

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



June 2004

CAPSTICK
FINE FURNITURE

Pightle Croft
Whitchurch Hill
Tel: 01235 767103
Mob: 07971 603222

You can always tell a hand-made piece of fine quality fitted furniture!

Ian Capstick will personally discuss, design and make those very special pieces you always promised yourself:

Your own fully fitted office study.

A unique, hand-crafted kitchen to your design.

Beautiful bookcases, cupboards or wardrobes, free-standing or to fit an alcove.

'Brambly Thatch'

A holiday cottage near Whitchurch Hill—so handy when family or friends from afar come to stay. Call Kate or John Hatt on (0118) 984 3121

QUALITY Brick and Flintwork. All types of building work undertaken.

Please phone for friendly advice/estimate.

**Philip Wise
0118 984 4318**

BATEMANS (OPTICIANS) LTD
COMPLETE PROFESSIONAL EYECARE
21 Reading Road,
Pangbourne RG8 7LR
Tel: 0118 984 2428



Dear friends in Christ,



For every hopeless situation, Blackadder's man Baldrick had a "cunning plan". From the safety of our armchairs we could see the sheer lunacy of it, but it always made sense to Baldrick at the time.

I wonder what was running through the minds of those first disciples during the ten days between the Ascension and Pentecost? Like the events themselves, their thoughts must have been quite chaotic. "Let's see, the Teacher got himself killed by the Romans, then three days later he appeared to our women in the garden, then to two of us in Emmaus, then back here in a locked room, twice: then cooking fish by the lake in Galilee, so.....I've got it! Let's go fishing!" (Jn 21:3)

In a way, Jesus' plan for his followers seems no stranger than Peter's. The Jews and the Romans are scouring the city for His followers so they can put a stop to their nonsense, and as dark-skinned Galileans from the north with a funny accent, they stick out like sore thumbs in the southern city. The smart thing would be to go north where they would blend into the crowd and have friends to hide them.

So what does Jesus tell them to do, just before he leads them out towards Bethany and ascends? "Stay in the city!" (Lk 24:49) The forty days between the Resurrection and Ascension must have been strange for the disciples, but also exciting, because they had their Lord back with them. But the next ten days from the Ascension to Pentecost must have been an anxious time: no Jesus, only danger everywhere. But Jesus also has a "cunning plan", and the key is in the second half of that verse from Luke. "...until you have been clothed with power from on high."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June

3rd & 4th Holiday Club in Woodcote Village Hall

5th Prayer Group meets in St Mary's, 9.30 am

5th Wedding at St Mary's: Kelly Palin to Ben Matthews at 2pm

5th & 6th Stoke Row Steam Rally at the Rally Field Ipsden

6th Team Service on the Rally Field at 10.30 am.

7th Sewing Bee at Apple Trees, Stoke Row. (Hazel Markham 01491 680416)

10th Corpus Christi: evening communion at St Mary's 7.30pm

13th Songs of Praise on Pangbourne Meadow, 3pm (All Churches Together)

19th Stewardship Lunch in the Rectory Garden

24th Patronal festival at St John the Baptist: evening communion 7.30pm

26th Service at Christ Church Oxford to celebrate the centenary of the Guild of Health, 2.30pm. Speaker Sr Francis Dominica



27th 10am Holy Baptism and Parish Communion at St John's. Possibly outdoor Eucharist and patronal festival party on the green if fine: watch this space!

July

3rd Prayer Group meets in St Mary's, 9.30 am

4th Parish Awayday in the Upper Room at Dorchester Abbey 10am – 4pm with midday Eucharist, and Family Service at 3.30pm. Lifts available.

11th Confirmation service with +Colin 11am at Checkendon
St Birinus Pilgrimage from Blewbury to Dorchester 12.45 – 6.30 pm

Englefield		Tel : 0118 9304898
		Open : Mon-Sat 9-5pm
GARDEN CENTRE		(Sundays 10-4pm May & June)
Bedding Plants Bird Food and Feeders Planted Baskets and Pots Composts and Fertilisers		Roses - Bush & Climbers Shrubs and Alpines Herbs and Seeds Vegetable Plants
Where we are We are 3 miles from junction 12 of the M4. Englefield village is signposted off the A340 Theale to Pangbourne road.		Who we are Englefield Garden Centre is part of TACT, a charity providing training & therapy to people with learning disabilities

C r i c k e t i n g W o e s f o r W h i t c h u r c h C C

Whitchurch Cricket Club was founded in 1877 and cricket has been played there ever since down at the ground in Eastfield Lane. The club is in serious danger of disbanding at the end of this 2004 season.

The club has been given notice to quit by the ground owners unless it can acquire the freehold of the ground for a sum of £300,000 by September 2004. For a club with some 20-30 playing members this will be a monumental task. However, always eager to rise to the challenge the club is exploring all possible options with the ground owners and also the local community. The club has already put in an application for an SODC grant, and is also seeking pledges and loans to help us to get towards the required sum.

Obviously this is more than just a concern for the club itself, with Whitchurch residents also keen to ensure

Boze Down Vineyard, Hardwick Road



Award winning red and white wines made from grapes grown at Boze Down. Free tastings every weekend, except January and February, when we are open by appointment only.

Saturday 11– 6pm, Sunday noon—5pm
Tel: 0118 984 4031

Osteopath

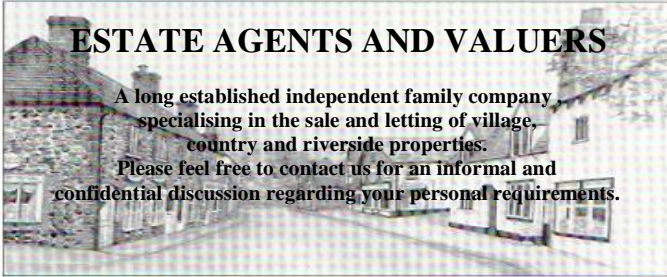
Cranial and Structural Osteopathy
Whitchurch Hill and Emmer Green
Karen L Phillips, D.O.

For appointments, call 0118 984 4202

WARMINGHAM

ESTATE AGENTS AND VALUERS

A long established independent family company specialising in the sale and letting of village, country and riverside properties.
Please feel free to contact us for an informal and confidential discussion regarding your personal requirements.



4/5 High Street, Goring-on-Thames, Nr. Reading RG8 9AT

Sales and Valuations

Tel: 01491 874144

e-mail: sales@warmingham.com

Lettings & Property Management

Tel: 01491 875011

e-mail: lettings@warmingham.com

www.warmingham.com

TANIA NEESON: PILATES

**Pilates is a stress free method of exercising
suitable for all**

It is relaxing and energising and produces great results

Flatter/toned abdominals	Improved self esteem
Stress management/relaxation	Improved immune system
Strength/flexibility	Coordination/balance

Tania is a friendly, qualified teacher running classes in
Goring/Streatley, Whitchurch Hill, Pangbourne and Reading
Morning, afternoon and evening classes
weekdays and weekends.

Please call **0118 984 4310** for details and to book lessons

that the tradition of playing cricket is maintained. We are seeking opportunities to come together with other local sporting facilities (such as AFC Whitchurch), we are working with the adjacent primary school and their governors to look at sensible use of shared facilities, and also we are involving the Whitchurch Parish Council.

We would welcome support from all residents of South Oxfordshire who would wish to see the continuation of cricket for Whitchurch – surely after 127 years it is a tradition we can't consider losing now!

For further details of how you can help please contact:-

Nigel Cabeldu
Hon Secretary Whitchurch CC
6 Hillside
Hardwick Road
Whitchurch on Thames
RG8 7HL
T 01189 844171

All support,donations and advice appreciated

Letter from the Team Rector The Nanny State.

It is now official – children are a nuisance.

To reduce the inconvenience to us, the government is soon going to pay us to give our children to someone else.

Perhaps it would be better if some people were paid by the state to have all the children for everybody. Then the rest of us could get on with the only really important human activity (paid employment), without the hassle and the interruption that children bring to a double income lifestyle.

Perhaps you can tell from the above that I am a little disturbed. What about? Yet more tax credits for child care which effectively penalize and devalue those who happen to think that children should be brought up by their parents, ideally two of them.

I'll say it again. Children don't need a nanny, they need Mum and Dad's time. They need Mum and Dad to work sensible hours, and be supported by the government for the social value that in-family child care gives.

I can understand that the government needs to encourage as many people as possible into paid employment. But is it right to assume that paid employment has a higher human worth than unpaid parenting?

Anyone bringing up children will tell you that it is very hard work. Why should this hard work be rewarded with government cash if franchised out, but quietly ignored if done "in house"? This is a great injustice.

I am not asking for favours for the traditional family unit, even though it is now proven statistically to be the best way to raise children. I am asking for justice. By subsidizing the "professional" child care costs of working parents, the government is positively devaluing the labour of many thousands of unpaid "family" carers up and down the country, and thus in the end devaluing the family itself. Truly, we are building a nanny state.

In the Genesis account of creation God charges humanity with both
(Continued on page 16)

Children's Page

A LETTER FROM UGANDA

I know we should be finishing the Lord's Prayer on this page but that will have to wait because I'm in Uganda! And I want to tell you what it's like.

I am staying in a village called Buliisa which is in a country called Uganda in Africa. As I write I am sitting on a wooden veranda with a grass roof looking at a mango tree with shiny green leaves and ripe green mangos hanging down. It is very hot and there are lizards and geckos running on the branches.

About 100 people live in Buliisa. (There are about 700 in Whitchurch so this village is a lot smaller.) The houses here are not like ours. They are small round buildings called 'bandas'. They are made with a ring of bamboo poles, covered with mud that sets into hard clay. Another circle of poles is laid on top and covered with bunches of grass like

Thatch for a roof. The door is a gap in the wall covered with a curtain. And all the family live in just one room. But because it's so hot, and it hardly ever rains lots of the living is done outside.

Some things are the same as in Whitchurch. The children here go to the village primary school, and they do maths, and literacy just as you do. But they also have to learn to speak and read and write English. There is a church in the village too and this morning I went to a service there. We sang the same hymns and the same Bible readings as we do in St Mary's or St John's.

But in some ways life for a child here is very different.

Have you ever been sent to get water from a borehole in a big plastic can? Have you ever carried your schoolbag to school on your head? Have you ever gone to school with no shoes on? Or been kept away from school to look after your family's goats? You would have done all these things if you'd been born in Buliisa.

But the children here have never seen snow, never been to the cinema, never been in a supermarket, never had to wear coats, never eaten an Easter egg.

Buliisa is on the equator so it is always hot, nearly always sunny, (except when there's a thunderstorm and then it rains harder than ever in England), and it always gets dark at 7 in the evening -all year round.

Some things are the same. Some things are different. Different but the same and all part of the wonderful exciting world that God created. And the same God who loves and cares about us in Whitchurch, loves and cares for the children here too.

Next time, I hope to be able to send you some 'Postcards from Uganda'.

Love from

Geraldine Witcher



Family Service

3.30 p.m. Dorchester Abbey

4th July

Parish Awayday

Whitchurch Hill W.I.

Our meeting this month was to discuss the resolutions from the various federations round the U.K.

These were as follows:-

1. Trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation and forced labour; W.I. Members are urged to raise public awareness of this subject and it was discussed in some detail. Members were abhorrent of this trafficking and voted that the government put in place legislation to combat this trade in human lives.
2. The growing of GM crops and the implications; 'The Belmont and District W.I. Opposes the growing of GM crops in the UK and calls on the government to prohibit cultivation' - this was discussed and many

Kentwood Garden Services

**Have your Garden maintained
Weekly ~ Fortnightly ~ Monthly
Neglected Gardens cleared
Free estimates ~ Fully insured**

**Call Kevin on
0118 967 8840 or 07980 915944**

**Grass Cutting ~ Turfing ~ Fencing
Hedge-cutting ~ Patios ~ Decking**

people argued for and against. The consensus seemed to be that until we knew a lot more of the consequences of growing these crops it would be difficult for members to decide one way or the other.

3. The air ambulance and its importance; members from Windsor asked that the government give substantial funds annually to maintain this worthy service. Pros and cons were given and one member described the wonderful life-saving experience she had witnessed locally, when the air ambulance had saved lives. The funding might prove difficult however if charity donations did not materialise as a result of government funding, which might not be reliable with other pressures on the Treasury.

An interesting meeting was had a finished with a bring and buy sale.

Next meeting: ‘Arts for Pleasure, Love and Marriage’ June 15th.

Ann Bradley

The County Concierge Co.

The Modern Approach To Quality of Life

*Have you too much to do but never enough time to get it done?
Would you like to concentrate on the important things, leaving your chores to someone else?
Well, at THE COUNTY CONCIERGE we can let you do just that.
Let us organise it for you.
For more information simply ring: 0118 9842555*

Emergency repairs
Garden maintenance
Decorating
Cleaning
Accept deliveries
Shopping

Parties organised
Restaurants booked
Home catering
Babysitting
Childminding

Holiday home watch
Welcome home service
Pet care
Airport/station collection
Children’s holiday activities



TO LIGHTEN THE LOAD

Purley Horticultural Society

Plant Sale

The Plant sale held on Saturday, 22nd May was very successful with a wide variety of plants available. Thank you to all the people who supported us and to members of the Society who looked after the sales. We were lucky enough to have a sunny morning and we hope that all the plants purchased will grow well and people will be pleased with how the plants perform during the summer.

Shows

The Late Summer Show will be held in The Barn, Beech Road on Saturday 11th September. Schedules will be available in the Trading Shed towards the end of June.

Royal Horticultural Society

If you wish to visit the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, Rosemoor or Hyde Hall during the summer months, a card enabling one member to enter at a reduced rate (plus one guest) is available from Pat Brightwell (9412424).

Trading

The Shed in the Memorial Hall Car Park is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. until the end of October. If you have not renewed your subscription for this year, we would be grateful if you could do so in the near future. If you are a new resident in this area, why not visit the Trading Shed to see the advantage of being a member of the Society. The yearly subscription is only £1.50.

Marion Dabbs
9422349



For all your travel needs—
leisure or business,
simple or complex

5, High Street, Pangbourne,
Reading RG8 7AE

Brooking Travel

Tel: 0118 984 4166 Fax: 0118 984 3393

Copy should be submitted by 20th of the
month please.

Sue Matthews suematt@waitrose.com

Ashdown, Duchess Close,

Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7EN

.....

BAYWEST ARBORISTS

Tree Surgeons

Joe and Andrew have over 10 years experience in the field of Tree Surgery and guarantee a reliable, prompt and personal service, tackling any aspect of tree and hedge work. Fully qualified and insured.

- Reducing and Reshaping
- Felling
- Dismantling
- Hedge Reduction and Trimming
- Free Quotations
- Woodchips supplied



Tel: 0118 943 1731 Mobile: 07929 989319

Ace Property

House Maintenance

- Plumbing & Electrical Repairs
- Carpentry & Glazing
- Lock Fitting
- Guttering & Small Roof Repairs
- All General House Maintenance Repairs

Mobile: **077522 85222** Tel: **0118 9710579**

Web: <http://aceproperty.2cuk.co.uk>

Email PaulHMorris@onetel.net.uk

Proprietor

Paul H Morris New Hope Beenham RG7 5NN

(Continued from page 9)

procreation and labour. We ignore the created order of things at our peril. Parenting needs to be socially valued as highly as paid employment.

If the government wanted to be really useful, it could ensure that flexible working for those with the care of children is enshrined in employment legislation in much the same way as maternity rights. Most importantly, tax incentives for married couples and carers should aim to support family life, and not fracture it.

Kevin Davies

Team Rector - Langtree Team Ministry

PIANO TUNING

Over 20 years
experience

MARTIN RYLEY

0118 926 6464

Association of Blind Piano Tuners

Rupert Landen Furniture Restorer

Church Farm
Reading Road
Woodcote RG8 0QX
(01491) 682396

<p>Eastfield House Eastfield Lane Whitchurch on Thames -Your local registered rest home, all single rooms, some garden flats, very reasonable terms. Tel: 0118 984 2586</p>	<p>Holiday Flat Cascais, Portugal A pretty fishing port and resort, 45 minutes from Lisbon. 2 double bedrooms, fully equipped. Ring the owners on 0118 984 2653 for more details</p>
<p>Abbott's Shoe Repairs and Leather Goods (Prop: Richard Deverill) 18 Reading Road Pangbourne (0118) 984 1155</p>	<p>GORING HEATH PARISH HALL (opposite St John's Church, Whitchurch Hill) Great facilities in traditional surroundings. Ideal for family parties and social gatherings Please ring Caroline Brooks 07947 076290</p>
<p>Whitchurch Theatre Club ...takes you to plays and concerts about once a month; matinees & evenings, London & provinces. If interested, contact Mrs Diana Marriott, 23 Hillside, Hardwick Road Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8 7HL Tel: 0118 984 4582</p>	<p><i>Chiltern Domestic Appliances</i> Guaranteed repairs and servicing for Hoo- ver,Hotpoint, Zanussi, Ben- dix, Indesit & all major brands. Washing ma- chines, tumble dryers and dishwashers. Low call out fee and prompt atten- tion. Tel: 01491 681526</p>

Mothers' Union

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15th. at 2.30pm. at the Parish Room, All Saints, Peppard. The speaker will be Mrs. Anne Borrowdale on "The changing face of family life".

The Wave of Prayer, which continues 24 hours every day of the year is, for Rotherfield Branch, at 12.15 pm. on Sunday June 13th. Some members will be praying together after the morning service at All Saints. Our prayerrs will be for our linked dioceses in the Democratic Republic of Congo and 3 dioceses in southern Nigeria as well as the Oxford diocese.

Mary Kent

RG Bridgewater

Bespoke Picture Restorer and Framer

Established in the trade since 1956
(Apprenticed at Reading Fine Art Gallery, and with
Picture Crafts of London Street, Reading)

Oils and Pastels restored

Watercolours, Engravings and Prints de-foxed and
cleaned

Conservation Mounting and Framing and all aspects
of framing undertaken

2 Enterprise House, 41 Reading Road, RG8 7HY
Pangbourne (0118) 984 4622

Officers of the Parish

Parish Priest:

Reverend Dr Peter Steddon
Rectory Cottage, Whitchurch on Thames
0118 984 1473

Churchwardens:

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

Vergers:

St Mary's
St John's Pat Turner 984 4200

Honorary Secretary:

Wendy Ferguson, 21 Swanston Field.
0118 984 1262

Organist and Choirmaster:

Julian Oxley, Applecroft, Upper Basildon, RG8 8NT
01491 671415

Honorary Treasurer:

Robert Plumb, Uplands Cottage.
0118 984 4838

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

Team Rector:

Reverend Kevin Davies
The Rectory, Checkendon, RG8 0SR
01491 680252
www.langtree.org

Services for

June

6th June, Trinity Sunday

St Leonard's 8 a.m. Holy Communion
Woodcote
The Rally Field, Ipsden 10 a.m. Parish Communion

10th June, Corpus Christi

St Mary's 7.30pm Holy Communion

13th June, 1st after Trinity

St Mary's 8 a.m. Holy Communion

St John's 10 a.m. Easter Communion

3 pm Songs of Praise All Churches Together
Pangbourne Meadow

St Mary's 6 p.m. Evening Prayers

20th June, 2nd after Trinity

St John's 8 a.m. Holy Communion
Rev'd Angela Linton

St Mary's 10 a.m. Family Communion
Rev'd Angela Linton

24th June, Nativity of St John the Baptist

St John's 7.30 Holy Communion

27th June, 3rd after Trinity

St Mary's 8 a.m. Holy Communion

St John's 10 a.m. Parish Communion
With Holy Baptism

St Mary's 6 p.m. Evening Prayers

4th July, 4th after Trinity

Parish Awayday at Dorchester Abbey with midday
Eucharist and 3.30pm Family Service