

From our curate, newly ordained as priest, Revd Helen Gardner:

A new term - a fresh start?

The end of summer is fast approaching, and I hope you have all managed to spend some time enjoying the long warm days. In just a few short weeks we will start to feel that familiar autumnal nip in the air.

The start of a new school term reminds me of sewing name tapes into school uniform and sharpening pencils; there's an air of expectation in the change that accompanies the shortening days.

It's also a reminder that our own days are shortening, and maybe that's a time to reconsider the things that matter, and sort out some of the 'rubbish' in our lives.

Do we look forward to our future with excitement and expectancy, or do we feel fear at the unknown or guilt about some aspects of who we are?

If you have questions about things more important than school uniform, why not join us in our journey of faith at St John's?

It isn't a place where we look down on each other, or judge each other. All are welcome, and we do mean that.

The Caravan Mystery



You may have noticed that the churchyard has a new look!

The old caravan that provided a much needed meeting space for our Sunday School, The Caravaners, is no longer lurking under the trees. Over the years while we were praying for, planning and fundraising for the new parish room, the children loved this cosy annex, complete with beautifully decorated book cases, tables and seats and even electric light and heat. It literally rocked on a Sunday morning causing mirth amongst the children but stiffening the resolve of the grown ups to move somewhere bigger and better.



Edith contemplates the job so far

Once we opened our wonderful new Parish Room, the caravan was parked off to the back of the church and left abandoned while we debated at PCC meetings what to do with it. Finally on a Friday morning in June we (Edith and Bert Harkins and Jane Manson) grasped the nettle, borrowed equipment and manpower from Broadway Orchard (Thank you, Chris) and towed the caravan up through the graveyard and out onto the car park.

Within 2 hours the caravan had been mysteriously "taken" and to this day we have no idea who took it or where it is now. We hope there are children somewhere enjoying the hand painted murals of Jonah and the Whale and Noah's Ark...

News and Upcoming Events

September 12th 2009

Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride

How many of our beautiful ancient buildings can you visit on two wheels in a single day? On Sat 12th Sept we will be sending a team off to do just this. If you would like to join us for a great day out please contact Jane on 878058.

Otherwise you can still support our historic churches by coming along to St John's on the day; enjoy a cream tea in our lovely new room and support the cyclists as they check in.

Coffee and Cakes

Come and join us between 10 and 12 on 25th September, 30th October and 27th November. Catch up with friends, meet new ones and take home delicious homemade cakes.

Improvements to the Church

In the next few weeks the whole path will be replaced - providing a safe (and much more attractive) route through the churchyard with level access at the far end for wheelchairs etc.

Also the bell tower has been repaired and painted and the shingles replaced.

Friday@5

Our popular after school club for children in school years 3 to 6 continues.

For more information contact Sharon Fowler on 877931 or email children@sunnysidechurch.org.uk

Choir

The choir practises on alternate Monday evenings in the church from 8 – 9.30 pm. This term there are Monday practices on Sept 7th, 21st and October 5th.

The Christmas Choir will practise on different days to accommodate everyone who wants to join in.

The only requirement to join the choir is enthusiasm. Provisional dates for the Christmas Choir are Nov 2nd, 10th, 19th, 23rd and December 1st, 9th, 17th and 19th (at 10 am onwards)

Contact: helenking754@btinternet.com

Church Officers

Vicar	Rev. David Abbott	865100
Curate	Rev. Helen Gardner	865218
Officiating minister	Rev. Dick Clarkson	873014
Church Wardens	Stephen Fletcher Jane Manson	864322 <u>878058</u>
Secretary	Audrey Gubbay	866376
Treasurer	Edith Harkins	871040

Village Prayers



Our prayers in church each Sunday include prayers for the residents in each of these roads in turn. In this way we can pray regularly for all the residents of our village. Please let us have your prayer requests.

Sept Residents of Bourne End Lane

Oct Residents of Sugar Lane

Nov Residents of Winkwell and Pouchen End

SERVICES

September October November 2009

Come and join us in Worship. There are services every Sunday at 10.30am and also at 6pm on the second Sundays of each month

Sept 6th Holy Communion

Sept 13th Holy Communion

secondsunday@six on September 13th

6.00 pm Quiet Reflection

Sept 20th Holy Communion

Sept 27th Family Service - Harvest

Oct 4th Holy Communion

Oct 11th Morning Prayer

secondsunday@six on October 11th

6.00 pm Taize

Oct 18th Holy Communion

Oct 25th Morning Prayer

Nov 1st Holy Communion

Nov 8th Remembrance Sunday
10.00 am* Holy Communion
Followed by service at War Memorial

secondsunday@six on November 8th

6.00 pm Healing Service

Nov 15th Holy Communion

Nov 22nd Morning Prayer

Guest Service

Nov 29th Family Service

Morning Prayer

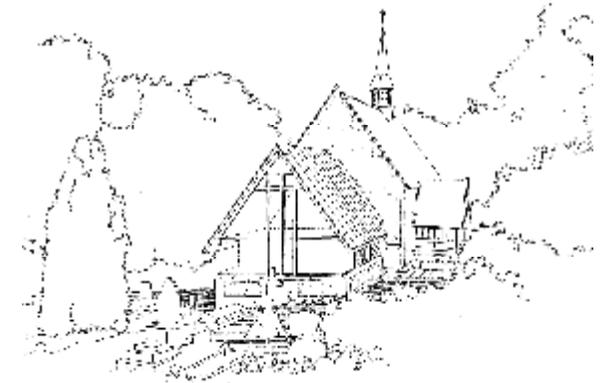
November 29th

6.00 pm Advent Carols

* Note time change

Family services cater for all ages. Special children's activities take place during most other morning services.

St John's Church Bourne End



NEWSLETTER September / October / November 2009

www.stjohns-bourne-end.org.uk

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