sunday, 30th September – St Michael and All Angels

(transferred from 29th)

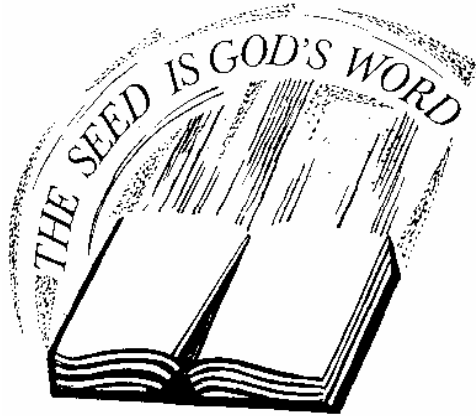
8.00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. – Parish Communion

**On Wednesdays in September we
commemorate:**

19th—Theodore of Tarsus

26th—Wilson Carlile, Cyprian of Crthage



Readings for September 2007

Sunday, 2nd September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP - AD)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD)
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Trinity 13 (Proper 17)

Sunday, 9th September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD)
Isaiah 61:10-end
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 1:46-55
6.30 p.m. Choral Evensong
Song of Solomon 2:1-7
Acts 1:6-14

The Blessed Virgin Mary*

Sunday, 16th September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD)
Exodus 32:7-14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Trinity 15 (Proper 19)

Sunday, 23rd September

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)
10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD)
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Philippians 4:4-9
John 6:25-35

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, 30th September St Michael and All Angels*

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (AD)

10.00 a.m. Parish Communion (AD)

Genesis 28:10-17

John 1:47-end

* = Transferred from previous day

PRAYING THE PARISH

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

Joyce Bennett, Gaynor Chambers, Eileen Chapman, Sheila Charlton, Linda Courtney, Sylvie DaBriel, the Daniel family, Val Jones, Elizabeth Lampson, Doreen Smith, Honey Tyllyer and her family, Jill White, Diane Young.

Among others for whom our prayers have been asked:

Vince Amer, Pat Baldock, Jean Barber, Stephen Benfell, Harold Blewitt, the Burton family, Jenny Butterfield, Roy Coomb, Rachel Crampton, Cath Cronk, George Daniel Brigid Dowsett, Marilyn Drew, Arlette Drewitt, Frances Edmonds, John Edmonds-Seal, David Ettwell, Stuart Evans, Nikki Ferguson, Phyllis and Michael Fudge, Adam Gill, Norah Glennon, James Golightly, Lin Hallahan, Betty Hill, Anna and Frank Jervis, Val Layne, Zack Leeper, John Maybury, Lucia McFee, Gwynedd Merrett, Bettina Michels and her family, Roisin Moon, Brian Morley, Angela Norton, Marie Norton, Doris Pearson, Sonia Pope, Marcia Powell, Claire Roberts, John Stubbs, Christine Solomon, Irene Solomon, Rhiannon Streeter, Betty Tetsall, Bill Weinbauer, Margot Woolner

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY—30TH SEPTEMBER

This month look out for pretty blue posters outside the church and elsewhere, with the words:

**EVERYONE BACK TO MY PLACE
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH
BacktoChurchSunday
September 30th 2007**

On that day there will be balloons flying! But before that, members of our congregation will be inviting their neighbours and people they know in the parish to join them in church on the 30th. We have attractive invitation cards ready for church members to deliver personally during the next few weeks.

Of course, people are welcomed in St. Francis every, and any, Sunday without a special invitation. It is just this particular Sunday that is special. According to a recent survey on church attendance many of those who didn't attend said that no one had ever asked them. The church in the UK is taking these findings seriously, and realising how difficult it is for people unfamiliar with church services to take that first step, especially if they come alone, or as a family with children.

This is what inspired the Churches in Manchester, three years ago, to promote BacktoChurchSunday. It was a huge success, with hundreds of people coming back and staying, and it has been taken up by many other churches throughout the UK with equal success. So, together with other churches in this region, we are planning a welcoming service at 10.00am on Sunday, 30th September.

We hope that the readers of this magazine, and those who log on to our website, will be encouraged to come. We hope that those who receive personal invitations will come, but, as there is a limit on how many 'personal' invitations we can deliver, we hope you will consider yourselves invited and come anyway. If you can't come on the 30th then come when you can, you will always be welcome.

The congregation at St. Francis love God's church and all that goes on there, and we look forward welcoming you to share in worship on the 30th at 10.00am. and enjoying a cuppa afterwards!

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

4 September—An Evening with Rosemary Conley:

'How God Changed My Life'

Union Baptist Church, Easton Street, High Wycombe

7.30pm

Free ticket available from Church Office 01494 473889

Retiring Collection

9 September - Sunday School restarts

21 September—Christian Aid Tea Time at Eileen Chapman's

4pm onwards, come and have a cup of tea and cake!

Tombola prizes would be appreciated

There will be a collection for Christian Aid

Further details on the notice board.

22 September—Encounter Celebration Event

The Swan Theatre

Lighthouse Praise Party with Doug Horley 11am

Encounter Evening Celebration with Tom Hughes 7.30pm

Swan Box Office 01494 512000

Or visit www.encounter-events.org

ADVANCE NOTICE

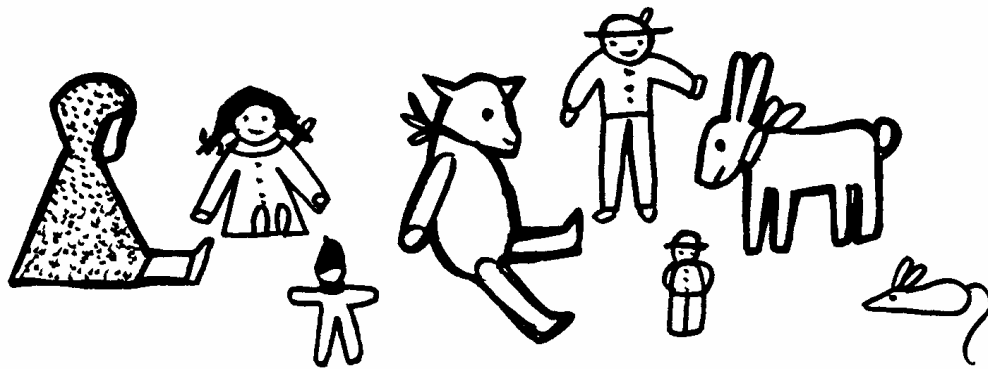
13 October HYMNFEST 2007

Aylesbury Choral Society

St Mary's Church, Aylesbury

7.30pm

Tickets: £10 and £5 under 18s



**PRIZE GIVING
(AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!)**

On Sunday 15 July, Sunday School was a hive of activity as the older children decided what page they wanted opened in the workbooks to go on display in the front of the Church. The younger children, including two visitors, weren't going to be left out, very best colouring was the order of the day. It was a busy time, but a very happy time for them—but they knew that there was more to come.

Towards the end of the Family Communion Service came the best bit, Tony presented all of the children with their books. I'm glad to say that they all seemed pleased and happy.

It was really lovely, so many of you took time to go and see the children's work, the 'oohs' and 'aahs' and the 'well dones' and the 'that's good' or 'that's lovely' did encourage the children so much, it's also given encouragement to Irene and to me.

Thank you all for that.

Pam Hancock

**PS Don't forget that Sunday School
re-opens on 9 September**



VOLUNTEERS WANTED SOUTH BUCKS HOSPICE WAREHOUSE

South Bucks Hospice in High Wycombe provides palliative day care, therapies and counselling for people with life threatening illnesses.

The hospice also embraces a Lymphoedema clinic for those who suffer from Lymphoedema following cancer surgery or treatment. There is no NHS provision for such treatment of this very debilitating condition.

Our services are free of charge and South Bucks Hospice needs to raise £500,000 per year. The funds are raised in a variety of ways through events, donations, Hospice Lottery and our shops.

The Hospice shops provide a significant percentage of the required income and we need to ensure the shops continue to succeed. The warehouse in London Road, High Wycombe provides invaluable support service.

In addition the warehouse yields considerable income from recycling of textiles, household items and china, books, small electrical items.

We need help to sort the goods.

Can you spare 2 or 3 hours each week to help and to supervise groups of young, unpaid people who also sort goods?

The work is not glamorous, but it is certainly very productive and provides vital revenue to fund the care of patients at South Bucks Hospice.

Please call 01494 537775 and ask to speak to Appeals Office. We will be pleased to hear from you.

Your call can make a real difference!

REVIEW OF CHURCH FINANCES—GIVING COMMITTEE

The Giving Committee`s job is to review and monitor the state of the church and hall finances as well as proving recommendations to the PCC for lent projects and ways in which money can be raised for the benefit of the church and charitable giving.

The Committee met in July to carry out a thorough review of income and expenditure so far this year and has prepared a paper setting out various recommendations to the PCC which are due to be considered at the next meeting in September.

Hall Account

As in recent years, the overall picture is quite encouraging and we are grateful to Shelagh Sheppard in managing bookings as well as controlling outgoings. As last year`s accounts show, the hall made a significant contribution towards overall income, however, the Committee is keen to ensure that the church account does not have to rely on subsidies from the hall to stay afloat. It is equally important to ensure that the hall is kept in best possible condition in order to satisfy the demands of all users and to attract new users who will help increase / maintain income. It is for this reason that the Committee has recommended an upgrade of the kitchen and it is hoped that the necessary work will be carried out this year.

Church Account

The position on the church account is not as encouraging; the overall picture is worsening and it is essential that action is taken to arrest the current decline and improve the state of finances for the future.

By way of example, the Committee was concerned that we have probably been lulled into a false sense of security in relation to the income which is being received from the telecoms installation in the church tower. This income is

currently running at the rate of approximately £7.700 p.a, however, Diocesan quota payments have increased by £4,227 since 2004 while costs for heat, light and power have increased by £2,993 which therefore cancels out much of what has been gained.

More significantly, while other costs are continuing to rise, overall income from stewardship / collections is not; in 2004, total income from these sources was £29,056 and in 2007, projected income is £29,380.

The Committee is concerned that we are on a downwards spiral and that action must be taken to arrest the decline.

Taking the increase in costs into account, the Committee is of the view that the PCC must be aiming to achieve (as a minimum) a combination of cost saving / increases in income amounting to £5,000 per annum. This represents a significant challenge for ALL members of the congregation and, in coming months, everyone will have their part to play in helping to meet this objective. By way of example, there are approximately 100 people on the electoral role. If each person increased existing giving by £5 per month or was willing to start giving by the same amount, an extra £6000 per annum would be raised.

This is our church, so we must all be prepared to make a contribution if we wish to see it survive.

The Committee has set out positive options on other areas of expenditure / savings for the PCC to consider and there will be a follow-up article in the magazine after the PCC meeting which will set out what has been agreed.

We have also given thought to the way in which church finances should be managed. Given increasing demands on time, it is no longer appropriate that the Treasurer should undertake the current range of tasks. Currently, invaluable support is provided by Terry Dean who is responsible for dealing with collections and banking, and by Mary Phipps, who

deals with stewardship and gift aid on this as well as charitable giving. It is therefore proposed that the role of Treasurer should be split so that the book keeping function is carried out separately and deals with the monthly recording of income and expenditure using the current Cashcall (or similar computer programme) and providing information which the Treasurer can present to the PCC. The Treasurer will arrange for cheques to be signed, spending more time on fund raising / controlling costs and budgeting. This division of responsibilities is similar to that which is carried out by many churches elsewhere and should also ensure a more even distribution of workload. The recommendation has already been put to the PCC and it is intended to proceed on this basis.

As I will be stepping down from the role of Treasurer after the next AGM, I am keen to ensure that we give members of the congregation sufficient time to consider the above and, it is hoped to encourage volunteers who will be willing take over the reins.

Mick Relf

August 2007

The Giving Committee comprises Mary Phipps, John Norton and Mick Relf



2 COR 9:7

YOUNG MUSICIANS

The Young Musicians' Group sings and plays at the All-age Parish Communion service at St Francis's on the first Sunday of each month. Usually that means accompanying some of the hymns/worship songs and perhaps playing an instrumental piece at the end of the service.

Because of the increasing crowdedness of Friday evenings (especially for young musicians), it has been agreed that practice time should be moved from 6.45 p.m. on Fridays to 11.15 a.m. on Sundays (in reality, probably nearer to 11.25 a.m., so that those who have been taking part in the Parish Communion can have a break, get a drink, make a comfort stop, etc.) and still in church. This change comes into effect from Sunday 2nd September (there are no practices in August) and we are very grateful to Tessa for agreeing to the change.

All young musicians, whether singers or instrumentalists, aged seven and over are welcome (Sorry, Wolfgang, you'll just have to wait a year or two!). Our existing band features violin, cello, guitar, recorder and percussion of various kinds and most of the players double up as singers. No auditions necessary, just keenness to play or sing. Parents are welcome to come along and applaud.

Tony Dickinson

AND FINALLY...

The stars shine over the earth,
The stars shine over the sea,
The stars look up to the Mighty God,
The stars look down on me;
The stars will live for a million years,
A million years and a day!
But Christ and I shall love and love
When the stars have passed away.

Anon

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

