

From the Vicarage



As I sit looking out of the Study window I can see that once again the grass needs cutting. Some things don't

change no matter how much the world is changing around them. When I first started here in May 2001 I was amazed at the number of times the grass needed cutting and I will end my time here still having to cut the grass up to the last week. There seems so much to do at the moment in getting ready to leave. Arranging for all the final bills for telephone and electricity, moving the furniture over to Leek and getting rid of the things we never got round to unpacking from the last move. As if this were not enough there is that wedding to prepare for.

There is always a danger at times like these that we get so wrapped up in the organisation that we lose sight of what's going on around us. I think to some extent the church itself is guilty of this at the moment. Our leaders seem so concerned with what they consider burning issues of doctrine that they have taken their eye off the ball of what is going on around them. Why I ask myself is the Anglican Communion tearing itself apart over homosexuality when millions around the world are going hungry.

In a few weeks your representatives will be involved in planning the Parish Profile which sets out to give a picture of Parish life to anyone who is interested in applying for the living here. They will also need to give an indication of the type of person that they are looking for and what they consider the priorities for a new ministry will be. The PCCs will also be voting on whether to accept applications from women as well as men.

I have read a number of profiles over the years and I have yet to see one that lists as a priority a candidate's view on the Ordination of Women Bishops or asks for their views on homosexuality. Usually parishes are concerned with a person's ability to teach the word of God and their performance in the pulpit. Some put a high value on team work where others are looking for a strong leader.

Jesus time and time again reminded the Pharisees that God was least concerned with the accuracy of a person's interpretation of the Law of Moses than he was by their ability to care for the needs of others. Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan? An open and welcoming nature is a greater witness to the Gospel than in depth knowledge of Canon Law.

I will remember with joy much of my time here in the Moolands. I have very much enjoyed working with the three schools. I have loved meeting so many friendly people. I have learnt a great deal about myself and where God is leading me and I am now looking forward to my next phase of ministry back in the Classroom teaching and encouraging young people not only to learn mathematics but to learn how to care for each other.

I will continue to pray for each parish and for your next incumbent. I will pray also for your church wardens and PCCs who will carry on the work of the benefice in the absence of a Vicar. They will need your support and encouragement in the months ahead. I hope to see many of you at the Wedding Service at St. Luke's on the 5th September at 2pm and no doubt we will continue to bump into each other.

May God Bless you all, David

Benefice News

Local Police Number

08453 30 2010

For all non-emergency calls

Interregnum

I am asking everyone, in what is my last magazine, to support your Church Wardens and PCCs during the interregnum. This is going to mean a lot of extra work for them and the more people that can help the better. As from September the Church Wardens will be the people to contact if you need to arrange a Baptism or a Wedding. David

Art for Health workshops

Come & relax, express your feelings in a free & friendly art group led by local artist Ruby Hickmott. Activities include Clay, Painting, Collage, Printing, Drawing

Monday Afternoons 2.30pm - 4.30pm
4th August - Hartington Surgery
11th & 18th August - Longnor Church
(Balcony Room - Stair Access)

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) All workshops are funded by the Sustainable Development Fund & supported by Hartington Surgery Patient's Group

Fly Tipping and Litter

To report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council call
Freephone 08001693159

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.



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 M^cNicol who will be pleased to provide you with the necessary information.

"It's Tea Time again"

This is the heading on the flyer from Christian Aid. On 19th September they are asking people across the world to get together, put the kettle on and help give poor communities the chance to work their way out of poverty. Last year more than 2,000 tea parties were held from Sheffield to Sri Lanka and £195,000 was raised. This year they want to do better.

It would be lovely if our benefice could help. I have some details and there are more on 08700767766 or

www.christianaid.org.uk/teatime

Janet M^cNicol

Dates for your diary - August

Sun 3rd Nab End Open Garden

Sat 16th Churchyard Mowing Day - Longnor

Tues 19th Medieval Music Evening - Longnor Church

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

Mobile Library

Quarnford /Flash	Springhead Road Junction	10.25 - 10.35
	Flash School	10.45 - 11.30
	Travellers Rest	11.35 - 11.55
	Lower Summerhill	12.00 - 12.05
	Colshaw Lane End	12.10 - 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	2.50 - 3.00
Reapmoor	Swallow Moss	3.20 - 3.25
	Park House	3.30 - 3.35

Friday, 1st August, 15th August, 29th August

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

Monday, 11th August, (no visit Bank Holiday Monday),

Deadline for the Magazine

All material should be delivered to Lynda by 20th August. Please send to Mrs. L. Bricklebank, Cottage of Content, Hollinsclough, Buxton, SK17 0RG Telephone 01298 83541 or email lynda@coatestown.freeserve.co.uk

Longnor

St. Bartholomew's Church News



The children from Hollinsclough School that are leaving this time were presented with Bibles at their Concert on the 14th of last month. As many of you know Mrs. Wherry the Headteacher is retiring and she was presented with a picture of Crome Hill to remind her of the view from the school. On the 18th the leavers from St. Bartholomew's school were presented with their Bibles at their afternoon concert. It is so important that

we support our schools as they are one of the main attractions to young families considering a move into the area. If you know of anyone with Primary aged children that are looking for a good school then please encourage them to get in touch with either school for an appointment to look around.

Donations

To Longnor Church from Mrs A Hedley; Olive Francis and Janet.



Churchyard Mowing Day

Saturday, 16th August from 10.30 onwards. Please come along, we need your help.

Church Fair

Raised £181.70 for church funds from the Tombola and Mary Boam's jams and pickles. Thanks also to Gwen, Olive, Joyce and Avis.

MINUTES OF LONGNOR ACTION GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 16th JULY 2008

PRESENT: Gaynor Parkinson, Sam Kidd, Peter Baker, John & Debbie O'Neil
CHAIR: Sam Kidd
APOLOGIES: Tina Ball

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

FUNDING APPLICATION FOR TABLES

Action:- Gaynor will be in Longnor on Wednesday 27 August and would like a volunteer/volunteer's to re-look at the application.

NEW PROJECT IDEA Peter suggested an idea to further enhance the village by

purchasing planters to be positioned in appropriate areas around the village.

- Peter is sending his design and a letter to the area surveyor. The highways office replied to Peter and advised that a licence to plant is required. However, these are normally issued to the parish council rather than individuals/groups. ACTION: Group to request support in writing from the parish council.
- Gaynor to source appropriate funding possibilities. This will be left until we have more information.
- Tina from REAP advised that they may be able to support through a grant they are awaiting a decision on.

WEBSITE & LEAFLET UPDATE

New leaflet 2009

The group discussed involving the local community and the school in deciding on what the new leaflet should look like and include. This will be discussed in more detail over the next few months.

Website

All businesses have now been loaded onto the site, just awaiting some further pictures/images. We need to formally apply to Gary advising who will be administering the site and he will provide access codes. We need to keep the services of the web master.

Action: Gaynor to contact Tina and see if someone in her office would be prepared to keep information up to date as and when required together with being a central point for people to deliver information to.

Action: Agree at the July meeting who will have access codes. (Community Development Team at Staffordshire CVS would be useful for uploading minutes etc.) The above 2 actions to be transferred over to the next meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- We would like to thank John and Debbie for hosting July's meeting.
- The group is considering changing the evening of their meetings from a Wednesday to a Tuesday to allow Tina Ball to attend. This has not been agreed as yet and meetings will continue on a Wednesday as normal.
- The group received a letter from Hollinsclough Action Group about meeting to swap ideas and experiences. ACTION: The group think this is a good idea and will write back to Hollinsclough.
- A draft poster was met with approval and will be displayed on the notice board and other appropriate venues once the dates to the end of 2008 have been agreed.
- Event - Tuesday 19 August Medieval Music evening in the Church. During the interval there will be an opportunity for people to try out the instruments.
- 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
01538 381356
gaynorparkinson@smcvs.co.uk
- Contact names and details for all current action group members.
SAM KIDD (Chair/Secretary) 01298 83474
PETER BAKER (Treasurer) 01298 83120
JOHN & DEBBIE O'NEIL 01298 83648
DAVID NICOL 01298 83742
TINA BALL 01298 83500

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 13 August 2008 7.30pm

**"Fairest of the months!
Ripe summer's queen
The hey-day of the year
With robes that gleam with sunny
sheen**

Sweet August doth appear."

- R. Combe Miller

Quarnford

Flower Festival Donations

I'm afraid that this was omitted from last month's magazine. Janet gave me the details and it's my error entirely, Lynda
Donations are gratefully received from:
Brenda Kidd, Ronni M^cLeish, Mr and Mrs Frank Buxton, Margaret Tunnicliffe, Ann Richardson, Quarnford Parish Council, Judith Naden (In memory of Martha), May Wood, Joan Gregory, Ewart Hall and Jack Mellor.

Main Church Gate

The gate does not close properly and needs a little expert TLC. Can anyone help, please? Contact Janet on 01298 812053

Quarnford Quest

Good news! Only 6 people failed to renew their subscriptions in June and we had a few new members, therefore membership for the first draw of our second year stands at 68. Thank you to everyone for supporting Quarnford Quest.

July's Winners

J M Wheelton £15
E A Ridgeway £12
S Limer £ 7

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

Flash School News.

The end of the term has now come. When you read this the concert and parties will be over.

Yes, we did have a good day in Llandudno. It rained briefly, but most of the day the weather was fine. We all enjoyed our beach art, pier study and the Punch and Judy show. The latter had not changed since its conception!

We also enjoyed our tea in Wetherspoon where we had our own private area and wonderful service.

Next term we will be studying the Egyptians and looking for a venue for a visit preferably nearer than the Nile!

The staff and children want to wish Mr Nicol all the best in his new work. They have missed his presence in school and hope he will visit them in the future.
Dehra Griffiths

Flower Festival

Additional donations received with many thanks from Mary Hunter, Peter and Mary Kendall.

Donation to Church Funds

Gratefully received from the "Forbes Family".

Magazine Subscriptions

Are due at the beginning of each calendar year. There are a considerable number of outstanding subscriptions. Payment may be left at Flash Bar Stores or given to Val Battram.

Drystone Walling

We are delighted that REAP (Rural Education and Arts Project) will be running several courses throughout the summer in our churchyard. The low wall between the vestry and the main door is to be rebuilt and some of the fallen sections of boundary wall at the bottom of the churchyard. There will be no cost involved for the church - just a good supply of tea and biscuits.

A Recently Spotted Bumper Sticker
Lord, help me to be the person my dog thinks I am.

Sheen

St. Luke's Sheen



Despite the difficulties in picking a theme for our Songs of Praise Service, the Flower Festival was a great success. Many thanks go to all those who created the

wonderful displays and to those who gave so generously of their time to be stewards. These annual events are important to the cohesion of village life and should be encouraged and supported. I very much hope that next year I will be able to visit as a tourist to see more creative genius at work.

JULY'S ONE HUNDRED CLUB RESULTS

1 st No 123	Mabel Green	£20
2 nd No 129	Luke Gregory	£15
3 rd No 28	Dorothy Birch	£10
4 th No 45	Margery Critchlow	£7
5 th No 119	Jeff Goodwin	£5.50
6 th No 78	Jane Upton	£4

Thank you, to all 123 Members

GIFT DAY DONATIONS

J and K Bennett and Family
Audrey Morson and Family
A Spendelow 1 Anon

FLOWER FESTIVAL UPDATE - Our flower festival has been very well supported and we have made £1,415.35 profit for St Luke's. It was nice to start the flower festival with Diana and Guy's wedding on the Saturday and we wish them all the best in married life.

We would like to thank everyone who sponsored a display, all who made cakes and sat in church, gave tombola and raffle prizes. All the talented ladies who arranged the flowers.

FLOWER FESTIVAL RAFFLE WINNERS

- Dorothy Birch - Bottle of Wine, Suzanne Astel - Biscuits, Sheila Cope - Smellies, Nick Library Man - Bottle of Wine, Dorothy Birch - Chocolates

FLOWER FESTIVAL DONATIONS

- thank you to Mrs N Gould and Mr and Mrs Wainwright for their donations.

GET WELL WISHES -to Mona Stubbs after her stay in Christies.

ST LUKE'S DONATION - thank you to Jane Upton for her donation

WHIST DRIVE - 8th August at 8pm in Sheen Village Hall all profits go towards the upkeep of St Luke's Church. The last whist drive raised £74

POST OFFICE OPENINGS IN SHEEN

Sheen Post office has moved and is now based in Sheen Village Hall opening times are Mondays 9am to 1pm.

**"The English winter, ending in July
To recommence in August."**

- Lord Byron

Hollinsclough

News from Hollinsclough School -



June Wherry

Despite the heavy rain crowds turned out to support our annual school fete.

Attractions included a fell race, pet show, pony rides, craft stalls and much more. The fell runners ran the four mile course up and over Chrome Hill and back to school again. Lloyd Taggart won the race in a time of 29 minutes 13 seconds and Kate Bailey took the ladies title in 35 minutes 28 seconds. In the pet show the cup for 'Best in Show' was given to Lucy Bednall with her dog Jake.

In contrast the sun kept shining for our sports day. All the children took part in a variety of events including running, potato and spoon, obstacle and relay races.

Pupils from the Michael Hutchinson Centre, next door to the school organised an afternoon of sporting challengers for all the children. Everyone enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities organised by these teenagers who were studying for their sports leadership award.

Amy Beresford and Rachel Speed travelled to Manifold Primary School with Mrs Forder to take part in an ICT workshop. Whilst there they made a computer animated film using a free camera donated by the organisers. They also learnt how to record voice and sound makeovers onto their film and are now going to teach these skills to the rest of the juniors.

Staff organised a sleepover in school for the Key Stage 2 children. After playing rounders and football we all enjoyed a delicious meal from Longnor Chip Shop. Although no-one got much sleep there were no tears and everyone said that they would be happy to do it again.

At our end of term concert the children entertained their parents before being presented with their good work and swimming certificates. Silver cups were given to those pupils who had tried hard to achieve their best over the last academic year and Bibles were presented to the Year 6 leavers. I was presented by a fabulous painting of the local area which I will treasure forever to remind myself of my time at Hollinsclough School.

In preparation for moving on to their prospective secondary schools pupils have spent several activity days getting to know their new surroundings. This year we have pupils moving to the two secondary schools in Buxton and Lady Manners in Bakewell. We shall greatly miss all of these children and wish them luck for the future.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the last fourteen years. I shall really miss you all but I hope to keep in touch and get regular news updates of how everyone is doing.

Hollinsclough Chapel

Services for August

All at 6.30 pm

3rd Colin Smith HC

10th Mrs Audrey Getliffe

17th Mrs Isabel Sinclair

24th At Earl Sterndale

31st Mrs Joyce Lawton



Hollinsclough Action Group

Next meeting is Monday, August 4th at the Chapel Hall. Everyone welcome

Relatively Speaking

Sunday, 21st September at Hollinsclough School. Entry will be free. This will be a fantastic opportunity for everyone with an interest in Hollinsclough, residents or visitors, to get together. We aim to build on the success of last year's Map Day.

There will be displays of parish registers, wills, house histories, rentals, rate books, photographs etc. We want people to come along to find out about their house or their ancestors and to share their research with us and with others with similar interests. We are particularly interested in family trees, wills and old photographs.

We hope that many local people will come to this event. Refreshments will be available in the Chapel Hall and in school. For more information contact v.rowe352@btinternet.com

From the Readership

August is the eighth month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar and one of seven Gregorian months with the length of 31 days. August begins (astrologically) with the sun in the sign of Leo and ends in the sign of Virgo. Astronomically speaking, the sun begins in the constellation of Cancer and ends in the constellation of Leo.


This month was originally named *Sextilis* in Latin, because it was the sixth month in the ancient Roman calendar, which started in March about 750 BC under Romulus. It became the eighth month either when January and February were added to the beginning of the year by King Numa Pompilius about 700 BC or when those two months were moved from the end to the beginning of the year by the decemvirs about 450 BC (Roman writers disagree). It was renamed in honor of Augustus in 8 BC because several of the most significant events in his rise to power, culminating in the fall of Alexandria, which fell in this month. Lore claims August originally had 29 days in the Roman Republican calendar. Augustus took two days from February and gave it to August when Sextilis was renamed in his honor.

August's flower is the gladiolus or poppy, and its birthstone is the peridot.

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History Notes

Alstonfield Deanery Magazine August

1918

LONGNOR.

Our sincere good wishes go with Rev. T. and Mrs. Peate in their new Parish.

The day appointed by the King for special Prayer for the war, Sunday, August 4th.

Thanks to L. J. Stanham, Esq., our Anti-aircraft Policy has been paid.

P. T. Nellie Gilman has passed the College of Preceptors' Examination with distinction, and, together with Frank Caley, has gained a *First-Class* (Senior), he (Junior), in the Staffs. Church School Diocesan Scripture Examination, again bringing credit to the Deanery.

If this war has done any good it is in that it has helped to revive charitable feeling, sympathy for suffering, unselfishness and love. That it has done harm is also true, or else facts are altogether wrong. What else will account for the decline in attendance at Church and Chapel according to this year's returns. Causes no doubt are numerous, but much is

attributable to those changeable feelings of mind and heart which a state of War brings with it. Whatever the cause, loud and clear should be our cry to the Almighty: "O God stretch out Thy mighty hand. Defend our land, bless our just cause. The way of the ungodly Thou wilt turn upside down." Then justify the prayer by practising godliness, attending God's Prayer House and Sacraments.

OUR SOLDIERS.

During the past month there have been called up for military duty several from the Parish over 40, our People's Warden, Mr. B. Malkin, being one. We wish all God's speed.

It is a glad thing to be able to hear good news from parents of their sons' welfare at the front. Only a small number of the total from Longnor we have space to mention each month. This time it is from Ptes. Needham, John Sutton, J. Mellor, J. H. Beresford (all well), T. Beresford (in hospital), John Grindey and J. Horobin (Oxbatch), wounded. Pte. Walter Woolliscroft we congratulate on his return and marriage.

MARRIAGE.

July 6th—(By License.) Pte. Walter Woolliscroft, of Reapsmoor, Longnor, and Maud Mary Phillips, of Trout Farm, Hartington.

BURIAL.

June 19—Joshua Millward, of Dales Land, Longnor, aged 84. Funeral taken by Vicar of Earl Sterndale

A. B. H. STANHAM, B.A.,
Vicar and Surrogate.

The Sugar Famine.

Don't worry—use Blades' Tea Sweeteners. One Tablet will sweeten a cup of Tea. Very useful for Cakes, Puddings, Fruit, etc.

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August 1958

LONGNOR.

Baptism "Suffer the little children to come unto me" July 13th. at St. Paul's. Newtown, Paul Woolliscroft.

BURIAL. "I am the Resurrection and the Life." June 26th. Hannah Prince, aged 70 years.

THANKS. For donation in lieu of flowers in memory of Hannah Prince: Miss B. Millward, Grindon. 10/-.

QUARNFORD.

GARDEN FETE. The nett profit amounted to £46 4s. 4d. Donations: Mrs. Davie, £5; Mr. J. Fowler. Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Saxton, each £2 2s. Od.; Dr. Peate. Dr. Willis. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson. Miss Pereival, Col. H. C. Ling. each £1; Major and Mrs. Derbyshire. Mr. and Mrs. Poole, Mr. W. Barber,

each 10/-.

We are especially grateful to those who, at this Fête, have laboured in the service of the Church. Space will not allow me to write the names of all individually.

ALTAR FLOWERS. Aug. 10th. Mrs. Belfield: Aug. 24th. Miss Brocklehurst. R.W. THOMPSON. Vicar.

SHEEN.

My dear Friends,

CONFIRMATION. The following were confirmed on Sunday, 20th July, at Wetton Church by the new Bishop of Stafford: Alan Arthur Blackhurst, John Critchlow (The Brund, Bernard William Cope, William Peicival Phillips, Margaret Veronica Ann Belfield, Myra May Critchlow and Irene Rachel Moorcroft. I hope we shall see them often making their Communions.

BURIAL. 24th June, Sampson Stubbs, of Buxton, aged 80 years.

Our sympathies go to Mrs. Stubbs and his relations and friends.

Money in lieu of flowers: Mr. and Mrs. W. Beresford (Ridge End), £1; Mrs. Titterton and family, £1; Charlie, Edith and family, Newhaven Cottage Farm, £1; Mr. and Mrs. T. Cantrell and family, 12/6; Mrs. M. Beswick, of Buxton, 10/-; Mr. I. Stubbs, of Newfield's, 10/-.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS. The late J. W. Riley, Mr. Jack Stubbs, 10/-. The late H. Sutton, Mr. Jack Stubbs 10/-

GIFT SUNDAY. Mr. and Mrs. Rd. Gould (Under Whittle), £1; making a total of £92 8s. Od. to date.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR. Aug. 3rd, Mrs. J. Critchlow (Slate House); Aug. 10th,

Miss G. Manifold; Aug. 17th, Mrs. M. Belfield Aug. 24th, Mrs. Phillips; Aug. 31st, Mrs. M. Howson; Sept. 7th, Mrs. J. Belfield; Sept. 14th. Mrs. W. Grindey; Sept. 21st, Mrs. G. G. Critchlow.
J.V. PHILP, Vicar.

A Weekday Page for Women
Saturday's Children

To strengthen the heels of children's socks, when knitting the heel strap, on the plain side, knit one, slip one to the end of the row, purl back in the usual way; third row. Slip one, knit one all along, then purl back. Complete the heel strip in this way and continue the pattern while turning the heel. This gives added strength without bulk, and the heels will not need mending

for a long time.—Miss E. M. HARDING.

Ink stain.—For ink stains on flannel trousers use chlorophyll tooth paste. Spread paste thickly on stains, leave to dry and then sponge off.—Mrs. Evans.

If you know of a good hint for our household page send it to the Editor, 11, Ludgate. Square, E.C.4. We offer six 5s prizes every month.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2008

Date	Activity	Transport Arrangements
Tuesday 29 th July	ICE SKATING - SHEFFIELD <i>(Limited Places Available)</i> Cost = £10 includes skating, skate hire, meal and transport	<i>Depart</i> <i>Return</i> Leek 9.15am 5.45pm Ipstones 9.30am 5.30pm Waterhouses 9.45am 5.15pm Warslow 10.00am 5.00pm Longnor 10.15am 4.45pm
Thursday 5 th Aug	ALTON TOWERS DAY <i>(Limited Places Available)</i> Cost = £15	<i>Depart</i> <i>Return</i> Leek 9.15am 5:45pm Longnor 9.30am 5.30pm Warslow 9.45am 5.15pm Waterhouses 10.00am 5.00pm Ipstones 10.15am 4.45pm
Tuesday 12 th Aug	BEACH DAY – SOUTHPORT Cost = £10 includes activities, lunch (BBQ - weather permitting) and transport	<i>Depart</i> <i>Return</i> Longnor 9.30am 7.30pm Warslow 9.45am 7.15pm Waterhouses 10.00am 7.00pm Ipstones 10.15am 6.45pm Leek 10.30am 6.30pm
Thursday 31 st July	BSM Driving Day at Leek Churnet View Middle School 10.30am - 2.30pm <i>(Limited Places Available)</i> Cost = FREE	<i>MAKE YOUR OWN WAY THERE</i>
Thursday 7 th August	BSM Driving Day at Leek Churnet View Middle School 10.30am - 2.30pm <i>(Limited Places Available)</i> Cost = FREE	<i>MAKE YOUR OWN WAY THERE</i>
Monday 11 th August	BSM Driving Day at Leek Cheadle High School 10.30am - 2.30pm <i>(Limited Places Available)</i> Cost = FREE	<i>MAKE YOUR OWN WAY THERE</i>

For more information about these activities and the Summer Activities Programme 2008, please contact Moorlands Youth Office on 01538 483180

From the Diocese

Ad Clerum from the Bishop of Lichfield - The General Synod and Women Bishops

What happened?

On Monday, 7th July, the last full day at York, the General Synod spent many hours debating women bishops. Beforehand, there were mixed discussion groups where those who welcomed the prospect of women bishops and those who were against could listen carefully and reach out in respect and affection to one another. This proved excellent preparation for the debate, and the first few hours passed with good humour. Several spokesmen for those against the consecration of women bishops said that they recognized that it was bound to happen and simply asked that the majority make proper provision for them.

The Synod swiftly dismissed the idea that those who were against should be squeezed out of the Church and with it a simple, single clause motion, tempting though that was to many of us who believed we had waited long enough for women to be able to called to the episcopate. We also voted against detailed amendments that might tie the hands of the drafting committee too closely. Speaker after speaker affirmed that we must square the circle: we must move towards having women bishops but equally there must be proper protection for those with conscientious objections so that they can continue in their honoured place in our church.

People insisted on votes by houses on just about every amendment. This meant that, in spite of the new electronic voting equipment, the debates dragged out and

there were some very close votes. Towards 10 pm there was a change of mood which I failed to see coming and was surprised by. The Catholic group had been pretty gentle in its arguments all through the day but, unnoticed by me and I guess most others, had put its hopes into particular amendments that failed to win general approval. Some felt they were being railroaded by a ruthless group of progressives. In moments of high drama the Bishop of Durham tried, and failed, to adjourn the debate. Another Bishop said he was ashamed of the way we were treating the minority (though I couldn't understand exactly why) and some of them were very grateful for his intervention. Eventually, with bags under our eyes, we came to vote and, as is our custom, we received the result in silence.

What was decided?

That this Synod:

- (a) affirm that the wish of its majority is for women to be admitted to the episcopate;*
- (b) affirm its view that special arrangements be available, within the existing structures of the Church of England, for those who as a matter of theological conviction will not be able to receive the ministry of women as bishops or priests;*
- (c) affirm that these should be contained in a statutory national code of practice to which all*

concerned would be required to have regard; and

(d) instruct the legislative drafting group, in consultation with the House of Bishops, to complete its work accordingly, including preparing the first draft of a code of practice, so that the Business Committee can include first consideration of the draft legislation in the agenda for the February 2009 group of sessions.

House of Bishops: For 28, Against 12, Abstentions 1

House of Clergy: For 124, Against 44, Abstentions 4

House of Laity: For 111, Against 68, Abstentions 2

So there was a comfortable majority in favour of the amendment in all three houses, but not a two-thirds majority in the House of Laity which will eventually be required.

What happens now?

Nothing for quite some time. The legislative group (which contains people of all views) is tasked to produce some worked examples to see if it is possible to square the circle and to report back to the Synod in February. There will then be a further consultation and the final vote to allow women bishops is unlikely to happen until the last meeting of the Synod in 2010 at the earliest. At that point it may well fail to win a 2/3 majority in all three houses, in which case everything stops.

So there is everything to play for, and much to pray for. In the meantime I have

learned that there will be groups of clergy in this diocese who will be considerably upset by the latest developments. The clergy in petitioning and resolution parishes and the clergy in Reform include some of the most devoted in the diocese and they work in some of the poorest parishes in the land. I and my fellow bishops are committed to supporting them and to doing all we can to ensure that, though they are a minority, they continue to have an honoured place in the diocese. We are fortunate in our flying bishop, the Bishop of Ebbsfleet and will continue to work with him in providing help and support to all the parishes which look to him.

We will be contacting those clergy who, we believe, will be particularly upset by the vote but, in case the Lambeth conference intervenes and you need to talk to one or other of us, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We have learned much in working together over the past 15 years and God has not finished with us yet.

*Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield,
9th July*

The *CrossTalk* initiative

The *CrossTalk* Conference at Swanwick was a great success. There will be a write-up in due course and material will be made available at lichfield.anglican.org/crosstalk.

Audio recordings from the plenary session inputs and feedback, together with Bishop Gordon's Bible Reflections, are already available to download from that same address.

Please remember, the *CrossTalk* Festival in Stafford this coming Saturday is now full, and there are just two places available for

young adults (18 to 35) at the *CrossTalk* Youth / Young Adults conference in Dovedale. There are plenty of spaces at the special *CrossTalk*/Lichfield Companions Service at Lichfield Cathedral at 6.30pm on Sunday 13th July and we hope as many parishes as possible will be represented at this major celebration of our shared mission.

We also have available limited edition *CrossTalk* Fair Trade organic unbleached T-Shirts, priced at just £10.00 (Design A) or £12.50 (Design B).

Full details of the *CrossTalk* events and a T-Shirt booking form can be found online at lichfield.anglican.org/crosstalk.

Emergency Planning and Faith Communities

The government's emergency planning guidance around the flu pandemic and civil resilience are now available. The government recognises that at times of crisis faith communities have a role to play in terms of victim support. They say: "Large scale fatalities raise specific issues for faith communities that need to be addressed. Strong leadership from faith communities has a key role to play when large scale incidents trigger concerns about social cohesion."

Two documents are available. The first is intended to help emergency planners and faith communities. It deals with principles and provides tools and a roadmap for good practice. Worst case predictions may never materialise. Nevertheless, this document is intended as an encouragement to those within statutory services and faith communities. It can be downloaded from

communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/civilresilience.

The second document detailed the planning that has taken place around a possible flu pandemic and explains how faith communities can play a part in protecting themselves and others, and how they can help face the challenge should an influenza pandemic occur in the UK. It can be downloaded from communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/influenzapandemic.

Lichfield Centre for Christian Studies - MA in Theology, Context & the Pastoral Imagination

This innovative MA programme offers an exciting range of subjects taught both by practitioners and experts, all helping you to link your learning with your local context. It is for clergy, licensed readers and anyone with a first degree or other appropriate prior learning, and an interest in theology.

All candidates will be interviewed to enable appropriate support. Learning Support Grants are available for all licensed Anglican clergy and licensed Readers from the Dioceses of Lichfield, Birmingham, Coventry, Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford.

The themes of this unique interdisciplinary course will together contribute to the students' understanding of self, context and the wider world. It will be transformational, deepening both understanding and spirituality, enhancing lives and ministries.

The course fees are £375 per module - which works out at £1,500 per year - and can be paid in monthly instalments.

Full information, and application forms, are available from Helen Sutton, Staffordshire University's Faculty of Health on 01785 - 353756 or e-mail: h.sutton@staffs.ac.uk.

You can also contact Dr Jane Gledhill on 01543 306006 or e-mail: jane.gledhill@lichfield.anglican.org.

Praxis Midlands: Rites on the Way Out

Praxis Midlands are holding another of their popular training days - this time offering a fresh look at funerals and our care of the bereaved.

Rites on the Way Out takes place on Thursday 9th October from 9.45am to 3.15pm at Birmingham Cathedral, with the Revd Canon Anne Horton, parish priest, author of 'Funerals' in the Using Common Worship series and member of the Praxis Council; and Hilary Al Rasheed, community business manager for Dignity Funerals in Gloucestershire and lecturer on death care and bereavement to professional organisations. She approaches her work from a perspective of Christian principles.

Course organisers say: "This day is an opportunity to explore the vision behind the Common Worship funeral provision, which, used to the full, can challenge us to restructure our thinking about travelling through dying and death. The pastoral rites for funerals are offered as 'stepping stones' to support the journey from dying, through death, and beyond, which can help us all live and support each other more helpfully through the mystery of death.

There are a number of liturgies and services for use with the dying and the bereaved. But how many of us actually use all these resources to the full, let alone understand why they are included?

"In the company of those who have begun to use these ritual stepping stones and found them helpful, we will explore how the various pastoral possibilities can assist the journey through death, both for us and for the people with whom we minister. The day is intended for clergy, lay ministers and all who have a pastoral concern for the dying and the bereaved. Funeral Directors are encouraged to attend, since they, with us, are a part of this journey. Why not invite your local Funeral Director as well as your ministry team members to come with you?"

The cost of the day, which does not include lunch, is £15.00 (£12 for affiliate members of Praxis).

Further information, including an on-line booking form, is available at praxismidlands.org.uk; or from the Revd Peter Furber on 01684 574106 or e-mail: peter@furber.me.uk.

Wetley Rocks Male Voice Choir

The Wetley Rocks Male Voice Choir write to offer their services to sing at your church or venue as a fund-raising venture. The choir of around 25 members are happy to perform a concert of mixed music to help you raise funds. For more information about the choir or to book them please contact Simon Baker on s_baker84@hotmail.com.