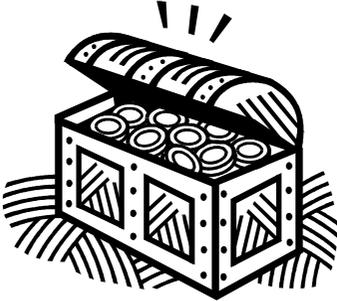


FROM THE EDITOR



VICAR: *The Rev Stephen Bowen,
The Vicarage, Felbridge,
West Sussex RH19 2QT
Tel: 01342 321524;
Fax: 0870 9156268
stjohnschurchoffice@googlemail.com*

Vicar's day off: Thursday

ASSOCIATE MINISTER:
*Michael Peach
5 Burns Way, East Grinstead,
West Sussex RH19 1SA
Tel: 01342 312406
michaelstevenpeach@googlemail.com*

Michael's day off: Friday



Cover photo:

*Hydrangea by Gordon
Wilkinson*

I AM always made to feel very welcome when I return to St John's during university holidays

We went to St Petersburg as a family last weekend, and of course, visited the Hermitage. After being stunned by the lavish interiors and numerous chandeliers, we found ourselves in a corridor full of boxes labelled 'fragile'. And halfway down that corridor, having squeezed through gaps between the boxes—rather unsure whether we were meant to be there at all, we came across a small cabinet of radiate-headed brooches.

Now to most people, a radiate-headed brooch is an unexceptional piece of metal. To me as a student of Anglo-Saxon archaeology, who happens to be writing a project about a pair of these brooches from Cambridgeshire, this cabinet was pure treasure. More than that, it was unexpected.

One can recall the parable of Jesus about hidden treasure in Matt 13:44: *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

Sarah Francis

JUNE: Articles for the JUNE Issue to be handed in by 16th May
Publication 30th May

Please e-mail your articles to parishmagstjohns@googlemail.com or put them in the editor's pigeon hole in the church entrance.

STEPHEN WRITES...



DEAR FRIENDS,

For me May 6th means my brother's birthday. On that day in 1953 a shout came down the stairs, 'It's a boy!' I had no idea what they were talking about. In those days children were not informed about such impending events.

I can't remember anything about the baby, though I did get to know him better as the years passed—but I do have very fond memories of the Bayko construction set I was given as a consolation present.

This year May 6th has a different meaning for us all. Something is due to happen that day which will have consequences that will last for many years into the future. I doubt whether there will be many consolation presents on offer, though!

There have been times when elections have been held when there were absolutely clear issues of principle between candidates, and Christian leaders have felt that it was right to point that out to their congregations.

Most people would not feel it was quite that clear-cut in our country at the moment. There are people of high principles in all the main parties, and committed Christians among them.

So what should influence our choice as we come to vote?

I would suggest the following:

- (1) It is a Christian responsibility to vote and we should exercise it.
- (2) We should not just unthinkingly vote the way we have always voted in the past.
- (3) We should not focus on what might benefit us or people like us, but what would be best for those in the greatest need.
- (4) We should recognize that we are voting for an individual MP, not primarily for a Prime Minister or a party. (This can raise difficult issues if the individual we are drawn to vote for belongs to a party we do not support!)
- (5) Christians should pray about the way they vote and about the outcome for the whole country—and we should pray for those who are elected, whether they were our candidate or not.

What would your list of principles and priorities look like?

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Barr



IN THE GARDEN

Strawberries & Rhubarb

WHILE planning ahead this year I have been reflecting on how fashions in gardening have changed. During the war years and the forties and fifties, because of rationing and as we were a large family, my father grew mainly fruit and vegetables. I remember my grandmother's scented garden full of clarkia, pinks, lily-of-the-valley, snapdragons, violets, marigolds, wallflowers, larkspur, Sweet William and granny's bonnets. Then came decking, grasses, gravel and water features. Now gardening has come full circle as more of us aim for the cottage garden look and want to grow our own organic vegetables. I believe there are now more than 80,000 people waiting for allotments.

The lovely hellebores have finished flowering and will need a good feed and mulch. I have never had much success with clematis except clematis Montana which is so hardy and rampant that even I can grow it. After flowering that will need a good tidy up and also feeding with a tomato feed for maximum flower power next year. I hung the pheromone traps into the fruit trees earlier this year as last year we still had some maggots in the plums. Time too for feeding the lawn and tackling the moss.

We had a great show of primroses this spring and some of the large clumps need to be divided. At its best this month with its pretty pendant bell-shaped flowers is the enkianthus - also known as the pagoda bush which goes well with rhododendron 'temple bells'. Just occasionally we gardeners put things into the garden with little planning and strike lucky. This happened with the climber actinidia kolmikta, or Chinese gooseberry, which was planted against a wall. It is very spectacular at this time of the year with lovely pink and white heart-shaped leaves. Without thinking we planted a paeony 'Bowl of Beauty' in front of it to great effect because they are the same colours and come into flower together.

The garlic, shallots, onion sets and potatoes are planted. The spinach and beetroot are in and also the beans - French, borlotti and runners. We have given up on carrots because ours always fork or are very tiny. However we are fortunate to have a long south-facing wall where our tomato plants do very well in growbags. Last year we had a bumper crop of strawberries so now is the time to put fresh straw under the plants to prevent them rotting off, and pick the rhubarb - so lots of crumble!

Maureen Reynolds

REGULAR EVENTS

Through the week at St. John's

Sundays

8am	Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays in the month)
10am	Morning Service
	Family Service (1st Sunday in the month)
5pm	Raise The Roof (3rd Sunday in the month)
6.30pm	Evening Service

Tuesdays

12.45pm	<i>Food for Thought</i> , Zion Church
2pm	<i>WI</i> first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall

Wednesdays

2pm	<i>Watercolour</i> on Wednesdays
-----	----------------------------------

Thursdays

10.30am	<i>WIGS</i> at the Old Pheasantry, Woodcock Hill (home of June Clark)
6.00-7.30pm	<i>JAFFA club</i> in the Church hall on the first Thursday of each month

Saturdays

8am	<i>Prayer Breakfast</i> on first Saturday morning in the Church Hall
-----	--

Quizaid!

Come and join a fun quiz and buffet supper to raise money for Christian Aid at St Luke's Church on Saturday 8th May 2010 at 7.00pm.

Teams of up to 6 people may enter - £6.00 per person – please bring your own drink & glasses. There will be a raffle.

Phone Pauline Cotton on 323633 to enter a team.



JUST A BIG FISH?

Sermons in Jonah

THE STORY of the big fish swallowing Jonah must be one of the best known Old Testament Bible stories. But what is the rest of the story? And what has it got to teach us now?

It is tempting to think of Jonah as just a children's story, but while the events might capture the imagination of the young, the teaching of the book is a challenge to us all. Jonah is about God's authority and power over all things and people, his authority to judge, and his wonderful mercy to those who ask for God's forgiveness. It shows how God's concern is not just limited to those who are presently part of his people, but is for all people everywhere.

During May we all have the chance to spend some time in this challenging book:

2nd May **A Second Chance** (Jonah Family Service)

9th May **God is Lord of All** (Jonah 1)

16th May **God's Mercy to Jonah** (Jonah 2)

23rd May **God's Mercy to Nineveh** (Jonah 3)

30th May **God's Concern for All** (Jonah 4)

As well as sermons on Jonah all the children's and youth groups are also looking at Jonah, so learning from Jonah will be a whole church activity! Hopefully this should provide lots of opportunities for chatting about what we are learning across all ages.

I do hope you will join us!

Michael Peach

WHAT'S HAPPENING

2nd May	Family Service at 10am with Kevin Defriend Holy Communion at 6.30pm with Stephen Bowen
9th May	Holy Communion at 8am with Stephen Bowen Morning Prayer at 10am with Michael Peach Evening Prayer service at 6.30pm with Stephen Bowen
16th May	Holy Communion at 10am with Stephen Bowen Raise the Roof at 5pm Evening Prayer at 6.30pm with Andy Brown
23rd May <i>Pentecost</i>	Holy Communion at 8am with Jack Baker Morning Prayer at 10am with Stephen Bowen Evening Prayer at 6.30pm with Michael Peach
30th May	Holy Communion at 8am with Rev. Richard Adfield Morning Prayer at 10am with Andy Brown Evening Prayer at 6.30pm with Don Ely

Forthcoming Events

<i>1st May</i>	<i>8am Prayer Breakfast</i>
<i>15th May</i>	<i>8.30am Men's Breakfast</i>
<i>22nd May</i>	<i>Day of Prayer</i>
<i>19th June</i>	<i>Village Fair</i>
<i>17th July</i>	<i>Fun Scarecrow Competition at Whittington College</i>



(Jesus a friend for all)

A fun action-packed evening for children in school years 3-6
Meetings on the first Thursday of the month

6th May, the Church Hall, 6-7.30pm

Lots to do – Bible teaching, games and craft

For details of how to apply to join contact Diane Francis

(01342 714575)

OTHER EVENTS

Organised by Churches Together and Justice & Peace

Date	Location	Event
Wednesdays 5 th , 12 th and 19 th May	Jubilee Community Centre	<i>Family Support Work</i> 3 mornings (10am - 1pm) of FREE training for volunteers to help a professional social worker in East Grinstead provide help for families. Contact David on 07795 104235 or www.familysupportwork.org.uk
Saturday 8 th May	St Luke's Church	' <i>Quizaid</i> ' evening and buffet supper in support of Christian Aid at 7.00pm. Teams of up to 6 people may enter - £6.00 per person - please bring your own drink & glasses. There will be a raffle. Phone Pauline Cotton on 323633 to enter a team.
Sunday 30 th May Monday 31 st May	Wiston House West Sussex (off the A283 between Washington (A24) and Steyning	<i>Big Church Day Out</i> gates open 11.00am, event 2.00 to 10.00pm. Line-Up includes Hillsong United, Switchfoot, Toby Mac (Dc Talk), Israel Houghton, Tim Hughes (Worship Central), Brenton Brown, Graham Kendrick, Lou Fellingham, Tom & Olly, Lz7, The Kings Chamber Orchestra, Stuart Pendred and Trent
Sunday 13 th June	Our Lady & St Peter	<i>"Homelessness Service</i> at 6.00pm on a theme of social concern
Saturday 19 th June (Day time)	East Grinstead	<i>Street collection</i> for the homeless (Crawley Open House, Easter Team and Worthing Churches Homeless Project). St John's to help collect from 2.00 to 3.00pm
Saturday 19 th June (Night time)	East Grinstead High Street	<i>Sponsored sleep out</i> for the homeless by church members and teenagers
Friday 23 rd July	All Saints Church, Crowborough	<i>Concert</i> by Nigar (a 15 year old Azerbaijani) at 7.00pm in aid of <i>World in Need</i> raising funds for a 4-wheel-drive vehicle to enable their director, Tofiq, to travel the vast distances across the country to visit all their sponsored families. World In Need (WIN) is a Christian organisation seeking to help men, women and children in some of the most disadvantaged areas in the world, to overcome the suffering, poverty and difficulties that they face in their daily lives.



Whirligigs and Waggle Dancers

IF YOU FEEL that life is too short, consider the Mayfly. Emerging from a crawling larval state underwater on a warm May morning, it mates the same evening, the female drops her eggs into the water and both male and female die the same day. No wonder its scientific name is Ephemera. There are some around the village pond, but be quick or they'll be dead. A few honey bees are buzzing around again and when the foraging workers return to the hive they perform an intricate dance which indicates to fellow workers the distance and direction of the source of pollen so that they can make a bee-line for it. It's all done by wiggles and waggles.

Queen bumble bees are cruising very low around the lawn edges and neglected piles of leaves, seeking potential nest sites. The early ones have white bottoms, and the ones with orange or red ends are now appearing.

Jackdaws are shouting down our chimney again and quarrelling about sticks with which to build their nests, as are the rooks beside Woodcock Hill. The crow family have all learned how to get free meals from rubbish left at roadsides. In the Ingoldsby Legends the jackdaw stole the

Cardinal's ring, and Rossini made an overture to the thieving magpie, so their opportunism has always been legendary.

On the slow moving parts of the Felwater, a dozen whirligig beetles are dashing around in circles. Their tiny shiny black bodies and eyes adapted to see under water, enable them to pick up even tinier bodies of insects that have fallen in.

In the Hedgecourt Nature Reserve, there are carpets of the green and yellow flowers of moschatel between the white wood anemones and wood sorrel. These small flower heads are almost cubic in shape, giving moschatel the nickname 'The Town Hall Clock'.

A common shrew lay dead on the boardwalk, its dark Winter coat having been replaced by paler brown fur. Perhaps an untimely casting of its clout. A pair of great crested grebes were towing a reed twice their body length to build their nest. Chiffchaffs, a swallow and a blackcap were all present at Leonardslee, plus a fine roe buck that galloped past us across a woodland glade. This magnificent 300 acre estate will close to the public on 30th. June. Go now

while the magnificent bluebells and shrubs are in bloom and the wallabies have their 'Joeys'. Lower Beeding is less than a half hour drive from Felbridge. It may be a last chance to see one of the glories of South East England.

Spring Clean Note - Intensive

feeding of garden birds through the Winter has left a legacy of diseases, particularly among greenfinches. Do take down and thoroughly disinfect all bird feeders, drinkers and bird tables. Most pet shops will advise.

Peter Bateman

CHURCH CENTRE FUNDRAISING

Village Fair – Saturday 19th June

BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY—come and join us at the village fair. St John's will be running several stalls as usual, money raised will go towards the building project. The following stalls need your help:



BOOK & PUZZLE STALL: Lis & Ron Woolley would like to have good, clean modern paperbacks and puzzles.

BOTTLE TOMBOLA: Cecilia Bliss and Ann Morley would like your donations of any bottles (wine, tomato sauce, beer, etc.). There will be a labelled box at the back of the church from the beginning of May to put your bottles in, or let Cecilia or Ann have them.



Anybody who would like to run a stall for the Church or has a good idea for one, please contact Lis Woolley Tel: 01342 300356. We always need as much help as possible and the day is great fun.

The Fundraising Team would also like to thank everybody who supported the New Harmonie Concert; a wonderful £565 was raised towards the Building Fund.

Cecilia Bliss

CURRENT ISSUES



Election issues—five things to think about

BEFORE you put the cross on your ballot form at the General Election on 6th May, Tearfund asks us to check whether your party of choice has prioritised the following five topics.

Urgent action on climate change to secure a fair, ambitious and binding global deal in 2010; achieve at least a 42% cut in UK carbon emissions by 2020; and ensure the UK's fair share of providing US\$200 billion a year in climate finance that is needed by developing countries.

Strong leadership to drive forward progress on sanitation and water and action on other Millennium Development Goals. Our Department for International Development says that sanitation, "is one of the most off-track MDG targets" and that water management is critical in helping poor people adapt to climate change. DFID must continue to be supported in its commitment to spend £1 billion to help 25 million people in Africa gain access to clean water and sanitation.

Renewed action to tackle HIV, including support for greater participation by pharmaceutical companies in the so-called UNITAID Patent Pool, to help achieve universal access to antiretroviral drugs in poor countries. The willingness of major companies to give up their monopoly

rights to Aids drugs and allow the production of cheaper generics has the potential to save millions of lives.

Tackling corruption, by developing a new cross-Whitehall strategy to address the underlying factors which fuel corruption. Action is needed by UK government to update laws concerning the bribery of foreign officials and to take international corruption seriously. Corruption takes money out of the pockets of the poor.

A pledge to enshrine in law the cross-party commitment of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income on Overseas Development Assistance from 2013, and support for mechanisms to raise additional finance for aid and climate change adaptation, including a 'Robin Hood' tax on financial transactions.

This election is YOUR opportunity to speak up for global justice. Pray for a new intake of MPs who are committed to action on climate change, international development, and tackling HIV. Following the expenses scandal, pray for MPs to be elected who are committed to representing their constituencies with honesty and integrity, and who can restore public faith in the democratic process.

Gordon Wilkinson

CHARITY UPDATE

Tearfund—an update on Haiti

IT IS NOW over 3 months since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Tearfund relief teams and its church-based partners have been working around the clock ever since. Churches and individuals have entrusted Tearfund with a staggering £6 million towards the relief and rebuilding work in Haiti.

Tearfund would like to thank everyone for their generosity, which is enabling it to fulfil Jesus' call to 'bind up the broken hearted'. Work in the capital, Port au Prince, is continuing to grow in partnership with many other aid agencies. It was decided to target remote and cut-off highland communities, which were attracting less attention, so assessment teams were sent in and in many cases they were the first aid agency staff to reach them. A young mother, Sylvia Sherry, who has a one year old baby, told them that she was sleeping under coconut leaves. and 67-year old Miracle Joses said that he and his nine grandchildren had been sleeping out in the open and that the plastic sheets they had given him would change his life. As you can imagine, these moving stories are multiplied across Haiti.

Twenty five tons of essential supplies were flown in using UN helicopters and 1,800 families were given shelter and tarpaulins to meet their immediate

needs. They are now working with 25 schools to get them re-established. Tearfund's five church partners are now working in towns and villages in 20 locations providing food, water, shelter and sanitation to thousands of displaced people as well as offering health education. Funding provided to King's Hospital is enabling thousands of injured people to be treated and to receive counselling. Small loans are being given to help restart businesses. The scale of the operation is huge, but God's grace is in evidence through supporters' prayers and generosity, through complex logistics falling into place, in the smiles of orphaned children when they are given shelter, and through the way that local churches are working with Tearfund despite their own losses. The work isn't done yet, it's a race against time to provide corrugated sheeting and timber for families to construct adequate shelters. The rainy season is starting now and it is relentless, but so is the love of God. Please continue to pray, the headlines have moved on, but the hurting hasn't. Thank you for your support.

Brenda Wilkinson

WHY BELIEVE?



St John's members tell us what it's like to follow Jesus. This week we interview Jon Toogood

CAN YOU tell us a little about yourself?

Hello, my name is Jon Toogood, I am married with two rapidly growing children and work at a small post-production facility in Soho, London. I was born and brought up in London, and lived in the West End for 22 years before moving down to Surrey six years ago.

How did you become a Christian?

I grew up in a loving, Christian home, where my father was the minister of our local church, so attending church on a Sunday was something I had always done. Not long before my 15th birthday I spent two weeks on a "Fellowship of Youth" Christian holiday, held at a boarding school in North Wales, whilst the pupils were on their summer break. About 120 young people attended each year, from churches all over the country. Great friendships were made, and days were spent using the facilities – with the swimming pool, tennis courts and football pitches being particular favourites! In the evenings there would be an hour-long service, much like our Sunday morning services at St John's. One particular night the sermon was on Jesus' death on the cross, and His resurrection, conquering death once

and for all – something I had heard about many, many times in my life. But this night was different. For the first time it was personal. For the first time I felt guilty that Jesus had died on the cross – not just for others – but for ME! How amazing, that the Son of God had left the splendour of heaven, and died for me, 2000 years before I was even born! That night I asked Jesus to forgive me for all the wrong I had done in my life, and asked Him to be my Lord and Saviour.

How does being a Christian affect your day to day life?

Being a Christian doesn't give me an automatic 'get out of jail' card for all the things in life I'd rather not have to deal with. I still have to face the same problems as everyone else, but trusting in Jesus means I never have to face anything alone. Nothing is too great or small for Him to deal with. Whether it's concerns over the care and health of loved ones, or worries over redundancy or paying the bills, I can leave it all in His care, and know that He has a plan and purpose for my life. I can say with absolute certainty that, unlike me, God is totally reliable. He has never let me down, and God NEVER makes mistakes.



BE STILL AND KNOW

Twenty four hours of prayer

JUST BEFORE Easter Louise Russell challenged St John's to undertake twenty four hours of prayer. This was an amazing experience for those who attended and one that we would like to repeat again.

Several people commented that it was wonderful to see the church lit up in the early hours of the morning as they arrived to pray. There was a sense of peace in and around the church and it was possible to wander around the church, taking in the prayers that had been posted on the walls, gazing upon the beautiful stained glass windows, pray silently or aloud with others. There were times for children to actively join in as well and these were generally noisier prayer periods, when the children praised God skipping down the aisle and jumping into hoops as well as decorating candles and planting seeds. The 24 hours culminated in lively worship, with Jake on drums and the little ones rattling their newly made instruments raucously.

We loved it so much, that we would like to invite each member of St John's to join us in praying for the community of Felbridge at Pentecost on the weekend of **22nd/23rd May.**

A little nearer the time there will be a timetable explaining exactly what will be happening and when, with space for you to sign up. It would be great if at least one person could be praying every minute of the twenty four hours.

We are intending to replicate the informality of the previous event; in that you will be welcome to come to the church and pray as you wish - through the Bible verses and prayers provided or by praying with others if two or more of you are present, or by simply enjoying being in God's presence. We are also hoping to run a couple of prayer workshops at certain times of the day, which you will be able to sign up for in due course and to open the church up to visitors. Details will be available on the church website and at the back of church. You are welcome to sign up for as many or as few prayer slots as you like.

As the church will be open to visitors during part of the day on Saturday, please also consider whether you would be willing to be available to pray or talk with visitors if the opportunity arose. It would be fantastic if the whole of St John's could get involved!

Lindsey Saunders

CHURCH CENTRE PROJECT

Progress Report: April 2010

Church Centre - Progress

- Tasks are currently on programme.
- Spend is currently below budget.
- The Architect is inviting further quotations for (a) an asbestos survey and (b) a detailed bat survey during the summer season (a condition imposed by Tandridge District Council), as previous quotes considered too high.
- The process for separating out the budget costs for the revised phasing is in hand.
- Fabric Team has finalised the configuration of the double glazing for the hall windows and doors.
- Preparation has begun for the submission of an application for a faculty to the Diocese for the replacement hall windows and doors.

Church Centre - Forecast

- Tasks may slip if technical surveys not completed by end of July in order for Design Development to commence in August.
- The Finance Team to involve someone with construction

experience to review the Project Budget.

- The Architect to receive further quotations for the asbestos survey and bat survey.
- Order to be placed for the double glazing for the hall windows and doors.
- Faculty application to be submitted.

Other Projects - Progress

- Comments on the Diocesan Architect's proposals for the car park were submitted. The comments included items to improve the function of the car park.
- A surveyor from Surrey Council Highways [SCH] has marked out the location of the dropped kerb by the north gate.

Other Projects - Forecast

- Quotations are being invited from local contractors (who are on an approved SCH list) to drop the kerb.
- Humpty Dumpty playgroup is waiting for the replacement children's chairs.

John Grainger (Chair CCPT)

FUN SCARECROW COMPETITION



In aid of St John's Building Fund

Saturday, 17th July at Whittington College, Felbridge

2pm – 4pm

Prize giving at 3.30pm

Individuals, families and organisations are invited to display a scarecrow in the beautiful gardens of Whittington College and enjoy an Afternoon Tea whilst visitors vote for their favourite one.

Cake and produce stall

£2.00 entry fee

Return your entry form to the Scarecrow competition stall at the Felbridge Village Fair on Saturday 19th June or no later than 26th June to: Cecilia Bliss, Merriwood Farm, New Domewood, Copthorne, Surrey. RH10 3HE

.....

Surname.....Forenames.....

Organisation.....

House name/number/

Street.....

Town.....

Postcode.....

Email.....Tel.

No.....

Name of Scarecrow.....

Height.....

£2 entry fee per scarecrow enclosed.....

The Christian Unions and Natasha Kasprovicz

AT ST JOHN'S we support a number of organisations and individuals undertaking God's work in different ways. This month we want to update you on the work UCCF and Natasha Kasprovicz, who we have been supporting for several years.

UCCF is a family of students, staff, and supporters. Christian Unions are mission teams operating in universities and colleges, supported by the local church, and resourced by UCCF staff. This family exists to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in the student world.

UCCF works with over 200 Christian Unions across Great Britain. The UCCF vision is to give every student an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In her latest newsletter Natasha explained that it was a busy start to the year with the **London-wide FREE project** in January. The event saw Christian Unions across the capital unite for a joint university mission week for the first time since 1935. There are 500,000 students in the capital. And London has more international students than any other city in the world. It's a huge mission field! London CUs range in size from 6-60 people. Impacting campuses with the Gospel is a massive task!

All CUs then came together for a series of three evening events, held at All Souls church. The Gospel was clearly proclaimed by Richard Cunningham who spoke from the gospel of John. His talks comprised: *FREE to live - can I live life to the full? FREE from guilt - can the slate be wiped clean? and FREE from death - what lies beyond the grave?.*

Natasha writes that it was an enormous joy to have students, graduates, and church workers serving together to share the Gospel with London's students. Many stories of students whose lives were transformed by the Gospel came out of the mission week.

Other news from Natasha includes that she will be taking over as London Team Leader in the summer and attended Passion 2010, a conference in the USA for over 20,000 students.

If you would like to be kept informed of Natasha's work through her newsletters and emails please send your contact details to Dan and Suzy Callaway.

FAMILY LIFE



At Benjamin's school class 3 are learning about the Romans and just before the end of term their homework was to make a Roman costume. Well, it wasn't so much *their* homework as

my homework—it was not just any Roman costume, but one designed by Benjamin—a toga with a red rim around the edge. Unfortunately this wasn't available on e-bay—why couldn't he have chosen to be a soldier?

If I tell you that I am absolutely useless at sewing, you will perhaps sympathise with my predicament and imagine how enthralled I was when Benjamin came home with this particular homework. Now when I don't want to do something, I have a very bad habit of putting it off, and this is what I did in this case. Even though we were told about a month in advance what we needed to do, I started thinking about the costume only a week before the event.

Unfortunately I didn't actually get around to fitting the sheet to Benjamin until a day before the event and having removed it from the packaging, I decided that it wasn't big enough. So I traipsed back to the shop, bought two flat sheets to sew

together (remember I hate sewing) and the night before Benjamin is due to wear the costume, I try to pin these vast pieces of material, which seem to cover the whole living room floor like a lake, together. This is when I realise that there is in fact far too much material and manage to make Benjamin look more like an Egyptian mummy than a Roman in a toga.

So, I go back to square one—get the first sheet out, wrap it around him and decide to make do with that. That would have been fine, if I had not needed to sew red ribbon around the entire edge of the 2 metre sheet (I hate sewing!). Four hours later, however, at 1:30 in the morning I have finally managed to sew 4 metres of red ribbon around at least two edges of the sheet. So, I go to bed, satisfied that I have at last accomplished the dreadful task.

In the morning, however, I realise that I have not thought how to attach the sheet to Benjamin to stop it falling off and I can't find any safety pins. It's 8 o'clock already and Chris is going to be late for work! However, I didn't marry an ex-Scout for nothing. From out of nowhere my husband produces some safety pins, with which we are able to pin Benjamin together. The costume was saved and Benjamin did not have to suffer any embarrassment for his mother's incompetence. The moral of the story: don't put off till tomorrow what can be done today!

Lindsey Saunders

VILLAGE MATTERS

Felbridge W.I. held their Spring Show on Tuesday 13th April in the Village Hall.

Twenty eight members put in a total of 149 entries in a choice of twenty two classes.

Joint winners of the show were Gladys Emblem and Jean Blakestone. The doors opened at 12 pm and everyone stayed over the lunch period and it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Next month we will be discussing a Resolution on product labelling, with a social time afterwards.

We have provisionally booked a coach to Worthing for Wednesday 30th June at a cost of £17. Please let me know if you are interested. 322302

Notes from Ken Harwood and Parish Council Minutes.

If you have any problems with compensation over potholes please contact Ken.

There was an incident where a house was broken into whilst owners were on holiday. Now that summer is here please be careful with opened windows and garden doors.

A 30mph speed limit sign is to be installed for the Eastbound traffic on the 264 in the near future.

The entrance to the Village Hall car park has been widened and car parking spaces designated.

A planning application has been submitted for a BMK track for the older children. Funding for this will be needed.

A free-standing perch has been ordered for the Copthorne Road bus shelter.



THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Raise the Roof is a fun, action-packed service, **presenting Jesus' message through music**, dance drama and dancing. The next service is on:



Sunday 16th May

Rehearsal 3.15pm Scrummy tea 4.30pm

Service 5-5.40pm

If you'd like to join in playing an instrument, acting, dancing or singing - young or old, beginner or pro - contact Kris Defriend on 01342 312788 or k.defriend@sky.com.

CHURCH OPEN DAY

Saturday 22nd May

11am—3pm

Come and look round your village church

Even if you are not a regular member of St John's you are welcome to look around the church, sit in silence or pray. If there is something you would like us to pray for, then someone will be available to pray with you or you are welcome to submit any prayer requests in a box at the front of the church if you would like someone else to pray for you.

FELBRIDGE WI NEEDS YOU!

So why don't you come along on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

Meetings start at 1.30pm at Felbridge Village Hall

Speakers, Competitions, Outings, Raffles and much more

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On 6th May at 7.30pm

In the Village Hall

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

News and Thanks

At the APCM last month Steve Granger was elected as church warden to replace Malcolm Francis and Anne Butler was re elected. Gill Matson, Jim Farrant, Chris Saunders, Peter Burton and Malcolm Francis were all elected to the PCC. Our thanks to them. Many thanks to those whose time of office had come to an end including Malcolm Francis who served for five years as church warden. We are glad he has agreed to serve on the PCC. Welcome to the new ones. Please give all the PCC your prayerful support.

David Legg is to be the new electoral roll officer and we thank Brian Starr for having been the officer for several years and also for updating us electronically !!

Betty McAulay would like to thank the church family for the lovely flowers she received, which were a heart warming gift.

Thelma Manning would like to thank the Church family for your prayers, cards, beautiful flower arrangement and good wishes following her operation, which have been a great comfort to both her and Mick.

June Clark would like to express her gratitude for the prayers and lovely flowers given to her during her illness, which encouraged her during her recovery.

Many thanks indeed to the church family for the beautiful moth orchid that was delivered for Easter. It is full of bud and promise of more lovely golden blooms to come. Perhaps this is like an illustration of the church being full of promise to bring glory to God!? It is lovely and we shall all enjoy it all very much indeed not only for Easter (I hope!!) but for a long time to come. Love, *Mandy*

I was both surprised and delighted to receive the beautiful container of spring flowers given to me at the APCM. It was said to be a `long-service award` for being Hon: Verger! The flowers are thriving in the long-awaited sunshine and are giving me great pleasure. A very big THANK YOU to Stephen, Mandy and the Church Family. *Ann Morley*

Many thanks to Brian Starr who diagnosed and cured the cooker in the hall!
It is great to have the possibilities of both ovens working now.

Dear Family at St John's,

I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw so many of you at Alasdair's Thanksgiving service on April 1st. Some of you will know what a comfort and encouragement it is when you find that old friends are still there to support and stand beside you when life is tough. There were others too who couldn't be here on Thursday but sent cards, as well as quite the most beautiful flower arrangement which had arrived earlier in the week from the St John's family.

I know that your support too has been with Alasdair and me over the last two years as we experienced the many disappointments of treatments looking promising but never quite good enough to push him into remission. We have so appreciated the many prayers you have offered on our behalf and often we have felt 'carried' on the prayers of others when we have struggled to know how to pray ourselves.

'Thank you' is a very inadequate word to express our gratitude – but it certainly comes from a heart full of thankfulness to God for you all.

I hope Felbridge folk will continue to call in and see me on their journeys up and down the M11. Hinxton makes a very good pit stop on journeys north!

Every blessing,

Margaret

Congratulations

Congratulations to John and Jenny Follett who have a new grandchild: a boy born to their daughter Jo and her family.

New address

Lis Woolley (formerly Lis Scott) has moved to: 58 Alders View Drive, East Grinstead, RH19 2DN. Phone: 01342 300356.
Email: eawoolley058@btinternet.com.

Margaret Malcolm's address is: The Old Dairy, 71 High Street, HINXTON, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1QY

SPRING INTO COMPOSTING AT HOME

DID YOU KNOW 1/3 of your household waste could be used for composting? Composting is a natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden, for free. Anyone with outside space can compost at home, and it's easy to make and use.

All you need to do is provide the right ingredients and let nature do the rest.

The Surrey Waste Partnership (which is made up of Surrey County Council and the 11 district and borough councils in the county) is offering home composting bins at fantastic prices, starting from £14.00 (RRP £39.00), to encourage more residents to compost at home.

Even if you do compost already, there maybe a few extra things you could put in. For example: empty cereal packets and egg boxes; fruit scraps and vegetable peelings; tea bags and coffee grounds; vacuum bag contents and even vegetarian pet bedding, are in fact great ingredients to make compost. Mix this in with garden waste such as old flowers and nettles; wood chippings and straw; twigs and dried leaves, and you have the perfect recipe. When it is finished the compost will be like a fine soil, ready to use.

Use it on flower beds and vegetable plots, for patio planters, hanging baskets and even window boxes. Compost keeps your plants growing healthily, by improving soil structure and fertility, maintaining moisture levels and keeping your soil's PH balance in place.

Composting at home is the easiest way to recycle your waste because you can do it at home, in your own time. It takes little space and effort, and it's so rewarding. Once you start, you'll be surprised to see just how much the waste in your kitchen bin goes down, by putting suitable waste items into the compost bin instead.

Spring into composting and make the most of the waste you throw away.

To buy a bin or to dig up more advice on how to turn your table scraps and garden waste into compost, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/getcomposting or call 0844 571 4444

CHURCH REGISTER

Thanksgiving

A service of Thanksgiving was held for Heidi Ely on 20th March 2010

Wedding

Sarah Louise Turner to David Simon Merchant on April 3rd 2010

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Wasps, flies, fleas. All types of rodents and vermin 01342 321373

BUTCHER

ARTHUR FRY, Lingfield Road, East Grinstead 01342 323225

CHIMNEY SWEEP

MILBORROW & JOYNES, 'The Flueologists' 01342 717900
All Flues and Appliances Swept and Serviced. Pots, Cowsls,
Caps, Birdguards. Fireplace Repairs, Stacks Repointed

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

R MEDHURST, Vine House, Hartfield 01892 770253
Caring family firm; home visits; 24 hour service. 01342 315880
Memorials arranged: Golden Charter pre-paid Funeral Plans

GARAGE & CAR REPAIRS, MOTs & COACHES

WOODCOCK HILL SERVICE STATION, London Road, Felbridge 01342 325544
01342 326213

KOINONIA COUNSELLING

Marriage problems, bereavement, depression, eating disorders etc
Jacqueline Lake (ACC Accredited) 01342 718948

TV SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATIONS

Panasonic Specialists. Plasma, LCD, Multiroom Systems, Aerial & Satellite.
Scott Brothers, 178 London Road, East Grinstead. 01342 321117

R J LONGHURST TV-VIDEO

Repairs—Sales and Home Tuning. LCD, Plasma, CRT TVs
plus DVD, CD and microwaves
17 Hillside Close, East Grinstead RH19 2DW 01342 323022

SPECIALIST GARDEN CENTRE

Bonsai and Japanese Garden supplies
HERONS BONSAI, Wiremill Lane (near Mormon Temple) 01342 832657

PAINTERS & DECORATORS

D G GURR. Over 30 years experience; Professional and reliable
Specialising in wallpaper hanging. Call for free advice and estimate 01342 321051

CLARINET LESSONS

Elaine Short CT ABRSM 01342 327563

USEFUL CONTACTS

Churchwardens:	Anne Butler <i>e-mail: butleranne09@googlemail.com</i>	01342 313640
	Stephen Granger <i>e-mail: Stephen_granger@hotmail.co.uk</i>	01342 312103
Treasurer:	Chris Saunders <i>e-mail: treasurerstjohns@googlemail.com</i>	01342 325662
PCC Secretary:	Sheila Drury <i>e-mail: Sheila.drury1@hotmail.co.uk</i>	01342 323865
Magazine Editor:	Lindsey Saunders <i>e-mail: parishmagstjohns@googlemail.com</i>	01342 325662
Cleaning Rota:	Carole Grainger	01342 325482
Ministry of Flowers:	Ann Morley <i>e-mail: annmorley@aol.com</i>	01342 714645
Church Hall Bookings:	Sally Hobbs	01342 410929
Church Office (closed on Thursdays)		01342 321524
Village Hall Bookings:	Lynda Railton	01342 322205

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE ACTIVITIES

Climbers (3-6 yrs):	Lindsey Saunders <i>e-mail: mountainash4@googlemail.com</i>	01342 325662
Explorers (Year 2 to 4):	Diane Francis <i>e-mail: Diane_Francis@tiscali.co.uk</i>	01342 714575
Light Eagles (Year 5+):	Dan and Suzy Callaway <i>e-mail: Daniel.callaway@iname.com</i>	01342 321658
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Chris Ely <i>e-mail: christineely2@msn.com</i>	01342 311614
Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	Ann Tucker <i>e-mail: ann_tucker@btinternet.com</i>	01342 317283