

ST. MARY'S CHURCH NORTH MYMMS



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Church:**

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40p

February 2007

Parish Diary for February

Sun 4th

Third Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion
 9.30am Parish Eucharist (CW) & Junior Church
 11.00am Home Communion for the Sick
 6.30pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

Mon 5th 9.30am Team Communion at St. Luke's
 8.00pm Team Council Meeting at St Mary's

Thur 8th 8-10.30am Chapter meeting - St Mary's Welwyn
 8.00 pm St Albans Pilgrimage to Holy Land: meeting for pilgrims

Sun 11th

Second Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (CW*)
 9.30am Parish Eucharist (CW) & Junior church
 11.15am Civic Service
6.30pm BCP Holy Communion

Mon 12th 9.30am Team Communion at St John's Lemsford
 8.00pm Meeting of North Mymms Parish Charities at Vicarage

Wed 14th 12noon – 2pm Oasis: Re-launch Bring and Share Lunch

Sun 18th

Sunday next before Lent, Snowdrop Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
 9.30am Parish Eucharist (CW) with Junior Church
 2.30pm Tea served prior to....
4.00pm Evensong with Chiltern West Gallery Quire

Mon 19th 9.30am Team Communion at St John's Hilltop
 8.00pm Deanery Synod, St Mary's Welwyn

Wed 21st

Ash Wednesday

10.00am Service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
 at St Mary's – all welcome
 8.00pm Team Service of Holy Communion with Imposition of
 Ashes at St Michael's Birchwood – all welcome

CW - Common Worship
 * - Traditional Language
 BCP - Book of Common Prayer

/contd. inside back cover

Revd Mary Robins asks some questions about Lent

I was watching a programme on CBBC TV with my grandson when my thoughts started to turn to Lent. As Lent begins in the middle of February and Sally has just asked me to write the leader for the February Magazine, I made an effort to stay with my thoughts.

The programme is called 'Evacuees' and is made by filming children taken from London to the country about a year ago to experience life on a farm and in a village as children did in 1940s. There are many surprises for the youngsters who are 21st century nine and ten-year olds, but who enter honestly and bravely into the experience.

In one of the episodes, the Head Mistress of the village school prepares the children to speak with the Vicar. They are taught to sit up straight and quietly; to speak only when spoken to; to answer questions politely and aim to please. The Vicar arrives at the farm and is shown into the sitting room. The children are invited to go in two at a time to speak with the Vicar who has a quiet spoken, formal manner and is obviously awesome.

He asks questions such as 'did you enjoy the hymns we sang on Sunday?' and a girl replies, 'Oh yes, sir, thank you sir. I liked the first one especially.' Then there is a film flash back to this girl in Church, hopelessly thumbing through the hymn book and pulling a face at her neighbour. In another question, the Vicar asks a boy, 'do you like working on the farm?' The boy enthuses, ' Oh yes, sir, I like it very much, it is hard work, but I don't mind.' The flash back shows this boy slacking, grumbling, going off to hide and being scolded by the farmer.

After the conversations the children shake hands with the Vicar and demurely depart. In their chatter together afterwards they say it was alright, they survived, but they had never told so many fibs!

I was sad, for I remember the 1940s and being trained to be agreeable. I now realize I told fibs too, even to the Vicar. I thank God I can now be honest with the Vicar!

I have a strong feeling that being honest with God must start with being honest with the Vicar and other people. If we have to impress other human beings, we may well feel even more need to impress God - and we can't, of course, because God is all knowing. God catches us out if we try.

So my questions for Lent are:

- how honest can we be with God?

I recall Jesus appeared to his frightened, guilty disciples after his Resurrection and said, 'Peace be with you'. They knew His peace in their hearts; the fear and guilt could go because He gave a new start. They did not need to fib and say they were alright really. Their honesty and His loving acceptance was all that was needed.

- can we use this time of 'penitence' to be honest and not self punishing?

Our All Loving God revealed to us in Jesus Christ wants us to blossom, to be healed of our hang-ups, and all human frailties. We do well to notice when we build walls of self defense around parts of ourselves. We do well to notice when we are harsh with ourselves, for Jesus' second Commandment tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

- can we understand we bring our broken human selves to journey with Jesus through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday and then again to celebrate His risen healing gifts to all human kind?

This preparation in Lent is for celebrating the core knowing of our faith at Easter and afterwards. Please, don't hold back on the healing in Lent that your honesty brings - we don't have to wait till the liturgy gets there to receive and be blessed by it! It may help you to give up something for Lent - to sober you up and help you to engage with honesty. On the other hand it may not help, so don't feel you have to do it. Rather take something on instead, something that will help you to be honest with God.

My Love and Prayers are with you for a Healthy, Christ Blessed Lent.

Your Associate Priest, Mary

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Thoughts on children and communion part II

This is the second article designed to help us think carefully about admitting children to Communion before Confirmation.

Q: What can we learn from the Bible about God's attitude towards children?

Through reading the Scriptures we gain insight into the history of God's relationships with his people. The Scriptures are also products of their time - written by male adults for male adults and their dependents, including children in what was a patriarchal society. The recognition of childhood as an important stage of development is a relatively modern phenomenon.

Even so, there are examples in the Bible when children are called by God for a particular purpose - the very young Samuel who became a prophet of great stature and David, whom he anointed as king even though he was the youngest and least significant of all his brothers.

In the Gospels we see Jesus welcomed children, laid hands on them, blessed them and indicated that they too have a share in the Kingdom of God. Indeed, children are to be our model for the way in which we receive his Kingdom - with openness, trust and obedience. Children provide a model for the on-going care of the Christian community; Jesus emphasised that children should be received with special kindness and

hospitality. The early Church took Jesus' sayings about children very seriously as they sought to work out what it meant to be God's new covenant people after the death and resurrection of Christ.

Q: *Are we devaluing Confirmation if we admit children to Communion beforehand?*

In last month's overview of the history of Baptism, Confirmation and Communion we learned that Confirmation became a separate rite in the late Middle Ages (13th century) and from then on, it did become a rite of admission to Communion. Even today, Confirmation is predominantly seen as 'the gateway' to Communion.

Clearly, if children have been receiving Communion already for some years before they reach a point when they are ready to confirm their baptismal vows, then it does change the emphasis and character of Confirmation.

However, rather than diminishing it, one could argue that it makes for a more meaningful rite of passage for young people - or adults of any age. Confirmation is then liberated to be, more significantly, about a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Christian in today's world, (including awareness of issues of justice, poverty, discipleship, giving,

Thoughts on children and communion part II *contd.*

etc), recognition of gifts and the offering of them for God's service.

With our current practice of confirming around the age of 12, we may perhaps be putting pressure on young people at an already confusing time of their personal development. All too often, the reality is that young people drift away from the church in their teens and are possibly left with a niggling feeling that they 'have let God down'. If and when they wish to return later in life, there is currently no rite, or way to mark their return or to welcome them back into the worshipping life of the church.

If the PCC votes on our behalf to


admit children to Communion before Confirmation, what then happens?

Young people of 7 years and above would be free to come forward, with the permission and support of their parents. They would then follow an approved course of preparation for 4-6 sessions and their parents would also receive some teaching input during this period. Providing everyone is still happy to proceed, there would be a special service at St Mary's to mark the event. The children would receive a certificate. If at any time in the future, a family might move out of the area, the certificate would enable the child to receive Communion at another Anglican church.

Would our services have to change if younger children were to take Communion?

We are committed to the on-going nurture of our young people through junior church. Children would rejoin us just before the Eucharistic prayer - that is, a few minutes earlier than at present. We could see this as an opportunity to think how to make our Communion services more inclusive for children who periodically, when there is a break from Junior Church, stay and worship with us for the whole service.

Would the children receive in one kind only, or wine too?



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Thoughts on children and communion part II *contd.*

The amount of wine we receive is usually a tiny sip. However, the possible sensitivity of this is recognised and it would be for the clergy to discuss with the parents and children themselves. In churches where this practice is already in effect, the younger children tend to receive both the bread and the wine. If we do decide to welcome younger children to the Lord's table, we should think carefully before re-applying more restrictions to their inclusion.

What happens next?

This is an important issue that has wider implications for church life and the nurture of spirituality for us all so we need to give time for it to 'percolate'. I do encourage you to continue thinking, discussing it with others and asking questions in the meantime. Then, later this year we will have a workshop on the subject, open to everyone, to give a chance for us to listen to different views and help us clarify our own.

A reminder that starting in February 2007 Amanda Furlong will be running 'The Introduction to Christian Ethics'. [ICES]

Tutorials on alternate Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm - 3.00pm at her home in Colney Heath.

tel: 01727 825601
e-mail: thefurlongs@mac.com

Anyone wishing to contribute to this debate by writing an article for the magazine, is most welcome.

I conclude with a quote from The Rt Rev'd Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans, in his June 2003 letter to SeeRound:

'Children matter to God, profoundly. May our society and our Churches take a long and careful look at what is going on with children - and ask whether what we are doing is what God would have us do.'

The Rev'd Sally Davenport

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Our financial health

St Mary's Report and Accounts for 2006 is currently being prepared and will be available in good time for everyone before the APCM on Sunday 15 April.

The PCC receives regular updates on our finances and at the November meeting the report for the first 9 months of 2006 showed that income was just ahead of expenditure. The source of this encouraging news was in large part due to the generosity of people's giving through the stewardship scheme, administered by Graham Nicholas. Planned giving enables the PCC to budget accordingly and to keep our expenditure on an even keel. So that was good news and thank you!

However, the end of the year brought significant expenditure that has changed our financial outlook. The first was the substantial one-off cost for the restoration of the rapidly deteriorating dossal; this beautiful 16th century red curtain material encased and mounted on a wall in the church was attacked by mould and needed urgent specialist attention. It has now been returned and looks even more splendid than before. The second cost to hit us has been the full impact of the fuel price rises. We are urgently seeking ways to get the best fuel deal. Thirdly, and more modestly, the PCC agreed to pay for a part-time administrator, two mornings per week. Our administrator is a valuable asset to church, PCC and not least the vicar whose time is freed up from some administrative tasks!

We continue to be committed to giving away 10% of income from our pledged giving to a selection of local, national and international charities. Details of these charities are given in a series of

articles in the magazine. It is vital that as a church we too uphold the biblical principle of 'freely we receive, freely we give'.

Apart from the upkeep and running costs for the church, there is the significant contribution made by the church to the Diocese in the form of our Quota. This is our share to the Diocesan 'purse' from which all costs for parochial ministry and mission expenditure is met. The Quota for 2007 has increased by 4.26% and is now £52,243.

The cost of providing one stipendiary priest is currently just under £37,000. This includes the stipend, national insurance and pension costs, housing and resettlement or removal costs. It does not, however, include training costs. This means that we are paying our share of the Diocesan administrative costs, contributing to costs of training the next generation of clergy and helping to pay for a priest in a parish that would not otherwise be able to afford one.

We're glad to be able to do all this. Our ability to continue to do so - and more - is always dependent on the generous response from everyone who appreciates the church's place in our community. God calls and expects us together to share the responsibility in the church's mission. If you have not prayerfully reviewed your giving to the church in the past 12 months, may I encourage you to do so now?

It remains for me to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to Graham Nicholas for giving us his time and talents to managing the Stewardship Scheme on all our behalf. He does this efficiently and with absolute discretion.

[contd. opposite]

Good Stewardship

What is it? Simply it is returning to God some part of the time, talent and money so freely given to us all.

We are all aware of a few very gifted individuals amongst us who add so much to our worship at St Mary's.

What we often fail to notice is the significant time and effort put in by many other people in so many ways. We also cannot underestimate the frequency with which people whom we don't otherwise see at our Sunday services visit our church.

To be able to keep the Church open, reasonably warm and welcoming is an important area of our mission to others from the local community and beyond. We are surely aware that it takes money to keep our Church open every day that we need to pay for the general upkeep of the building we worship in.

How is this money provided?

Much of the funding for this is from individuals who pledge to give a certain

Our financial health *contd.*

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who gives money to the church. A common exclamation by many visitors to the church is how beautiful and well kept it is; a truth of which we can be proud. The church building is a significant symbol of God's generosity and faithfulness to his people. We trust that what takes place there and from there is the response of God's people to his faithfulness and generosity, demonstrated in our mission and ministry to others.

The Rev'd Sally Davenport

amount every year (typically paid through Weekly Envelopes or Monthly Standing Order). In fact over 100 people in our Church pledge to give regular financial support.

Many others also recognise they have a financial obligation to support our Church and give generously as and when they attend Church, often using the Gift Aid envelopes (which is much appreciated, as our Church can reclaim tax paid by the donor).

I would, however, like to ask those who give periodically to consider a pledge to give in a planned way. As such, Sally and the PCC can better plan the year ahead for our Church and, hopefully, look beyond paying for the basics and for ways to expand our mission in our Parish. Your financial commitment could be for no more than you currently give over the course of a year, although any increase would be much appreciated.

For any further information on Stewardship Giving please telephone me (01707 653048) or contact me in person in Church.

If you feel able to commit to planned giving, pledge forms will be available on the Cross Aisle near the exit door during February and March.

Finally I would like to make it clear that if your situation changes, and you are unable to continue to make payments at a previously agreed level, then all it needs is that you let me know of your revised payment amount.

Graham Nicholas

Stewardship Treasurer 01707 653048

Summary of PCC meeting 15 January 2007

The PCC approved the appointment of Mrs Debbie Staines as Foundation Governor at St Mary's Church of England School. Mrs Staines has a daughter at the school and worships regularly at Christchurch, Little Heath.

The Revd. Davenport reported that the headteacher, Mrs Alison Botarelli, has tendered her resignation, with effect from 1 September 2007. She and her family are moving to Somerset and Mrs Botarelli will be head of a larger school in the area. Appreciation of Mrs Botarelli's work at the school was expressed.

The Revd Sally Davenport reported to the meeting that the refurbishment of the Dossal has been completed and has been re-hung in St Catherine's chapel. The Conservator is continuing to research the origin of this impressive textile.

The Revd Sally Davenport confirmed that 29th September 2007 has been booked for the Harvest Supper to coincide with their Golden Jubilee. A sub-committee consisting of Diana Glanfield, Sara Boothby and Sally is

already in place with the intention of delegating responsibilities to others. It is planned for there to be entertainment – possibly a barber shop and/or magician. Watch this space, and wait to be called!

The Revd Sally Davenport showed the members of the PCC the newly completed wedding brochure for those couples wishing to get married at St Mary's.

The meeting considered the report prepared by the Fabric Committee following the audit carried out by Mr Stuart Robinson of Hertfordshire Action on disability. A good discussion ensued out of which two concerns were identified:

- to consider how to ensure people with disabilities were made warmly and naturally welcome
- to consider what recommendations to adopt from the Audit to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Various actions were agreed in respect of both of these areas.

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PCC meeting *contd.*

It was also suggested that we should have a mission statement of welcome to all people and especially to people with particular disabilities, for whom we would make the church as accessible as possible. Such a statement could be put into the magazine or on to the website.

The PCC discussed the latest Draft Constitution in respect of the Bishop's Hatfield Team Council. All the team churches DCC and PCCs were required to approve the Draft in order that it could ultimately be ratified at the APCM on 15 April. Clarification was sought on the procedure for future changes to the Constitution which would be reviewed every 5 years. Mr Perkins undertook to take this back to Team Council and report at the next PCC meeting.

The PCC approved the applications of 3 people names for the Electoral Roll.

A schedule of services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter were approved.

*Jean Hockings
PCC Secretary*

G.M. Blyth CMBHI

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Junior Church 2007

There are activities for children from 2 to 10 years during the 9.30am service every Sunday until Easter except for Sundays 18th March, 1st and 8th April.

Junior church is led by Robin Elgar (**1707 261810**) with Chris Willis and Karen Hopkins assisting her.

There will also be several helpers on hand if needed.

4th Feb - my Communion book – the gathering, preparation

11th Feb - penitence and absolution

18th Feb* - the Readings and Sermon, a Bible story

25th Feb* - preparing the Table, the Last Supper

4th March - The Lord's Prayer, Giving of Communion

11th March - preparing for 'Mothering Sunday'

18th March no Junior Church – 'Mothering Sunday' service, children participating

25th March* - preparing for Palm Sunday – the Passion Play

1st April no Junior Church – The Passion Play, children participating

8th April - no Junior Church – Easter Service

*** Chris will be leading a drama activity**

Junior Church will start again on Sunday 22nd April

St Moluag's Scottish Episcopal Church



The Scottish Episcopal Church is an autonomous province of the Anglican Communion, but it is not the established church of the land, and Anglicans in Scotland are a small minority of Christians.

In the cities and larger towns there are several Episcopal churches, but there are remote country areas of Scotland where you could find yourself 50 miles or more from an Episcopal church.



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St Moluag was a colleague of St Columba. He was born in 530AD, in Northern Ireland, came to Scotland and founded a monastery on the island of Lismore, and several churches, in eastern Scotland and the western islands.

If you were to visit the Outer Hebrides and go to the most northerly point of the Isle of Lewis in the village of Eoropaidh, you would find a little stone built church dedicated to him. The date of the present building is unknown, but thought to be 12th century, making it one of the oldest, perhaps the oldest, still in regular use in Scotland. It was acquired and re-roofed and restored by the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1911.

The church is very plain, outside and inside, with a stone floor and rough stone walls. It has no electricity, and no water supply, and to reach it involves walking 200 yards of (an often muddy) footpath from the road. All this makes it unsuitable for use in the winter and services are held there only in the summer, once a month.

The church had a chequered history, having fallen into disuse for long periods, and there were times when some dubious ceremonies were practised there, but in 1994 the then Bishop of Argyll and The Isles,

Douglas Cameron, instituted a new congregation in order to bring the old church into regular use after about 50 years of neglect. We have been unable to find any old church registers, and only have a few documents pertaining to the history of the building.

Set into the sacristy wall – indeed, rusted into it was a safe for which there was no key, and in 1999 in the hope of possibly finding some old documents we broke into the safe. No documents, but a wonderful gold chalice and paten! According to the inscriptions on them, they had been gifted to St Moluag’s some time before 1920, by one Constance Nisbet Hamilton, a grand-daughter of the Earl of Elgin (of Elgin Marbles fame) in memory of her husband Henry Thomas Ogilvy who died in 1909, but we have not been able to discover their connection with St Moluag’s.

Only a few of our church members live within 10 miles of this church – the rest of us live more than 30 miles away, and that, together with the lack of heating and lighting, means that, we have to have another church building for all year round use.

In 2000 we converted what used to be the Tong village shop and post office into a modern church in which we worship on all other Sundays of the year. Even this means that some members have to travel a long way to church; only few of us live less than 2 miles from Tong, the rest have to drive between 8 and 28 miles, yet

more than two thirds of the total congregation are to be found in church every Sunday, whether the service is at Eoropaidh or Tong.

The church has become a popular venue for weddings, with couples coming from far and wide over the past 10 years – this year a couple came from Alaska to be married there.

If you were to go to a service in either of our two churches (and you would receive a warm welcome), you would probably feel quite at home, for our services are very similar to those of the Church of England.

Revd Barbara Morrison

<http://www.saintmoluag.com/>

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Lent 2007

Lent 2007

Exploring the Meaning of the Cross

During Lent Sally and Mary will be offering 4 opportunities to explore the meaning of the Cross. The input for this has been provoked by essays from the recently published book entitled 'Consuming Passion Why the killing of Jesus really matters', edited by Simon Barrow and Jonathan Bartley. A précis of the relevant essay will be given during each session. The overall aim of this book is to stimulate thought on long-held interpretations of the death of Jesus on the cross. By re-examining, and perhaps redefining our views, we hope to come to see in a new light the effects they have on our actions and attitudes towards one another throughout all aspects of society and culture.

The following is the outline of the sessions:

Session 1: 'Why Jesus had to die – according to the Gospel of St Mark'

This will take us to 'see' that Jesus is living true to the prophets of his people, the Jews, and paying the price of telling the 'authorities' the truth. We can think of examples where the same happens today: East Timor, the Sudan, Northern Ireland, for example.

Session 2: 'Jesus died as He lived'

Here we shall look at the way Jesus died as He lived. We recall Jesus 'defied the Law', blessing the unclean and healing people on the Sabbath. He uplifts the spirits of the poor and teaches His followers to love their enemies and turn the other cheek to the afflictor. Jesus lives this loving, freeing human spirit in his death and resurrection.

Session 3: 'God's Gift – the power of non-violence'

In this session we explore further the power of forgiveness and non-violence. This is about not domesticating the cross, but letting the energy of it motivate and work in us in

MARCH COPY DATE

Copy for the March 2007 issue please by Monday 12th February to:

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or:

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our needy world.

Session 4: 'Jesus died for all'

A familiar phrase, but what do we mean by it? In this last session we shall invite the familiarity of this claim to resonate with our thoughts and feelings so that the symbolism we use frequently in Church may find fresh substance and life-giving energy.

According to the book's editors, to consider this central tenet of the Christian faith "... is a matter of life and death for everyone, not just the religious". We hope we shall be all be a little clearer about the truth of that statement, as a consequence of our explorations. We hope too that they will help us to prepare well for Holy Week and Easter and to discover the joy of being God's people together as we explore.

There's a choice of timings for these sessions - Monday evenings or Tuesday afternoons, with the final session bringing both groups together in the evening.

There's a list to sign up by the church entrance. Everyone - from any church or none - is most welcome!

Session 1:	Monday 5 March: 7.45-9.15pm	Tuesday 6 March: 2.30-4.00pm
Session 2:	Monday 12 March 7.45-9.15pm	Tuesday 13 March: 2.30-4.00pm
Session 3:	Monday 19 March 7.45-9.15pm	Tuesday 20 March: 2.30-4.00pm

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A date for your diary

St John's, Lemsford are hosting the viewing of:

An Inconvenient Truth

'Former Vice President Al Gore presents an eye-opening and compelling view of the future of our planet, in the MUST SEE documentary of the year.

This is a wake-up call with the message and the evidence that global warming is a real danger. The film brings home Gore's persuasive argument that we must act now to save the earth'

Sunday 25 February at 7.00- 9.15pm, with short act of worship at 6.30pm. Coffee and discussion after the film.

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Latest news from Oasis

Sally and the helpers all got together recently to discuss the Wednesday Oasis for 2007.

It was felt we should open earlier so this year we will be starting on February 14th (yes I know it's Valentine's Day! All the merrier) with a lunch for all who like to join us. For every subsequent Wednesday we will as always have coffee/tea and light refreshments. Diana Glanfield has also agreed to come again on the 1st Wednesday of each month for a half hour sketching for anyone interested.

We have welcomed steadily increasing numbers of visitors over the years and all enjoyed happy gatherings. Now we have regular and semi-regular visitors who return year by year.

So come, tell your neighbours, family and friends about us. From 14th February to 31st October between 12 midday and 2pm there will be a warm welcome and friendship, besides the beauty and calm of our beautiful church.

*Rhoda Brutey
01707 654633*

Vision for Action

Well known TV presenter Diane Louise Jordan will host a major celebration at St Albans Cathedral on 24th February 2007.

Women's Fellowship

Our December guest, Mr Ian Torrance gave us a splendidly illustrated talk on 'Iceland, the Land of Fire and Ice.'

Iceland is an island about four fifths the size of England but with a population only equal to a county town such as Norwich, habitation being confined to the costal regions, as the interior is snow-covered mountains and volcanoes over 200 of which are still active - hence our speaker's choice of title. Alpine plants flourish in great sheets on the volcanic ash, so scenes of great grandeur and beauty are common.

The climate is too damp and fickle for general agriculture and trees are almost non-existent except for stunted birches, but root crops are grown and grass is plentiful for raising cattle, sheep and horses.

With fish abundant, salmon in the streams and cod in the sea, this is basically a nation of farmers and fishermen, but Reykjavik, the capital, has all the attractions of a modern city, including a university, but not the drawbacks. No need for congestion charges here!

Necessity has made Icelanders look at what is to hand and the hot water from geysers is channelled for domestic use while some of the older houses have been roofed with grass turves for heat retention. What do you do when things look a bit unkempt?

Put a sheep up to crop it! This and many other anecdotes enlivened another pleasant afternoon.

Our meeting in February will be on Tuesday 27th at 2.15 pm in St Michael's Room, when our speaker, Mr Boki, will talk on 'Bee Keeping', hopefully without live props!

Muriel Norman



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NEW Church Electoral Roll

Notice is hereby given that a NEW Church Electoral Roll is required for the year 2007. The last time the Electoral Roll was completely renewed was in 2002.

On Thursday 15 February both the present Electoral Roll, together with notification that a new Roll is to be drawn up, will be displayed in the porch at St. Mary's.

On Sundays 18th and 25th February the preparation of the new Electoral Roll will be advised at Services.

All persons who wish to have their names entered on the new Roll, irrespective of being on the present Roll, must apply for enrollment between the dates of 4th and 18th March inclusive.

On Sundays 4th, 11th and 18th March members of the congregation will be offered 'Application for enrollment forms'. Forms are to be completed and handed to the Electoral Roll officer no later than 18 March.

All forms must be completed and returned to the Electoral Roll Officer in advance of 1 April 2007. Those not on the Roll by that date will be ineligible to vote at the APCM on 15 April 2007. Persons named on the current Roll who are unable to comply with these dates are asked to contact the Electoral Roll Officer.

The Electoral Roll Officer
Derek Blumsom
51 Great North Road,
North Mymms, Hatfield AL9 6LB
Tel: 01707 650292

from whom application forms can also be obtained.

If your name is on the Electoral Roll, you are permitted to take part in the proceedings of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on Sunday 15th April. If you are a communicant member of the church, you are eligible to be elected to the Parochial Church Council or be appointed as a sidesperson.

To have your name on the Electoral Roll is a statement of commitment to the Church of England and St Mary's in particular. Such commitment involves attending worship regularly as well as being open to contributing some of your time, talents and finances in service to this church and community.

The Electoral Roll of the Parish Church should not be confused with the civil Register of Electors which entitles a person to participate in local and general elections.



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Shelter for the homeless

In the 60s there were sensational stories of notorious landlords like Peter Rachman making headlines, shocking images of life in the squalid slums showed how degrading the situation had become.

In December 1966 the BBC broadcast the docudrama 'Cathy Come Home' the heartrending story of a young family who were forced by circumstances beyond their control into a downward spiral of poverty, separation and homelessness. The viewing public were outraged that this could happen in modern Britain and in the same month that 'Cathy Come Home' was broadcast SHELTER was born.

Five church housing trusts came

together to take on the housing crisis themselves. Shelter was launched in the Church of St. Martin in the Fields and stated its aims:

'to publicise the emergency housing situation existing and to appeal for money to carry out a rescue operation'

Working with local agencies especially in Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool and London, Shelter helped to improve existing housing street-by-street, and also enabled non-for-profit housing associations to buy and renovate properties to create affordable housing available where it was most needed.

Forty years on SHELTER has now expanded to encompass many aspects of poverty and need. They provide help to the homeless moving into new homes, train people in DIY skills, ensure local agencies give older people the help they need, the list is endless, their scope enormous.

SHELTER believes everyone should have a home and helps more than 170,000 people every year in their efforts to attain their goal. For Shelter to continue its work it needs help by donations, fund raising events, letters of protest to local or national dignitaries, and volunteers in their local shops.

Yes, we did support Shelter as part of our 2007 Charitable Giving, our donation of £200 to help it continue its work of advice and practical aid for families who are in distress.

Josie Thomas



DUTCH NURSERY

Garden centre Open every day
Florist A1000
Café Great North Rd
Gift shop Brookmans Park
Hatfield AL9 6ND

01707 653372

From the Parish Church Registers

Baptisms:

We welcome into the Lord's family:

Chloe Louise Hutchings

14th January 2007

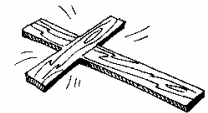


Funerals:

Our sympathy to the relatives and friends of:

Ann Ester Green

24th January 2007



Interment of ashes:

John Raymond Innocenti

4th January 2007

Doreen Lillian Lowen

10th January 2007

Geoffrey Morley Seagrave

11th January 2007

Betty Mary Lyon

19th January 2007

**Parish Office Hours
open 9am - 1.30pm
Tuesday/Thursday
tel: 01727 825578**

**On the first Monday of each month the Vicar holds an office
hour at the Vicarage from 6.30pm until 7.30pm**

**The Vicar can be contacted at any other time by telephone:
01727 822062 or through the Church website:
www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk**

Only the current registers, (Baptisms from March 1980; Weddings from January 1999, Burials from March 1984 and Services from July 1996) are stored at the church. All previous church registers, and parish magazines, are stored at the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8EJ. (01992) 555105, to ensure they are adequately preserved.

Sun 25th

First Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (CW*)
9.30am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)
6.30pm -9.15pm *An Inconvenient Truth* - at St John's, Lemsford.
Begins with short act of worship, followed by view of
film and later, discussion. All welcome.

Mon 26th 9.30am Team Communion at St Michael's Birchwood

Tue 27th 2.15pm Women's Fellowship meet in St Michael's Room

Weekly

Wednesday 8.00 pm Bell ringers' Practice
Thursday 10.00am Carers' Support Group meet in St. Michael's Room
Friday
10.00 am Vicar's Day off
10.00 am Pramsters meet in St. Michael's Room
7.00 pm Choir practice

Come and see.....

The Snowdrops

around St Mary's Church, North Mymms

Sunday 18th February 2007

**Tea from 2.30pm
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