

St. Teresa's Parish Magazine



Easter 2010



Sunday Mass Times
Enstone 9.00am
Charlbury 11.00am

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 Cover picture drawn by Hannah - if any children would like to draw a picture for the Advent/Christmas issue, their contributions would be very welcome 

WELCOME TO ST TERESA'S PARISH MAGAZINE

I am delighted to welcome you to our new venture – St Teresa's Parish Magazine. I am very grateful to Alison Offer for suggesting the project and for taking steps to encourage people to contribute. She will also be overseeing the production of the magazine.

The first issue of the Parish Magazine reveals its purpose. It is an opportunity for parishioners to communicate their experiences and reflections, to encourage each other and suggest ideas. There is always more going on in the parish than people may realise. The Magazine will bring more of that to light and so draw people closer together.

A Happy Easter to you all.

Canon David Evans

**Thank you to everyone who
contributed to this first parish
magazine.**

**We hope to distribute a second
issue during Advent.**

**If you have any news, views,
stories or anecdotes that you
would like to contribute, please
contact Alison Offer**

**Charlbury 813063
email alison.offer@ctsu.ox.ac.uk**



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY (CTC)

On Sunday 17th January this year in St.Mary's Church CTC held a united service for the start of Christian Unity Week. As part of the service we were asked to name some of the things CTC did in the community. Over twenty things were named, from joint services to church friends, meals on wheels, praying together etc. Many people in Charlbury still do not know about CTC and the many things it does.

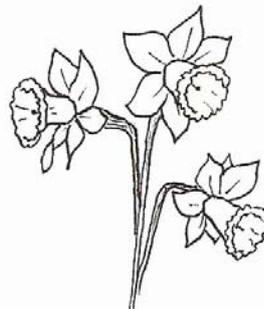
CTC was formed over 40 years ago so we Christians could learn and share together. Over the years we have shared about each others lives and ways of worship. Each church takes a turn in planning a united service based on their own traditions, usually in the morning and often held in St. Mary's as it is the largest building. We have experienced Quaker silence, holiday club exuberance, and all other types in between. All collections at these services are given to charity after expenses are taken out.

Churches Together has a chair, at the moment Jennifer Waites, a vice chair (yours truly), a secretary, Rosalind Scott and treasurer, Deirdre Lunney. Our small committee tries to plan and organize joint church events such

as services, lent lunches etc. For many years Pat Owens was the secretary. I have been chair twice. Madeleine Wheare is the other St.Teresa's representative, but all are welcome to the events.

At the moment there is a poster at the back of the church about "Art and Faith", our Lent programme. Do try to join in any of events as we all need to help and support each other's Christian Faith in these modern times.

Hilda Joy Jones



THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF EVESHAM

Parishioners may like to know that Dawn Wilson is going on a day pilgrimage on Saturday 8th May to the shrine of Our Lady of Evesham, organized by the Ecumenical Marian Pilgrimage Trust. Perhaps others may be interested so that we could hire a minibus?

SOWING THE SEEDS

Two of us from the parish have recently completed the "Sowing the Seeds" foundation course for catechists, run by Sister Gillian Murphy, at Our Lady and St. Hugh's Church, Witney. Although numbers at the meetings tended to fluctuate, there was a steady core of about a dozen, predominantly female, catechists – mothers like ourselves - working in the local deanery.

During the thirteen weeks, a variety of both religious and lay speakers spoke on a range of subjects within the broad spectrum of the Catholic faith; from the Old Testament to the Sacraments to Justice and Morality. For me, it was a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time reflecting on specific areas of belief and to come to these afresh. I particularly enjoyed learning about the history of the Church and the development of practices I usually take for granted, such as the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our sessions usually began with a talk, which was followed by group discussion and an opportunity to consider ways we might use what we had learned in our own varied parish communities. Some weeks this was relatively easy, as in the session on the Holy Scriptures,

when we thought of ways to make certain Bible passages relevant to young children. Other sessions were not so obviously practical in terms of catechesis for children, such as the talks on the Creed and iconography, but these equally inspiring talks were of undeniable value for our personal spiritual growth and understanding.

I feel fortunate to be given this opportunity to meet other like-minded people and deepen my faith. I hope and pray that, in turn, what I have learned and experienced will be of benefit to the children I work with.

Sharnalee Foster

WANTED

VOLUNTEERS

Could you help with cleaning the church about once a month to once every six weeks?

Most of the current volunteers are now over 60 and new volunteers are always welcome.

Contact:
Hilda (811181)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

This year, we have four children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter and their First Holy Communion in the summer.



Preparation began before Christmas, and the children are working enthusiastically to learn more about their faith and their place in God's family.

Please remember these children in your prayers

LENT REFLECTION

I am writing this as Lent approaches, and as some of us are already pondering what to "give up" for Lent. Self denial is an expression of showing sorrow for our sins, also the purpose of saying "no" to sweets, alcohol, biscuits etc. is so we may be more able to say "yes" to God.

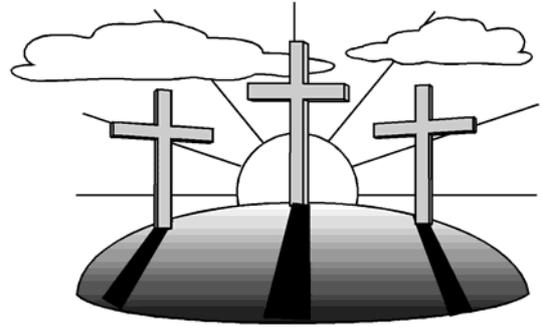
I have a different suggestion to make, instead of giving up – give out. Think "yes" not "no". Lent is a time for reflection and renewal, so give more time and thought to your prayer life and reflections. Give time to help your neighbours, fellow workers, friends, a voluntary group.

We have a lovely "Walk with Me" book for Lent, or read a life of a saint, or say the rosary, or try to get to Mass more often – the best prayer and reflection there is.

We live in a world of self centredness where there is a lot of unhappiness and sadness, perhaps by little gifts of giving to others we may bring life and joy to someone else. We are all sinners and when we recognise this and accept God's forgiveness we grow closer to him, and he to us.

If you do "give up" something, put aside the money it would cost and send a donation to your local charity – give up a last time!!

Hilda Joy Jones



Our son, Richard, suffers from a Bi-polar condition. He attends a special prayer group where this very touching little poem is often used. It may be of help in other situations.

"Make me normal, I would pray.
Keep me normal, day by day.
Strong, I pray Thee, balanced,
sane; normal body, normal brain.
I would be, if I might choose,
somewhat witty to amuse;
somewhat clever to achieve;
somewhat capable to grieve;
somewhat kind to offer balm;
somewhat like a quiet psalm;
somewhat fiery when need be;
ever quick with sympathy; not
too good, nor yet too bad; often
happy, sometimes sad; just a
normal, decent friend, courage
girt unto the end! Not a genius,
hard to please; rather one who
can with ease, find, wherever she
may go, people she is glad to
know. Merely normal, every way
– for this blessing I would pray."

Dawn Wilson

PARISH OUTING 2009: HARVINGTON HALL

One warm summer Saturday in June last year, a large group of parishioners joined the parish outing to Harvington Hall.

Harvington Hall is a beautiful Elizabethan moated manor house near Kidderminster. It was built in the 1580's by Humphrey Packington and has an impressive collection of priest holes dating from that time, with cunningly disguised hides under the stairs, behind fake beams, and built into chimney places. It is now owned by the Archdiocese of Birmingham and has been extensively restored.

The coach arrived at Harvington just before lunch. After a picnic in the sheltered and sunny garden we had some time to look around the chapel, malt house and gardens or to watch an introductory video, then we were given a guided tour of the house. There was something for everyone - all the history of the house, Elizabethan wall paintings, the herb garden and, for the children, there was the lure of secret hiding places (and the artificial rats in the kitchen).

In addition to exploring the house, and learning some of the history of the Catholic Church in England, the trip gave us another opportunity to spend time together and to build and maintain friendships within the parish.

REFLECTION GROUP

To further interest in and understanding of the writings of St. Paul, Canon David initiated a reflection group during the Year of St. Paul starting in July 2009.

Meetings are fortnightly and open to everyone. They consist in looking at a predecided text and, after an introduction by the Canon, considering their purpose and their significance to those to whom they were addressed, to us and to Christians throughout the ages.

They are proving to be very stimulating, rewarding and enjoyable and are well attended.

From a participant

BLESSED GEORGE NAPIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Specialist Sports College

"What is good about this school?"

- *"We are a good Catholic school, so we have Mass and assemblies and prayers."*
- *"The way pupils treat each other, and the respect for others."*
- *"BGN is a Catholic school, and that often influences behaviour."*
- *"We don't tolerate bullying-so people don't get bullied. Pupils are well behaved."*

These are some of the answers of its students when asked this question.

Blessed George Napier Catholic School (BGN) is North Oxfordshire's successful Catholic secondary school. It aims to be an extension of the Christian home and is proud of its home / school / parish partnership. It has Gospel values at the core of its ethos and its teaching.

The School is steadily improving its academic performance and strives to develop the individual talents of all its students. Currently it is ranked sixth amongst Oxfordshire schools with its GCSE results. The sixth form is

growing in size and more students are seeking university places.

Parish and diocesan links are important to the school. BGN is fortunate to have the services of a dedicated chaplain, and an important date in the school calendar is the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes where sixth formers serve as stretcher bearers.

Significant improvements have taken place over the last few years to the fabric of the school. A new Learning Base, subject rooms and facilities for IT have been created.

Recent legislation extended the provision of transport for Catholic pupils to fifteen miles between home and school. Although this is not free, it should mean that transport has to be found by the Council for pupils within the catchment area.

The school welcomes enquiries and further information can be found on its impressive website at www.bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Anne Clifton

Anne is a Governor of BGN and will be pleased to provide further information
anne@romewalk.co.uk
 tel 01993 891 956

THE WINTERSHALL PASSION PLAY

In June 2000 four of us went down to Wintershall, near Guildford, to see an outdoor re-enactment of the life of Christ. We felt it was perhaps the most appropriate way to celebrate the millennium.

This outdoor performance, set in acres of parkland, with people following the action around the various sites where the action takes place, is very genuine, very true to the gospels and not "hyped up" or modernised. It was certainly not "updated" in such a way as to distort the message for the sake of popular appeal in order to bring it "into the 21st century". It lasted about 6 hours, with a short lunch break. We found it very moving and exhilarating.

Wintershall has become a centre of pilgrimage for school groups, church groups and private parties. Originally intended as a one-off event, it is now in its tenth year and looks set to continue every year for a week towards the end of June.

Andres Bates

CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW: ST. THÉRÈSE AND THE ROSES

St. Thérèse and the Roses is by Helen Walker Homan, and is published by Ignatius. It is the story of a "to be" saint and her four sisters. It is sad in some parts but exciting in others. In the story, Thérèse's mother dies early so her father, Louis Martin, has to look after the family. I really enjoyed the bit where Thérèse runs out of the house in a storm to try and get to church even though she's only three, and there is a huge panic!

This book is aimed at children 7-11 and is good for people who like life stories.

The book is very good. I would rate it 8½ /10 and would definitely recommend it to any 7-11 year olds.

Hannah (aged 10)

MEMORIES OF THE VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST.TERESA

In September last year Oxford hosted a visit from the relics of St.Teresa of Lisieux. Here are a couple of comments from some of the parishioners who attended.

I didn't know what to expect when I left home at 4.45 am on the 8th October 2009 for Matins and Lauds at the Oxford Oratory. St Teresa is dear to us in Charlbury and her words familiar. The idea of relics has always made sense to me, but bones! I wasn't sure, but shouldn't have worried. In contrast to the emptiness of the streets, I found the Church already packed with people of all ages and all kinds and there was an alert, attentive silence and it was an extraordinary sight.

I queued for confession and as I received absolution, the sound of beautiful singing struck up and for a second I felt I must be in heaven. I was lucky to find a seat and then I was lost in the service. Suddenly a slightly sick looking young man loped down the aisle and venerated the Saint's relics, but it was a peaceful, moving sight. At the end, we all did the same and filed past the casket. A mystery, difficult to describe and impossible to understand, but God's love at work seemed almost palpable that morning.

Louise Littledale

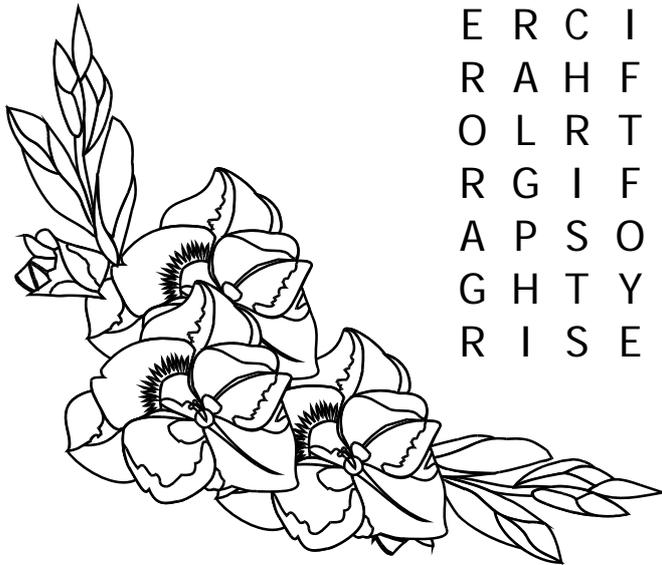
Over the past twenty-four years we have been to Lisieux many times. The constant flow of pilgrims is very impressive. The crowd of people in St. Aloysius Church about to begin their ordinary occupations of the day early on the Thursday morning was also impressive and in a way more special. In Lisieux we were, in a sense, visitors; here we were hosts and it was also evidence that Therese's influence was not restricted to the convent where she spent her life.

Ivy and Peter Glare



Find and circle the words hidden in the Easter word search – up, down, across, forwards and backwards.

	P	R	I	F	O	R	G												
	E	M	L	A	S	U	I												
	A	O	T	O	P	E	V												
	C	D	A	L	I	V	E												
	E	E	L	H	R	O	H												
B	W	J	A	T	F	E	L	Z	I	L	J	L	E	H	A	K			
L	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	J	O	S	L			
E	R	S	E	D	E	F	L	E	E	M	Y	U	L	A	M	B			
P	O	U	A	E	M	D	U	I	B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G			
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	R	I	S	E	N	N	G												



- ALIVE
- ALLELUIA
- BLESSING
- CHRIST
- EASTER
- FORGIVENESS
- FREEDOM
- GIFT
- HEALING
- JESUS
- JOY
- LAMB
- LORD
- LOVE
- PEACE
- REDEEMER
- RESURRECTION
- RISEN
- SALVATION
- SPIRIT
- WATER