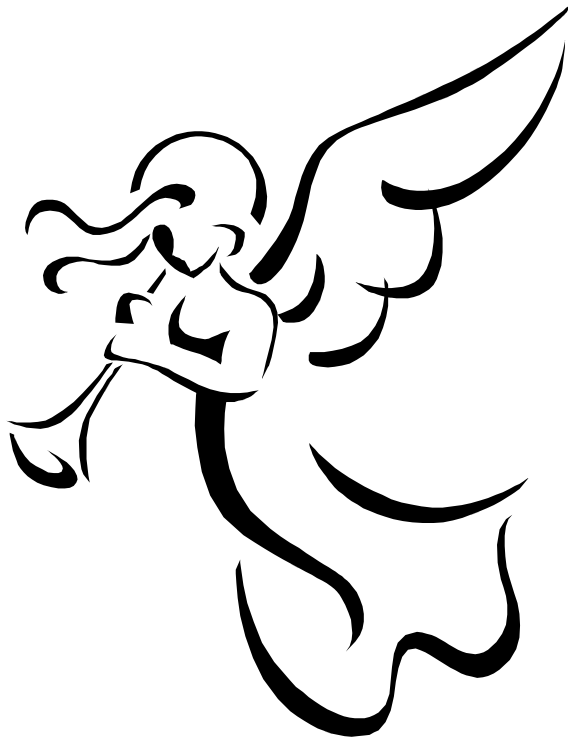


**The Parish Magazine of
Whitchurch-on-Thames
and Whitchurch Hill**



August 2002

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**A Letter for August
from the Reverend Father Peter Jefford**

Dear People of the Parish,

There is in the Psalms this single sentence which says a great deal about life on earth and it is this one from Psalm 104 verse 40.

When thou lettest thy breath go forth, they shall be made: And thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

We have certain needs in life and one of those needs is the need of “renewal”, of finding our way ahead, from time to time. One of the most simple ways of doing this is by the thing we call recreation, of finding diversion in life’s simple pleasures.

We become recreated by an act of re-creation. Of having the basic time out of our normal lives by being on holiday.

By just going away. For by having a break we find our re-creation.

And most of us find our recreation in creation itself, by going to a new and strange place on holiday and by just being there, with all the change that being away can bring!

So this next month of August is not just the time of the School Holidays, but of holidays per se. So if you are going away do take the time to go into creation, to find both a rest as well as a re-creation.

Once our Lord cautioned his disciples with these words, that they should take a break from their lives of business and activity, with the words of this admonition. He said to his disciples:

Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and there rest awhile.

For by going away we can come home refreshed

and charge up our batteries of vitality. And we can find a new resolve and fresh hope for the days to come. So I do hope that many of you will be able to find your own “lonely place and rest awhile”, especially if you are parents of children.

I know that in the past holidays meant a great deal to us as a family. Even today I still find a very great joy in travel, as you may well be aware!

So do keep safe on your travels and when you are back then tell me all about it.

With my best wishes to you all,

Peter Jefford



2nd Anniversary

This month of August will see my second anniversary of being with you all, for it was just two years ago that I came across to be interviewed. To see if I might be able to help out. And I began work on Sunday August 27th in the year 2000.

The time has gone so very quickly and I thank all those who have helped me in my task.

All those who help me still, by doing all the things that you do to serve Our Risen Lord in His Church.

All those who have given me a Sunday breakfast now for two years.

And all of whose doors I have knocked on in this time who have received me so very kindly.

My thanks are to you all. Peter Jefford



Christian Crackers

The rector announced:

“After the blessing the bishop will leave and we shall sing ‘Now thank we all our God’”

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Cremation

On Tuesday, July 9th, at Reading Crematorium, Frederick Ivor Needham, aged 93 years, who died at the Battle Hospital on June 30th, formerly of Eastfield House.

On Thursday July 11th, at Reading Crematorium, Lesley Martin, aged 86 years, of No 1d Manor Road.

Burial of Ashes

On July 2nd at St John's, the ashes of Frances Margaret Grove, aged 53 years, of No 5 Butlers Pond, Whitchurch Hill, who died on 29th April 2002.

On 17th July at St John's, the ashes of Laura Molly Briggs, aged 94 years, who died on 14th May 2002 at Summerfield Nursing Home, Kidmore Road, Caversham.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord. May light perpetual shine upon them.

.....
All Churches Together—Holiday Club 2002

All Churches Together - of which Whitchurch Parish is a member - are holding a holiday club for 5-11 year olds. It will take place at Pangbourne Primary School each morning (9.30-12.30) from 5th-9th August.

This year's title is "Going Bananas" and is based on material produced by the Scripture Union.

.....
More misprints

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

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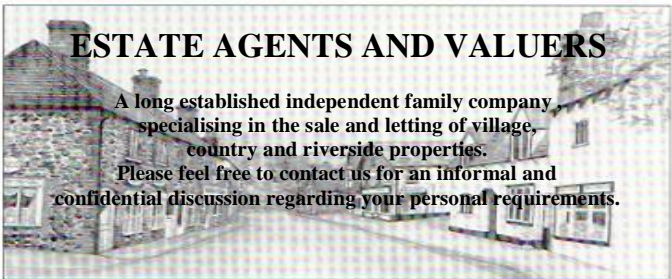
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Children's Page

Over the last few months on this page we have been thinking about our beautiful world. We thought about how God made it and we should care for it. We thought about David, the Bible times shepherd boy, who wrote songs about the beauty of the countryside. Jesus also loved the countryside and told lots of stories, or 'parables' about it. This is one:

A farmer went out to sow his seed. (In those days he didn't have machinery but would walk through his field with the seed in a basket, and scatter it by hand.)

As he walked, some seed fell on the hard pathway.

Some seed fell onto the rocky stony places round the edge of the field.

Some fell amongst the weeds and bushes at the side of the field.

But some fell on the good soil. This soil had been ploughed and cultivated. The weeds had been removed and it had been watered and raked to make it smooth and soft.

What happened to the seed in these different places?

On the path, the birds, which had been watching the farmer from a little way off, swooped down

and pecked the seed up. No chance for it to grow!

On the rocky places the seeds began to grow, but there wasn't any soil and there wasn't any water and soon it withered and dried up.

The seed among the weeds started to grow, but it was little and fragile and the weeds were strong, with twining tendrils and big thorns. The little seedlings didn't get much chance there either.

But the seed in the field, where the farmer was caring for it, watering it and keeping the birds away, that seed grew strong and tall. Soon there were waving golden ears of corn all over that field, each one with lots of grains in the ear, for grinding into flour to make bread or for planting again next year to grow more corn.

Jesus' disciples asked him what the story meant. Jesus explained it to them. If you want to find out what he told them, you can find it in the Bible –Mark 4: 10-20. I think it would be a good story to illustrate.

Maybe you could draw a picture of it and send it to Sue to put in the magazine next time? And don't forget to look out for fields of golden corn in the countryside round here!

Geraldine Witcher

Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mother's Union, is remembered on 9th August

Born Mary Heywood in 1828 near Manchester, Mary Sumner grew up in the beautiful surroundings of Hope End, in Herefordshire. The Christian atmosphere of her family home meant daily scripture and prayers formed the basis for her life in service to others.

She met and fell in love with George Sumner, the youngest son of the bishop of Winchester when they met in Rome where she was completing her musical education and they married in July 1848.

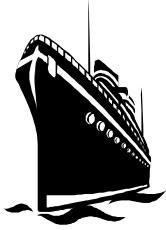
In 1876, when she became a grandmother, she decided that a new organisation was needed in the parish and the first branch of the Mothers' Union was begun. She believed that motherhood involved more than providing for the physical needs of children. The primary responsibility of mothers was to raise their children in the love of God with their lives firmly rooted in prayer.

A historic decision was made by Bishop Ernest Wilberforce of Newcastle in 1885 when he called on Mary to speak at the Portsmouth Church Congress. The meeting responded to her passion and conviction with a rousing ovation and so was born the diocesan organisation we know today.

Christian Crackers

Said a little boy to his vicar:

"I don't pray every night because there are some nights when I don't need anything."



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Please submit all copy for the next month's magazine by the 20th. I look forward to receiving your news, views, letters, etc. This magazine appears in the Church section on the village web site, see: www.whitchurchonthames.com

Sue Matthews

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24th August is the day of Bartholomew the Apostle

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World premiere of major new work in village church!

Mugging in church aisle!

Priceless artwork discovered under church pews!

What on earth is going on in Whitchurch?

On Sunday June 30th at 4pm about fifty people gathered in St Mary's church for a family service at which all these newsworthy happenings occurred. If you want to find out more about what these headlines mean, ask one of the children who were there. In a short service in which the children played a very important part, we, children and adults alike, enjoyed worshipping God in song and prayer and drama, and finding out about his care for us and our responsibility of care for each other and the world.

There will be another family service on September 29th, when the theme will be a harvest thanksgiving. If you want to be making the news, make sure you are there! For more details contact Paul and Geraldine on 9844959.

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Churchwardens:

Alan Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close
0118 984 4489
Jo Adams, Windings, Whitchurch Hill
0118 984 3362

Vergers:

St Mary's	Eiluned Jones	984 4839
St John's	Pat Turner	984 4200

Honorary Secretary:

Wendy Ferguson, 21 Swanston Field.
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Organist and Choirmaster:

Julian Oxley
01491 671415

Honorary Treasurer:

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Assistant Treasurer:

Tony Voysey, Mow Cop, High Street.
0118 984 3946

Captain of the Bellringers:

Stephanie May, 0118 957 2596

Editor, Parish Magazine

Sue Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close
0118 984 4489 or email: suematt@waitrose.com

Services for

August

4th August, 10th Sunday after Trinity

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

11th August, 11th Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St John's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion
St Mary's	6 p.m.	Evensong

18th August, 12th Sunday after Trinity

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion

25th August, 13th Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St John's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion
St Mary's	6 p.m.	Evensong

1st September, 14th Sunday after Trinity

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Parish Communion