

St. Teresa's Parish Magazine



Spring / Summer 2012



Sunday Mass Times

Enstone 9.00am
Charlbury 11.00am

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...and more

 Thanks to Hannah for the cover drawing and Zoe for the other drawings - if anyone would like to contribute pictures for the Advent/Christmas issue, their contributions would be very welcome 

INTRODUCTION

This Eastertide edition of St Teresa's Magazine includes a variety of material to provoke thought and deepen devotion. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to it and to Alison Offer for producing it.

There are items of news, personal experiences, prayers and poems. These reflect and strengthen the life of our parish.

Being a Catholic today is as demanding as ever. Each one needs the support of all. This Magazine offers some of that support. When you have read your copy, you might find someone else to hand it to, so that they might benefit from it as well.

Canon Evans

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of the parish magazine.

We hope to distribute the next issue during Advent.

If you have any news, reflections, prayers or memories that you would like to contribute, please contact
Alison

Forthcoming Churches Together in Charlbury Events

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH

Friday 18 May 12-2pm Friends Meeting House

This lunch will be organised by the Methodist Church but will involve contributions from all the churches. It is open to the whole community

UNITED SERVICE to mark the end of CHRISTIAN AID week

Sunday 20 May 3.30pm St Teresa's Church

CHURCH FLOWER DISPLAYS

2nd-3rd June

Jubilee Weekend decorations in all churches in Charlbury.



FAIRTRADE STALL

The Fair Trade Stall opened again on Easter Sunday. It will run most Sunday mornings after the 11am Mass in Charlbury, weather permitting. Madeleine has been joined by Zoe Foster and they offer a wide variety of goods - some old favourites and some new lines. There is also a catalogue that you can browse through if you are looking for that extra special and unusual gift.

Zoe is helping on the stall for three months as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award and will be setting up and selling, sometimes on her own, if Madeleine is away.

St Teresa's Fairtrade stall is part of CHARLBURY FAIRTRADERS, a group of church stalls who band their orders together to receive advantageous bulk prices and cheaper delivery costs. Any bulk discounts are used to fund a number of Fair trade charities.

We look forward to your custom and DO let us know if you would like us to stock any of your personal favourites.

Please feel free to contact Madeleine Wheare



There's the tale of the wise old Cherokee Grandfather. He was explaining to his Granddaughter that there was a fight going on inside himself.

"It is a battle between two wolves" he said, "One wolf is evil, anger, envy, arrogance, greed, self-pity, false pride and ego. The other wolf is good, kindness, serenity, love, empathy, faith, generosity, compassion and hope. The question is – which wolf will win?"

The granddaughter thought about this for a while and then asked "which wolf will win, Granddad?"

The Old Cherokee simply replied "The one I feed".

(contributed by Dawn Willson)

OXFORDSHIRE YOUTH MASS – PALM SUNDAY 2012

On 1st April, Hannah and I went the Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy to prepare for and take part in a Youth Mass. I went there feeling slightly nervous, as Hannah and Brek would be the only people I knew.

However, as soon as we got started, I found it very easy to have discussions with the others. It was so nice to meet up with so many other young Catholics and talk to them about what was important to us. The more we shared thoughts, the more I realised how similar we were. This was something I had never really experienced, as I go to the local state school, rather than a Catholic school. In fact, to begin with, I thought that this may make me seem less knowledgeable on the Catholic faith. However, I managed to contribute a lot and I felt that my contributions were appreciated.

Despite not knowing anyone, we all got on really well, and the Youth Mass itself went brilliantly and had a lovely atmosphere. I am very glad I went, as I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I hope to go to the next Youth Mass in July.

Zoe F

It was very wonderful to bring together the young Catholics of Oxford and hear them express their passion and understanding of their faith. Together with their artistic, musical, choreographed and written contributions for the youth mass and I think we can be reassured local Oxfordshire parishes have an exciting future ahead of them. The next Oxfordshire youth mass is set for 1st July 2012 at the Oxford Chaplaincy and we hope more young people can come from St Teresa's Parish and the local area too. If you are interested please let me know so I can add you to the list!"

Brek Taylor



MUSIC

It is said that "those who sing pray twice". If that is the case then St. Teresa's must be doing well. The singing both at Enstone and Charlbury is very good, with everyone joining in.

In order to learn new hymns and mass settings we are proposing to have a regular practice once a month. This will be for everyone in the parish. There will be no obligation to come every month, it will be "come when you can" and we hope as many people as can will come and help us to extend our range of hymns and mass settings.

I am sure it will prove to be a useful and enjoyable time. Please come and enjoy and "pray twice".

Ivy Glare

GIFT AID: MAKING YOUR DONATIONS WORK HARDER

Gift Aid is a great way of making the weekly collections to our parish go further. Many of our parishioners donate money by the Gift Aid system each week, either by using the envelopes *i.e.* when putting cash or cheques into the collection, or by standing order. Every pound donated entitles the church to claim a further 25p from the government.

Filling out a standing order form could be the answer for many parishioners, as once the form is signed and sent to the diocese you don't have to worry about rushing round on a Sunday morning looking for loose change or your cheque book! It is also ideal, because you can forget about it when you are away for family commitments or annual holiday.

If you would like more information, please contact me after Mass or ring me on 01608 811726

Sheila Peacock

SPECIAL LENT MASS IN WESTCOTE BARTON

There was Mass once again in the beautiful Norman C. of E. Parish Church of St. Edward The Confessor in Westcote Barton, on Friday March 16th, where it had been previously celebrated for several hundreds of years until the Reformation.

It was a revival, at the suggestion of some parishioners, of the occasions when St. Teresa's former Parish Priest, Fr. Bulbeck had said Mass there on a number of times a few years back.

The Mass was attended by 22: a congregation from various parts of St. Teresa's widespread parish and by the Rector, the Rev. Graeme Arthur and his wife, Nynka. They very kindly invited everyone back to the rectory for refreshments. It was a most enjoyable occasion with much warm, friendly intermingling.

Canon David Evans plans to repeat this later in the year, probably in September. Everyone is most welcome.

Jack de Jode

REFLECTION

I know that when you read this Lent will be over and we will be celebrating! "Did you have a good lent?" was a question often asked in my youth. We were advised by our parish priest to give up two things we really loved and do two things that were hard but helpful to others. Self denial is seen as an expression of sorrow for our sins, to bring about a change of heart, closer to God. Sometimes it feels the closer I get the further away He seems to be.

Lent can be a time for looking honestly at ourselves and our lifestyle, it isn't pleasant when we truly look at our faults and failings, it all seems so hard to change those ways give up the little things are hard to do, no gossiping, no ignoring that annoying person, but instead of giving up try giving out – do that extra bit you asked to do, at work, at home, if you give up sweets etc do give the money saved to a charity, or read the lives of the saints, or study the Psalms instead of watching Coronation Street. There are quite a few books at the back of the church you may borrow on the life of our own dear Saint Thérèse which give thoughts to ponder. Next Lent – don't give up – give out.

Hilda Joy Jones

ST TERESA'S GARDEN DAY 2012

We are looking for enthusiastic gardeners and helpers to help tidy up the Presbytery garden in anticipation of the Parish BarBQ.

Saturday 12 May from 1 to 4 pm.

HELP THAT IS NEEDED?

SLOPING FLOWER BED IN THE REAR GARDEN

One new sloping flower bed has been cultivated and is well established now. Now we need to attack the SECOND ONE. Jobs include removing the bark chips, digging and weeding and planting new shrubs and perennials, and replacing the bark chips.

Are you thinning out perennial plants? Might you have the odd plant, bulb or shrub you could put aside now?

Parishioners and their children are encouraged to come and help for whatever time they can offer -

bringing their own tools and any spare plants they might like to contribute from their own gardens.

"Many hands make light work" and no experience is necessary.

Please contact Madeleine Wheare ahead of time, if you can help in any way.

Madeleine Wheare



ST TERESA'S NETWORK: A PARISH E-MAIL LIST



St.Teresa's network is an email based mailing list for facilitating the organisation of parish events. It has been up and running for a year and currently has 25 parishioners on the list. In the past year it has been used for organising the coffee morning, garden days, autumn bazaar, lent groups and requests for help with tea and coffee after Mass etc. The network is a list that parishioners can join and leave as they wish. Being on the list does not commit you to anything but help keeps you in touch with the things that are happening. It is easy to unsubscribe yourself from the list if you are no longer interested in receiving the e-mails.

If you would like to join the list please send an e-mail including your name to: *StTeresasNetwork-owner at yahoogroups.com*

PASTE EGGS

When I was little, on Easter Sunday morning we took part in "jarping" our Easter Eggs. This involved you holding your hard boiled paste eggs (from Pace, Peace eggs) in one hand and your opponent doing likewise. You both put your elbows on the table and bashed the eggs together. The trick was to hit hard enough to break or crack the shell of your opponent's egg, but not your own. It can be done! Then you would peel your egg and the winner got a small bar of chocolate, whilst Mum made egg sandwiches.

Hilda Joy Jones

THANKS TO THE YOUTH GROUP

Some years ago I heard a talk on vocations which began with the words "vocations come from families". These words came to mind during the youth mass in November and again after the youth group presented the stations of the cross.

It is good to see the faith alive in our young people and we remember that they are there with the support and encouragement of their families.

Thank you youth group

Ivy Glare

PRAYER

What do we say when we are asked why we believe in a loving God, when bad things happen? Passages from scripture, the teaching we have received, thoughts, feelings, poems, novels and our own experiences may all come to mind, but may not be the right things to share. One prayer, which I read in Sue Ryder's autobiography, "Child of my Love", more than 25 years ago, always surfaces for me:

"O Lord remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us; remember the fruits we have brought, thanks to our suffering; our comradeship, our loyalty, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart that has grown out of all this, and when they come to judgment let all the fruits which we have borne be their forgiveness."

Who could not marvel at the generosity and goodness, the sense of real love and real freedom expressed. It becomes even more astonishing to know that it was written by an unknown prisoner in Ravensbruck concentration camp and left by the body of a dead child.

Louise Littledale

PROPOSED PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF ST CUTHBERT and ST BEDE, DURHAM, Summer 2013, dates to be confirmed

At this stage it would be useful to find out from the parish what interest people may have in such a pilgrimage. The outline would be:

Purpose: to pray for more priests in our diocese and as a shared spiritual enterprise.

Itinerary: Five days based in Durham - including the train journey to/from Oxford to Durham (variable according to what people would like to do)

1. An extended visit to the Cathedral to pray at the Shrine of St Cuthbert and to visit Bede's tomb; visit to the Treasury to see Cuthbert's original coffin, pectoral cross, religious vestments donated by King Athelstan (very early 10thC)

2 A day at Lindisfarne - this is entirely controlled by the tide timetable. We could stay overnight if people wanted longer.

3. Visits to Jarrow and Monkwearmouth, the original Anglo-Saxon Churches where Bede lived and wrote. There's a great museum attached to Jarrow called 'Bedesworld' - horrid name, but a very sound exhibition.

Optional visits to:

1. Escomb an 8thC church built on the site of a Celtic church using stones from local Roman military camp

2. Further afield, but most interesting, Hexham to see the shrine created by Wilfrid for his relic fragment of St Andrew - modelled on similar underground shrines in Rome

3. Ruthwell to see the Cross (8thC) - a 7thC preaching cross, with scenes from the New Testament decorated in the same style as the Lindisfarne Gospels

We would need a coach to take us to Jarrow/Monkwearmouth and Lindisfarne. If we want the other options we would need the coach for another (long) day - Ruthwell is in Scotland on the Solway Firth.

Accommodation: There are plenty of B&Bs in Durham, plus some fancy hotels like the County and plenty of restaurants etc. I would suggest that people simply make their own accommodation arrangements according to their budgets.

Costs:

- Train fares
- Taxis to/from Durham railway station
- Contribution to coach costs
- Accommodation

Some entrance costs – Cathedral / Lindisfarne, plus personal donations

at all the churches we visit

- Meals
- ESTIMATE: about £350± per person (depending on the accommodation).

If you think you would to come with us on this pilgrimage please let Sue Mathews or Canon Evans know. We need ten people to make the pilgrimage viable.

Sue Mathews

ST ALPHEGE MILLENIUM

St Alphege (Alfege or Ælfhēah) was one of the first saints to drift in to my consciousness. The spire of the church that meant we were home was St.Alphege. Although we went to Mass elsewhere, I went to St.Alphege primary school, as my mother had before me. St.Alphege was a homely saint. I knew little about him, but our school badge showed a crozier, an axe, and three amorphous blobs that might have been stones, or perhaps bones.

Ælfhēah was a monk and hermit, reputedly of great sanctity and wisdom, who became Abbot of Bath, Bishop of Winchester, then Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Æthelred the Unready. It was a turbulent time. Viking armies were raiding much of the South and East of England and extorting large sums in tribute in exchange for peace. As Bishop of Winchester Ælfhēah was involved in negotiations with the Viking leader Olaf Trygvason, later king of Norway, after which Olaf was confirmed as a Christian by Ælfhēah, and promised not to raid England again. However, other Danish raids continued, partly in revenge for the infamous St.Brices Day massacre in 1002 when King Æthelred ordered the killing of Danes living in England. In September 1011 Canterbury was attacked and, after a siege lasting two weeks, it was betrayed by Ælmar who's life, according to the Anglo-Saxon chronicle, Ælfhēah had previously saved. Ælfhēah was amongst those captured. The raiding army demanded a tribute of £48 000 (many millions in today's terms) and left for Greenwich, taking the archbishop with them and demanding a further £3000 in ransom for his release. The tribute was eventually paid but Ælfhēah refused to allow the ransom money to be collected from the impoverished people. During his captivity he continued to preach to and convert the Danes. Reportedly, when his captors demanded gold he responded "The gold I give you is the Word of God".

On the 19th April 1012, the Saturday of Easter week, a feast held in the Viking camp at Greenwich got out of hand. The drunken raiders lost patience and pelted the Archbishop with ox bones until he fell to the floor. One of those present, apparently one of the viking army who Ælfhēah had baptised the previous day, took pity on the dying man and hit him on the head with the back of an axe. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that he sank down with this blow "and his holy blood fell on the earth, and sent forth his holy soul to God's kingdom"*.

By 1016 England had a Danish king, King Cnut, who's father had led some of the Danish raids in the first decade of the eleventh century. In 1023 Cnut arranged for Ælfhēah's body to be moved to Canterbury amidst much ceremony, stressing reconciliation between the Danes and the English. Ælfhēah was canonised by Pope Gregory VII in 1078. There was some debate about whether he was a martyr as he had been killed for refusing to allow a ransom to be collected, not explicitly for his faith, but Anselm of Canterbury promoted his cause saying "He who dies for justice dies for God".

On the 19th April 2012, there was a national celebration of the millennium of the martyrdom at St. Alfege's Church Greenwich, led by the current Archbishop of Canterbury, and attended by other bishops and churchmen of various denominations from England and Norway, and many pilgrims who had travelled up the river from Southwark Anglican Cathedral. The underlying theme was reconciliation, justice and the value of human life. Ian, Hannah and I were based on the green outside the church as part of a team showing what life was like 1000 years ago. Over the four days we met churchmen and pilgrims, 180 school children who visited on Friday, and many of the people of Greenwich. On Sunday the London marathon snaked its way past the church and many of the spectators who had never heard of St. Alfege came through our encampment. We told them the story of the archbishop who had died for justice 1000 years ago. It was a cosmopolitan and multicultural crowd. I hope Ælfhēah would have approved.

Alison Offer

* just for fun, what it actually said was "and his halige blod on þa eorðan feol, and his haligan sawle to Godes rice asende"

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



On one Tuesday during Lent the members of St. Teresa's Youth prepared and lead Stations of the Cross in St. Teresa's Church. Each young person chose two stations to reflect upon. Here are Zoe's reflections:

Eighth Station - Jesus meets the Women of Jerusalem

The women of Jerusalem were distraught after seeing Jesus in so much pain. They were scared and confused by why this had to happen.

Dear God,

We all get scared at times and wonder why certain things had to happen to us, but we put our trust in you to watch over and care for us when we are going through rough times.

Ninth Station - Jesus falls for the third time.

As Jesus approached the hill, exhaustion and pain caused him to fall for the third time. He was coming to the end of his journey.

Dear God,

With so much suffering in the world, it is sometimes difficult to remember the goodness. Help us to trust in your constant love for us.



Drawings by Zoe F

When tempted to backbite:

Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. What shall be given unto thee? Or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?

*From Psalm 120
Contributed by Damayanthi Winder*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY

Hilda Joy Jones and Madeleine Wheare still represent St Teresa's Parish on the Churches Together in Charlbury Coordinating Committee which meets roughly every two months. This committee organises many interesting ecumenical activities within Charlbury. *ALL* parishioners from *ALL* five churches are welcome to *ALL* events. And the wider community is welcome as well. Here is news of the most recent activities.

CHRISTIAN UNITY - 22 January 2012

The United Service for Christian Unity was held on 22 January at St Mary's Church. It was led by the Methodist Church. A short talk was prepared by Jonathan Luxmoore of St Teresa's Parish focusing on the history of the Church and ecumenical relations in Poland.

LINDISFARNE GOSPELS - 24 January 2012

Sue Mathews from St Teresa's parish gave an illustrated talk on the Lindisfarne Gospels that was extremely well attended. It was held in St Mary's Church and attracted people from all of Charlbury's parishes as well as a large number of people from outlying villages and towns. Sue Mathews has a life long interest in the Anglo-Saxons starting with her earlier academic

studies (BA and MPhil). She gives talks at the British Library, British Museum and the Ashmolean on various features of Anglo-Saxon history

The Lindisfarne Gospels are the most well known of the Anglo-Saxon illuminated manuscripts, famous for their portrait pages, decorated initials and intense decoration. They offer tantalising glimpses into the long-gone world of the Anglo-Saxons in the 7th century. The Gospels confirm once and for all that this period in English history was not the Dark Ages, but full of light, colour and imagination.

LENT LUNCHES

These were held every Friday in Lent as in previous years. All the churches take turn preparing the soup, bread and cheese lunches and St Teresa's Parish organised the lunch in the Methodist Church Hall on Friday 9 March. Many of our parishioners assisted by preparing home made soups, setting up, serving and washing up afterwards. These are always very rewarding community events.

LENT SERIES - ALL HUMAN LIFE IS HERE : EXPLORING THE PSALMS

This very popular series met on Tuesdays in Lent with 4 speakers

and a concert. Speakers included: Rev John Reardon, Rev Dr Victor de Waal, Dr Sue Gillingham and Rev Richard Donoghue.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 2 March

The Methodist Church organised this

special hour of prayer which focused this year on Malaysia. The Church was decorated in a very colourful manner with ethnic textiles and decorations. It was well attended and a very joyful ecumenical event.

Madeleine Wheare

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP

During the five weeks of Lent leading up to Holy week a group of us joined together to form a Lent discussion group. We followed a series of Lent reflections prepared by the diocese of Arundel and Brighton and designed for small group study. Each week began with a prayer and the Sunday gospel for the following week. There were two reflections, the first on the gospel reading and the second on the theme of "Communion with Christ", looking at different aspects of the Eucharist. Each reflection was followed by suggestions for discussion, and the evening ended with another short period of prayer.

The group was deliberately informal. We met in people's homes for an hour each Thursday night, with a cup of tea or coffee. Initially people were tentative about sharing their insights, but as Lent passed people became more willing to share their thoughts, beliefs and experiences and our discussions

became more spontaneous. We benefited from the wide range of experiences shared by the group, often with stories and insights gained from overseas experiences.

Thank you to John, Ian, and Hannah for vacating their living rooms to give us space to talk.

*Ellen Falloon, Sharnalee Foster,
Catherine Goyder, Hilda Joy-Jones,
Lynette Murphy, Alison Offer,
Dawn Willson*

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday
In far away places
Valiant armies
Figure for Peace
With Liberty
And Justice
And Ashes for all

Ashes to Ashes
Dust to Dust
Vive la bomb
In God we Trust
So say the generals
And politicians
Who don't go to the front

Hilda Joy-Jones

ST TERESA'S YOUTH

Saint Teresa's Youth invites the young people of the local Roman Catholic parish who are interested in:

exploring faith
 helping others where we can
 participating in the parish
 understanding young people

Group activities have so far included a Mass for Youth Sunday and a Stations of the Cross prayer evening. We are also keen to run fundraisers and link up with other Catholic youth groups in the parish through Birmingham Catholic Youth Service. The group is made up of 12-15 year olds who meet monthly at the Presbytery. The sessions include liturgy, prayer and discussion as well as event planning and social activities. If you are keen to find out more why not come along to one of our sessions?



Discovering faith through fun!

We are a new parish initiative supported by members' parents and run by Canon David Evans and Youth Worker Brek Taylor. The design of the logo and the mission statement have all been devised by the group and we are still working out how we want to grow and spend our time together, so if you have ideas please get in touch as we need the help as well as new members.

We try to meet one Tuesday every month at 7pm. To check meeting dates and times please see the monthly newsletter or go to the website at:
<http://www.communigate.co.uk/oxford/stteresacharlbury/>

To get in touch and find out more you can also call Canon David .