

Good News From The Oakham Group

60p

May 2012



Jesus said:

**“Whatever you have done for one of the least of My
brethren you have done for me; (Matt. 25 40)”**

United Benefice of Oakham with Hambleton and Eggleton,
Braunston with Brooke and Langham with Ashwell.

Ministry is carried out by teams of clergy and laity working within, and on behalf of, the Christian communities in each of the Parishes.

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Asst. Priest:	Rev. Hildred Crowther	767779
Team Vicars:	Rev. Audrey Atkinson	723154
	Rev. Janet Tebby	
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Parish Nurse	Mrs Debbie Marsh	07919385314
Team Administrator:	Mrs Janine Weaver	724007
Oakham School:	Rev. Alexander Aldous	

We are delighted to share sacramental ministry with retired Priests who serve our Parishes, the Deanery and the Diocese in many ways.

Benefice Magazine

Editor: David Dyer, Culm House, 22,Nene Cres Oakham. Tel. 771564
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Hambleton:	Louise Everett	Braunston:	Mrs M E Dyer
Langham:		Brooke:	Mr.I Mc.Kelvey
Oakham:	Mrs A Austen	Eggleton:	Mr N Ashton.

Material to the Editor please by **the 15th of each month except July**. There is a pigeonhole for contributions in the Benefice office or you can email to the Editor. **Contributors who word process are asked to use Times New Roman and font 16. This will save us preparation time.**

Thanks for your Co-operation.

Lay Members of the Team in each Parish:

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	Mrs M Pattinson	723884
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PCC Treasurer:	Mr P Hill	724529
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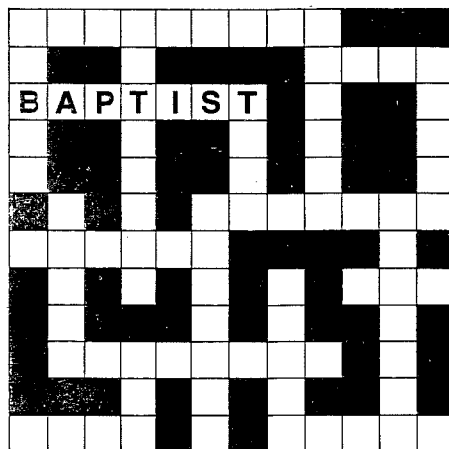
PCC Treasurer Mr A. Peel. 01664 474424

Please would PCC secretaries let the Editor know as soon as changes in any part of the above information are necessary.

You will
receive
POWER
when the
HOLY
SPIRIT
comes
upon
you



WORD-FIT



See if you can fit these words into their correct positions in the diagram. **BAPTIST** has been written in to help start the puzzle.

3 letters	5 letters	7 letters	9 letters
Ark	Babel	Baptist	Bethlehem
Ham	Moses	Lazarus	
	Right	Lebanon	
4 letters	Simon	Obadiah	
Amos	Vicar		
Kirk		8 letters	
Tyre	6 letters	Hittites	
	Martha	Shadrach	
	Novena		

Bungoma Update

First of all I want to thank everyone who gave money to support Gary & I on our recent trip to Bungoma. We received far more than we had expected and were able to give money to ensure that the HIV/Aids project was able to repair and restart their Posho mill, and also some money towards their ongoing jigger removal project. Gary & I were also able to stay in the Anglican Guesthouse in Nairobi rather than camp overnight at the airport, which we really appreciated. We have also had money left to go towards the long term project - the Frederick Kwata Mission Hospital. So thank you all very much, we were very touched by your generosity and can assure you that none of it has gone to waste. I'm sure there are some of you who are wondering 'what on earth is she going on about?', so for your benefit I will go back to the beginning...

Where is Bungoma?

Bungoma is a district in Western Kenya, just north of Lake Victoria and alongside the Ugandan border.

Why do we have a connection with Bungoma?

At the 1998 Lambeth Conference a friendship began between Ian, Bishop of Peterborough, & Eluid, Bishop of Bungoma. This personal friendship led to a link between the two Dioceses which continues to this day.

How did I end up getting involved?

The brief version - in 2006 I heard an extremely challenging speech by Stephen Lewis, AIDS envoy for the United Nations, in which he described the crisis in Africa where a whole generation of women had been decimated which, in turn, meant a whole generation of nurses. He also said that in England all we were doing was enticing what few nurses they had left to come and help to fill the increasing gaps in our own nursing services. I wrestled with the challenge to try and make a difference and ended up joining the Diocesan party visiting Bungoma in October 2006 to celebrate the 10year anniversary of the formation of their Diocese.

What happened next?

I was taken way beyond my comfort zones and found that in essence human beings are the same, it is just the circumstances in which we live that are different. I found myself caring for the people there more than I could ever have imagined and I found that there was a purpose and a plan in my being

there. I have since visited a further 7 times, completed 2 introductory Parish Nurse training courses, continue to support the nurses and nurse aides who have trained and to help them to develop their own support network and further training programme.

What is the HIV/AIDS programme mentioned earlier?

This official name for the group is SCHAA (Sugarbelt Care for HIV AIDS affected), it is based in an area called Nzoia which is in the heart of the sugar producing area. This area has a large migrant population and the incidence of HIV/AIDS is high. This also creates a large number of sick parents, especially mothers and also orphans. SCHAA is run by local Christians who are trying to provide practical help for those in need. They bought a Posho mill, a simple electric mill that grinds maize and other grain, and charge people for this grinding. The profit they make is used to produce bags of fortified flour and soya which they give to people suffering from AIDS/HIV to supplement their diets. In January I heard that the mill had broken and that they could not afford to fix it, the money that we gave them has been used to fix the mill and they are now able to produce the flour again. The following is from an email I received on 2nd April –

Sister Debbie,

We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We had promised to write to you as soon as our mill starts working after thorough repairs.

We really thank God for you and the Christians in your parish/Diocese for the grace he has accorded us because the mill is now working once more out of your prayers and financial support.

As you are aware, we were really stranded. We have tried attaching some video clips but they seem too big, but we hope to send them as soon as possible. We bought some drugs which we are also using for jitter removal. Therefore receive our heartfelt gratitude. Hoping to hear from you again.

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth Amunga and Washington Mwangi.

For. SCHAA C.B.O.

What is jigger removal?

Jiggers are parasites that live in soil and can burrow into the feet. The incidence of this problem is increased when people have no shoes and where floors or walls are just bare earth and not sealed. Earth floors and walls need sealing weekly with cow dung, if the coating of dung is not replaced regularly then it becomes cracked and provides a medium for the parasites to feed and breed. The jiggers burrow into the soles of the feet and cause such pain that it becomes impossible to walk, the only treatment is to soak the feet in a strong antiseptic agent and to cut the parasites out with a scalpel blade. In 2010 I went out with the group to a very poor family where all 7 children were badly infected, including the baby of 9 months who had them in her hands as well as her feet. It was a very humbling time and quite distressing as they had little or no analgesia for the children, and I was so impressed by the ladies who treated the children's feet and were also trying to educate the mother to care for her home. A few months after visiting I heard that the children were able to walk to school again and the mother, who was only in her early 20s (she had her first child at 12yrs old) was trying to keep the house clear of parasites.

What is the Frederick Kwata Mission Hospital?

The church led clinics are doing their best under difficult circumstances and with limited resources, some of them have been established for several years and the administration is not always as honest, or 'transparent' as it could be. The lack of knowledge has led to some clinics being run by uneducated committees and unintentionally employing unqualified nurses. There is a need for more clinics and particularly for clinics run under clear, ethical guidelines, and with good nursing care based on the Parish Nursing concepts of whole person healthcare. We are hoping to start a new clinic which can be a model, a beacon, for others to follow.

After various options were considered it was decided to use a piece of land that has been given to the Anglican Church in Bungoma by Frederick Kwata. He is 85years old and has no children so this will be a way for his name to continue after his death. The land is in a good position, close to the first new road to be built in the district since colonial times, close to

electricity and water supplies, and also, despite being in a fairly heavily populated area it is several miles from the nearest clinic. A retired government architect who is a lay member of the Bungoma Diocesan Synod has drawn up some plans which are currently going through approval (quite a longwinded system in Kenya). The plans are quite extensive but allow for the building to be undertaken in stages, and once the first stage is completed a simple clinic can be started.

What does the future hold?

I always felt that the vision was to build long lasting relationships that would provide mutual support. I hope to keep visiting Bungoma regularly for a long time to come to help then to spread the concept & practice of Parish Nursing and also to build & develop the clinic/hospital.

I have also built a close friendship with a headmaster of a school which has established a link with Catmose College. It was wonderful to go to the school this last time with Gary and spend some time with them. Gary enjoyed teaching outdoors and under a tree for the first time in 30 years of teaching (it was a routine idea for them!), and we were able to help them to complete a project to establish a permanent water supply for the school.

For every word I have written I could write so many more. I hope to produce a display with photos and more stories for the back of church and also to do a presentation for Rutland Deanery Synod, as it was agreed that the Deanery would support the Frederick Kwata Mission Hospital this year. Bishop Donald has also agreed that it is one of the 3 Bungoma projects that he is supporting as he chosen overseas charity for 2012.

How can you get involved?

Bishop Donald and 6 curates visited Bungoma in January and will be talking about his experiences and his plans for the future of the link at the annual Bungoma Day to be held this year on Saturday 12th May at Church House, St. Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave, Kettering. It will run 10am-2pm and there will be a Kenyan style lunch, cost £5, any profit will go to Bungoma. **If anyone would like to go please contact me, either through the Parish Office or mobile 07919 385314.**

Please pray for the people of Bungoma, for the link, especially for the two Bishops – Bishop Donald & Bishop George, and for the projects.

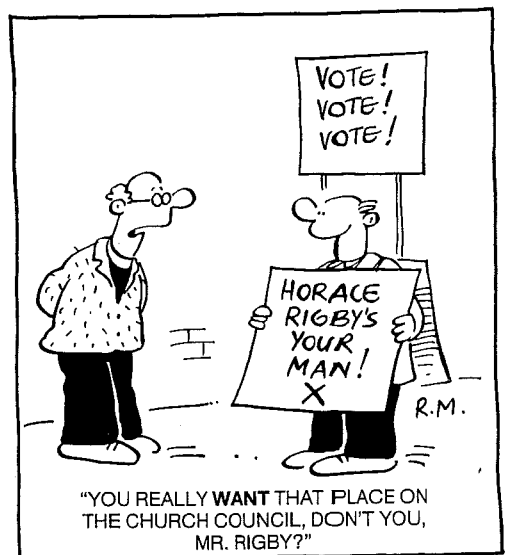
If anyone feels they would like to visit please contact me to discuss this further. I always feel it is better to visit with at least one other person, and at some point in the future, when the time is right, it is hoped that we can take a working party out to help with practical jobs at the clinic/hospital.

The first time I visited I was led to some verses from Hebrews which I believe expresses the heart of the link and are God's encouragement to us to keep the link going –

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 11:23-25

I give thanks for all that I have been blessed with through my daring to go beyond my comfort zones and to trust God. I feel I have a second home and a blessed extension to my Christian family. Thank you again for all the encouragement and support that you have given me and I pray that Bungoma continues to figure on our agenda and in our hearts for many, many years to come.

Debbie Marsh,
Parish Nurse, Reader



MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

At our April meeting we welcomed Social Policy Co-ordinator Kay Short who brought us up to date on the Bye Buy Childhood campaign introduced by MU in an effort to address the problem of the premature sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood. In a most informative power-point presentation Kay reported on the outcome of the Bailey Review, set up by the Government and led by our Chief Executive, and suggested ways in which we can continue to bring pressure on the media, retail outlets, etc. Certainly some progress has been made but Kay stressed the need for continuing vigilance, and anyone interested in our campaign should access the website www.parentport.org.uk on which comments, questions and complaints can be made. She also exhorted us to write to our MP's asking if they have read the report – and if not, why not?! Introduced by Kate Goodwin this most important meeting was well-presented and really eye-opening – some of the euphemistically-termed “inappropriateness” almost beggared belief. Once again we were most grateful to Kevin Slingsby for his willing help with the technical side of the afternoon.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 10th May at 2.15pm in the Church Hall**. We are devoting the meeting to The Olympics and Christians in Sport. Kate Goodwin has arranged for some of the “Olympic Ambassadors” children from school to give a short presentation on the five virtues represented by the Olympic rings. We hope too that members with a knowledge of or interest in any Christians in sport, or any Olympic-related memory will share them with us. Do come and support the children and learn about the Olympic ideal – non-members welcome too of course.

Continued ...

As mentioned in News last month many are concerned that the institution of marriage is under threat from political meddling and in the MU May/June magazine is an advertisement exhorting us to sign the "I do" petition, increasing the 70% of people who have already said "keep marriage as it is" / To sign this petition visit c4m.org.uk – remember MU members do not just say "something ought to be done" – we get on and do it! More than ever, we would be grateful for the support of any non-members who agree with our aims. So please consider accessing these two websites – or if you are not "online" have a word with a friend or relative who might be able to do it for you.

Last, but certainly not least, back to Easter Chicks! Many thanks are due to Viv Ufton for organising this campaign to raise funds for our MU charities. Final figures are not yet available but will be given at a later date, but we have been delighted with the success we have achieved and do thank most sincerely those who set to and knitted chickens, especially those who are not even members of MU! Thank you to everyone who supported us by buying the "little chicken and eggs". As mentioned last month we really are grateful for the support given to MU projects and to our meetings by non-members, and do urge you to continue. Our next project is to knit little hand-held teddies to be sold at Burley Road School summer fete, so if you're still willing to help, do ask Pamela or Viv for a pattern. Then of course there's always the 60 lambs needed for the two Advent Cribs which travel round the parish during Advent – so there's still lots to do for keen knitters everywhere! Barbara James

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How Do we Govern our Church?

It is abundantly clear in our church life that the way in which it is governed and managed is of interest to too few of us. There is insufficient challenge in the process of deciding who among our lay people should assist in the processes of decision making and action at the various levels of our church life. To be “elected” is to be supported and to feel a very real requirement to do your best. The process of election should also be the one that ensures that there is a steady flow of new faces and new ideas around the table. But elections, especially in rural parishes, are rare.

In the last few years I have been asked many questions which show that lack of interest is a result of lack of knowledge and of clarity about what is done, how it is done, when it is done and why it happens. I have answered as best I may but only on an individual basis. Among them have been?

- What is a Benefice and why does it exist?
- What is the PCC and why should I be interested in it?
- What is a Deanery? What does it do?
- This Deanery Synod report doesn't interest me because I don't understand the language. What does it mean?
- Why should Bishops, Priests and Lay people vote in houses?

Too often lack of desire to participate comes from lack of knowledge, misinformation or wrong interpretation and if we want to encourage new interest and a greater preparedness to “give it a go” there is an opportunity here to clear the air and a vehicle through which to do it. In a positive spirit I propose to write a series of articles which might help some to see that they can help and that the help is needed. I shall write them when the mag. is not full hoping to engender some healthy correspondence arising from them.

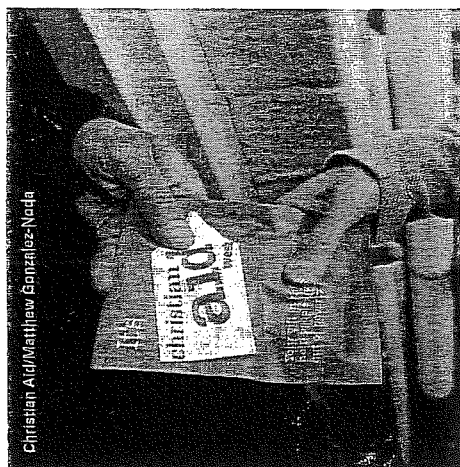
David Dyer

Editor.

LET'S GIVE THE TOOLS TO HELP PEOPLE IN POVERTY OUT OF POVERTY

POVERTY

Christian Aid Week: 13–19 May 2012



'We organise a one-off event each year, which involves the whole community; seeing everyone of all faiths and no faiths working together for one cause is very uplifting and raises a large amount of money at the end.'

Christian Aid Week volunteer

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection – an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice.

This year, Christian Aid Week tells the story of remarkable change taking place in a community in rural Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the hungriest countries in the world. But helped by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL), some people there have

found the tools to move beyond hunger and speak out for the changes they want to see.

Christian Aid currently works with 507 partner organisations in 47 countries around the world. From Sierra Leone to Tajikistan, from Kenya to Bolivia, we are helping communities to make their voices heard and look towards a brighter future.

We believe that poverty is a scandal and that it can be ended. Look out for local events and discover how you can get involved by contacting your Christian Aid Week representative, or by visiting caweek.org



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The power of standing together



Tenneh Keimbay stands with others in the food production group set up by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL). By working together, the farmers have become a powerful force for change

Christian Aid Week tells the story of a community in Sierra Leone that has seen remarkable change. Tenneh Keimbay's life turned around when the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL) started to work in her town, distributing tools and teaching farmers simple food production techniques. She talks enthusiastically about the difference this has made: 'Now the children eat two meals all year round, whereas before it was one. They are growing well; they don't cry around me because of hunger. They are happy to go to school because something is in their stomach.'

The benefits of regular food speak for themselves. But the effects of the food production group have been more wide-ranging than this. Tenneh speaks of the huge difference working in a group has made to her. Acting together, the farmers can share their skills and work more

efficiently. As she tells us, the bottom line is that 'the group work provides more food'.

Tenneh speaks of the support and the encouragement that the farmers give to each other, and how much can be achieved when the community comes together. 'What inspires me in life is unity,' she says. 'To me, unity means coming together to decide on one thing and take that forward.'

Now that they are no longer limited by hunger, the people of Gbap (pronounced Bap) have come together and successfully lobbied for a new school and an agricultural work centre for the community. The people of Gbap have taken their future into their own hands.

During Christian Aid Week, 15,000 churches across Britain and Ireland will organise

house-to-house collections and events to raise funds to enable organisations like MCSL to carry out their work transforming communities such as Gbap. Christian Aid currently works with 507 partners in 47 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, helping people to make change happen. Our donations will be multiplied many times over as many small actions come together to make a huge change. But the giving that takes place during Christian Aid Week is not one-way.

Unity is something that our churches are not always good at, and the value of community that has inspired Tenneh is something that we can learn from and be changed by. Christian Aid Week is about raising funds. But it is also a call to unity – an invitation for churches to come together and celebrate the possibility of hope and life in parts of the world where mere survival can be a struggle.

This is a challenge, because division and inequality and injustice will always be

easier than unity. But Tenneh's insistence that remarkable things can happen when we come together is not new. We see it in the actions and ministry of Jesus, who pushed against all that leads to violence and separation and called his disciples to model a new way of community.

Can we use this Christian Aid Week to allow ourselves to be changed? If we can work together, with each other, with our churches and with our neighbours both at home and as far away as Gbap, then we may start to see huge change happen.




Tenneh says that 'when you are a group and work with focus and total commitment, you work at a faster rate; the stronger ones can help with work that weaker ones cannot do by themselves'. As we engage in Christian Aid Week, we can rejoice as we stand together in solidarity. Although we might ask who is the strong and who is the weak – and who is actually giving to whom.

Be a part of Christian Aid Week this year: if, together, we take small actions we can give people like Tenneh the tools to make big change happen.

£6.50/€7.50 could buy a set of four hand tools for a farmer living in the town of Gbap.

£50/€57.50 could pay for advocacy training for two young people in a Kenyan slum, equipping them with the tools they need to pressure their government to provide essential services.

£123/€141.50 could buy a reclaimed aluminium greenhouse for women working on market gardening projects in Tajikistan, providing a vital tool for growing vegetables in a harsh climate experiencing extremes of hot and cold.



*All Saints' Church Braunston
Flower Festival
Dedication Service
June 15th 7.00pm*



*Organ Recital
Paul Butler 7.30pm*



*Tickets £5.00
to include refreshments*



*In Celebration of the
Queen's Diamond Jubilee*

The Bishop of Brixworth writes

A tale of two (more) cities

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. My favourite Dickens' novel is *A Tale of Two Cities* with its themes of love and redemption amidst evil and terror. His two cities are London and Paris, one a symbol of safety, the other of danger.



My two cities are places I visited on pilgrimage to Turkey; the magnificent Imperial capital of Constantinople and the great trading city of Ephesus. The early church flourished in both places but in very different circumstances. Ephesus was a busy trading centre in which Christians were a tiny minority gathering in homes. They were mostly tolerated and sometimes persecuted.

Constantinople was re-founded as part of the upheaval that followed the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to Christ in AD330. Then Christianity became the official state religion. The shorthand description of this period in history is "Christendom". Much of our pattern of church life in England originates from this time. However, many key thinkers across the churches believe that Christendom's days are numbered. One Catholic leader has said, "The traces of Constantine's church would seem to be fading and a new Constantinian turning point confronts us".

One possibility is that in the future the church will rediscover the "Ephesus" model. This might mean smaller, less formal groups growing through networks of relationships. The General Synod report *Mission-Shaped Church* drew attention to a wide variety of existing "Ephesian" churches which together involve as many members as some dioceses.

Another possibility, supported by Archbishop Rowan, is that the future will feature a mixture of both "Constantinople" and "Ephesus" style churches. I believe individual churches can also embrace both callings to mission. I am sure that there is a future for churches with long histories and wonderful buildings also offering new patterns of church life alongside their existing traditional worship. I recently discovered this challenge:

"The Church started out as a fellowship of men and women following Jesus Christ. Then it spread to Greece and became a Philosophy. Then it spread to Rome and became an Institution. Then it spread to the whole of Europe and became a Culture. Then it spread to the United States and became an Enterprise. Perhaps it's time to return to being a fellowship of men and women following Jesus Christ?"

Sixty graduate from Mission Shaped Ministry course

Bishop John joined Peter Hancock, Chair of the Methodist District, and Bishop Tim from Leicester Diocese, at a recent celebration for the sixty people who completed the Mission Shaped Ministry course.



The 18 month long course was organised as a collaboration between the Northampton Methodist District and Anglican Dioceses of Leicester and Peterborough. It ran over nine Saturdays in Market Harborough.

The course is designed for people involved in starting new forms of church (Fresh Expressions).

It will run again at the same venue, starting in September 2012. If you're involved in a café church or messy church, or are thinking of starting one, or would like to learn from new forms of church for your existing worshipping community, this course might be for you. For more information contact Miles Baker on 01604 887043.

May events

Mon 7, Organ recital, All Saints, Oakham, 11.15am. John Keys of St Mary's Nottingham. Collection. Lunches.

Sat 19 May-Sun 24 Jun, Reflection: Looking beneath the surface. Art and music installation at Peterborough Cathedral. Susan Haire, Stephen Dydo.

Sat 26, Music in Lyddington: Joglearesa. 7.30pm at St Andrew's, Lyddington LE15 9LN. Tickets £14 (on door £16, students £2). 01572 820017.

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Braunston News

Buns and Bonnets

Not the best of weather on Easter Monday Afternoon but for those who came there was great fun in the village hall and some healthy competition. The event was a fund raiser to help ensure a successful Jubilee Flower Festival on **June 16 and 17th**. Great thanks are due to everyone who helped and participated and the £125 raised will help to ensure a bright and beautiful Festival.

The May Fayre: Monday May 7th

The traditional offerings will all be there. Look out for the posters which tell the story of the events and activities and please respond to all those requests for help and support which are bound to come. Above all contact your friends and colleagues and join in and have a great day.

The Jubilee Flower Festival Saturday and Sunday June 16th and 17th

Will centre on the church and flower displays will focus on a selection of the many things that have happened during the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Supporting activities will give pleasure and fun to all ages. If you have an idea to link in with the week end or want to help in any way contact **Lynn Cooper on 771564**. Much more detail in the posters in this magazine and in our publicity.

WORD-FIT SOLUTION

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Flower Festival


*All Saints' Church Braunston
June 16th-17th
10.00am-5.00pm*



*In Celebration of the
Queen's Diamond Jubilee*



*Dedication Service and
Organ Recital 7.00pm
Paul Butler
Friday June 15th*



St Peter, Brooke

The 2012 APC meeting followed by the PCC meeting was held on 28th March at 6, Tay Close, Oakham and was attended by thirteen members, with three apologies.

The Rev. Audrey opened the meeting with a prayer and conducted the parish business. Various reports were received and accepted, amongst the items discussed were proposed repairs to some chest tombs in the churchyard and the launch of the Brooke Church Trail. This is to be held on Friday 15th June & the new High Sheriff of Rutland has accepted an invitation to attend.

The meeting closed at 9pm & the date of the next PCC meeting is Tues 24th July and this will be at Langham Vicarage.

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EGLETON NEWS



Palm Sunday brought to St. Edmund's an augmented congregation, all of whom received a palm-cross so as to respond to the Palm Sunday litany, acknowledging the eternal significance of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, to fulfill his role as Messiah and Saviour of the World: "Blessings on him who comes; Hosanna, in the highest!"

There was warm welcome for friends old and new: for **Ann & Courtney Pope** of Wells in Somerset, who married in St. Edmund's in recent years; and for **Alex and James**, eager to hear the Third Reading of the Banns of their marriage – coming shortly!

Easter Day's early risers, to join the Eucharist at Sunrise – on the day of His Resurrection – included St. Edmund's parishioners, **David and Shirley**. This rich, festival occasion, held in Hambleton, had a "swan song" flavour for David as he prepared to lay down his office as Churchwarden. He is awarded the handsome appreciation of the whole Parish for his fulfillment of the role, through seasons smooth and rough!

Both Shirley and David were present again, on "St. Edmund's home ground", intent on having part in the Festival Eucharist – at the respectable hour of 9.00 a.m. There too, as at dawn, was the **Revd. Audrey**, celebrating her first Easter in Eggleton – and elsewhere in the Oakham benefice – to the cordial endorsement of one and all!

St. Edmund's band of Marketers manned their **stall in Oakham market place** on April 14th, well supplied with their stock in trade – the cakes, preserves and plants – all of which had been grown or manufactured by Eggleton's parish gardeners and dessert-chefs! A handsome outcome to all their labours of love, yielded over £350 to the hungry coffers of the Parish Church.

The Church's **A.G.M.** was held on April 17th and re-appointed all other officers and members of the P.C.C. with cordial thanks.

In succession to David, **Sue Boulton** is the newly elected Churchwarden, the first lady in Eggleton's long-extended line of holders in this traditional august office. Our prayer-laden, good wishes will be following Sue.

Christian Aid Week is fixed for May 13th to 19th and Eggleston's residents will be invited to renew their response to this essential enterprise in universal goodwill and compassion. As Jesus forthrightly taught his disciples, "just as you did it to one of the least of these – the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner – you did it to me". Christian Aid Week advocates their cause, relentlessly.

Concerning **May-time**, William Blake penned these gracious lines, drawn from many more, expressing his overwhelming gratitude

"First the wild thyme and meadow-sweet, downy and soft,
Waving among the reeds, light springing on the air,
Lead the sweet dance;
They wake the honeysuckle sleeping on the oak,
The flaunting beauty revels along upon the wind;
The whitethorn, lovely MAY, opens her many lovely eyes;
Listening, the rose still sleeps – none dare to wake her:
Soon she bursts her crimson-curtained bed
And comes forth in the majesty of beauty;
Every tree and flower and herb soon fill the air
With an innumerable dance,
Yet all in order, sweet and lovely!"

Neville Ashton



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HAMBLETON NEWS

On Saturday 17th March a very successful Curry Quiz Night was held in the Village Hall. It was hosted by Nic Greenfield who returned to the village with a selection of questions on sport, musicals, general knowledge as well as a "Guess Who?" picture round. A vast selection of curries and puddings were all generously donated by members of the village. The evening raised £455 for the Church Roof Fund.

On Mothering Sunday, the 18th March, Rev Audrey Atkinson led a delightful Children's Service. Barnaby and Jeremy Harrington did readings of "I love you because I love you" and their little sister Elisha wore a top hat as 'Moomintroll' for Rev Audrey's reading. The Service was followed by refreshments including Miranda Hall's Simnel cake decorated with crystallized wild violets and primroses from the churchyard.

On Wednesday 21st March, villagers Susie Gibbeson and her son Guy, were invited to the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overy in Southwark to see The Venerable Dr Michael Ipgrave, Archdeacon of Southwark become Bishop of Woolwich in the Diocese of Southwark. Guy William Gibbeson was christened by Michael Ipgrave (in his first role as a very young curate of Hambleton) on a cold and snowy Sunday 20th January 1985.

On Easter Sunday, 8th April at 5.15am the Easter Dawn Liturgy took place in Hambleton this year with 70 people from all over the Benefice coming first to the Village Hall. In darkness with just two torches, Rev Lee Francis-Dehqani led the prayers interspersed with

four readings, first from the Creation followed by readings from Exodus, Isaiah and Ezekiel read by Jeremy Orme and Jennie Page.

All were given candles as they then processed in darkness to the Church. At the brazier at the church the Easter Candle was lit. Owls hooted and birds of the dawn chorus sang as all approached the church to light their own candles at the porch. Not until the Service reached the Resurrection were the rattles shaken and the church at last lit. As we all re-took our own Baptismal vows, holy water was sprinkled over the congregation by Rev Audrey Atkinson. Robert Naylor, Richard Foulkes and Jeremy Orme were the three sidesmen on duty.

The Communion silver used were Hambleton's own Elizabeth I chalice and their Charles II chalice, paten and flagon which are rarely seen all together.

After the service, breakfast was served to over 50 members of the congregation by Miranda, Julia, Jennie and Marge in the Village Hall. It really was a truly memorable event.

Open Gardens and Art Exhibition Bank Holiday Monday May 7th
10am – 5pm In aid of the Church and Village Hall. Country House, Cottage and Vegetable Gardens, Bluebell Woods, Tombola and Stalls. Entrance £5 Adult, Children and Parking Free. Refreshments all day in the Village Hall.

Louise Everett

Tea in the Garden

with music and plants



At
Archway House
42 Well Street, Langham

3.00 - 6pm

Sunday May 13th

Entrance £5 to include refreshments

All proceeds go to St Peter and St Paul Church, Langham

MUSIC AT ALL SAINTS' OAKHAM

Recitals by Oakham School soloists continue as follows:-

May

2 nd	<i>Violinists play Bartok Duos</i>	
9 th	<i>Elizabeth Bass</i>	<i>Harp</i>
	<i>with Richard Coxon</i>	<i>Tenor</i>
	<i>and String Ensemble</i>	
16 th	<i>George Wood</i>	<i>Tenor</i>
23 rd	<i>Vanessa White</i>	<i>Clarinet</i>
30 th	<i>Jessica & Philippa Elmer</i>	<i>Piano</i>

Lunchtime Recitals are at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesdays. All welcome.
Retiring collection for Church Funds. We look forward to seeing you.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY ORGAN RECITALS

Our thanks to *Jemima Stephenson* for an excellent recital on Easter Monday: also to *Helen and Alf Bush and helpers* for the tasty lunch.

Our next two Recitals are:

MONDAY, 7th May John Keys
(Director of Music, St. Mary's Church & University Organist, Nottingham)

MONDAY, 4th June Stephen Binnington
(Director, Farmington Music School, Port Regis, Dorset)

Organ Recitals are at 11.15 a.m. Retiring collection for Church Funds.
Lunches afterwards in our Church Hall - £5.

All welcome.

Kevin Slingsby
Tel: 07973 215 444

Christine Carlin
Tel: 722698

FROM OAKHAM CHURCH PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY MATRIMONY

14th April

James Donald Fisher and Deborah Elizabeth Jones

"We wish them every happiness"



BURIAL OFFICE IN CHURCH

19th March

Cyril Coleman

23rd March

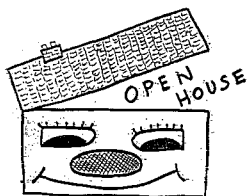
Leonard Arthur Rowell

5th April

Paul Bassett

"May they rest in peace"

OPEN HOUSE 2012



Tuesday, 15th May

at the home of

Rita & Paul Butler

20 Uppingham Road

All welcome

Between 10 a.m. and 12 noon

ASCENSION DAY

I am yesterday, today and tomorrow,
For I am born again and again.

I am he who comes forth as one who breaks through the door;
And everlasting is the daylight which His will has created.

ALL SAINTS' OAKHAM FLOWER GUILD



I am sure you will all agree with me that the flowers in church over Easter were lovely, but there is only so much the dedicated team can do. I am appealing for a couple more people who would volunteer to do the high altar pedestals, maybe once or twice a year. If anyone feels that they could help, please contact **Edwina King** on **01572 722796**.

I would also like to remind parishioners that the Annual Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Flower Guild will be held once again at **Joan Plester's house, 58 Ashwell Road, Oakham** on the **31st May, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon**. We hope that many of you will be able to come along and support the Flower Guild as this is our only fund raising event, and is essential to raise funds for the whole year.

Edwina King

OAKHAM CHURCH FLOWER GROUP

invite you to

A COFFEE MORNING & BRING & BUY

on

Thursday, 31st May

10 a.m. - 12 noon

at the home of

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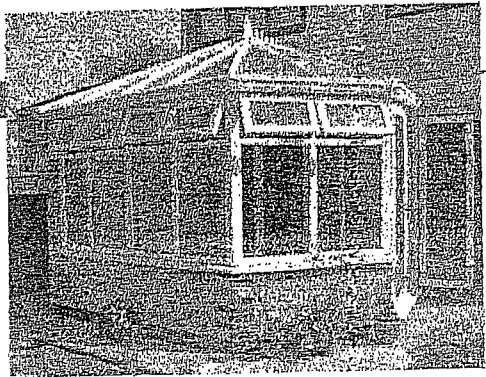
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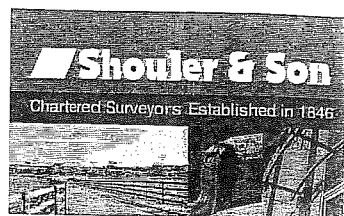
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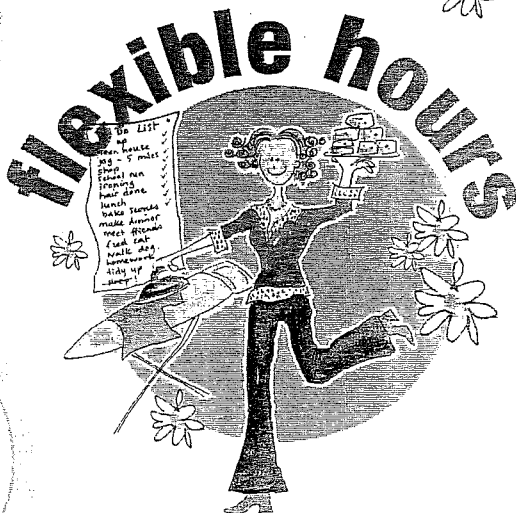
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Diary Dates May

Reg.	Date		
Mon.	t.t.o	2.00pm	Pram and Toddler Service All Saints Oakham
Tues		10.00am	Holy Communion All Saints Oakham
Wed		12 00	Service of Healing: Trinity Chapel All Saints.(1st Wed. onl
		1.30pm	Lunchtime Concert. All Saints Oakham.
Thur	t.t.o.	10.00am	Tiny Tots. All Saints Oakham
		12.15pm	CTO Prayer Meeting Trinity Chapel All Saints
Fri		10.00am	Holy Communion All Saints Oakham
Tues	1st		St Philip and St James
Sun	6th		Easter 5
Mon	7th	10.00am`	Braunston May Fayre: Full programme of activities and refreshments.
		10.00am	Open Gardens and Art Exhibition Hambleton
		11.15am	Organ Recital: All Saints Oakham: John Keys Lunch follows in the Church Hall.
Sun	13th		Easter 6: Christian Aid Week begins
		3.00pm	Tea in the Garden with Music and Plants Archway House: 42 Well Street Langham
Mon	14th		St Matthias
Tues	15th	10.00am	Open House: 20 Uppingham Road Oakham
Thur	17th		Ascension Day
Sat	19th		Christian Aid week ends
Sun	20th		Easter 7
Sun	27th		Pentecost
Thurs	31st	10.00am	All Saints Oakham Flower Group Coffee Morning 58 Ashwell Road.
June			
Sun	3rd		Trinity
Mon	4th	11.15am	Organ Recital All Saints Oakham: Stephen Binnington Lunch follows in the Church Hall
Tues	5th		Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday
Sat	16th	& Sun	Braunston Diamond Jubilee Flower Festival

Oakham Group of Parishes: Service Pattern

Times	Note	Week	8.00am	9.00am	10.30am	3.00pm	6.00pm
Church							
Oakham		1,2,4	HC (T)		FC(C)		EP
	1.	3	HC(T)		FC/FS		Ep(Ch)
Langham	2	1,3					WWR
		2					EP
		2&4			HC		
Hambleton		2 & 4		HC(T)			
Egleton		1 & 3		HC(T)			
Braunston		1			HC		
		2			Matins		
		3			HC		
		4			F.S		
Brooke		1& 3					EP
		2	BCP				
		4	HC.				
Ashwell	3	1		HC			
		2			FS		
		3		HC			
		4					EP
Market		1					EP
Overton		2		HC(T)			
		3			FS		
		4		HC(T)			
Teigh	3	1		BCP			
		2&3		BCP			
		4		M			
Whissendine	4	1 3 4			HC		
	4	2			FS		

BCP Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer

HC Holy Communion Common Worship Contemporary Lang.

HC(T) Holy Communion Common Worship Traditional Lang.

FS Family Service. Not a Communion Service

FC Family Communion

EP Evensong Book of Common Prayer

WWR World Worship and Response

Fifth Sundays are special arrangements often Benefice Services. See diary dates in those months. The above is the normal pattern but there are variations from time to time.

Table Notes:

1. **Oakham** Alternate months will be a Family service with or without communion.. On **odd months** there will be baptisms at 12, Noon.
2. **Langham** WWR is first Sunday only.
3. **Ashwell** Odd months only
- Teigh** Even months only
4. **Whissendine** All services are at 11am