

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



Harvest Time

September 2002

CAPSTICK
FINE FURNITURE

Pightle Croft
Whitchurch Hill
Tel: 01491 839895
24 hr Answering Auto/

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



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

Dear People of the Parish,

There is a lovely traditional Harvest hymn that has these words:

“We thank thee then O Father,
For all things bright and good.
The seed time and the harvest,
Our life, our health our food.”

If you turn to the paper each day, as we all do, then you will find that there is very little to cheer us on our way!! There is an absence of what this hymn writer called “All things bright and good”.

Yet I can remember now the words of a good honest countryman in Norfolk, who once said these words to me, that I have never forgotten. He said this: “Every year in the country where all this food is growing there will always be a harvest. Always. It may be a bumper harvest or a poor harvest. But there will always be a harvest. And since there will always be a harvest then each year in the church we can have our Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving.”

I know that in the late summer of 1961 when I arrived to work as a country Rector in the Norfolk Broads that to begin with it was a great challenge to a “townee” like me. All around were fields. No pavements, no street lights, only a single zebra crossing by the school. On all sides of the Rectory, bar the churchyard, were fields and all the fields were full of the crops that were growing.

The peas for ‘Birdseye’. The wheat and the barley. And last of all the great crop of the sugar beet (the Brown Gold of East Anglia).

Not only were the people aware of the fact of the Harvest but it was also their only livelihood, for the fishing

had past. But to them it all took place at a special time. There was a sense of the real moment. It was now truly harvest time and the great festival might begin. In my case, over three Sundays in the three separate churches, in a row.

Today we need to read and to hear, above all things, these simple words again:

“We thank thee then O Father,
For all things bright and good.”

It is what our homes, our families and our lives truly need today. ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND GOOD.

We also need to remind ourselves that some of that brightness and goodness comes from these things: “The seed time and the harvest. Our life, our health, our food”. So that at this coming time of the Harvest let us take these things seriously.

But there are other harvests which I think are both sombre and sad, and these are some of them: The harvest of crime in this nation, the single biggest industry now in Britain. The harvest of greed, when people buy things not out of need but only out of habit. For we shall have to learn ‘that less really is more’. And the final harvest of the young. The drugs that harm lives and sometimes takes the lives of young people.

With others I now believe that the way forward is the way back, the way back to quality. To good manners, to courtesy, to respect, to integrity. To see that duty is more important than rights. To all those things, which manifestly are missing in our modern world.

“Accept the gifts we offer
For all thy love imparts,
And what thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.”

With my best wishes to you all,

Peter Jefford

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Burial of Ashes

On July 26th at St Mary's, the ashes of Leslie Frederick Martin, aged 86 years, of 1d Manor Road, who died on 29th June 2002.

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



A date for your diary!

There will be a **Family Service on September 29th at 4 pm in St John's Church, Whitchurch Hill.** Please note the change of venue. This is because the service will have a theme of harvest thanksgiving .

At the last family service we had a good time and also managed to generate some 'headlines' for the magazine. Join us this time and you might be part of news being made! For more information contact Paul or Geraldine on 9844959



More misprints

The immortal sole

From *Bosham Life* "The title this time is 'Awareness of Cod in Everyday Life'." Peterborough, The Daily Telegraph, August 2002

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

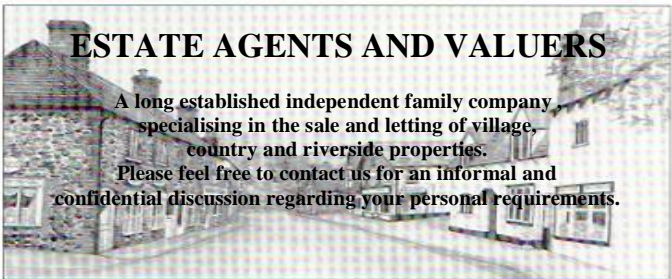
Whitchurch Hill

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

Children's Page

THE TWO BUILDERS

Jesus told a story about a pair of builders.
They each set out to build a house both big and fine.
'Doors, floors, windows, ceiling, roof and walls,
There'll never be a house as beautiful as mine'
So spoke the first man, we'll call him Fred
As he planned it all out, that's what he said.

'All I need to do is to build it from the ground up.
This flat sand by the river will do me just fine.
Not too hard to dig in, now the walls are up already,
Roof on top, and doors in, I'll be finished in no time.'
Fred finished his house in just a couple of weekends.
Then had a celebration party with all of his friends!

But what about the other man, I think we'll call him Jim.
What has he been doing during all this time?
Well, he's measured and he's costed and he's found a
place to build it,
And he's planned out a house of really good design.
'My house must be well made so I'll build here on this
rock.
Firmly anchored here it will withstand any shock.'

As you can well imagine it was harder far to build
For Jim, with his pickaxe, and it took him far more time
To construct his house on rock than it would on soft
smooth sand.
But Jim had worked it out, and he said, 'Well that's just
fine.'

It might take longer but the task is near its end
And my house will never fall – on that I can depend!
So there they are – two houses – one on sand and one on rock.
And two very happy owners, but one will get a shock!

For
wind blew,
 rain poured,
 thunder rumbled,
 hailstones danced,
 thunder crashed,
 rain teemed,
 wind howled,
 river rose,
 water swirled,
 wind roared,
 rain fell,
 water splashed,
 wind screamed,

CRASH!!!

Poor old Fred, his house is underwater,
And the roof has been blown off and the walls are in a heap.
In the house on the rock above him, while the tempest still is
raging
Safe and dry and fearless, Jim is peacefully asleep.
Jesus said, 'Now listen, be like Jim and not like Fred.
Build your life securely on the things that I have said.'

Geraldine Witcher

A prayer for today

Come Holy Spirit and show us what is true.
In a world of great wealth
Where many go hungry
And fortunes are won and lost
By trading money
Come Holy Spirit and show us what is true.

In a world of great knowledge
Where many die of ignorance
And every piece of information
Has a price in the market place
Come Holy Spirit and show us what is true.

In a world of easy communication
Where words leap between continents
And we expect to see a picture
To illustrate each item of news
Come Holy Spirit and show us what is true.

In a Church which speaks a thousand accents,
Divided over doctrine, creed and ministry,
More anxious for itself than for the Gospel
Come Holy Spirit and show us what is true.

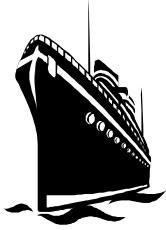
In a Church touched by the flame of Pentecost
Moved to generous sacrifice and costly love,
Interpreting the will of God with new insight
Come Holy Spirit and show us what is true.

(From All the Glorious Names Prayer Handbook of the United
Reformed Church)
Submitted by Rosemary Pearce



Christian Crackers

Overheard in the vestry: “The congregation’s a bit thin this morning” said the Vicar. “Did you tell them I was preaching?”
“No, Vicar, I didn’t” replied the churchwarden. “But you know how these things get out.”



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

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

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 PaulHMMorris@onetel.net.uk

Proprietor

Paul H Morris New Hope Beenham RG7 5NN

Christian Crackers

At a scout camp where the service was to be taken by a bishop:

It was a very hot humid summer day and the moderator of the Free Church Federal Council had turned up on his full robes. Standing around sweating buckets and getting hotter and hotter under the dog collar he turned to our minister and bellowed: "When is that flipping bishop going to turn up?"

A man standing close by in Scout shirt, tie and short trousers said "I'm already here".

PIANO TUNING

Over 20 years
experience

MARTIN RYLEY

0118 926 6464

Association of Blind Piano Tuners

Rupert Landen Furniture Restorer

33 Grove Hill
Caversham

Reading RG4 8PN

(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>



WADS Autumn Production

"A Fly in the Ointment"

a farce by

Derek Benfield

produced by Terry Sopp

October 10th, 11th & 12th at 7.45p.m.

Woodcote Village Hall

an MP searching the house of his ex-mistress
rival of his virtuous wife at the same place and
a romantic Doctor. Throw in a frustrated
woman and a devious Pizza delivery boy and
the recipe for a riotous farce.

Adults £5 - concessions £4.50 OAPs & children
(not Saturday night)

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

Officiating Priest:

Reverend Father Peter Jefford
27 Ashlong Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 0NH
01865 760593

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.
0118 984 1262

Organist and Choirmaster:

Julian Oxley
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

Services for

September

1st September, 14th Sunday after Trinity

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

8th September, 15th 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

15th September, 16th Sunday after Trinity

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

22nd September, 17th 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

29th September, Michael and All Angels

St John's	8 a.m.	The Holy Communion
St Mary's	10 a.m.	Matins
St John's	4 p.m.	Family Service

6th October, Harvest Festival, St Mary's

13th October, Harvest Festival, St John's