

## Parish News...

### Weddings

June Peter Andrews & Tracy Middleton  
 Mark Spolander & Michelle Silkstone  
 Christopher Hardy & Katie Mansell  
 Andrew Miller & Esther Fisher

September Mathew Orme & Annemarie Dewhurst  
 Mark Stapleton & Helen Williams  
 Marcus Adkins & Laura Young  
 Stephen Allen & Emma Griffen  
 Oliver Brown & Tamsin Corona  
 Simon Stephens & Gina Holley  
 Ian Haltom & Kim Jones  
 Graham Merifield & Sue Hobbs

### Baptisms

June Alexander John Buchanan, George Andrew Gent  
 Alana Violet Buxton

July Elizabeth Walker (St James)  
 Matilda Walker (St James)

August Jasmine Richmond, Ella O'Connell, Adam O'Connell  
 Benjamin Lane, Oliver Dee  
 Henry Hampton (St James)

September Ellie Jackson, Sam Jackson, Keenan Sprague

October Lacey Barley, Finlay Green, Catherine Sheales

### Funerals

April John Moody  
 June Gladys Worley  
 July Anthea Sadler, Freddy Brooks, Rodney Allsworth  
 August Margaret Terry  
 October Joyce Aldworth, Barry Hall

## What's on in December...

**2nd & 10th December 9pm**

**Taize Service** St. Mary's Church  
*A quiet reflective service*

**6th December 4pm**

**Jigsaw Christingle Service** St. Mary's Church  
*A service of light for all the family*

**13th December 4pm**

**Christingle Service** St. Mary's Church  
*A service of light for all the family*

**19th December 7pm**

**Carol Service** St. Mary's Church  
*Traditional Carols and readings for Christmas*

**20th December 11am**

**Nativity Tableau** St. Mary's Church  
*An event for the whole family*

**24th December 4pm**

**Crib Service** St. Mary's Church  
*Interactive service for families*

**24th December 11pm**

**First Communion of Christmas** St. Mary's Church  
*A quiet service of Holy Communion to welcome in Christmas Day*

**25th December 11am**

**Family Worship** St. Mary's Church  
*A service to get together with family and friends to celebrate Christmas*



# crosstalk

December 2009



St. Mary's Church Cogges  
 & St. James the Great South Leigh  
*making Christ known by word and deed...*

Cogges Parish Office, Cogges Church Centre, Church Lane, Witney t: 01993 779613

e: office@coggesparish.com w: www.coggesparish.com

22 <sup>nd</sup> November		1st Sunday before Advent
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Service of the Word
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
St Mary's	7.30pm	Healing Service
29 <sup>th</sup> November		Advent
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Morning Prayer
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
St Mary's	6.30pm	Advent Service
2 <sup>nd</sup> December		Wednesday
St Mary's	9.00pm	Taize
6 <sup>th</sup> December		2nd Sunday of Advent
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Morning Prayer
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
Madley Brook School	4.00pm	Jigsaw Christingle Service
10 <sup>th</sup> December		Thursday
St Mary's	9.00pm	Taize
13 <sup>th</sup> December		3rd Sunday of Advent
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary's	11.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary's	4.00pm	Christingle Service
19 <sup>th</sup> December		Saturday
St James, South Leigh	4.00pm	Christingle Service
St Mary's	7.00pm	Carol Service
20 <sup>th</sup> December		4th Sunday of Advent
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary's	11.00am	Joint Benefice Nativity Tableau
St James, South Leigh	6.00pm	Lessons & Carols
24 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Eve
St Mary's	4.00pm	Crib Service
St Mary's	11.00pm	Holy Communion

25 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Day
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Family Holy Communion
St Mary's	11.00am	Family Worship
27 <sup>th</sup> December		1st Sunday of Christmas
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Morning Prayer
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup> January		2nd Sunday of Christmas
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Morning Prayer
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
St Mary's	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
10 <sup>th</sup> January - Baptism of Christ		1st Sunday of Epiphany
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary's	11.00am	Confirmation Service
St Mary's	4.00pm	Remembrance Service
St Mary's	7.30pm	Connect
17 <sup>th</sup> January		2nd Sunday of Epiphany
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Church Breakfast
St Mary's	11.00am	Family Baptism
St Mary's, Witney	7.00pm	Deeper
24 <sup>th</sup> January		3rd Sunday of Epiphany
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Service of the Word
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
31 <sup>st</sup> January		4th Sunday of Epiphany
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Morning Prayer
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
St Mary's	7.30pm	Healing Service

# God understands...

I just wish I had someone to talk to... someone who would understand me.



It has been nearly three months since Fenella and I moved into our new home on Madley Park. We are so grateful to all the people who have welcomed us and taken time to say hello or have a chat with us.

I have enjoyed meeting people around the town, in the schools, at the rugby club, in the churches where I serve, and meeting others from our new neighbourhood. Life is full and there

are great joys and great sorrows too. Weddings, baptisms and funerals bring up just about every emotion you could imagine. Personally, I am really glad that I have Fenella to talk to as well as lots of other new friends here in Cogges, South Leigh and North Leigh.

In the past I have known times when I've felt really alone and that no one would understand me if I did

say something. What do you do when you feel that way?

They say that a problem shared is a problem halved. I think there is a lot of truth in that, but sometimes it feels like half of my problems are still too much for me to cope with. I didn't become a Christian in order to receive a crutch to help me get through life on, but, there definitely are benefits to having started

## The Clergy Team



Vicar:  
 Revd  
 Andrew Sweeney



Curate:  
 Revd  
 Andrew Pritchard



NSM:  
 Revd  
 Tim Edge



Associate Minister  
 - North Leigh:  
 Revd Miriam Keen

the Christian life. One of the benefits is that I now have someone to talk to whenever I want to, and they understand who I am and what I'm going through.

Tonight I shall be talking on prayer at an Alpha course, (where people join together in a relaxed setting, have a meal, hear a talk about some aspect of the Christian life and get the chance to ask their questions about God, faith and life in general.)

I haven't always been someone who felt that they could pray, and I'm absolutely sure that I'm no great expert on prayer, but rather a life-long learner. Tonight I'm going to tell the group about this experience of mine:

"I remember years ago when I had decided to go to Bible College, to prepare me to go out as a

Christian worker in South America. I was teaching in a school and putting aside one half of my wages every month in order to pay my fees for the time of study ahead. In order to save enough money I had to make sacrifices, like not having any new clothes for two years, and I had to live a pretty simple lifestyle.

"God is there for all of us, all the time"

One morning I can remember praying that God would give me some money to buy shampoo as I had run out. Surprisingly, and in a way that I wasn't used to, I had a real sense that God was saying "No!" I patiently listed my reasons to God, I explained that I had no money and that I didn't

want to look scruffy and dirty at school, but somehow I still felt that His "unreasonable" answer was a "No!" I felt that instead God was encouraging me to ask Him for, not money, but simply for shampoo. So I stopped asking for money, and did what I felt God was showing me to do, I asked for shampoo....

That night I got home to where I was living with my step-dad and could hardly believe it. My step-dad, for the first and only time ever had bought me some shampoo and put it into the bathroom for me. Some people might call that a coincidence, but it was more than that for me."

I don't always have such a strong sense of what God might be saying to me, but that experience helped me to know that God

really is there, He does understand, and I can talk to Him about absolutely anything, even something as seemingly insignificant as shampoo!

When those moments of loneliness come and I feel that no one will understand me, I am encouraged that God is there and He is listening. Better than that, God is there for all of us, all of the time. We can talk to Him and He does understand us.

The story of Christmas is the story of a God who listens, understands and comes to help us. I do wish you a good Christmas and God's blessings in 2010.



Andrew Pritchard

# Mending objects, mending lives...

St. Mary's, Cogges has had a link with the Anglican Church in Burundi for over 12 years.

At the end of September two of our members were able to visit Burundi (just south of Rwanda, in Central Africa) and meet some of the people and visit some of the projects we have been involved with. While one mended a broken sofa and

and loss of possessions, having to escape to other countries, becoming internally displaced, rape, and facing major disruption to education, basic services and agriculture. There are many widows and orphans among those traumatised.

Presentation by the facilitators and plenary discussions were in French, with the local language, Kirundi, being used for almost all the other elements of the workshop. "Healing the Wounds of Trauma - How the church Can Help", a book written in response to the sufferings of people in the DR Congo and published in Kirundi in 2007, was used as the basis of the sessions. One of the translators had received sponsorship from St. Mary's to attend a trauma healing seminar in Ghana in 2005, and now everyone was benefitting from his work. After covering themes like 'If God loves us, why do we suffer?', 'How can the wounds of our hearts be healed?', 'Understanding the grieving process', and 'Forgiveness', we were asked to include

much appreciated. It was good to see God working at a personal level among the participants bringing healing and relief, as well as equipping them with further understanding and skills to train and to help others.



We were also able to visit a basket and furniture-making workshop that the church helped to set up. Here unemployed young people can learn skills that will enable them to earn a living. And it was a privilege to take a



Photo: EAB Province

carried out repairs at the Provincial Office in Bujumbura, the other helped facilitate a trauma healing training seminar.

Burundi suffered 13 years of civil war, during which time many people experienced some kind of trauma. The nature of the trauma took different forms and resulted from such things as witnessing acts of genocide, the death of family members, destruction of property

Peace and security gradually improved following elections held in 2005. The country now faces the challenges of reconstruction, reconciliation, and healing.

The 3-day seminar was organised by the Provincial Office of the Anglican Church in Burundi.

There were 30 participants, about two-thirds of them pastors, including representatives from each of the six Anglican dioceses, the heads of all the Bible Colleges, representatives of the Mothers' Union, police and army chaplains, and staff members from the Provincial Office of the Anglican Church.



Photo: EAB Province



sessions on helping those who have been raped and helping children orphaned through war or AIDS. The ceremony of "Taking our Pain to the Cross" was particularly helpful for many.

The seminar was clearly

laptop donated by church members to a medical student sponsored by the church. When text books are scarce and university IT facilities limited, this was enormously welcome.

## Jigsaw welcomes you...

When Penny Joyce flew the Madley Park nest on her much-deserved global travels the Sunday afternoon Jigsaw group (4-5pm Madley Brook School hall) looked unlikely to be able to continue without her. A much-loved family event, Jigsaw combined games, songs, craft and tea but initially it seemed like just too big a job for any one person to pick up the reins: enter group initiative! Now a growing band of parents, with fantastic support from both Andrews Sweeney and Pritchard, have re-launched Jigsaw and are ready to welcome new and old faces alike.

Truth-be-told we have so far been fairly quiet about the renaissance; we had no idea if we could pull it off, but (on a wing and thankfully answered prayer) we have; at the time that CrossTalk goes to press, successfully completed 6 Sunday sessions. True, we have scaled down one or two of the more ambitious areas - Sue and Si the puppets have yet to pop back up from behind the screen, and we haven't (yet) reintroduced the weekly drama, partly as we suspected it was something that the adults enjoyed performing rather more than the occasionally bemused kids enjoyed watching. But everything else is as it was: introductory games, songs and the odd (sometimes

very odd) dance, an inspirational talk, fantastic - once in a while fantastically messy - crafts and a delicious tea; all this for a bargain, and voluntary, £1-per-family donation. "Family" here being the operative word - Penny always intended Jigsaw to be a family event rather than something to drop the kids off at, and we continue to follow her lead in this.

We would love to see more families joining us for the fun and are actively looking for more parents to join our weekly rota of jobs that need attending to in order to make it all happen. But even if you can't help out don't let that stop you coming along and seeing just what we are up to. Everyone's welcome...

And if you really want to see what a bit of group effort can (hopefully!) achieve - come join us on December 6 for our special Christingle Jigsaw. It will differ slightly from the normal format, but still promises music, singing, the chance to make you own festival Christingle, one or two surprises, plus mince pies and mulled wine for the grown ups. What better way to spend an hour or so on a wintery Sunday afternoon!

