

St. Teresa's Parish Magazine



Advent & Christmas 2012



Sunday Mass Times

Enstone 9.00am
Charlbury 11.00am

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2012

Thursday 20th December, 7.30pm:

Penitential Service with Visiting Priests

Christmas Eve:

Morning Prayer at 9.15am,

Mass at 9.30am

Christmas Night Mass with

Lessons and Carols at 8.00pm

Christmas Day:

The Mass of Dawn - 9.00am St Kenelm's

The Mass of the Day - 11.00am St Teresa's

St. Stephen's Day: Mass at 11.00am

INTRODUCTION

A Parish Magazine is always a great supporter of the elements which hold a parish community together and so as I begin my pastoral commitment to you all, it gives me the great pleasure of contributing to this particular Issue in view of the fact that it is the Advent and Christmas one.

Advent, as we know, is a time of preparation and a time of waiting for the celebration of Christmas and so the Church clads herself in Advent purple as a sign of this. In the early centuries of the Church, Advent was the longer time of six weeks when the people prepared for the coming of the Christ child by fasting but this eventually changed to what we have today. Even so, the purple of this season is still the sign that we are in a penitential time. In many churches today the Advent Wreath is to be seen and in a building that is free from the decoration of flowers at this time it is not only a more than prominent decoration but also a powerful symbol of the time. The fact that the wreath is circular reminds us of the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life found in Christ. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory

sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, known as Gaudete Sunday from the opening words of the Entrance Antiphon or Introit which calls us to 'Rejoice' because we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when our waiting and preparation is now half over and we are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. A modern day adaption of the wreath is the inclusion of the white candle placed in the middle of the wreath. This represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. For the Masses of Christmas Day the coloured candles are replaced with four white candles all of which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

May I wish you all an Advent observance which will bring you an increase of joy and hope so that Christmas time will be rich in its blessings.

Father Aldo

ST TERESA'S IS A FAIRTRADE PARISH

It has been an extremely rainy summer and autumn for the TRAIDCRAFT stall at St Teresa's, but we have still managed to keep going in our outside venue at the church. From April to October 2012, parishioners gave VERY GENEROUS support to producers in the developing world by buying over £270 worth of TRAIDCRAFT goods through the parish stall and at the Church Bazaar in September.

In addition, there was a sale of TRAIDCRAFT Christmas Cards at the Church Bazaar in September and that raised a further £172.

Madeleine Wheare would like to thank all her patrons for their humorous support and genuine interest in the range of Fairtrade products. This year she was joined by **Zoe F**, who started helping as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award. Zoe is now so proficient, she runs the stall when Madeleine is away! Together they covered all "dry" Sundays.

Traditionally the stall is closed for the winter and will reopen after Easter when the clement weather returns.

The St Teresa's stall is organised with the backing of Charlbury Fair Traders - a group of Charlbury Churches which band together for bulk ordering

to keep costs down. No handling charge or profit is made. The items are passed on at cost to us.

A TRAIDCRAFT Christmas catalogue can be obtained by **contacting Madeleine**. Alternatively, orders can be handled with TRAIDCRAFT direct by using their website: www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

♪ *Hark a Herald Voice is Calling* ♪

♪ *Lo! He comes with clouds descending* ♪



Join us for the annual service of Carols in Advent

**St.Teresa's Church
Charlbury**

**Sunday 16th December
3.30pm**

All Welcome

♪ *Oh Come, Oh Come Emanuel!* ♪

♪ *The Angel Gabriel* ♪

♪ *The Noble Stem of Jesse* ♪

♪ *Gaudete* ♪

The last two rehearsals for the choir for the carol service are on Monday 3rd December and Monday 10th December, both at 7.30pm in St Teresa's. All Welcome.

ALTON CASTLE XTREME ADVENTURE 2012

In July I went on a diocese-based youth trip to Alton Castle, a centre for catholic youth retreats and holidays. I went with Chipping Norton youth group, with some friends I had met on a previous excursion in 2011.

We arrived, after a hot and noisy coach journey, and were greeted by three Americans from Life Teen who would be leading the activities. At first, we were a little surprised by their vibrancy, but by the end of the week they were good friends.

Over the week we did many different activities such as mountain biking, messy games (which I particularly enjoyed), raft building, survival training and even a day at nearby Alton Towers theme park, which was great fun. In the evenings, after Mass, we did another activity. Often this was spiritual, but once we had a treasure hunt, which was particularly exhausting, and another time we had a bonfire and outdoor disco type event, which I wasn't so keen on, however, it was nice to get into the spirit and forget about other things. We also had free time, in which I explored the ruins of the medieval Alton Castle.

Every day, after tea, we had Mass. I found this a little boring at first, but soon I was enjoying it and taking part much more. We would have sessions both in small groups discussing Bible parables, and in the whole group, where the Americans would talk to us about the Mass and about other bible stories, and teach us new hymns. These sessions taught everyone a lot about our faith, and we all left very much more aware of who we were. I have enjoyed being a Catholic much more since then.

There were three after-Mass activities which were spiritual rather than physical – Adoration, Benediction and a procession, and Confession. I really enjoyed Adoration, Benediction and the Eucharistic procession. I really felt God's presence – however, although I liked having the opportunity to go to Confession, it was face-to-face and I found that quite alarming.

I loved my time at Alton Castle, and would recommend it to anyone in the age range.

Hannah

WISDOM OF THE DESERT – BY THOMAS MERTON

I found a wonderful bookshop in St. Aldates last month. It sells new and second hand books, mostly on theology and philosophy. It is a bit like Terry Pratchett's "Unseen University Bookshop" with odd corners and rooms piled high with books. Inside I found the book "Wisdom of the Desert" by Thomas Merton, and it has given me things to dwell on, things to laugh about, and things to pray for. I give you two or three of the thoughts of these holy men.

'...Once in the valley of the monks cells, a feast being celebrated, the brethren were eating and drinking together in a place of assembly. There was a certain brother present who said to the one waiting on tables "I do not eat any cooked food, just a little salt".

The one waiting on the table called another brother in the presence of the whole assembly saying "That brother does not eat cooked food, just bring him some salt."

One of the elders got up and said to the brother who wanted salt "it would have been better if you had eaten meat alone in your cell today then let this thing be heard in the presence of so many brothers"'

Another one is that once *'...One of the brethren had sinned, and the priest told him to leave the community. So then Abbot Bessarion got up and walked out with him, saying: I too am a sinner!...'*

This is last one – *'...A certain brother came to Abbot Silvanus at Mount Sinai, and seeing the hermits at work he exclaimed: Why do you work for the bread that perisheth? Mary has chosen the best part, namely to sit at the feet of the lord without working. Then the Abbot said to his disciple Zachary: Give the brother a book and let him read, and put him in an empty cell. At the ninth hour the brother who was reading began to look out to see if the Abbot was going to call him to dinner. Sometime after the ninth hour he went himself to the Abbot and said: Did the brethren not eat today, Father? Oh yes, certainly, said the Abbot, they just had dinner. Well, said the brother, why did you not call me? You are a spiritual man, said the elder; you don't need this food that perisheth. We have to work, but you have chosen the best part. You read all day, and can get along without food. Hearing this the brother said: Forgive me, Father. And the elder said: Martha is necessary to Mary, for it was because Martha worked that Mary was able to be praised....'*

I wish I had thought of that.

Hilda Joy Jones.

A CHANCE MEETING

I travel a lot by bus and meet some interesting people. Recently my travelling companion was a man from Saudi Arabia. He took out his prayer beads and began passing them through his fingers. "I find great comfort in my prayer beads" he said. I agreed that I, also, found comfort in mine.

For the rest of the journey we had an interesting conversation on prayer and the use of prayer beads, and the difference between the prayer beads of different faiths. "Yours have a cross on them" he said. The conversation ended with his words "If we do this, the good Lord will look after us".

The meeting lifted my day and I reflected how good it is to share common bonds between our faiths and what a treasure we have in the rosary.

Ivy Glare

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY

Hilda Joy Jones and Madeleine Wheare are St Teresa's CTC representatives. Madeleine has been on the committee for three years and is looking for a replacement as she is unable to make the meetings due to heavy time commitments. Anyone willing to support Hilda in her work please contact Hilda on 01608 811 181.

On Sunday 20 May at 3.30 pm, St Teresa's hosted the **Christian Aid United Service**. Our speaker was Roy Scott, Founder of One Village. It was very well supported by members of all the other Charlbury churches and it was followed by Tea served in the Methodist Church Upper Room.

There are three United Services a year, in January for Christian Unity, in May for Christian Aid and in October for One World Week and they are hosted in rotation between the five denominations. United Services are usually held at 9.45 am in St Mary's Church. This is convenient as the Catholics and Quakers can still attend their own services. As a rule only two or three people from St Teresa's attend, which is a shame. It would be good to work together and share worship with our fellow Christians.

The series of **Lent lunches** was very successful with all churches taking part on a rota system. St Teresa's turn was ably supported by women in the parish, cooking and baking and serving on the day.

The theme of this year's Lenten series was **The Psalms**. We had another impressive group of speakers. The series concluded with a performance by St. Mary's church choir which involved plenty of audience participation. We are most grateful to them and to the Methodist Church which provided a venue after St Mary's was damaged by fire. Their hospitality was much appreciated.

In 2013, the **Lenten series** will see each church in Charlbury inviting a speaker from their own tradition to look at the past and present of their denomination and reflect on what their tradition offers the Christian community as a whole. Dr Judith Champ, Director of Studies at St Mary's College, Oscott and tutor in church history will represent the Roman Catholic point of view.

The Church Times recently reported the Pope's view that "challenges facing religious belief itself and church life are common – no Church, no religion, is an island – we need one another and can learn from one another." I think we know this in Charlbury but we can still learn from one another and that is what we hope to do in Lent.

Christian Aid Lunch: All churches take it in turns to organise this event in May as they do the **Women's World Day of Prayer** in March.

Charlbury Street Fair: a few parishioners were active in selling goods on the Home Produce stall during the Fair. Funds collected were divided between the Corner House and Memorial Hall Fund and the DEC appeal for the Horn of Africa.

The AGM of CTC was held on 11 October and the special speaker was Baroness Cox who gave an illustrated talk: 'Contemporary Challenges to Faith at home and abroad'

The new Chairman of CTC is Liz Tait from the Church of England.

Events organised by CTC in 2013 are:

- Sunday 20 Jan - 9.45 am - United Service for Christian Unity –
hosted by the Baptist Church in St Mary's Church
- Tuesdays 19 Feb to 19 March - Lenten series of talks in St Mary's Church
- Friday 15 February to 22 March - Lent Lunches
- Friday 1 March - Women's World Day for Prayer

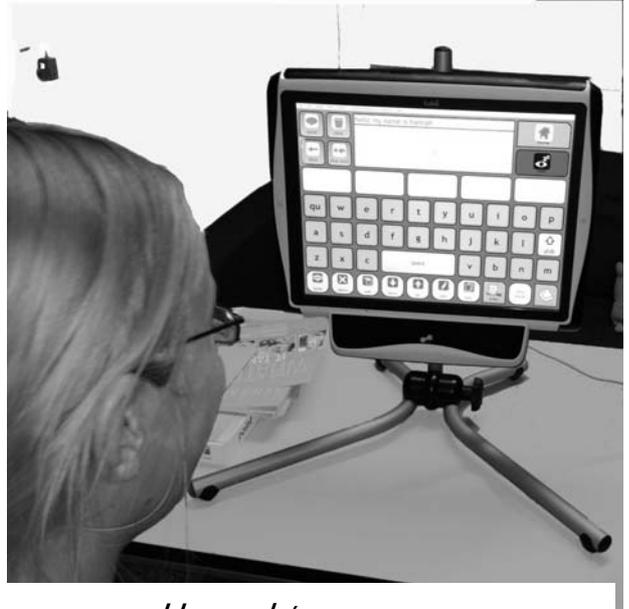
Madeleine Wheare and Hilda Joy Jones

ST TERESA'S YOUTH

Saint Teresa's Youth did an impressive job of raising money at the bazaar for SpecialEffect charity located in Charlbury. Our total amounted to £65 when our target had been £25! Quite astonishing that rosary bracelets and cards made by the group (and Father David) could raise so much money. We handed the money over in person and were rewarded with an evening in the office being introduced to the amazing video and computer equipment they tailor for disabled children . The group all had an opportunity to play video games and write an email using an eye pad - not ipad (see Agnieszka's report opposite).

Hannah wrote a message for the parish and we took a photo for the parish to guess it right. The first person to tell Hannah the message she wrote on the screen will be rewarded with a rosary bracelet, so the the gaming continues beyond that evening now! Many thanks to Gavin and Bill for their warm introduction and we look forward to raising more money or perhaps supporting in other ways in the future.

Brek Taylor



Hannah's message

Free to a good home: Riviera bath lift chair

purchased for Alison's mother but very little used.

It lifts, lowers and reclines easily and quietly and fits in most baths. Made by Aquasoothe Ltd - full description available at

http://www.aquasoothe.com/rproduct/riviera_bathlift/

It is in full working order but is missing the battery charging unit. It can be charged with a standard car battery charger, or a replacement charging unit could be obtained - eg from

http://www.betterlifehealthcare.com/view_product.php?prodID=1182

ST TERESA'S YOUTH VISIT TO SPECIALEFFECT

On 16th October St. Teresa's Youth visited "SpecialEffect", the charity we have been raising money for. "SpecialEffect" is a charity for disabled children who are paralysed or can't move certain parts of their body, so they find it difficult to play video games or to communicate using phones or computers. "SpecialEffect" makes game consoles and computers that are easier for them to use.

When we visited "SpecialEffect" we all got to have a go at playing on a racing game which had a giant controller for people who can't move their fingers so they can use their whole hand to press the buttons. Then we played on a computer that you control with your eyes instead of using a mouse and which was specially made for people who can only move their eyes. We also watched a slide show of all the people "SpecialEffect" has helped.

"SpecialEffect" is an amazing charity that has helped lots of people and I'm glad we chose to raise money for them!

Agnieszka



TWO SPANISH CHURCHES

SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA

One of the most interesting experiences I have had was when visiting the Cathedral to attend Mass at Santo Domingo de la Calzada, which is in the Rioja region of Spain. It is situated on one of the pilgrim routes to Santiago de Compostela - The Way of Saint James. The Cathedral is in the Romanesque and Gothic styles, having been built from 1180 to the 17th century. It also has a Baroque tower added later in 1767. The inside is spacious, with high arches and fan vaulting in the roof areas.

We arrived to stay at the Parador at Santo Domingo in the Plaza opposite the Cathedral. The Parador is partly built in the 15th century when it had been a hospital for sick pilgrims on the route to Santiago de Compostela. The vast sitting areas have enormous stone columns and arches from that period.

Whilst attending Mass next day in the Cathedral, one became aware from time to time of a cock crowing from high up somewhere. We learnt later that a cock and hen were living in a pen high up within the Cathedral. This was related to a story about a boy who, with his parents was a pilgrim on the road to Santiago. Someone had put some silver items in his bag and after the family had left to continue their pilgrimage, the local girl who had placed the items notified the authorities of their loss. The boy was arrested and hanged and left hanging from the gibbet. When the parents returned from their pilgrimage they saw their son still hanging from the gibbet. He was alive and greeted his parents. It transpired that Santo Domingo had kept him alive by supporting his weight. The parents went to see the official, who refused to do anything to help as he was about to start his lunch of roast chicken. He said that their son was as alive as the birds on his plate. As soon as he said this, the chickens got up from his plate, their feathers sprouted, and they flew away. As a result of the above, a cock and a hen are kept living in a pen high up in the Cathedral and are replaced by another pair each month.

IGLESIA SANTO CRISTO DEL CALVARIO

In contrast to the many period church buildings I have visited, one very interesting modern one that I have enjoyed several times for Mass whilst staying in our villa in the Marbella area is the Iglesia Santo Cristo del Calvario built in the 1970's. The interior is lined with modern brickwork with a large sloping ceiling. Around the walls are modern brass and silvered inscriptions.

Behind the High Altar there is an enormous painting of Christ in robes as depicted when with the Apostles. It slopes towards the congregation. One marvellous invention is a screen high up showing the words of the hymns displayed verse by verse. One could see a man at a computer, I presume, organising this. The English priest was full of character, having had major heart surgery in the recent past. He had a great voice and often led the singing. His sermons were uplifting and related the day's lessons to modern life. In all an uplifting experience - and also better than thumbing through tired hymn books!

Paula Biggs

WALSINGHAM ECUMENICAL MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

Some of us will be adding to our efforts for the Year of Faith by making a pilgrimage to Durham in the summer, but this may be impossible for some. May I suggest an alternative – a participation in a pilgrimage to Walsingham?

The 2013 Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from Tuesday 12th to Friday 15th March 2013. It is particularly relevant to us because Mass at the Catholic National Shrine will be celebrated by our own Archbishop of Birmingham, the most Revd. Bernard Longley. Those who have not yet been to Walsingham will be delighted with the place which is loved by many Christian traditions, including our own, Eastern and Greek Catholic churches who celebrate there with their own liturgies. There will be much to enjoy and much to learn. All details are easily downloaded on the website:

www.EcumenicalMarianPilgrimage.org.uk

Dawn Willson

St Teresa's Network is an e-mail list that is used to help organise and share information about parish events such as the October bazaar, the coffee mornings etc.

It is easy to join, and easy to unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive the e-mails.

It currently has around 25 members. It is not intended to replace other methods of communication but it does make it easier to keep in touch.

If you would like to join the list please send an e-mail asking to be added to **StTeresasNetwork-owner at yahoogroups.com**

ST TERESA'S CHURCH BAZAAR – SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

The Bazaar was held on this particular Saturday, as it was closest to St Teresa's Day - our parish patron saint's feast day - 1 October.

Canon David Evans was keen that the fund raising be divided between four causes:

- 1 - **Fairtrade** (through the Christmas Cards and Fairtrade goods stall)
- 2 - A local Charity **SPECIAL EFFECT** (through the Youth Group's dedicated stall)
- 3 - The **Charlbury Community Centre Appeal** (a percentage of the profit)
- 4 - Unforeseen expenses of the parish (new fence - new vestments etc)

The organisation followed the format of previous parish bazaars and consisted of 9 stalls, a French style Café and a Raffle of at least 20 items - first prize being an extremely well furnished luxury Christmas hamper.

Local businesses were approached and invited to make a donation to our raffle. They responded with characteristic generosity. We thank: **The Good Food Shop - The Post Office - The Co-Op Pharmacy - Cotswold Frames - Charlbury Barbers - Evenlode Books - The Co-Op Supermarket and The Bull Inn**

Many parishioners, old and new, young and "less young", from both St Kenelm's and St Teresa's congregations participated and had the opportunity of working together on the stalls and getting to know each other better. Full financial details are below:

STALL NAME	AMOUNT TAKEN	EXPENSES	AMOUNT
DOOR (20p entry)	29.99	SAINSBURYS	20.45
RAFFLE	186.00		
HOME PRODUCE	151.80		
BRIC A BRAC	83.20	PRINTING	5.00
BOOKS	206.20	HALL HIRE	46.50
BOTTLES	108.55		
GIFTS	41.70	SUB-TOTAL:	71.95
PLANTS	36.90		
JEWELLERY	80.00		
CAFÉ + sale of croissants	89.92		
FACE PAINTING	9.00		
ANDREA BATES ART	100.00		
SUB-TOTAL:	1123.26	BALANCE:	1051.31

Sale of **Fairtrade Christmas cards** (£172.00) and **Fairtrade goods** (£71.50) as well as the Youth Group's fund raising for local charity **SpecialEffect** (see page 8) amounted to around £300 over and above the Bazaar fund raising.

All in all it was a tremendous effort by a large number of people throughout the parish. People who attended the Bazaar have made many favourable remarks about the relaxed and happy atmosphere and friendly buzz in the Hall. They all thoroughly enjoyed the variety of stalls and the raffle in particular.

Special thanks go to Ian Parsons, the Hall Caretaker, who allowed us to set up tables on Friday afternoon and start moving boxes of goods into the Hall. This saved us from a mad panic on Saturday morning. I would go so far as to say that, without this help, we would not have been ready and able to enjoy the day.

Thank you for your support and enthusiastic collaboration

*Madeleine Wheare
Bazaar Coordinator
November 2012*

Christmas presents, decorations,
Sitting by an open fire,
Turkey, stuffing and mince pies
Plus all your hearts desire.

Christmas trees and silver lights,
Cards from around the world
From family and friends
Send your senses in a whirl.

Christmas carols and the little crib
Send us a message from above
Don't forget why it is Christmas
Its a time for peace and love.

Sheila Peacock

**Thank you to everyone who
contributed articles to this
6th edition of the
St.Teresa's magazine.**

**We hope to distribute the
next issue during the Easter
season.**

**If you have anything that
you would like to contribute,
please contact Alison
(813063)**

St. Teresa's Church, Charlbury
Monday 5 August – Saturday 10 August 2013
PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF ST CUTHBERT and
TOMB of ST BEDE, DURHAM

DAY 1 MONDAY 5 AUGUST

- 1007 Train from Oxford arrives Durham 1429
 1800 Pilgrimage briefing:
 Talk: The Impact of Christianity and introduction to St Cuthbert (SM)

DAY 2 TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2013

- 0800 Mass in St Chad's Chapel and pilgrimage prayers
 1030 Durham Cathedral
 (tour of Cathedral will be given by the Cathedral Guides)- (AM)
 Prayers:
 - The Galilee Chapel – Bede's Tomb (Talk: St. Bede –SM)
 - St. Cuthbert's Shrine
 1430 Visit to Lindisfarne Gospels Exhibition

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST

- 0830 Depart for Lindisfarne
 1100 Arrive Lindisfarne – BREAK
 1130 Mass and pilgrimage prayers
 1400 Lindisfarne Heritage Centre: Facsimile of Lindisfarne Gospels -
 THE GOSPELS (Talk: SM)
 1530 Walk to Priory (English Heritage) and site of the original Anglo-Saxon
 monastery, St. Mary's Church and the Anglo-Saxon site
 Free time to visit:
 - the Castle
 - Gertrude Jekyll's Garden
 - Priory Museum (English Heritage)
 - the Harbour

Early supper on the Island

- 1930 Depart (CAUSEWAY OPENS AT 1930) arrive in Durham about 2130

DAY 4 THURSDAY 8 AUGUST

- 0800 Mass in St Chad's Chapel and pilgrimage prayers
 1000 Leave for St. John the Evangelist Church, Escomb
 1100 Escomb
 1200 Leave for Bedesworld and St. Paul's Church, Jarrow
 1400 St Paul's Church and monastery, Jarrow
 1530 Leave for St. Peter's, Monkwearmouth
 1600 St Peter's, Monkwearmouth (Bede's original church and monastery when he was a child oblate)
 1930 Pilgrimage Dinner at the Hall

NOTE: Jarrow and Monkwearmouth churches have professional guides, SM can give a short talk about Escomb

DAY 5 – FRIDAY 9 AUGUST (OPTIONAL EXCURSION)

- 0700 Mass in St Chad's Chapel and pilgrimage prayers
 0900 Leave for Hexham (Talk in the coach: St Wilfrid- SM)
 1030 Arrive Hexham
 1030-1100 FREE TIME
 1100 Visit St Andrew's Church and 7th century Crypt, Hexham Abbey
- PLEASE NOTE: The crypt stairs are very steep, and the crypt is rather dark with low ceilings and narrow spaces
- 1400 Leave for Ruthwell
 1600 Visit Ruthwell Cross (SM)
 ➤ Iconography of the Cross
 ➤ The Dream of the Rood
 1700 Return to Hotel

DAY 5 SATURDAY 10 AUGUST 2013

- 0800 Mass in St Chad's Chapel and pilgrimage prayers
 0900 Breakfast and checkout
 Trains to Oxford: Departs 1047 arrives Oxford 1440 (or later if preferred).

For further details please contact Sue Mathews

NORTH OXFORDSHIRE FOODBANK

For the last few months there has been a crate sitting quietly at the back of St. Teresa's on Sunday mornings, to receive donations of food for the North Oxfordshire Foodbank. This is an initiative covering Kidlington, Woodstock, Charlbury, Chipping Norton and the surrounding areas, providing help to families and individuals experiencing times of hardship. Food donated by local schools, churches, individuals and groups is collected, date-checked and used to offer short-term emergency help to people in the local area in crisis who are unable to purchase food for themselves.

Items donated for the foodbank must have a best-before date at least six months ahead of the time it is given. Items that are required include

tins or packets of soup

bottled or tinned sauces

tins of meat, veg, fish, baked beans

tinned vegetarian meals

tinned potatoes or instant mash

pasta, rice, noodles

breakfast cereals

tins of fruit

tins of sponge, milk puddings, custard

tea, coffee, hot beverages

small packets of sugar

UHT/powdered milk

long-life fruit juice

biscuits, jams etc

The organisers maintain a list of items that are particularly needed on their website www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk

The food donated at St Teresa's is taken to Charlbury Baptist Church who co-ordinate collection locally. Please consider adding something to the crate from time to time.



Max F