

From the Vicarage

In the news recently was a small item about the murder of the Archbishop of Iraq. It was slotted in between two other items of the war and passed without much comment. Murder in that country is sadly an everyday occurrence. Yet behind the headline, which has already been forgotten by most people, is the reality of a very real persecution of Christians in that country. Already many thousands of Iraqi Christians have been forced to flee their homes and country in fear of their lives. We in the West find it difficult to understand how anyone can be threatened because of their religious belief.

Yet it was not always the case that religion was a matter of personal conscience. During the first three centuries after Christ, Rome tried to stamp out Christianity because it threatened the cult of the God Emperor. Many thousands of Christians met gruesome deaths because of their beliefs. Among these was a young man and former Roman Soldier who we know today as St. George.

Very little is known historically about George and much of the information we have is the result of stories carried back to this country by returning Crusader Knights. He was probably born in the Roman Province of Cappadocia, which is in modern Turkey, some time in the third century. His parents were probably Christian and brought George up in their faith. When George's father died his mother returned to her native Palestine. When he was old enough George joined the Roman Army and rose to the rank of Tribune which is roughly equivalent to the rank of Colonel today.

During the persecution of Christians during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian George resigned from the Army in protest but was arrested and forced to choose between the Official Religion of Rome and his own faith. Despite knowing the consequences of his actions George remained steadfast in his allegiance to Christ and was dragged through

the streets of Diospolis (modern day Lydda) and beheaded.

Many Myths and stories grew up about George perhaps because of his former association with the Army. It was not however until the Middle Ages that the story of the Dragon came about. From this time we get the popular image of St. George dressed as a knight with a white tabard bearing a red cross. He was declared Patron Saint at the Council of Oxford in 1222 and his day was fixed on the 23rd April. His cause was further advanced when William Caxton published a book called 'Golden Legends' in the 15th century.

So what can we learn from this obscure man who, like so many, died for his faith over 1700 years ago? Perhaps his character has much to commend it? When he was imprisoned he must have considered his options. All he was asked to do to prove his allegiance to Rome was to burn incense on a pagan altar, a meaningless act for many. How he must have been tempted just to go along with the authorities and save his own life. Yet he fought that Dragon of Temptation and stayed true to his beliefs. He was not prepared to lie in any circumstances. He had given his life to Christ and he remained true to his faith.

The life and death of St. George reminds us that while it may be easy to have faith when everything is going our way it is not easy when circumstances conspire against us. Unlike St. George we may not be required to risk our lives for Jesus but we are called upon to remain faithful when those around us treat us with scorn and indifference. When people taunt us and ridicule those things that we hold sacred. At these times we are reminded of the suffering of Jesus on the Cross and the taunts and jeers that he endured. The cost of following Jesus has never been easy which is why we have the symbol of the Cross on our Altars. It is there to remind us of what Jesus was prepared to suffer for our sake and what we may be called upon to endure for His.

May God Bless you all, David

Benefice News

Local Police Number

08453 30 2010

For all non-emergency calls

Teddies for Tragedies

Keep up the good work for all those children traumatised by conflict. If you would like to join in the scheme for knitting Teddies then please contact Janet McNicol who will be pleased to provide you with the necessary information.



Used postage stamps



These are collected and sent to various charities. Please trim the stamps leaving a narrow border of envelope. There are collecting bags at St. Bartholomew's, St. Luke's & St. Paul's Quarnford. The stamps represent a simple way for all of us to contribute to the welfare of others without cost to ourselves. Please collect your used stamps and put them in one of the church bags.

Fly Tipping and Litter

To report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council call
Freephone 08001693159

Deadline for the Magazine

All material should be delivered to Lynda by 20th March. Please send to Mrs. L. Bricklebank, Cottage of Content, Hollinsclough, Buxton, SK17 0RG
Telephone 01298 83541

or email lynda@coatetown.freeserve.co.uk

'ART FOR HEALTH' workshops at Longnor Church in the Balcony Room (stair access)
Come & relax, express your feelings in a free & informal art group led by local artist Ruby Hickmott

Activities include: Clay, Painting, Collage, Printing, Drawing

Monday afternoons: Next Sessions 7th & 14th April 2008 2.30pm - 4.30pm

If you are interested in joining this group for all or part of the sessions please contact Ruby on: 01335 390323

(Ideal for all ages & abilities, no previous experience necessary)

www.rubyhickmott.co.uk

**Paid box adverts at £2/month (£20/year) to be in all editions of the Parish Magazine.
Advertisements welcome.**

Dates for your diary - April

2nd History Live - Hollinsclough

16th Auditions - Longnor School

29th Trip to Hawes from Reapsmoor

May: 5th Oatfest - Hollinsclough

5th Open Day - Gradbach Chapel

18th Race for Life - see Sheen

Longnor Players announce Chitty auditions



Longnor Players are starting rehearsals for their next production, 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang', to be put on in October half term 2008. Anyone interested in performing or helping backstage is invited to attend the auditions on the afternoon of Sunday 13th April between 3 and 6pm in St Bartholomew's School in Longnor.

This version of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' has been specially written by Lizzie Nicholls in Longnor and will feature all the familiar characters from the 1968 film, including Caractacus Potts, Jeremy and Jemima, Truly Scrumptious, the Child Catcher and Baron and Baroness Bonhurst. It is a story of love and adventure, of good and evil and of a family in search of something missing - all brought together by a fantasmagorical car!

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was published as a book written by Ian Fleming in 1964, but is best known as the 1968 film starring Dick Van Dyke, with a screen play written by Roald Dahl. A stage show started in April 2002 at the London Palladium and ran until September 2005. It has most recently toured the world, with a finish in Bradford in early April. We will be very fortunate to see a short run by Longnor Players this October between the 30th October and 1st November. The unusual feature of Longnor Players' productions is that they include adults and children in the production, aiming to involve the whole community.

Longnor Players was formed just over 8 years ago and has performed a variety of productions since then, including pantomimes 'The True Tales of the Babes in Longnor Wood' (Feb 2000) and Cinderella (Feb 2005), an Evening of Variety (Sept 2000), Willy Russell's 'Our Day Out' (Oct 2000), a series of workshops, including dance, song, speech and circus work, culminating in a Workshow (October 2001), The Wizard of Oz (Feb 2002), a Mumming Play for a medieval re-enactment day at Pilsbury Castle (June 2002), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (May 2003) and most recently 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' (October 2007).

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is hoped to attract children (7 years and over) and adults (we particularly need a number of adult men) from all over the Staffordshire Moorlands areas to the auditions. So into your car and fly to the school in Longnor on Sunday 16th April at 3pm and find yourself in Vulgaria. If you can't make it and want further information, please call William Hurst 01298 84872 or Lizzie Nicholls 01298 83639.

Mobile Library

Quarnford/ Flash	Springhead Road Junction	10.20 - 10.35
	Flash School	10.45 - 11.30
	Travellers Rest	11.35 - 11.55
	Lower Summerhill	12.00 - 12.15
Hollinsclough	Chapel	12.25 - 12.55
Longnor	The Square	2.05 - 2.35
	Old Saw Mill	2.40- 2.45
Barrowmoor	Badgers Croft	2.55 - 3.05
Reapsmoor	Swallow Moss	3.25 - 3.30
	Park House	3.35 - 3.40

2008 Timetable

11th April, 25th April

Sheen	Dovefield	12.35 - 12.45
	Cross Cottage	1.55 - 2.05
	Ball Ridge Farm	2.10 - 2.20
	Woolaway	2.25 - 2.40

2008 Timetable

7th April, 21st April

Lichfield Diocese

Continuing a series of short articles on the organisation of the church this month we are looking at the Lichfield Diocese of which we are a part.

The Lichfield Diocese is the Church of England in the north West Midlands. It traces its roots back to AD 656 when the Diocese of Mercia was formed. In AD 664, Saint Chad moved the seat of the diocese to Lichfield from Repton. The city's name means "Field of the Dead" and is believed to stem from the slaughter of 1,000 Christians in the city at the hands of the Roman emperor Diocletian.

Lichfield has had a troubled past having been ravaged by the Vikings and laid siege to during the English Civil War. Over time the seat of the diocese was transferred to Chester, Coventry and then back to Lichfield in order to provide protection.

In Chad's time the diocese stretched from the Welsh border to the North Sea; and from Northumberland to the Thames. And, despite having shrunk somewhat over the years as bits and pieces were chopped off to form neighbouring dioceses, Lichfield remains one of the largest in the Church of England, serving a population of just under two-million people in 1,744 square miles. The Diocese has 583 churches and 427 parishes in Staffordshire, the northern half of Shropshire, Wolverhampton, Walsall, half of Sandwell and even three parishes which straddle the Welsh border. The diocese is headed up by the 98th Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill, and is served by 294 full time stipendiary (paid) clergy and an even larger number of non-stipendiary (volunteer) clergy and lay ministers.

Today, it enjoys missionary partnerships with the Dioceses of Kuching, Sabah and West Malaysia in South East Asia; the Diocese of Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan, Canada; the Diocese of Matlosane in South Africa; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg in north-east Germany.

A Vision for Growth for Lichfield Diocese 2008 - 2010

That we should fulfil our calling from God to be, together with all our partner churches, the good news of Christ's love made real for our part of the West Midlands and across the world.

That, with his grace, we can fulfil our calling from God to be his Church for the

world, creating and sustaining Christian communities in which

the poor hear good news
the prisoners are released
the stranger finds a welcome
the sick are healed
sinners are forgiven
enemies are reconciled
and love overcomes hate.

We build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets so that all can know that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

Strategy

Building on the 1990's document *Growing the Kingdom*, we reaffirm the "Four Primary Purposes":

Worship and Prayer

Evangelism and Outreach

Teaching and Nurture

Social Justice.

After a period of numerical decline, especially among children, we have agreed a strategy of "Going for Growth." This strategy is not a finished but a working document. The Diocesan Synod has unanimously agreed its successive drafts.

It is not about cold numbers but about health, life and relationships. We believe that healthy churches produce new disciples and fresh initiatives.

We look for growth in disciples, welcome for children and young people and transformation of communities.



Programme

Each parish, chaplaincy and network is called by God to be the church in its place, serving its community in a way that listens to it attentively respects its history and also looks for fresh and creative ways of commending the eternal good news of salvation.

The diocese and its travelling ministers are called

to sustain the morale of the clergy and lay leaders, by providing practical help and equipment,

to support all the churches,

to remind them of the four primary purposes, and

to encourage them to believe that they can grow again in all the ways that God opens to them.

For their part the diocesan ministers resolve to cut down on ministries, meetings and structures which are no longer necessary and to concentrate on growing the kingdom among us in response to God's love.

Prayer

Already there has been a large increase in giving over recent years, and the decline in numbers has slowed almost to a standstill. Fresh challenges have thrust themselves upon us, but we trust God will show us how to tackle them together as we wait on him.

We pray that the turn-around will continue and that our churches will open their doors to all those in an uncertain world who are searching for a Love that will not let them down but will lead to life in eternal abundance.

Attendance

In 2005, the latest year for which statistics are available, churches in the

diocese had an average weekly attendance of 39,700; of which 31,800 were on a Sunday.

In 2004, the average weekly attendance was 40,500; in 2003 it was 38,900; in 2002 it was 36,800; and in 2001, which had a much higher than average boost due to "Millennium bounce", it was 41,400.

These average attendance figures do not include Christmas and Easter when attendance is much higher - up to double that in an average week.

Baptisms

In 2004, the Diocese baptised 4,330 infants (under one year old) - over 18 per cent of births (plus 1,870 children and 360 adults). In addition there were 410 Thanksgivings.

In 2003, the Diocese baptised 4,320 infants (under one year old) - 19 per cent of live births (plus 1,640 children and 380 adults). In addition there were 380 Thanksgivings.

In 2002, the Diocese baptised 4,400 infants (under one year old) - over 20 per cent of live births (plus 1,760 children and 310 adults). In addition there were 400 Thanksgivings.

Confirmations

In the Church of England, Confirmation is the service at which people confirm for themselves the promises made for them at baptism and at which they publicly declare themselves to be Christian.

In 2004, 1,399 people were confirmed in 137 services

In 2003, 1,241 people were confirmed in 122 services

In 2002, 1,370 people were confirmed in 116 services

Education

The Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education is the second largest in the Church of England with 206 Church of England Schools. Of these, 47 are Voluntary Aided; 157 are Voluntary Controlled and two are Foundation Schools.

Some 44,000 children and young people are educated in Church of England schools in the diocese.

There are 196 Primary schools, six Middle schools and four Secondary schools in seven local education authority areas: Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall.

73 schools received Denominational Inspections (statutory inspection of anglican schools) in 2006/07 and 19% were judged "Outstanding", 60% "Good" and 21% "Satisfactory". No school was unsatisfactory.

On average, over the period 2003-06, in Key Stage 2 SATs results Church of England schools in the Diocese of Lichfield outperformed all schools in the seven relevant local authority areas by 8% (number of pupils achieving Level 4 (the expected level) in the three main curriculum areas (Literacy, Numeracy, Science)).

Longnor

St. Bartholomew's Church News



At our last PCC Meeting the council were given a copy of our Quinquennial Report which I am pleased to report contained no nasty surprises.

At our next regular meeting we will discuss a list of prioritised jobs together with their likely costs and produce an Action Plan for the necessary repairs. Our Lightning Conductor has been checked and passed but we have failed our electrical test and urgent repairs will be necessary for us to gain the required certificate. These are now in hand.

Despite the bad weather our Easter services went well and the church looked wonderful with nearly 1000 daffodils arranged this year in baskets around the church with two pedestal displays in front of the Sanctuary. We are all very grateful to the Ladies who turned up on Easter Saturday to arrange our displays.

The Hymns among the Daffodils was once again a great success with over £80 raised for church funds. Our thanks go to Joyce and Norma for playing for us. We all enjoyed singing along to our favourite hymns while enjoying tea and refreshments.

This year we have over 200 people remembered in church and thanks to the generosity of those who sponsored them we will have made over £150 for church funds. This represents a very important contribution to church funds at a time when we are struggling to pay our way.

As you know in last month's magazine was printed a gift aid application form. Since

then the Government has extended the 22% reclaim level despite the drop in income tax to 20%. This will be available to us for the next three years. Our thanks go to the one person who has so far returned a completed form. The more people who are prepared to gift aid their donations the more money we will be able to get back for the church.

Coffee Morning

Thanks to stallholders and all who attended. We raised £148.

Good Wishes

to Linda Mellor after her operation and to Archie Allen

Raffle Results

1 st	Sue Storer	Toiletries
2 nd	Norma Twigg	Plants
3 rd	Jane Lownds	Chocolates
4 th	Nanette Riley	Wine
5 th	Jane Lowndes	Chocolates
6 th	Carol Gould	Wine
7 th	June Higton	Quality Street
8 th	Amy Gibbs	Ferrero Rocher
9 th	Helen Critchlow	Wine
10 th	Dorothy Oliver	Glasses



97th Birthday
Happy Birthday to Alice
Ann Wood

Easter Monday Raffle

Easter Bunny - Sarah Vernon
Roses chocolates - Maureen Wain
Lavender Set - Olive Wain
Bottle - Helen Grimshaw
Chocolates - Jessie Etches
Jaffa Cakes - Brenda Davis

Correction

I must apologise for getting a name wrong in last month's magazine. I inadvertently put Janet Dunn when, of course, it should have been Judith.

Lynda

Longnor Luncheon Club

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Cheshire Cheese from 11.30 until about 2.30. We start with tea or coffee and biscuits followed by a speaker, a sing-song or a quiz or some other entertainment. We then have a cooked meal and a sweet and yet more tea or coffee. We have a raffle, a Table Top sale and also a lending library.

The cost is £6 and everyone is welcome.

On April 9th Brian and Lorraine Hawkins are showing us their holiday slides.

There will be no meeting on April 23rd as we are going on an outing with Alstonefield Friendship club.

Please come along and join us.

We are also in need of volunteers to help out.

For more information ring Margaret Massey. Tel 01298 84423

Minutes of Longnor Action Group meeting

Wednesday 12 March 2008

PRESENT: Gaynor Parkinson, Sam Kidd, Peter Baker, John Duncan, John & Debbie O'Neil

CHAIR: Sam Kidd

APOLOGIES: David Nicol

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

CHURCH CLOCK

Moved to April meeting due to David being absent

FUNDING APPLICATION FOR TABLES

Moved to April meeting due to David being absent

MARQUEE

The parish council advised in writing that it would be impractical for them to take ownership. The following action was decided:-

- Peter to contact possible businesses who may be interested in purchasing the marquee
- Gaynor to provide Peter with contact details for Rudyard League of Friends and other possible groups in the SRB5 area.

CONSTITUTION

It was decided by the group that the aims and objectives of the group are still reflected in the current constitution, however the document needs to be updated in line with current requirements.

- Up dated constitution to be agreed at the April meeting.

NEW PROJECT IDEAS

Peter suggested an idea to further enhance the village by purchasing planters to be positioned in appropriate areas around the village.

- Sam to look into getting permission for this type of project
- Peter to look at costings
- Gaynor to source appropriate funding possibilities.

TREASURER

John Duncan resigned as treasurer due to moving out of the area. John's help and support will be greatly missed by the action group and they thank him for all his hard work and support over the years. The group also wish John and his family well in their new home.

John has reconciled the accounts against the statement up to the 21 December 2007. Up to the end of February 2008 the balance on account was £3922, the group agreed to donate £1000 to the school playground.

This vacant position has been filled by Peter Baker and the group are grateful to him for volunteering.

Peter does not have access to a computer and it was suggested that perhaps a grant towards the purchase of a laptop could be investigated.

- Gaynor to source appropriate funding possibilities.

WEBSITE

John suggested that the group needed to consider and discuss the future of the website as it is not greatly utilised and costs £58.75 per year to maintain.

LEAFLET UPDATE

The Longnor leaflet needs to be updated and local businesses contacted again to gauge interest.

- Debbie will contact the printer for a quote.
- Gaynor to source any appropriate funding possibilities.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- All meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Balcony Room
- Please feel free to join us at any of our meetings, whether you have attended before or not.
- Contact details for Gaynor Parkinson of Staffordshire Moorlands CVS 01538381356
gaynorparkinson@smcvs.co.uk

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9 April 2008 7.30pm

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me, and always she was correct. But it was fun for me, so I continued. At last she headed for the door, saying sagely, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these yourself!"

Reapsmoor

St. John's Church News



As you know in last month's magazine was printed a gift aid application form. Since then the Government has extended the 22% reclaim level despite the drop in income tax to 20%. This will be available to us for the next three years. The more people who are prepared to gift aid their donations the more money we will be able to get back for the church.

DAY TRIP FROM REAPSMOOR
 TUESDAY 29TH APRIL
 WE ARE GOING INTO THE
 YORKSHIRE DALES TO
 THE WENSLEYDALE
 CREAMERY AND THE MARKET
 TOWN OF HAWES.
 LIKE TO JOIN US?
 TEL MARGARET MASSEY
 01298 84423
 £12

Quarnford

St. Paul's Church News



On Maundy Thursday we said good bye to Mrs Kincey, our Head teacher, who has left Flash School to take up a post in

Mosley. The school arranged a fun afternoon as the Governors presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Mrs Griffiths will be acting Head teacher while the Governors look for a replacement. I would ask for your prayers in this matter as well as for the school which needs to recruit more pupils if it is to remain viable.

If you have read 'Your Leek Paper' recently you may have seen a picture of the church together with an article about the roof. This has given us good publicity and we hope will boost our fund raising efforts to pay for the necessary repairs. We hope soon to arrange a site meeting with our architect to go through what needs to be done to repair the building. Once we have

a rough estimate of the cost we will start our fund raising in earnest.

As you know in last month's magazine was printed a gift aid application form. Since then the Government has extended the 22% reclaim level despite the drop in income tax to 20%. This will be available to us for the next three years. The more people who are prepared to gift aid their donations the more money we will be able to get back for the church.

Quarnford Quest

Winners for March are:

1st No. 45 L Bricklebank £16

2nd No. 58 E.A. Ridgeway £10

3rd No. 55 J. Corbishley £9

Thank you to all our 70 members

**Membership forms are available in church, Flash Bar Stores or from Janet
 Tel: 01298 812053**

Flower Festival 2008

At the P.C.C. meeting on 22nd February the results of the questionnaire were counted and we were delighted to have received 28 offers of help. These range from sponsorship to baking and serving refreshments, as well as flower arranging. It is not too late to volunteer and everyone's contribution is valuable. The Flower Festival will take place between 14th and 17th June. A BIG Thank You to everyone who responded to our plea for help. All volunteers will be contacted nearer to the date of the festival.

Congratulations



To Katie Andrew of
Chapel en le Frith and
Matthew Eckert of Lower
House Farm, Quarnford on
their engagement
16th March

Oxfam unwrapped appeal

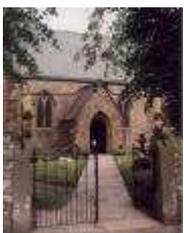
A big thank you from Anne and Jenny at Moss End to everyone who came to the spring sale at Flash Village Hall on Saturday 15th March, and to Tabitha Green and Carol who helped out in the kitchen. We made an impressive £184.00 from the refreshments and Bric-a-Brac, which brings us only £550 short of the £1.872 needed to fund the building of a classroom with lights, desks, chairs, blackboards and safe water. We also plan to train and kit out a teacher with teaching guides and stationery, textbooks, 200 school dinners and a girls welfare club. With all the money raised, we can help a desperate community in a third world country overcome poverty for themselves.

For more information on this exiting concept and how you could help, visit:

www.oxfamunwrapped.com

Sheen

St. Luke's Church News



The Vicar, Church Wardens and Treasurer met with the Architect last month and drew up a provisional list of essential repairs following our Quinquennial Inspection. It is hoped

that within the next six months we will have obtained the necessary permission to have the work completed. We have had the Lightning Conductor tested and it was passed. The same applies to the electrics and we now have the required safety certificate. Plans are in hand to repair the paths around the church and to construct a path into the new churchyard.

As you know in last month's magazine was printed a gift aid application form. Since then the Government has extended the 22% reclaim level despite the drop in income tax to 20%. This will be available to us for the next three years. The more people who are prepared to gift aid their donations the more money we will be able to get back for the church.

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone that gave me presents, cards and donations in lieu to the County Air Ambulance Fund for my birthday which raised £400.

Thank you,
M. Belfield

Motor Neurone Disease

Margaret would like to thank everyone who donated or sponsored the walk. £1,517.20 was raised.

Thank you once again, Margaret Cope

Post Office Openings in Sheen

Sheen Post office opens as normal Monday mornings 9am onwards.

Cancer Research UK - Race for Life

Many thousands of people and families are cruelly devastated by this disease, and last year 2 members of our close family were diagnosed with Cancer, both only in their forties. We have stood by helplessly watching and trying to give support. On May 18th 2008 we will be taking part in the Race for Life at Bakewell Showground to help raise money for Cancer Research UK to fund it's life-saving work into preventing, treating and diagnosing cancer. We do hope that as many people as possible will be able to sponsor us, this can be done through our fundraising pages online at:

www.raceforlifesporsorme.org/helencritchlow1
or

www.raceforlifesporsorme.org/jennyhurst

We also have a donation collection point at the Craft Centre in Longnor.

Many thanks for your support - together we will beat cancer.

Helen Critchlow & Jenny Hurst.

March's One Hundred Club Results

1 st No 49	Richard Austin	£20
2 nd No 90	Christine Webster	£15
3 rd No 53	Ronald Blackhurst	£10
4 th No 12	Heather Stubbs	£7
5 th No 3	Janet Belfield	£5.50
6 th No 94	David Critchlow	£4

Thank you, to all 123 Members

Donations - Thank you to Jo and Pam Critchlow and one Anon for their donations

PCC Meeting - 7th April at 4pm in Church.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

Flower Festival Meeting - 15th April at 7.30pm in Church. We need as many volunteers as possible. Please come along and join in.

New Flower List - is now in church.

Village Hall Meeting - 14th April at 8pm in Sheen Village Hall.

Anybody is welcome to the meetings.

Whist Drive - 18th April at 8pm in Sheen Village Hall. All profit goes to St Luke's Church. March Whist Drive made £72 Profit.

Aerobics Class - Come and get in shape for Summer.



Thursday night from 7pm. First time free and after that £2.50 per session in Sheen Village Hall. For more

information contact Pam 84809 or Julie 84507. All you need is loose fitting clothing, pair of trainers and a bottle of still water.

Crochet Dates - Thursday 3rd April 1pm to 3pm in Sheen Village Hall.

Sheen WI - March meeting is on Thursday 24th in Sheen Village Hall at 2pm please feel free to join us. We have guest speakers and refreshments are served.

Hollinsclough

News from Hollinsclough School



Last year the juniors helped the Peak District National Park Authority obtain funding to renovate a

local area. In appreciation of this support, earlier this month, the children were treated to an afternoon of activities at High Edge Woodland. This included stone walling, tree planting and watching the tree surgeons at work. They also helped to put up nest boxes for the birds.

Year 6 pupils had a really enjoyable time at Crucial Crew 2008. This invaluable event run by the police, medical, fire and other agencies showed the children how to stay safe in numerous situations. Crawling through the smoke filled building, recognising how to stop a gas explosion and understanding that large vehicles have blind spots were just a few of the topics covered.

In support of Sports Relief the children came to school dressed in sporting gear. As well as having lots of horse riders and footballers we also had cheer leaders and dancers.

The children have participated in movement, music and dance lessons around the theme of the seaside with the boys particularly enjoying the surfing USA style. They are now going to prepare and edit a film presentation to show to visitors at our end of term concert.

Our Easter service was held at St. Bartholomew's, Longnor. All the juniors took an active part in writing prayers and organising the order of worship. There were also two recitals from the recorder and bell groups.

Due to the bad weather we were forced to hold our Easter Egg Hunt inside the school. All the children participated searching all around the building for their chocolate treats. Finders of the hard boiled eggs won the main prizes of large chocolate eggs.

June Wherry, Headteacher

Oatfest

**Bank Holiday Monday
May 5th**

**Everything oatcake
related**



Fun for all the family

Stalls, demos and activities

**Ideas and volunteers needed, please
contact Victoria 01298 83721**

**Home produce needed, please get in
touch with Lynda 01298 83541 or
Betty 01298 83307**

Hollinsclough Action Group

The next meeting is Monday April 14th in the Chapel Hall at 7.30pm. If you can help at the Oatfest please come along.

Camels - one hump or two?

There are two main types of camel - one has one hump and the other two. What's the best way of remembering which is which? Who knows, it might be a vital piece of knowledge to you, one day.

A Bactrian camel's back is shaped like the letter B - it has two humps

A Dromedary's back is shaped like the letter D - it has one hump

Thanks to Penny Ward

History Live

Wednesday April 2nd

We end the season at History Live on a high note when the ever-entertaining Raymond Rush returns with

'Crimes and Punishment; How they suffered and others enjoyed it'

Everyone Welcome!

We meet at 7.30pm in Hollinsclough Chapel Hall and our famous refreshments are included in the admission price.

Call Sue 01298 83269 with any queries

Hollinsclough Chapel

Services for April

6th Colin Smith HC

13th Mrs Audrey Getliffe

20th Colin Smith

27th At Earl Sterndale All at 2.30pm



Newtown

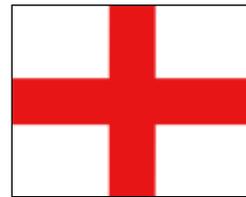
St. Paul's Church News

As you know, in last month's magazine was printed a gift aid application form. Since then



the Government has extended the 22% reclaim level despite the drop in income tax to 20%. This will be available to us for the next three years. The more people who are prepared to gift aid their donations the more money we will be able to get back for the church.

Interesting Facts



- Despite the fact that St. George has been the patron saint of England since the 14th century, only one in five people know that St. George's Day falls on April 23rd.
- More than a quarter of people living in England do not even know who their patron saint is!
- Shakespeare was born on April 23rd, 1564 and he died on the same day in 1616.

Gradbach Chapel

Services for April

6th Rev Simon
Sutcliffe 2.30pm

13th Sunday School
10.30am

20th D Harley
2.30pm

27th Rev Simon Sutcliffe Sunday School
Anniversary 11.00am



Open Day
Bank Holiday Monday
May 5th
10am - 4pm
Local Crafts and
Displays

From the Readership

April Fool

Whistling Carrots

In 2002 the British supermarket chain Tesco published an advertisement in *The Sun* announcing the successful development of a genetically modified 'whistling carrot.' The ad explained that the carrots had been specially engineered to grow with tapered airholes in their side. When fully cooked, these airholes caused the vegetable to whistle.



Big Ben Goes Digital

In 1980 the BBC reported that Big Ben, in order to keep up with the times, was going to be given a digital readout. It received a huge response from listeners protesting the change. The BBC Japanese service also announced that the clock hands would be sold to the first four listeners to contact them, and one Japanese seaman in the mid-Atlantic immediately radioed in a bid.



One-way Highway

In 1991 the *London Times* announced that the Department of Transport had finalized a plan to ease congestion on the M25, the circular highway surrounding London. The capacity of the road would be doubled by making the traffic on both carriageways travel in the same direction. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the traffic would travel clockwise; while on Tuesdays and Thursdays it would travel anti-clockwise. The plan would not operate on weekends. It was said that the scheme was almost certain to meet with the cabinet's approval, despite voices of protest coming from some quarters. One of the protestors included a spokesman for Labour Transport who reportedly warned that "Many drivers already have trouble telling their left from their right." Also, a resident of Swanley, Kent was quoted as saying, "Villagers use the motorway to make shopping trips to Orpington. On some days this will be a journey of two miles, and on others a journey of 117 miles. The scheme is lunatic." Thankfully, the scheme existed only in the minds of the writers at the *Times*.

Greenfingers Landscapes Buxton

Telephone Philip or Dawn on 01298
79402(Answer phone)

For all your gardening requirements.

Garden Maintenance Service

Landscaping and Full Planting
Service

Conservation Tree and

Wildflower Planting

Based at Knotbury,

Quarnford

Established 1985



ALL SEASONS GARDEN & PET FOOD SUPPLIES



BROWNSPIT FARM, LONGNOR

01298 83241

Specialising in small & large quantities of wild bird
feeds.

Horse feeds & bedding

Stockists of Dr John dog food & Gem

Composts and decorative barks.

Also in stock dog kennels, rabbit hutches & other
pet foods.

Potatoes also in stock

NOW STOCKING CALOR GAS

All at very competitive prices.

CHIMNEY SWEEP

Sam Eldershaw

For a Clean, Professional Service
Call "SAM THE SWEEP"

T: 01298 213359

M: 07743 874 645

Fully Insured



NICK LUCKING
PAINTING AND
DECORATING
LOCAL MAN
FROM SHEEN

TELEPHONE 01298 84638 MOBILE
07969 828376



From the Diocese

Chancellor gives charities three year Gift-Aid relief

In his Budget this week, the Chancellor Alistair Darling announced a transitional relief scheme which will help all charities cope with the expected reduction in funding caused by the reduction of Basic Rate Income Tax from next month. The three-year scheme means that in addition to reclaiming the tax back, churches and other charities will also receive a bonus top-up effectively restoring the amount reclaimed back to 28.2 per cent. The government have also announced a new regime for auditing Gift Aid claims.

The Chancellor's announcement means that the "Gift It Back" campaign announced in the current issue of Spotlight is no longer needed. The diocese has responded to the Chancellor's announcement and you can see this online at lichfield.anglican.org/news.

The diocese is seeking further clarification on the new rules and procedures and will disseminate information to parishes through the Bulletin, Gift Aid Officers, Treasurers and Parish Giving Officers. If necessary, a training day will be held in May.

Environment and mission on Synod agenda as bishop challenges perception of Stoke as a "failed city"

Every church in the Diocese of Lichfield could be asked to work out and implement an environmental strategy for its buildings, land and activities if a motion from the Bishop of Shrewsbury is passed by members of the Lichfield Diocesan Synod on Saturday.

The first of three meetings planned for 2008 will be held at the Cobridge Community Centre in Stoke-on-Trent following a request from Bishop Jonathan for the Synod to meet in less affluent areas than it has done previously. Cobridge is in an area which is within the top five most deprived areas of England. Jonathan Gledhill says: "It is very important for me and my colleagues who make decisions about resources to see what it is like in various different types of churches. In the past we have met in the same few venues

and we need to move around the diocese more than we have done."

Bishop Jonathan will deliver a Presidential Address to the Synod in which he will challenge the perception of Stoke as a "failed city."

The Synod will then debate the environmental motion before a presentation from Robert Mountford of the Stoke-based City Vision Ministries, "Putting the future into the past - the correlation between history, culture and the coming of the Kingdom of God." The presentation will explore how understanding an area's economic, social, cultural, political and spiritual past and present can help the church plan effectively for its future mission.

Members of the press and public are entitled to attend Diocesan Synod meetings as observers, but only members may speak and vote.

Quiet Day to explore vocations

The diocese's vocations department is running a 'More to My Life?' Quiet Day on Saturday 28th June at The Smeltings, Great Gate, Staffordshire Moorlands; and on Saturday 13th September at Shallowford House. These are guided quiet days with addresses, resources for personal reflection and time to pray about the way God may be calling you to serve him. Vocational literature and information will also be available. The days will be led by the Revd Deborah Sheridan, the

vocational education officer, and costs £17.00 - to include a light lunch. For more information or to reserve a place, please contact Sue Jackson at the vocations office tel: 01543 - 306220. or by e-mail: sue.jackson@lichfied.anglican.org

Lichfield Diocesan Lay Conference

The lay conference, a joint initiative from Lichfield Diocese and the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury and Methodist District, will hold a day conference at the Cardinal Griffin High School in Cannock on Saturday 4th October from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

"Cascades of Grace - Discipleship in an Uncertain World" will be a time to explore what the life of faith means today and will be led by Ann Morisy,

The community theologian and author.

The day aims to challenge participants away from safety; discover how scripture enables us to face that challenge; and enable, encourage and energise us to live a life of faith

Ann Morisy has extensive experience of community ministry and has worked in both rural and urban contexts. Her experience has involved social action, neighbourhood renewal and, until recently, she was Director of the Commission on Urban Life and Faith. She is a well regarded speaker on mission and community ministry as well as on urban issues and ageing. She is also the author of two best selling books, *Beyond the Good Samaritan* (1997) and *Journeying Out: A New Approach to Mission* (2004). Her presentations are always down to earth but informed by

scholarship, urban policy and honesty.

The conference is run by lay Anglicans and Methodists primarily for lay Christians, but ordained people and members of other denominations or none are most welcome to attend. The day conference costs £15 per person, to include lunch and morning/afternoon refreshments.

Further details, and bookings forms are available from Paul Lewis, Millstone Cottage, 9 Vineyard Road, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7LE; or by e-mail foodforthejourney@gmail.com or tel: 01952 - 820135

Stoke Archdeaconry Visitations

The dates for the Visitations in the Archdeaconry of Stoke-on-Trent have been confirmed.

They are as follows:

Alstonefield & Leek

Tue 6th May - Bradnop (Centre of village)
Stoke North

Wed 7th May - Goldenhill St John the Evangelist

(Registration in Community Centre - Deanery Eucharist in Church)

Eccleshall

Thur 8th May - Seighford St Chad
Stafford

Mon 12th May - Rickerscote St Peter
Stoke

Tue 13th May - Blurton St Bartholomew
Newcastle

Wed 14th May - Westlands St Andrew
Tutbury

Mon 19th May - Burton All Saints
Uttoxeter

Tue 20th May - Uttoxeter St Mary
Cheadle

Wed 21st May - Weston Coyney St Andrew
Stone

Thur 22nd May - Tittensor St Luke

Registration starts at 6.45pm and the
service begins at 7.30pm.

Snippets

- Worship leader Doug Horley will be running an afternoon seminar for young people's workers (cost £5 per head), followed by a FREE evening praise party for children at St George's Church in Glascote, Tamworth, on Saturday 19th April. Places for both events are limited and must be booked in advance. Booking forms can be downloaded from stgeorges-glascote.org.uk; and further information is available from Karen Gopsill by e-mail: karen.gopsill@innovex.com or tel: 07964 838238.
- Entries for this year's Churchyard Award Scheme need to be sent to David Ashton by the 31st March. Entry forms can be obtained by calling David on 01785 664877. They should be returned to 198 Main Road, Milford, Stafford ST17 0UN.
- The Institute of British Organ Building and the Council for the Care of Churches has produced an information leaflet to help parishes seeking to acquire, dispose or relocate an organ. The guidance also includes advice on

advertising the availability of redundant organs. The guidance can be downloaded free of charge from the Churchcare website: churchcare.co.uk.

- The Churchcare site also has a new set of 23 funding guides developed by the national stewardship committee of the Church of England. The guides cover all stages of a funding appeal, from initial planning to the evaluation afterwards, and include guidance on funding sources, applications, budgeting, business plans, Gift Aid and fundraising events. The Churchcare website is at churchcare.co.uk.
- The Gospel of John is to be performed at Lichfield Cathedral by the Atlanta-based actor Brad Sherrill. The one-man live performance of the Gospel of John in its entirety has been performed nearly 500 times in churches, Cathedrals and theaters across the US, Canada and the UK since its premiere in 2000. The performance starts at 7.30pm on 4th April. Admission is free. A collection will be taken.
- Prom Praise returns to the Victoria Hall, Hanley on Saturday 4th October. If you know of someone who would be willing to be a ticket contact for your church to encourage and co-ordinate ticket sales then please contact Chris Gill by e-mail: chris.gill@tesco.net or Paul Emery on 01782 614911

History Notes

Alstonfield Deanery Magazine
April 1918



LONGNOR ALLOTMENTS.

Our soldiers have each received a gift of 12s. 6d. as a reminder that they are not forgotten by the folks at home. and many are the nice letters received by Mr. J. H. Boulton, our Secretary, with their appreciative thanks. One writes from hospital, three from Egypt, many from France, Salonika, N. and S. England, etc., from land and sea. Wherever they are we still wish them well, and everyone feels it a pleasure to have done something for them.

This past month the usual ill effects of the change of season has laid by many, some with slight illness and some more serious. A short illness which speedily brought pneumonia, led to the most sudden death - in 3 days—of a bright, young life. Alice Ann Wood was laid to rest on Friday, 15th inst. May God rest her soul. Beyond this life there is a Heaven fair, youth is there. By the Saviour's merit many are privileged to enter. Some we trust called from earthly toil, others through War's strife One such

we shall miss too—Pte. Wilfrid Tunnicliffe, buried in France this last month. Our sympathy goes out to the bereaved relatives. It is by the path of Faith and Service and duty for our God, and for our Country we can best follow His steps and win His blessed reward and rest.

Copy of letter received by Wilfred Tunnicliffe's mother from the Captain of his Company

Dear Madam,

I am writing you to express my deep sympathy for you in your great loss.

Your son was killed by a shell bursting on his dug-out, and I know it will be some relief to you to know that death was instantaneous.

We were able to bring him back, and he lies now in a British Cemetery alongside other heroes who have given their lives.

I regret I have been unable to write earlier. The loss of your son will be deeply felt in the Company, where he was always popular and cheery.

Yours sincerely

R.H.T. Turner

Captain of "C" Company

BAPTISMS

Feb 26th Phyllis Mary, daughter of Geo. James and Margaret Ann Oliver of Boosely

Grange, Longnor

Mar. 10 Mabel, daughter of Clement Valentine and Annie Mellor, Schoolclough, Longnor

BURIALS

Mar 15 Alice Ann Wood, Field House, Fawfieldhead, Longnor aged 16 years
Pte. Wilfrid Tunncliffe of Queen Street, Longnor. Memorial Service 24th March

QUARNFORD AND RAMSHAW COTTAGE MEETING.

We wish to thank Mrs. Beswick, of Golhingate, for lending her house.

GIFTS TO OUR SOLDIERS.

A successful Entertainment was given in the Schoolroom on March 2nd. This, with subscriptions, realised a profit of £5. The gifts will be sent to our soldiers in money, as it is considered the most economical and practical way of awarding them. The Parish, and especially the relations of our soldiers wish to thank those who got up and took part in the entertainment, and also those who contributed. Our thanks are especially due to Mr. A. Kidd and his party, who were responsible for the movement.

FOOD PRODUCTION.

The Prime Minister is urging us more strongly than ever to grow potatoes this year. Potatoes, swedes, Carrots, and parsnips grow up here fairly well and are more reliable than corn and will provide more food for ourselves and for the much talked of pig.

SHEEN.

Gunner A Bonsall wishes to thank one and all for his Christmas gift. Force of circumstances have prevented him acknowledging the present sooner. He happened to be home on leave at the time it was sent, and on return to Camp it was awaiting him. Under orders for France, but little time was permitted him to write. He, however, made use of a short interval before embarking at Southampton, to enclose in a letter to his home at Alstonfield, his thanks to the Sheen Committee and parishioners.

The village has been able to send another useful addition to the Red Cross Funds, no less than £5 10s. being forwarded as the result of a Whist Drive and Dance in the Reading Room on Friday, March 8th. The weather was most unkind, yet a good company gathered together. The hearty thanks of the promoters are due to the donors of gifts for the Whist Drive, viz.: The Vicar, Frank Green, Esq., and Mrs. Humphreys; also to the following who helped to provide the refreshments: Mrs. Rose, Mrs. G. Riley. Mrs. Robert Gilman, Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. J. Gee, Mrs. Critchlow (Pilsbury), Mr. Smith (Broadmeadow), Mrs. J. Gilman, Mrs. W. Gilman, Miss A. Bury, Mrs. Leech, Mrs. R. Gilman, Mrs. Titterton, Mrs Critchlow (Slate House), Miss M. Critchlow, Mrs. Manifold, Mrs. Oliver and two other friends. We must not forget the help Mr Geo. Critchlow afforded in so many ways, nor Mr. Joseph Critchlow, who placed a nice young cockerel in the hands of the

Committee for disposal. A guessing Competition was arranged, and the winner generously gave back the bird to be sold.

As a result it realised 13s. We are hoping to welcome a large company at our Easter Social on Friday, April 5th. It will take the form of a Whist Drive and Dance.

Our heartiest congratulations are extended to Mr. Percy Humphreys on his recent marriage.

April 1958

Thursday's Cooking

In hot weather it is an excellent plan to hang meat up, as soon as it arrives, in a bag wrung out in vinegar. Flies and insects detest the smell of vinegar, and will not come near it.—MRS. A. B. RHONDDA.

To keep milk in hot weather, rinse a vacuum flask with cold water and fill with milk as soon as it is delivered. It will keep cold and fresh until breakfast next day, if necessary.—MRS. M. BRYDEN.

Substitute for cream.—Slice one banana thinly and add to the white of an egg. Whisk until banana dissolves.—MRS. L. WILGOOSE

QUARNFORD.

SOCIAL EVENTS. We are all most grateful to those who helped at the recent dance. Many were present and it proved to be a great success.

Provided that the Quarnford School is not closed for re-decoration during the Easter recess the April Whist Drive will be held on Friday evening, April 11th, and the Easter Dance on the following Friday

evening, April 18th. The proceeds from the March Whist Drive amounted to £:3 14s. 5d.

The Garden Fete, this year, will be held on Saturday, May 31st. A Dance will follow in the evening and will end at 11.55pm.

LADIES OF THE SEWING PARTY will meet, it is hoped, on Wednesday April 15th. Much has already been done in preparation for the Garden Fête.

CHURCH MEETINGS. We are all most grateful to Mr. Frodsham for undertaking to heat the church next winter.

DONATIONS. Mrs. Donnelly. 5/-; Mrs. Moss. 5/- and Mr. and Mrs. J. Wardle. 10/-

ALTAR FLOWERS. April 6th. F. Wardle
April 20th. Miss Beswiek.
R.W.Thompson Vicar.

SHEEN.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR. April 6th. Congregation: April 13th, Mrs. Philp; April 20th, Miss. Philp; April 27th, Mrs. Beardsall; May 4th. Miss M. Bury; May 11th, Mrs. Jones; May 18th, Mrs. John Critchlow; May 25th, Mrs. L. Goodwin.

Your Vicar and Friend. J. V. PHILP