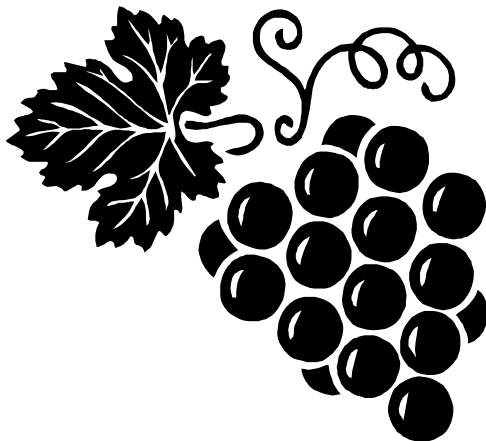


**The Parish Magazine of
Whitchurch-on-Thames
and Whitchurch Hill**



October 2003

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Dear friends in Christ,



Recently I enjoyed a short break in North Cornwall surrounded by the rugged beauty of God's good creation, and planning my days in tune with the rhythm of the tides: very Celtic! And very restful.

Meanwhile back in Whitchurch, we can feel the rhythm of the turning seasons, with a new chill in the morning air and the first autumn colours beginning to appear on the trees.

This month, we shall be carrying the theme of Creation into our worship, with our first annual Pets' Service at St Mary's on Sunday 5th, and Harvest Thanksgiving at St John's and St Mary's on 12th and 19th Oct respectively. (Harvest Supper on Saturday 18th for the whole parish .)

Autumn is also a season for remembrance, a time which calls to mind the rhythm of birth and death, and the Christian hope of resurrection life with the Lord. September sadly saw the end of the long life of Eiluned Jones, who was so involved with this church over many years. She will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with Meryl and Geoff at this time. At the same time, we are reminded of the promise of new life, by the baptism of young Juno Norman at St John's on Sept 28th.

October is the month when we celebrate St Luke, and I will be leading a Healing Service for the Langtree Team on the evening of Sunday 19th, at St John's Church in Stoke Row, at 6 pm. The other Festival this month is of Simon and Jude, Apostles, on Tuesday 28th.

Do make a note in your diary to attend the Team Quiet Day on Monday 6th October, to be led by Bishop Colin: an excellent opportunity to get to know him better, and perhaps buttonhole him and find out everything you always wanted to know, but never

Eiluned Jones

We would like to thank everyone for their very kind expressions of sympathy and prayers and for joining us at the Thanksgiving Service for Eiluned.

We were particularly appreciative of the splendid singing of the choir, which included many members who had sung with Eiluned.

Eiluned would have been touched by the magnificent flowers and we are so grateful to the ladies who provided them and took such care with the displays in the church.

Moving south from Cheshire was a big step for Alun and Eiluned, but the welcome they received into the community helped give them a new lease of life.

We will all miss her.

Meryl, James, Philip and Geoff Weir



Mothers' Union

We had a lovely service at Christ The King at Sonning Common last month to which several members from other churches in the area also came. This was followed by tea and lots of chat in the adjoining hall which was very appropriate at the start of a new season.

This month's meeting will be held at Abbots Lodge, Goring Heath, on Tuesday, Oct. 21st. at 2.30p.m. Our speaker will be Mrs. Emma Moffat who will be telling us about the M.U's hugely successful Literacy Project in Uganda and will be showing us some slides of this work and her travels there. Anyone is more than welcome to come just contact Mary Kent on 680288.

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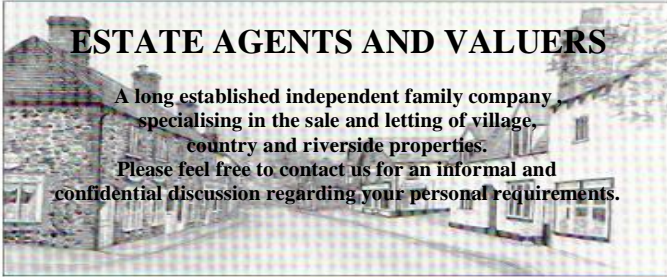
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Announcement by the Trustees of The Whitchurch United Charities

(Registered Charity no. 264826 of 22.7.1907)

The family of Lady Phoebe Rose requested that the collection taken at her funeral service on July 4th be invested in the Whitchurch United Charities.

The Trustees are very pleased to announce therefore that, with the agreement of her family, a new account has been set up with the designation of 'Hon. Phoebe Lady Rose Educational Charity'. This brings the total number of accounts under the United Charities' fund to six.

We would like to remind everyone in the Parish that the aims of the Charity were changed earlier this year to provide material help to students in full-time education. Applications are welcome at any time and may be made by in writing to the Chairman of the Trustees, John Dolby, at Highway Cottage, High St, Whitchurch.

John Dolby
Chairman of the Trustees
Tel: 0118 984 2140

The Rector's Letter

When did you grow up ?

St Paul writes “when I was a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. Now that I am a man, I have put away childish things”.

We, like Paul, put our toys away. Life is a serious business. There is money to earn, careers to further, sport to play (and win). There are holidays to be taken and gardens to be dug. There are houses to build and meals to be cooked. There are degrees to be attained, and professions to be mastered.

Truly, we are grown up!

Then, one day, a child enters our world. Maybe we are blessed with a birth in the family. Maybe a new family move in next door to us, or sit behind us in church.

Children remind us that we are still vulnerable at heart and that we still need to know that we are loved. All this business of being grown up has caused us to forget our own dependence upon our heavenly Father.

Spiritual Immaturity

St Paul was not writing about faith as a childish thing to be put away. He was talking about the spiritual immaturity which we need to grow out of. Many of us get “stuck” somewhere along the journey of faith, and as we get more comfortable in worldly terms our spiritual growth grinds to a halt. We forget that we must grow with God, as well as grow old. Or we believe that it is all beneath us, and that we have now “left home” for good. Our business is much too important to bother with God now.

However God still calls, despite our amnesia and neglect. The undiscovered country of the Spirit awaits those who dare to accept Christ's challenge and begin to walk his way.

The journey begins - at any age.

In days gone by it was assumed that people made this journey to spiritual maturity as they grew from childhood. Thus the tradition grew of confirmation in the early teenage years - the assumption

(Continued on page 12)

Children's Page

H a l l o w e d b e y o u r n a m e

Do you remember the prayer Jesus taught his disciples? It started by calling God our Father and he said we could call God that because he loves and cares for us better than the best father in the world.

The next bit says 'hallowed be your name'. This is one of the hard bits to understand. I think Jesus wanted us to realise that God is bigger and greater and more wonderful than anything else.

He told a story about a man who was digging in a field. Usually when you dig in a field all you get is roots and worms and stones and bugs. But this man found something amazing in his field. He found some treasure, maybe gold or jewels or coins. Whatever it was, it was so wonderful he couldn't bear to let it go. So he covered it all up again, went away and sold all his possessions so he'd have enough money to buy the field with the treasure in it.

Jesus told another story about a shop owner who bought and sold fine pearls. He chose the best he could find and made them up into necklaces and earrings. His shop was full of beautiful things. One day he saw for sale a pearl bigger and shinier and better than any he'd seen before. Maybe it was a big, completely round white one. Maybe it was one of the really rare black ones. Whatever it was it was the best pearl he had ever seen, and he thought he would never see another one so beautiful. He wanted it so much that he went and sold all his other pearls so as to be able to buy that one.

One day some people came to Jesus and asked him what the most important rule was. This is what he said, 'The most important commandment is this –you must love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind.'

The men in Jesus' stories found something they wanted so much they would give up everything else to get it. When we say, 'hallowed be your name' in that prayer, what we are really saying is that we want to love god like that, because we realise how special and wonderful he is.

Geraldine Witcher



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If you wish to learn how the apples – and pears – are grown join one of the guided walks at 11.00am, 2.00pm or 3.30pm. Visit the displays in the barn on beekeeping, apple cookery, apples in art, apple growing, apple peelers and lots, lots more.

Throughout the day you can meet local producers and purchase wines, beautiful wood turned bowls and even wooden apples plus plants and apple pies, cakes and chutneys and so on. The Farm shop will be open all day and is open until mid-January from Wednesday to Sunday 10.00am to 6.00pm.

Entrance and car parking are free.



What is the human race's single greatest achievement?

- A. Democracy.
- B. Religion.
- C. Remote control.

(Continued from page 9)

was that if a person had been exposed to the life and worship and teaching of the church for thirteen years, then they must surely be ready to make a public commitment to Jesus, the Lord of the Church!

Today however things have changed. Many people have lost contact with the church, for many reasons. Many people have never heard, or understood, the basic Christian message. Their spiritual life has not started, or faded away.

But when they do find a place for God in their lives again, or when God breaks in and demands his place, you might for example find a forty year old man coming to faith for the first time, having the same “spiritual age” as a five year old child who has been brought up within the family of the church. He will need the same diet of simple instruction (of course he will learn much faster), and he will need an accessible service of worship in a language he understands. He will need to be taught how to pray, how to use and understand the Bible - all things a mature Christian would take for granted. A man like this will learn, not just from his peers in age, but from his peers in faith - i.e. from those who have been Christians about the same length of time. He will learn from faithful children. (Psalm 8:2 & Matt 20:15). This is one reason why it is important for all of us that children of all ages be included in our worship.

An opportunity for you

Too often we assume that to be “grown up” in the faith is to endure utterly incomprehensible sermons, be able to read small dense print, to sit still for long periods, and to enjoy tedious committee meetings.

I’m happy to say that none of these things are essential for “growing up into Christ”, but if you would like to grow in the Christian way, or an opportunity to revive your flagging spiritual life, please do write to me or ring me up. I am about to start a short course for a small group of people and would love to accompany you for a little way on your own walk with the Lord. No one is too old (or too young!) to begin to discover the incredible wonders of the kingdom of God.

with my best wishes to you all

Kevin

EILUNED JONES

12th May 1910 to 10th September 2003

A large gathering filled St Mary's Church for Eiluned's memorial service on Monday 22nd September 2003. Our retired Rector told of her work here over ten years and how since her arrival from Wales she found strength and pleasure with our church. Every word he spoke was so very true. Also under Richard Hughes she and I happily and peacefully carried on our work as his church wardens.

But I will never forget one day: Richard told us that due to an emergency he and Ann would have to leave for France a week early, i.e. that afternoon. We had a hand-over in the Rectory kitchen—a stack of files, a heap of keys, a page of notes. Then we two were to all intents the local church. Weekly services, finances, church buildings, various accounts, future weddings, etc. - a terrible panic came over me. That evening we drank tea in her sitting room and Eiluned put things in order of priority—phone calls to helpers, a list from the Archdeacon of possible temporary priests, lists of payments due, notes of services, festivals and - onwards. Her two days of calls to what we called 'the list' and we had interviews for priests, a PCC meeting was fixed and an 'emergency agenda', arrangements made for festivals, funding events ... and out parish was again running smoothly. All this was totally and one hundred percent due to Eiluned's sharp logical mind, her knowledge since youth of parish matters and an organised ability linked to charm and persistence. And so the interregnum ran happily on.

I know all of us and her family will always miss her but I in particular am proud and lucky to have had her guidance and Anthea and I to have had her as a true Christian friend.

John Dolby

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Alison Michael, Age Concern Local Link

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Whitchurch Hill WI

On August 9th the ladies and partners of the W.I. Spent a pleasant evening at the home of Mrs Maureen Summers for the Mid-Summer Soiree. The food was delicious and the weather added to the great atmosphere of the evening. Many of the W.I. Were able to stay in the garden until dusk chatting and thoroughly enjoying the warmth of the evening.

On September 9th Mrs Christine Brewster gave a willow workshop for making garden obelisks. Ten of the W.I. Were instructed in the technique and many thanks must be given to Mrs Brewster for her excellent tuition resulting in an admirable final product. They all looked very professional.

Ben Viljoen gave the group a talk on September 16th on classical English gardens. The talk was accompanied by slides. Many of these fascinating gardens were to be found locally and the work of Miss Gertrude Jekyl was particularly noted. The morning finished with a rose competition and a raffle.

Next meeting: a history of Wallingford. New members welcome.

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0118 984 3362

Vergers:

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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

October

5th October, The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

St John's 8 a.m. The Holy Communion

St Mary's **10 a.m.** **Pet Service**
10.45 am **Refreshments**
11 a.m. Shortened Eucharist

12th October, The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's 8 a.m. The Holy Communion

St John's 10 a.m. **Harvest Thanksgiving**

St Mary's 6 p.m. Evening Prayers

18th October Harvest Supper

19th October, The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

St John's 8 a.m. The Holy Communion

St Mary's 10 a.m. **Harvest Thanksgiving**

26th October, The Last Sunday after Trinity **Bible Sunday**

St Mary's 8 a.m. The Holy Communion

St John's 10 a.m. Parish Communion

St Mary's 6 p.m. Evening Prayers

2nd November, The Fourth Sunday before Advent **All Saints**

St John's 8 a.m. The Holy Communion

St Mary's 10 a.m. Parish Communion