

From the Vicarage

June brings with it Peter Tide which in the church is one of the traditional times for ordaining Priests and Deacons. The other time is Michelmas which was when I was ordained. Indeed this year I celebrate my 10th



anniversary of Ordination on October 4th. I remember with great clarity arriving at Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford on the Sunday straight from my preordination retreat and discovering that I had forgotten to pack my clerical collar. Instead I had to use some paper that I had in the car.

The Archdeacon reminded us at the Visitation of the Church's need for those with a vocation to come forward for training. We face a difficult time over the next three years with the numbers leaving the church through retirement and other reasons exceeding those who will be ordained to take their place. Training courses all over the country are running with spare places. This will inevitably mean that some vacancies will go unfilled even where there is money to pay the stipend.

We need to pray for an upturn in those applying for training to the ministry. We need to search our hearts to see if God is calling us and we need to stand ready to encourage others in who we can see the gift of ministry. One such was St. Barnabas whose feast day we celebrate this month. By tradition he has always been counted an Apostle and indeed he may well have seen and listened to our Lord. He was not however one of the twelve although he may have been one of the seventy-two. While Barnabas does not stand out in the same way as St. Paul he

was greatly respected in the early church for his powerful preaching. This is what has been said of his life;

"St. Barnabas is one of the first prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch (Acts 13:1). He was born of Jewish parents of the tribe of Levi. His aunt was the mother of John, surnamed Mark (Colossians 4:10), widely assumed to be the same Mark as the person traditionally believed to be the author of the Gospel of Mark. He was a native of Cyprus, where he possessed land (Acts 4:36, 37), which he sold, and gave the proceeds to the church in Jerusalem. When Paul returned to Jerusalem after his conversion, Barnabas took him and introduced him to the apostles (9:27); it is possible that they had been fellow students in the school of Gamaliel."

Barnabas was not afraid to live his life according to his faith. He saw the need of the young church for money so he sold his land and gave them the proceeds. He saw the good in Paul at a time when the rest of the church was deeply suspicious of him and stood his sponsor to the other apostles. He was also ready to champion the cause of the Gentiles (non-Jews) and their right to hear the good news. He stands as a shining example of what is best in people.

Although St. Barnabas is the Patron Saint of Cyprus very little is made of him here in the UK. Yet without his influence Christianity might have remained a little known sect of Judaism. May he inspire us to do our best to spread the news of the Gospel to all those who will listen. May he encourage us to stand up for what we believe in and to follow the road that Jesus has set for us no matter the cost.

May God bless you all, David

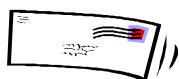
Benefice News

Local Police Number

08453 30 2010

For all non-emergency calls

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

Biblelands

Monday, 7th July 7.30 pm
Warslow School

Su McClellan, the Regional Representative of Biblelands will give an illustrated talk on the work of Biblelands and the situation in the Middle East

Bibleland goods will be for sale

Please try to attend and encourage others to do so. Our sponsored child Toufic is in the care of Biblelands and most of us are familiar with their Bethlehem carol sheets but there is much more to their work than this. The evening is an open meeting of the Deanery Synod.

Bingo

at the

Cheshire Cheese, Longnor

Sunday, June 29th

Doors Open 7.30.p.m

Eyes Down 8.00p.m

Proceeds to

Longnor Luncheon Club

Teddies for Tragedies



Teddies for Tragedies

Our teddies are in big demand. They are being sent through a Christian charity to war zones and disaster areas all over the world. Those of you who can remember your own Teddy or cuddly toy will know the comfort that they brought at times of personal crises. For many of the children that receive one of our Teddies they not only bring a little comfort but they often represent the only thing that the child owns. Many of the children that receive one of these gifts have lost parents and family through violence or disease. Many are orphaned and have no relatives to turn to. Often these children are traumatised by the things that they have seen. These simple toys offer a little ray of happiness. They are treasured and loved by those that receive them. If you are able to help in the making of these Teddies then please contact Janet McNicol who will be delighted to supply you with a pattern. There are supplies at the back of St. Bartholomew's church and we have lots of wool at the vicarage if you need it. Please help us to bring a little sunshine in to the lives of children.

Dates for your diary - June

Saturday 14th - T Pot - Flash
 14th - 17th Flower Festival - Flash
 Monday 16th Reunion - Flash
 Saturday 21st - School Fete - Hollinsclough
 Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th Strawberry
 Moon Festival - Tittesworth
 Sunday 29th to 5th July - Flower Festival -
 Sheen
 Sunday July 5th School Fair - Longnor

**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 - 12.15
Hollinsclough	Chapel	12.25 - 12.55
	Longnor	The Square
	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 6th June, 20th June,

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 2nd June, 16th June, 30th June

General Synod

Continuing our series on the work and institutions of the church, over the next few issues I am going to explore the work of the General Synod which is the Parliament of the Church. In this issue I have included a general overview and a short description of the work of the commissions. Next month I am going to look at the work of the committees.

The General Synod of the Church of England

What is the General Synod?

The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It came into being in 1970 under the Synodical Government Measure 1969, replacing an earlier body known as the Church Assembly. It continues a tradition of synodical government which, in England, has its origins in the medieval period. It has powers in the following areas:

Legislation by Measure To pass Measures which, if approved by resolution of each House of Parliament, receive Royal Assent and thereby become part of the law of England

Legislation by Canon To legislate by Canon, subject to Royal Licence and Assent

Relations with other Churches
 To regulate the Church of England's relations with other churches and to make provisions for matters relating to worship and doctrine. It can make provision by Act of Synod, regulation or other instrument in cases where legislation by or under a Measure or Canon is not necessary

Liturgy and Doctrinal Assent To approve, amend, continue or discontinue liturgies and make provision for any matter (except the publication of banns of marriage) to which rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer relate and to ensure that the forms of service contained in the Book of Common Prayer continue to be available for use in the Church of England. The Synod also decides the form in which ministers and officers of the Church of England are required to assent to the doctrine of the Church of England (the Declaration of Assent).

Deliberation To consider any other matters of religious or public interest

Finance To approve (or reject) the central church budget each year.

Commissions

PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Clergy Discipline Commission

The Clergy Discipline Commission is constituted under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003. Under that Measure the Commission is required to give general advice to disciplinary tribunals, the courts of the Vicars-General, bishops and archbishops as to the penalties which are appropriate in particular circumstances; issue codes of practice and general policy guidance to persons exercising functions in connection with clergy discipline; and make annually to the General Synod through the House of Bishops a report on the exercise of its functions during the previous year.

Under the 2003 Measure the Commission is also required to compile and maintain 'provincial panels' of persons available for appointment as members of a disciplinary tribunal or a Vicar-General's Court for the purposes of dealing with cases under it and to formulate guidance for the purposes of the 2003 Measure generally and to promulgate it in a Code of Practice approved by the Dean of the Arches and the General Synod.

The Commission monitors the exercise of discipline and highlights and encourages best practice.

Crown Nominations Commission

The Commission (then called the Crown Appointments Commission) was established by the General Synod in February 1977. Its function is to consider vacancies in diocesan bishoprics in the Provinces of Canterbury and York, and candidates for appointments to them. At each meeting the Chair is taken by the Archbishop in whose Province the vacancy has arisen. The Commission agrees upon two names for nomination to the Prime Minister by the appropriate Archbishop or, in the case of

the Archbishopric of Canterbury or York, by the chair of the Commission. The names submitted may be given in an order of preference decided upon by the Commission. In accordance with the terms of the Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on 8 June 1976, the Prime Minister selects one of the names or may ask for others to submit to Her Majesty the Queen for approval.

Dioceses Commission

The Dioceses Commission was set up in 1978 under Section 1(1) of the Dioceses Measure. That Measure makes provision for such matters as the reorganization of diocesan boundaries, the creation of area bishops and area synods, the creation and revival of suffragan sees, and the delegation of episcopal functions to a suffragan bishop by a diocesan bishop. The Commission works only within the framework of the Measure, and has two roles. In the first place the Commission is required to consider proposals prepared under the Measure, to report upon them and to make its report available to the diocesan synod of the diocese concerned and to the General Synod. Secondly, it has an advisory role, which is set out in Section 2 of the Measure as follows:

It shall be the duty of the Commission, on the instructions of the General Synod, the Archbishops' Council, or the House of Bishops of the General Synod, to advise on matters affecting the diocesan structure of the Provinces of Canterbury and York or on the action which might be taken under this Measure to improve the episcopal oversight of any diocese therein or the administration of its affairs.

Where it appears to the Commission that there is any such matter as is mentioned in subsection (1) above on which it might usefully advise, it may bring that matter to the attention of the General Synod or the

Archbishops' Council with a view to receiving instructions under that subsection.

The Commission shall be available to be consulted by any diocesan synod or the bishop of any diocese on any action which might be taken under this Measure in relation to the diocese.

Doctrine Commission

The functions of the Doctrine Commission are to consider and advise the House of Bishops of the General Synod upon doctrinal questions referred to it by the House as well as to make suggestions to that House as to what in its judgment are doctrinal issues of concern to the Church of England. Its report, Being Human, was published in July 2003. It sets out a Christian understanding of personhood illustrated with reference to power, money, sex and time.

The Fees Advisory Commission is constituted under Part II of the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986, as amended by the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2000 and other legislation. It makes recommendations as to certain fees to be paid to ecclesiastical judges, legal officers and others, and embodies those recommendations in Orders which are laid before the General Synod for approval. If approved, the Orders take effect unless annulled by either House of Parliament, and are published as Statutory Instruments.

Legal Advisory Commission The Legal Advisory Commission gives advice on legal matters of general interest to the Church which are referred to it by the Archbishops' Council and its Divisions, Boards, Councils and Commissions, by the General Synod and its Houses and Commissions, by the Church Commissioners and the Church of England Pensions Board, and by diocesan clerical and lay office

holders. The Commission cannot accept requests for advice from private individuals or secular bodies. In addition, the Commission cannot normally give opinions on contentious matters, but it may be able to do so (depending on the circumstances) if the facts are agreed by all parties to the dispute, all parties join in referring the matter to the Commission for an opinion and it is not (and is not expected to become) the subject-matter of proceedings in the courts.

The opinions of the Commission and its predecessor, the Legal Board, on matters of general interest are published by Church House Publishing in a loose-leaf form under the title Legal Opinions Concerning the Church of England. Copies can be obtained from Christian bookshops, including Church House Bookshop. A new edition was published in 2007.

Liturgical Commission

In response to resolutions by the Convocations in October 1954, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York appointed a standing Liturgical Commission 'to consider questions of a liturgical character submitted to them from time to time by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and to report thereon to the Archbishops'. In 1971 the Commission became a permanent Commission of the General Synod. Its functions are: to prepare forms of service at the request of the House of Bishops for submission to that House in the first instance; to advise on the experimental use of forms of service and the development of liturgy; to exchange information and advice on liturgical matters with other Churches both in the Anglican Communion and elsewhere; to promote the development and understanding of liturgy and its use in the Church.

Confirmation

The Bishop of Stafford has confirmed the date for the Confirmation Service which will be on Wednesday 18th of June at 8pm in St. Bartholomew's. I hope that many of you will come along to the service and support the three young people that will be getting confirmed.

Deadline for the Magazine

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

Day trip to Llandudno with Longnor Luncheon Club

Wednesday June 25th

Like to join us?

Tel Mrs J. Hollinshead

01298 83602

Members £7.00

Non-members £9.00

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mummy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

Longnor

St. Bartholomew's Church News



After the Quinquennial Inspection Report comes the second visit of our new Architect. He will be coming

to the church to help draw up a list of urgent repairs and help us draw up a faculty application to cover the work that needs to be carried out. Our finances are such that most of the repairs can be done as soon as we have received the faculty. This will however mean drawing on our reserves, the interest from which goes halfway to meeting our Parish Share. We urgently need more people to join our regular giving scheme. At present we have about 20 people who give through an envelope on a monthly basis. Our aspiration this year should be to raise that figure to 50. If those 50 then gift aided their donations we could add an extra £570 from the government bringing in a 25% of our required yearly income. All we are asking for is £5 per month to help keep the church open.

I am delighted to be able to report that the Art for Health group is flourishing and that additional grant funding has been obtained to enable the group to continue. This is excellent news for all those who use the group and good news for the church to get a rental income from the use of the balcony room.

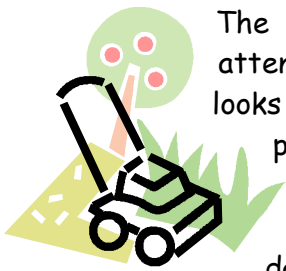


The Coffee Morning was a great success raising £160 which is one of our highest totals to date. A BIG THANK YOU to all those who worked so hard to make it so enjoyable. It is always great fun and I hope as we continue to put these on, on a more regular basis more people will be attracted to come.

Raffle Results

1 st	Barbara Mellor	Roses Chocolates
2 nd	Jeanette Nicol	Coffee
3 rd	Norma Twigg	Chocolates

4 th	Carol Gould	Gin
5 th	George Riley	Wine
6 th	Nanette Riley	Tray
7 th	Joyce Hollingshead	Jaffa Cakes
8 th	Amy Gibbs	Toiletries
9 th	Maureen Wain	Perfume
10 th	Mary Boam	Wine
11 th	Phyllis Gould	Toiletries
12 th	June Higton	Mugs



The mowing day was very well attended and the churchyard looks a great deal better for its pre season cut. Our thanks go in particular to Les and Nannette for organising the day and to Richard and Carol for transporting the grass away. Thanks also to all those who prepared and served a delicious lunch.

Treasurer Chris Smallwood our church treasurer has indicated that he would like to pass the job onto someone else. We are deeply grateful to Chris for all the hard work he has put in over the last few years keeping our accounts on track. We are now looking for someone else to take on this very important role. If you think you would be interested in exploring the work of a PCC Treasurer then please contact the Vicar. Full training will be provided via Diocesan Courses.



In Memorial Clifford Wardle

Clifford was born on the 29th June 1920 at Woodbine Cottage Underhill. He was baptised in the font at the back of the church and went to school across the road. After leaving school Clifford like so many of his generation went to work on a farm. He went to Tom Grindy just up by the

traffic lights and would take the milk down to the Glutton Bridge Cheese Factory each day. From here he moved to Custard Fields and the on to the Quarries at Hindlow working for Ryans.

During this time he liked to go to local dances and it was at one of these in Hartington that he met Nelly who was a school teacher and began to court her. All was going well until the outbreak of war when Clifford was called up. He went first to Aldershot and then to Carlisle before being sent out to Italy. He was wounded at the battle of Anzio and taken prisoner. He was one of the many that were taken by the Germans on the notorious Death March up through Italy as they retreated towards Germany. He ended up in Stalag 8c. He never talked about these experiences but it was obvious that he suffered a great deal.

He was finally liberated by the Americans and repatriated. He was sent home to recover from his experiences. There was quite a crowd to meet him off the bus in the village and the Vicar, Rev Gibson wanted to take him to the pub for a pint but mum said no and took him home to bed. When the Doctor called the next morning he prescribed Rice Pudding to get him back to health. Once he had recovered he was send away to be demobbed and on the 24th May 1947 he married Nelly and they came to live at Under Whittle. Here they kept a few hens and a pig. He returned to life in the Quarries until joining High Peak Borough Council in the building department. He moved to Under Grimm in 1953

One of Clifford and Nelly's great joys was their Caravan on the Welsh coast near Aberystwyth. They would spend many happy weekends there. Clifford loved

fishing so this was an ideal base for him to enjoy his sport. Sadly Clifford and Nelly were unable to have children but he was a wonderful uncle to his niece and I am sure would have made a wonderful father. In 1997 they celebrated their Golden Wedding and sadly Nelly died in September 1998. Clifford was a very positive person who took life as it came. He was determined to live life to the full.

Dorothy Oliver



Dorothy was born on the 17th June 1922 at Stonyfold Farm, Lower Elkstones to Margaret & Frank Deavile one of four children. She attended Warslow School and at the age of 14 left to help her parents on the Farm. In 1938 she moved to Pump Farm, Warslow to help her Aunt Elly and she remained there for 13 years. The work was hard but Dorothy found the time to join the Church Choir and to attend many of the local Dances. Her preferred Sunday afternoon activity was a walk along the Manifold Valley often in the company of friends. The Wetton Mill area was one of her favorite places.

It was at one of the local Dances that Dorothy was attracted by a young man called George Thomas Oliver, always referred to ever after as 'Tommy and they were married here in church on the 8th January 1951. Indeed it was a double wedding as they shared the day with her sister Doreen and her husband John. They moved into Ivy Dene in Warslow and it was here that daughter Brenda was born. From here the whole family moved to Ferny Fold Farm at Newtown where they worked happily together joining in with the Newtown Community. Sadly in 1960 Tommy became ill and passed away leaving a very

bereaved family behind. To the end of her life Dorothy was deeply grateful to her friends and neighbors in Newtown for all the comfort and support they offered during this difficult period.

Dorothy now gave up the farm and she and Brenda moved to Marsh Head at Reapsmoor and from here found a new career in the catering department at the new Warslow School. Always a good cook Dorothy loved her work and made many friends among the staff and children. Very sadly during the summer of 1964 she became seriously ill and suffered a brain hemorrhage. Despite skilful surgery she suffered the loss of her speech and the use of her right arm and leg. Dorothy received expert care in the Derby & Derwent Hospital and through sheer determination and great courage she regained her speech and the limited use of her arm and leg. So astonishing was her rehabilitation that her Consultant asked her to return at times to the Hospital to be examined by his students.

On leaving Hospital she stayed first with her brother at Upper Hurst Farm and then with her sister in Buxton till in the spring of 1965 she and Brenda were able to return home to Reapsmoor. Here with the help of her sister Nellie she was able slowly to put her life back together again and to learn how to look after herself and Brenda. This included doing the house work, tending the garden which was her joy and keep hens, all with only one good hand and a caliper on her right leg. Once again Dorothy never forgot the friendship of her friends and neighbours in Reapsmoor.

In 1972 Dorothy and Brenda moved again, this time to a new bungalow in Longnor which she called Fernyfold. Dorothy was

very content here and set about with her usual determination to turn it into a home. She quickly made new friends keeping herself busy gardening and baking. She also enjoyed going away for holidays and one of her favourite destinations was Skegness. This was partly because it was easy for her to get to the sea and move along the long flat promenade. She would often join others with disabilities. She also enjoyed days out in the car, either shopping or visiting friends and family.

Dorothy believed that life was for living and never failed to count her blessings. She worked hard helping others and used to say on her frequent visits to hospital that there were always people in a worse state of health that she was. Unfortunately in 1992 she fell and banged her head while out shopping for her 70th Birthday present and her health began to fail. She was supported at home by carers, friends and neighbours. When it became evident that she needed more constant attention she attended a residential home in Onecote until it closed, when she moved to the Pine Meadows Care home in Leek for day care. By this time she also needed a wheelchair. Dorothy became fully residential here in November 1998. She still enjoyed going home for short visits on her birthday when friends and family would gather together and it was here until her death that she received tender loving care from all the staff.

Congratulations to Stephen and Heather who were married this month. We wish them every happiness for the future



Best wishes to Dilys Johnson after her recent operation

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 raffle and then a guest 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.

The cost is £6 and everyone is welcome.

On June 11th Nicky is going to give a talk entitled Farming for Fun.

There will be no meeting on June 25th as we are going on a trip to Llandudno.

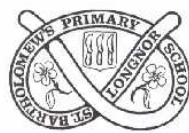
Please come along and join us.

We are also in need of volunteers to help out.

For more information ring Margaret Massey. Tel 01298 84423

On June 25th we are going on an outing to Llandudno. If you would like to join us please telephone Mrs J. Hollinshead 01298 83602

News from St Bartholomew's School ...



We were extremely pleased at the outcome of our Ofsted Inspection at the end of April which confirmed what we already knew - we are a good school, with the interests of every child firmly at the centre of all we do.

We have successfully entered small schools competitions - winning swimming gala and coming 3rd in football/tag rugby.

It was a sunny but cold breezy day for the opening event of our Outdoor Classroom and Sensory Garden - we had representatives from lots of different community groups attending as well as Peak District National Park members, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Penny Anderson 'cutting the ribbon' Complimentary refreshments were served,

followed by an early evening BBQ and the children were entertained with games by Kiri.

On Friday 6th June Yrs. 3 & 4 children, along with Manifold School, are going to the Open Door event at Lichfield Cathedral.

Staffordshire Performing Arts Company are coming into school 10 am Friday 27th June. The theme of their concert is 'The Sea' - parents welcome.

We would like to invite everyone in the village and surrounding area to come to our annual School Summer Fair which is on Saturday July 5th Time: 12 - 3 pm. All the funds raised go towards the cost of extra curricular activities, equipment and school visits for our children.

Sue Evans, Head Teacher

Reapsmoor

St. John's Church News



We now have a Pascal Candle in church thanks to the efforts of Henry to make a sleeve for our Candle holder.

We light the candle at every Communion Service and it looks very well by the Altar.

Quarnford

St. Paul's Church News



At the APCM Miss Belfield, our church treasurer for many years, resigned in order to concentrate on her church music. We are indebted to Miss Belfield for her unselfish devotion to keeping the church accounts in order for so long. She has been one of our great church treasurers. We now need to

appoint another Treasurer to take her place. At present Janet our Church Warden is looking after the finances as well as doing her Warden job. If you think you might like the challenge of looking after the church accounts Janet would be most grateful to hear from you. Full training can be provided through Diocesan Courses.

It is a very rewarding job ensuring that the accounts are kept in order and making the most of the money that we have. Please give this post serious consideration. If you would like more information contact the Vicar.

Donations

Received with grateful thanks from May Wood and Beth Frodsham for the roof fund.

Gift Aid

Quarnford Church is now registered under the Gift Aid Scheme. This means that if you are a U.K. taxpayer the church is able to reclaim the tax you have paid on any donation at no cost to yourself! Forms are in church or speak to Janet

Best Wishes to Val Battram as she recovers from her recent operation

Quarnford Quest

Winners for May are:

- 1st C. Logan No. 65 £16
- 2nd J. Nadin No. 16 £10
- 3rd D. Phillips No. 12 £9

The annual membership subscription of £12 is due this month (for most people). We very much hope that everyone will renew their subscription for another year. The form was printed in the May magazine or is available from church.

Flash School News.

We held the village Rose Queen Day on Saturday May 10th. The weather was amazing, the best we could remember for many years. In fact, as we walked behind the queens, hardly able to believe our luck, we talked about the mist, rain and wind of previous years!

Our retiring queen and her retinue glittered in the sunlight whilst our new queen and her retinue glowed with confidence and charm. We were pleased to welcome Mrs Tish Connell as our opener who has faithfully supported the school, the church and the village for many years. Her cakes used as part of our refreshments can also be highly recommended! Thank you also to the children and their musical directors Mrs Wendy Kenny and Mrs Caroline Green for entertaining us in song.

We are all grateful to those who worked so hard to make this day such a success.

What a small community lacks in numbers is made up for by its big heart. Well done everyone.

At present we are busy improving our outside storage arrangements and we are now part of the Staffordshire Recycling Scheme.

Flash School and Blackshaw Moor School are hosting a joint race night on the evening of Saturday June 7th. Last year the event was a great success so do come along.

Look out for further diary dates for Friends Flash and the School.

Dehra Griffiths.

Quarnford PCC Meeting Friday 30th
May 4.30pm in the school

Flash Annual T Pot Parade and Well Dressing

Scene from last year's well



Our annual T-Pot Parade and activities take place on **Saturday 14th June**. They start with the Church Service at 2 pm, after which the Well will be blessed. The Parade from the Village to the Travellers Rest will then start. On returning from the Travellers' Rest refreshments will be served in the Village Hall. We just hope that the weather will be kind to us.

The theme for the well dressing this year is Noah's Ark and the well will remain dressed for about 2 weeks.

If you want to find out more, then contact Andy Collins on 01298 24854

Also St Paul's Church Flower Festival runs from Saturday **14th June to Tuesday 17th June**. The theme for the Flower Festival is Sport; so do visit the church to see the different interpretations and the beautiful flower displays.

The Songs of Praise at St Paul's is on Sunday the **15th June** at 7 pm

There will be a 'Reunion meeting' on **Monday 16th June** at 7.30 pm with refreshments and a look at old photographs.

Flower Festival

Thank you to everyone who has offered to help in any way. The rota is filling up nicely, cakes have been promised, sponsorship forms are arriving and flower displays are being planned. It's not too late to volunteer for the many tasks involved. Please contact Janet 812053 or Andy 24854

Rose Queen

The sun shone for our Rose Queens, Jo Collins our new queen, Abby Finney our retiring queen and our visiting queen from Wildboardclough.

The church was beautifully decorated with red roses for the occasion and the congregation gave thanks for the work undertaken by Abby and asked for God's blessing on Jo as she takes up her duties as Rose Queen for 2008.

After the service everyone proceeded to the Village Hall where Jo was crowned by Tish Connell.

The schoolchildren sang and the fête began.....

The results are as follows:-

Kitchen	96.71
Neil Ambrose	27.55
Bessie's Knitting	14.60
Marian's Stall	6.20
Pick-a-stick Stall	17.60
Trampoline & Ice Cream	20.00
Janet's toys etc	17.55
Cakes	35.50
Tombola	66.55
Raffle, less expenses	343.30
School's Stall	40.50
Face Painting	5.50
Donation	10.00
Total	£701.56

Re-union/Social Evening

Monday 16th June at 7.30pm

A time to meet up with old friends and to make new ones. Refreshments will be served and we hope that people will bring along some old photos of Flash and the surrounding area for others to look at. The evening will close with prayers. We look forward to seeing you.

St. Paul's, Quarnford

Flower Festival

14th - 17th June

11am - 8pm

Theme: Sports

Sat 14th T-Pot Service and
Blessing of the Well 2pm

Sun 15th Songs of Praise
Service 7pm

Mon 16th Re-union/Social
Evening

With refreshments 7.30pm

Please try to bring some old photographs
of the area to share.



I'LL BE IN BED SOON AS I FINISH
UPLOADING THIS INSTANT MESSAGE

Sheen St. Luke's Sheen



Last month we had a visit from the Leek Embroidery Group who came to see our Altar Frontals. They were very impressed with the quality of the needle work

both on the older frontals and on the new ones. The Lent Frontal is thought to be influenced by the Leek Group at the time of Thomas Wardle. Many photographs were taken and some may appear in an exhibition in Leek later on in the year

MAY'S ONE HUNDRED CLUB RESULTS

1 st No 7	Catherine Kirkham	£20
2 nd No 50	Jackie Birds	£15
3 rd No 27	Susan Shann	£10
4 th No 95	Linda Critchlow	£7
5 th No 29	Jean Belfield	£5.50
6 th No 104	Robert Hicks	£4

Thank you, to all 123 Members

PCC MEETING - 8th July at 7pm in Church.
New members always welcome.

FLOWER FESTIVAL MEETING - 5th June at 7.30pm in Church. Volunteers still wanted, people to help with arranging the flowers and the gofers who will fetch, carry brew up and help to tidy up, there is a job for everyone. Light refreshments are supplied for all helpers.

SPONSORSHIP FOR FLOWER FESTIVAL
- anyone wishing to sponsor a display in the memory of a loved one or on the birth of a child or any happy event please contract Ann or George for more information. Ann on 01298 84396 or George on 01298 83264

FLOWER FESTIVAL CAR BOOT - Saturday 5th July at 10.30am to 4pm at St Luke's Church Sheen Car boots or table top inside village hall (limited space inside) £5 booked before the day £6 on the day. Further information contact Ann on 01298 84396 or George 01298 83264. Bacon Baps will be sold inside village hall from 10.30am. All proceeds will go to St Luke's Church. No sellers before 9.30am thank you.

FLOWER FESTIVAL HELP -people who would like to volunteer to sit in Church while the flower festival is taking place. A rota will be in church. Please put your name on or see Ann or George. If you would like to donate Tombola prizes please leave with Mona, Ann, George or any member of the PCC or leave at the back of Church with a note on. Anybody wishing to bake cakes for the cake stall or for refreshments would be very much appreciated.

FLOWER FESTIVAL - The theme is **SIMPLY RED** we are opening on **SUNDAY MORNING 29TH JUNE** at 10.30am and finishing on Saturday Evening 5th July at 5pm. Refreshments will be served from the back of church and toilets are available in the village hall. The Church will be open from 10.30am to 8pm Sunday to Friday and Saturday 10.30am to 5pm.

FLOWER FESTIVAL COMPETITION - is make a butterfly out of any materials. Open to all ages. Please have entries in Church on Sunday 30th before 12 noon.

FLOWER FESTIVAL CHURCH SERVICE
- is on Sunday 30th June at 7pm.

DONATIONS - Received from Mr and Mrs Gunning, Mr and Mrs Hopkinson and

donations made in the memory of Dorothy Oliver.

THANK YOU -to Mr Paul Rogers of The Manifold Inn, Hulme End for donating some cups and saucers to Church.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR - the grass has started to grow in the Church Yard and we would like to thank Keith for keeping it mown and tidy (known to many as Mr Lawnmower)

CHARITY WHIST DRIVE - on 16th May made £341.50 for air ambulance. The Whist Drive made £224.50. Auction of Cake donated by Phyllis Shipley made £17 and a donation made by Belle Engineering of £100. Thank you to everybody who supported this event.

WHIST DRIVE - 13th June at 8pm in Sheen Village Hall. All profits go towards the upkeep of St Luke's Church.

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.

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.

Hollinsclough

News from Hollinsclough School



I accompanied pupils in Years 5 and 6 on a three day residential visit to Shugborough Outdoor Education

Centre. We had great fun taking part in a wide range of activities which included climbing, caving, archery and cycling around a BMX obstacle circuit. They particularly enjoyed the canoeing and trying to get everyone including me as wet as possible. In mixed teams from Hollinsclough, Flash and Waterhouses we solved problems on the Crystal Maze and earned points by keeping the tidiest bedrooms and doing the best jobs. All the children had a wonderful time and their very good attitude and behaviour was a credit to all three schools.

In the middle of May pupils in Years 2 and 6 took part in the Statutory Assessment Tests. Over the last academic year the children have all worked very hard for these exams so we are now planning to give them a fun week of activities which they thoroughly deserve.

June Wherry, Headteacher

A SHORT HISTORY OF MEDICINE:

"Doctor, I have an ear ache."

2000 BC - "Here, eat this root."

1000 BC - "That root is heathen, say this prayer."

1850 AD - "That prayer is superstition, drink this potion."

1940 AD - "That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill."

1985 AD - "That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic."

2000 AD - "That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root!"

HOLLINSCLOUGH SCHOOL

FETE

Saturday 21st June

1pm

Many Attractions

Including

PET SHOW FELL RACE

GAMES

CHILDREN'S FAIRGROUND

RIDES

PONY & CART RIDES

CRAFT STALLS

REFRESHMENTS

Everyone welcome

Hollinsclough Action Group

Next meeting is June 30th at 7.00pm in Hollinsclough Chapel Hall to be followed by a public meeting at 7.30pm to discuss the Master Document from the "Planning for Real" project.

Everyone welcome

Hollinsclough Chapel

Services for June

1st 8pm Mr Ray Poole

Flower Festival

8th Mrs Isabel Sinclair

6.30pm

15th Miss Ruth Hayter 6.30pm

22nd Earl Sterndale 6.30pm

29th Mrs Audrey Getliffe



From the Readership

Ginger Beer Plant

The Recipe

Producing your own ginger beer is very easy. It is produced in a biological process in much the same way as yoghurt. You will first need to create what is called a ginger beer plant. It will be ten days before the first batch will be ready.

Ingredients

- 25g Dry yeast (50g of fresh)
- 2tbsp ground ginger
- 2tbsp caster sugar
- ½pt (300ml) water

Method

1. If you are using dry yeast, stir the yeast in with ¼ pint (150ml) of lukewarm water and a bit of sugar. Leave this mixture for 10-15 mins. If you are using fresh yeast, which you can procure from certain bakers, you can skip this process.
2. Mix the wettened yeast with the sugar until they cream to form a liquid. Then add the ground ginger and water. If you used dry yeast then use only ¼pt (150ml) of water. Stir this mixture well and pour it into a jar with a loose-fitting lid, so as to let the mixture breathe. Now leave this mixture in a cool place.
3. The next day, and each day thereafter, add 1 level tsp (5ml) of ground ginger and the same amount of caster sugar to your jar and stir the mixture thoroughly.
4. After 10 days. dissolve 18oz (500g) of caster sugar and 1½pt (900ml) of water, bring this mix to the boil and let it cool slightly. Add the strained juice of two lemons to the water.
5. Strain your ginger plant through fine muslin and add the strained liquid to the sugar and lemon juice mixture, along with 6pt (3.4l)water.
6. Stir the mixture well and bottle it straight away in strong screw-topped bottles, like those in which you would store cider or beer. Make sure you store the bottles in a cool place for about two weeks before you drink it. This is essential!

To Make More Ginger Beer

Halve the sediment left on the muslin and divide it into two separate jars. Add ½pt (300ml) water, 2tsps (10ml) and 2tsps (10ml) caster sugar to each jar. Stir it well and continue the same process as before for ten days.

This means that the produce is doubled every ten days.

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I think the sense of authority went to my head! As deputy Car Park Attendant at Hollinsclough "Oatfest", I was able to make cars stop, come forward, park here, park there, or continue to Henry up the field. Power, indeed! I felt quite a buzz as I waved and gesticulated (politely, of course) to the various bemused drivers.

Authority, backed by power, is necessary in this world if there isn't to be chaos. On the other hand, their misuse is seen in the abuse of the weak, injustice and corruption, and in people's sense of powerlessness.

In King Lear, one of Shakespeare's characters suggests that this corruption exists in the heavenly realm: "As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods. They kill us for their sport." The gods, with their power over human life, are indifferent to our fate and we suffer without them having any concern for us.

In the wake of the terrible flood surge caused by the cyclone in Burma and the earthquake in China, some will inevitably say that if there is a God, he is without concern for the people of this world. If had a care for us, would women and men and children, going about their lives, have been suddenly struck by forces beyond their control?

Christians and non-Christians would agree that the world is still "work in progress". It is subject to the natural forces which bring about change over the centuries. It is also affected by our own activity. Many see this behind the increasing incidents of our destructive hurricanes.

We may also have made things worse in other ways. We have cut down the mangrove swamps which might have been a barrier against the tidal surge in Burma (as in Bangladesh a few months ago). We may have failed to build as well as we might and so have caused schools and hospitals to collapse in China.

So where is God in all this? It may be, and with our limited minds we can only speculate, that this is the only kind of world in which intelligent life could have developed: a world of constant change in which there are great possibilities and great risks. If so, God has a responsibility for the world being as it is!

Yet, out of our understanding of the God we meet in Jesus, we may also want to say that God suffers with those who wait for help in Burma and those seeking family and friends amongst the rows of corpses in China. He is with them in their misery and desolation!

We may also glimpse that he is at the heart of the desire in many to help, comfort and rebuild. The Spirit of God blows where it will, into the lives of Christian and agnostic and atheist.

For those who are Christians, there is a particular responsibility for seeking to be open to all that the Spirit of God wants of us - in the way we use our power and authority and in the use we make of whatever God has given us in our care for those in greatest need.

With warm greetings, Colin

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 07791 682244 anytime

Fun-filled festival for all at beautiful Tittesworth Water again

Local talent, live music, and all that the arts can offer on Saturday June 28 (11am-11pm) and Sunday June 29th (11am-6pm)

The Strawberry Moon Festival is a major 'REAP' (Rural Education & Arts Project) project and will showcase the cream of local talent in music, drama, dance, crafts and many more art forms at Severn Trent Waters site, 'Tittesworth Water' near Leek, forming the perfect, picturesque backdrop. It will additionally be home to a 'Makers Market' which will be an opportunity to try, taste and buy from local businesses, from weavers to jewellery makers to ceramicists.

To book tickets, contact us on:
 T: 01298 83500 or email enquiries@reapweb.org.uk
 or via our website: www.reapweb.org.uk

**The Strawberry Moon Festival
 at Tittesworth Water**

**SATURDAY 28 JUNE (11am – 11pm) and
 SUNDAY 29 JUNE (11am – 6pm)**

A fun filled weekend for all the family - with live music, local talent and all that the Arts can offer

Once again REAP, in partnership with Severn Trent Water, is delighted to be hosting The Strawberry Moon Festival - showcasing the very best local talent in music, dance, drama and crafts.

REAP would like to hear from interesting local community organisations/groups who want to set up their own display stand at the festival, so as to raise their groups profile and celebrate the good work that they do. REAP are offering free areas in which groups can set up.

To find out more or to purchase tickets, please contact us on:
 T: 01298 83500 or e-mail enquiries@reapweb.org.uk
 Or via our website: www.reapweb.org.uk

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History Notes

Alstonefield Deanery Magazine
June 1918

LONGNOR

The Diocesan Church Representatives for this Parish are Mr. Joseph Bradbury, Longnor; Mr. W. Bradbury, Ncwtown.

I would thank sincerely the Collector, Mrs. B. Malkin, and the kind givers, for supplies to Refreshment Stall at Sale of Work :—2/6: Miss A Oliver, Mrs. Lownds, Mrs. B. Kirkham; 2/-: Mrs. Moss (The Low), Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Horobin (The Crofts), A Friend, Mrs. A. Gregory, Mrs. C. Mellor (Schoolclough), Mrs. Cundy, Mrs. Cantrell, Mrs. Ratcliff, Mrs. Grindey (Yew Tree); Mrs. Doughty, Milk and 1/6; 1/-: Mrs. F. H. Mellor, Mrs. Bayliss, Mrs. Gould, C. and H., Mrs. C. Mellor, Mrs. H. Sykes; 6d.: Mrs. Kidd, Mrs. Tucker. Mrs. Grindon, cakes; Mrs. Boulton, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea and jelly; Mrs. Cooper, cakes and milk; Mrs. J. Bradbury, 1lb. tea; Mrs. D. Bradbury, S.H. Cake; Mrs. W. Millward, buns; Mrs. F. Gilman, jellies; Mr. Johnson, H.H. butter; Miss Fidler, jelly; Mrs. Stanham, cakes and sugar; Mrs. Robinson, perfume soap; and thanks to Mrs. Mellor, Hollinsclough Brow, for washing surplice. A.E.H.S.

We are truly sorry that bereavement has come to the family of one of our brave fellows at the Front, Gunner T. Kirkham. Mrs. Kirkham died after a painful illness. He and his brother and sister will much feel her loss, and we tender our deep sympathy to them and other relatives. We thank God for Roms. viii. 11: "He that

raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Rev. Richard Stanham was the preacher on Whit Sunday evening.

OUR SOLDIERS.

Whilst we are saddened that Ptes. Duncan Gregor is wounded, and T. Beswick has lost a leg we are arateful that there is good news of others. Pte. John Grindey looked well (and spoke well) when on furlough.

BURIALS.

May 11—Mary Ellen Kirkham, Fair View, Newtown, 52 years.

21—(Mrs.) Riley, of Leek.

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

QUARNFGRD AND RAMSHAW.

ANNUAL SERMONS.

Our date is usually the last Sunday in June, and as this happens to be the Vicar's last Sunday he hopes to preach his farewell sermons as Vicar of Quarnford on that day. The collections, as usual, will be for Church Expenses. The Vicar's letter to parishioners and friends will, D.V., appear in the July Magazine.

June 30th, H.C., 9 a.m.; Services, 2-30 and 6-45; Ramshaw, 11 a.m.

IN MEMORIAM.

We were truly sorry to hear of the death of Pte. Fred Brooks, in France. He was one of our most regular attendants at Ramshaw when at home. The Vicar wrote him a long letter, but before he found time to reply he was taken ill with bronchitis and died in hospital. Our deepest sympathy is given to his mother in her bereavement.

ATTENDANCE PRIZES.

Ten were as usual given by the Hon. Lady Crewe, and two by Mrs. Peate to the boy and girl who made the most attendances. Wilson Townson, M. Wood, G. Goodwin, O. Goodwin, A. Wood, J. Goodwin, J. Percival, G. Wood, W. Goodwin, S. G. Belfield, F. Bratt, R. Bratt. Our thanks to Lady Crewe for her continued interest in our School.

EASTER SOCIAL.

We wish to thank those who so generously gave either cakes, materials or money which enabled us to open the door with all expenses paid and 1/6 in hand:

Mrs. Townson, J. P. Wain, Ash, G. Nadin, G. Belfield, J. Mellor, G. Ager, Goodwin (Rock), Wilson, Stubbs, Chappell, Beswick (Flash Bar), James Brocklehurst, Slack, J. Downes, W. Wardle, F. Wardle, Joseph Goodwin, Findlow, Peate, Miss Cooper, B. Beswick, Stubbs, A. Tunnicliffe, L. Mellor, Messrs. Oliver and Buxton. £7 13s. Od. was handed over to the Churchwardens. We are sorry this statement was omitted in last month's magazine through want of room.

BAPTISMS.

May 19—Jesse and James Herbert Tunnicliffe, Blue Hills.
19—Agnes Ann, Ruth Elizabeth, and Harry Tunnicliffe, Ramshaw.
19—Norah Emillie Plowes, Harbon Hill.

SHEEN.

Burial: April 23rd, Madeline Elizabeth Riley, aged 9 years.

It is with feelings of deep regret that we have to record the death of one of our most promising little scholars, Madeline Riley, who was called to the Higher Life on April 19th. We cannot realise that she has been taken from among us. Her frail, little

form, never robust, could always have been found regular, painstaking and cheery among her comrades both at Sunday and Day School. In many ways she was a model to all. Her desire to be dutiful and conscientious was most marked. For little Madeline to miss saying her collect on Sunday morning would have been an unexpected occurrence. Neither the length of the Collect, nor the words it contained, seemed any difficulty to her. As proofs of her perseverance, it is to be noted that she earned the highest number of marks in the Sunday School, while at the Day School she was the most regular child during the last School year. She was, indeed, a pattern to all her fellow scholars. Her gentle and lovable nature will greatly be missed. The Vicar, in the Funeral Sermon, took for his text, "The damsel is not dead, but sleepeth," and very beautifully expressed her love and devotion to the path of duty, urging upon the others to copy her example, especially showing how she had thus prepared herself for her departure into the Great Beyond. Just before the end came, she clasped her little hands together and repeated the Lord's Prayer, and in her Master's Spirit came her last words, "I've finished." The Scholars were present at the funeral, and sang the two hymns, "Loving Shepherd of Thy sheep," and "Tender Shepherd Thou hast stilled." Before the Service, they strewed the grave of their little comrade with flowers, and afterwards placed bunches on the top. Truly may it be said of her, "She being dead, yet speaketh." May she rest in Peace, and Light Perpetual shine on her.

The War Savings Association has now been working for a month, during which Certificates have been sold, and subscriptions taken, to the value of £53 8s. 6d.

June 1958

Longnor

The Bazaar held in Longnor Church School on Saturday, 3rd May was a great success. The total sum realised was £67 5s 3d

Our very grateful thanks must go to Mrs. P. Beswick for performing the opening ceremony. We are most grateful to the stallholders and those who helped to organise the Bazaar with such enthusiasm. The whole function was marked by the generosity of those who made or gave goods for the stalls, and of those who came and bought. It is a great thing for the stallholders and all the helpers to know that their efforts were so signally rewarded.

DONATIONS to the Bazaar Fund :-
Miss H. Hand, £1; Miss H. hand, £1; Mr. A. Kidd, £1; Mr. J. Cundy, 10/-; Mr. W. Gould, 10/-; Mr. Samuel Kidd, 10/-; Mr. James Kidd, 10/-; Mr. G. Grindon, 10/-; Nurse Wheeldon, 10/-; Miss M. Mellor, 7/6; Mrs. F.Nadin, 4/6; Mrs. Peto, 2/6.

HOLY BAPTISM. "Suffer the little children to come unto me." May 4th (at the Parish Church), Rachel Gould Garnett; May 11th (at St. Paul's, Newtown. Phyllis Marion Titterton.

HOLY MATRIMONY. "Those whom God hath Joined together let no man put asunder." May 10th, Roy Mellor and Linda Ollerenshaw.

BURIAL. "I am the Resurrection and the Life." April 21st. Mary Ann Riley, aged 82 years.

THANKS. For donations in lieu of flowers in memory of Mary Ann Riley Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Mellor, 10/- Mrs. Peto, 2/6.

E. H. FINNEMORE, Vicar.

QUARNFORD.

PARISH OUTING has already been arranged by Mr. H. Pool. It is hoped that as many as wish will go to Blackpool on Saturday, June 7th.

ALTAR FLOWERS. June 1st, Mrs. H. Wood; June 15th. Miss M. Wood; June 29th, Mrs. J. Kidd.

BURIALS. Arthur Harold Wain, April 19th, aged 73 years. Donations in memoriam: Mrs. F. Spencer, £1; Mrs. Wain, 10/-; Flora Bottom, 10/-.

Joshua Naden, April 23rd, aged 77 years. Donations in memoriam: Mr. T. Johnson. 10/-; Mr. H. Hall. 10/-; Mr. and Mrs. B. Robinson, £1.

Lawrence Crozier, May 21st, aged 83 years. Donations in memoriam: Mr. F. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. S. Kidd and family, Miss E. Beswick, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wardle, Mr. and Mrs. F. Wardle. Mr. E. Gould, and Mr. and Mrs. S. Tunnieliffe, each 10/-.
H. W. THOMPSON, Vicar.

SHEEN.

ORGAN. We are very glad to welcome back Mr. Arthur Stubbs after his long and painful illness. It is several months since he last sat on the Organ stool. We thank Mr. J. Jones for so kindly coming to our aid in the evenings.

RUG. We thank Mr. George Cantrell of this parish for his gift of a Rug which he made. The amount brought by its sale amounted to over £19. George Cantrell Was not only a maker of the rug, but he sold many hooks of tickets. There are also other People who sold books, and them I also thank.

THE LATE JOHN WILLY RILEY. In lieu of flowers. from Mr. and Mrs. Cantrell and family, 5/-.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR. June 1st, Mrs.H.Birch; June 8th. Mrs. May Gould; June 15th, Mrs. Sutton; June 22nd, Mrs. Cantrell; June 29th, Mrs. G. J. Critchlow (Brund); July 6th, Miss Broomhead; July 13th. Mrs. Cope; July 20th. Mrs. D. Blackhurst.

J V. PHILP, Vicar.

From the Diocese

Lichfield Cathedral Stamps

As you may have seen in the press and on television, Lichfield Cathedral is the new face of the Royal Mail's 1st Class Stamps. To obtain these stamps you will need to buy them from a Post Office rather than newsagents or other places stamps are sold. These stamps are not price-marked (ie, "36p") but are designated "1st". This means that they remain valid for first class postage forever – even if the cost of postage goes up they will remain valid for use. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote our Cathedral and diocese; and so we would encourage you to purchase as many of the special Cathedral 1st class stamps as you can and use them in the coming months – or even years.

Snippets

The Bishop of Lichfield's Emergency Appeal for Burma - the four bishops write...

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

name: Bishop of Lichfield's Emergency Appeal).

Like us, you are no doubt watching the pictures from Myanmar (Burma) with a feeling of helplessness, and asking "What can I do to help?" It is difficult to know what to do when faced with a disaster on this magnitude: tens of thousands dead, 40,000 people missing and one million people homeless.

But there are two things we can do which will make a big difference. We can pray and we can give. Some people have already given through the Disasters Emergency Committee. However, we wish to commend a way of responding further, following the lead of our companion diocese of West Malaysia, which has close ties with the Anglican Church of Myanmar. The Anglican

dioceses in Burma are already engaged in long-term agricultural, educational and sustainable development initiatives. Local churches in the country are already deeply involved in the current relief efforts, but they are already looking to the rebuilding and replanting work that will be essential in the coming weeks and months.

We are now making an emergency appeal for funds to assist the long-term rebuilding work that will be needed in Burma.

Every penny received from this appeal will be used to aid the people of Burma, primarily through the Anglican Church in Myanmar working with the mission agency USPG: Anglicans in World Mission.

We invite all churches:

- to hold separate collections, in addition to their usual collections, on Sunday 11th or Sunday 18th May – or on another suitable occasion – and to encourage congregations to respond generously and positively, using Gift Aid envelopes where they can
- to give details of this appeal on their websites, in parish magazines and on pew-sheets pointing people to the website www.lichfield.anglican.org/emergency.

In addition, we would invite:

- all church councils to consider making a special one-off gift, either as part of or in addition to their usual charitable donations
- all youth groups to consider staging special fundraising events, such as car washes, talent auctions, etc, to raise funds to help in this desperate situation.

Our partners in West Malaysia have already sent an immediate cash gift to the Church in Burma, and Bishop Ng Moon Hing has appealed to his congregations for funds and also for two or three volunteers to go to Burma and report back on what more needs to be done.

Of course, in addition to financial gifts, we also need to pray for the victims of the disaster – those who are bereaved, those who are injured, the homeless, the suffering; we need to pray for the leaders of Burma and for the international community – including the United Nations – that a way will be found for the international community to play a full part in the relief efforts; we need to pray for the Christian community of Burma, for strength and wisdom as they respond to the disaster around them; and we need to pray for international aid agencies, including British organisations such as the Disasters Emergency Committee, and its members, which include

Christian Aid and Tearfund, as they consider how best to bring relief from the suffering.

Please respond positively to this disaster and demonstrate the love of God in a practical way to desperate people.

+Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield

+Alan Smith, Bishop of Shrewsbury

+Gordon Mursell, Bishop of Stafford

+Clive Gregory, Bishop of Wolverhampton

Note: Cheques should be made payable to “The Bishop of Lichfield’s Emergency Appeal” and sent to Saint Mary’s House, The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7LD. Payment can also be made via Internet Banking (Sort Code: 30-95-04; Account number: 01559211; Account

- You may have read the article in The Times “Churchgoing on its knees” recently. It may help you to know that figures released by Christian Research have been challenged by the Church of England. The projections for Christians are based on traditional Sunday morning attendance on any particular Sunday morning, estimated from church censuses. This excludes the increasing numbers who attend less frequently than once a month; the increasing numbers who attend mid-week services; and the increasing numbers attending less traditional forms of church. In contrast, the Muslim figures were calculated by assuming that half of those who claim to be Muslim on the Census went to Mosques regularly.

- Recent research has shown that 12m attend church at least once a year, more than three times the number attending on any particular Sunday.

- A celebration of Church / School links will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 3rd June in St Michael’s CofE(c) First School’s Hall, Weavers Lane, Stone. The evening will focus on the ‘Adventurers’ out of hours Christian Club which is supported and funded jointly by the school and the congregations of St Michael and St Wulfad, Stone with St Saviours, Aston. There will be an opportunity to meet some of the members, helpers and leaders of the club. The evening will show a ‘snapshot’ of the work that has been done and is ongoing. There will be a buffet supper and it is hoped that this will be a time for people to chat and share ideas. There will be a collection of resources on display and also a basic resource pack with suggested programs, ideas, useful contacts etc available to purchase (at a cost of £10.00). This celebration marks the conclusion of a Farmington Fellowship grant from the Harris

Manchester College of Oxford University. If you would like to attend or order a resource pack, please contact Paula Lloyd by e-mail: paula.lloyd@lichfield.anglican.org.

- A basic training course in spiritual accompaniment will take place at Manresa House, Harborne, beginning in October. The course comprises eight Saturday mornings and two-weekends. It is for anyone who has already made an individually-given retreat whether in daily life or in residence. Those who apply must be prepared to attend each session plus two weekends and must also be prepared to share their prayer experiences with others on the course. The Course will be run by an ecumenical team from the Manresa Link Ignatian Spirituality Network. There is a registration fee of £10 and participants are asked to donate £8 per Saturday session. The weekends cost £40 resident and £20 non resident. Further information and booking forms are available from Margaret Weston on 0121 - 471 1566 or e-mail: mweston@fish.co.uk.

- The Telford-based Harvest Help charity is once again offering Harvest packs for churches. The Hands of Hope 2008 is an inspirational, fresh approach to Harvest services focusing upon the church’s calling to serve the poor. The pack is a resource for churches of all kinds and contains ideas and activities for family services, house groups, youth groups and children’s groups. The pack, which includes sermon ideas, drama sketch, prayers, readings and hymn/worship suggestions, discussion prompts and activities for house-groups and ideas for youth and childrens' work can be obtained by sending your name and address by email to: harvest@selfhelpafrica.com.

Harvest Help is to merge with the Irish charity Self Help Development International to form a new organisation called Self Help Africa.

- The Society of St Mary and St Martha have a range of resources to support and care for Christian leaders and their families. These include top quality Linhay Lodges and Pig Pens which are ideal for people who want good quality space to do their own thing, or people who need an emergency bolt-hole with one-to-one support and are provided with self-catering or with a stocked larder. They also have a few places left for families wishing to camp or caravan on our

Clergy Family Holiday weeks 3-9 and 10-16 Aug. They cook, you relax and do your own thing locally during the day, and low key activities at Sheldon in the evenings. These are in addition to planned courses, events and retreats, including Enneagram and False Identity; Massage for Beginners; Original Blessing a retreat/workshop on Creation Centred Spirituality; 12,000-mile Service; Reading Weeks; Photography, Poetry and Vision; and a Summer Festival Fortnight. Full details online at sheldon.uk.com.

• **Residential Retreat/Renewal at St John's Hospital, Lichfield Cathedral Close**

The Trustees of St John's Hospital in Lichfield have the opportunity to offer, over a trial period to 28th July 2008, accommodation for one person from within the Diocese for a week's residential accommodation for relaxation and renewal at 21, The Close, Lichfield. Each week of the stay would run from a Monday to the next Monday. The cost for the week will be £25.00, which would be a non-returnable contribution to the cost of the stay, payable when the reservation is made. There would be no other charges for utilities and the Trustees would make a grant towards food.

St John's Hospital is not a "hospital" as they are understood today, but an ancient Almshouse Charity with accommodation for elderly men and married couples on two sites in the centre of the city, one of which is 21 The Close. It is a Christian Community with the Bishop of Lichfield as President and Visitor.

Number 21 The Close is a modern Almshouse of 12 flats accommodating 11 residents. The available bedsit (number 12) is furnished with a separate kitchen and bathroom. It overlooks the Cathedral and has secure access, a lift and a resident Warden. Applicants would need to be self-reliant but the Trustees hope that some of the daily Services in the Cathedral might appeal, together with the fellowship found in the Close and in St John's without the Barrs and its chapel and garden. Car parking is available at St John's without the Barrs – just 0.6 miles away.

During these summer months, and at the other end of the cathedral, stonemasons will be working on the repair of the buttresses to the south choir. Watching them work on site may also be of interest. This opportunity arises before major refurbishments begin and the Trustees wish to establish whether there is a need within the Diocese for such facilities to be offered on a permanent basis in the future.

The trustees would be happy to receive applications from lay people or clergy. The

customary application form should be completed, including an endorsement from the Parish Priest, where appropriate. These forms are available from Mr R M Hartley, Steward, St John's Without the Barrs, St John's Street, Lichfield, WS13 6PB; or tel: 01543 251884.