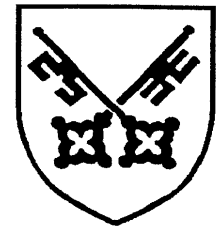


St Peter's Church Magazine



March 2013 issue ❖ 75p (£7 subscription for one year)
St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot ❖ www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk

Restart for Lent

– can you think of a new way to raise money?

Every year, following Jesus in his concern for the weak and the poor, we make collections to support people in need in this country or abroad. In Advent we supported WaterAid, helping to bring clean drinking water and healthy toilets to communities in the third world. This Lent we are trying to collect as much money as possible to help our own local TRAIN Restart Team. They need £10,000 by April, to help take some young men to Kenya to work on building a sand dam. The sand dam will help to retain the water that flows in the rainy season so that the villagers can use it in the dry season. The villagers will benefit but so will the young men who need to discover that there is more to life than the continual re-offending with which

(Continued on page 3)

Services in Holy Week

Sunday 24 Palm Sunday

8.00AM Morning Prayer & Holy Communion

10.00AM Sung Eucharist

6.00PM Stations of the Cross

Monday 25

6.00PM Stations of the Cross

Thursday 28 Maundy Thursday

9.30AM Holy Communion

7.30PM—Eucharist of the Last Supper

Friday 29 Good Friday

10.00AM Children's Activities

2.00PM Liturgy of the Cross

9.00PM Compline

Saturday 30 Holy Saturday

9.30PM Easter Vigil

Sunday 31 Easter Day

8.00AM—NO SERVICE

10.00AM Sung Eucharist

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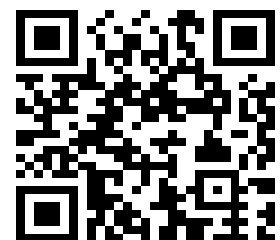
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Next issue

Wednesday 27 March 2013 is the next magazine deadline. Please telephone or email the editor with any articles—210525 or maurice.meardon@ntlworld.com

Who's who at St Peter's



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Email: priest-in-charge@stpeters-didcot.org.uk



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01235 816166

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Young People's Ministry
Co-ordinator

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Lent

Dear Friends

On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we started the service with the following words: "At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin." The early Church was as bad as the modern Church of England at internal arguments that seemed to have nothing to do with the people in the pews. But in those early years Christianity was an underground movement, persecuted by the authorities, and what you believed could lead to your death.

One big debate they had was whether Christians who had denied Christ (been charged with the crime of Christianity by the authorities and out of fear said they weren't Christian) should be accepted back into the Church. And if they were welcomed back, did they have to be re-baptised to wash them of this sin? After much debate, it was decided that the same period of preparation that people being baptised at Easter went through was the best solution to this problem. This preparation included reading the Scriptures, examining their conscience and prayer and fasting.

So began the spiritual practice that we now recognise as Lent – giving up whatever habits get in the way of our relationship with God, or taking up something that will draw us closer in love with our Heavenly Father.

Whatever you have decided to do for yourself this Lent, whether it's joining a Lent group, studying one of the books on offer, or something else, I pray that you may have a holy Lent and come to the celebration of Easter renewed.

Hannah

Welcome Maria!

It was such a joy to see Magda, Mirek and Alina walking into a church carrying a little pink bundle of joy! Many congratulations and welcome to Maria who was born on February 1st weighing seven pounds one ounce. Alina is pleased that her little sister likes her toy giraffe while Mirek says that Maria loves her cuddles and hugs – just like Alina! The family is looking forward to bringing Maria to St Peter's for her



baptism. We send much love and prayers and give thanks for this joyful addition to St Peter's family.

Restart for Lent –

(Continued from page 1)

they are familiar and there is satisfaction in working with others to achieve something like this. It is an ambitious project in every way which deserves to succeed for the sake of the young men themselves and the good of our community in Didcot. There will be a display in the hall giving more details which will be worth reading.

Lent is a time when we reconsider our way of life in the light of the gospel, and adopt a discipline that will help us grow spiritually either by giving up some indulgence or taking on some new activity for Jesus' sake. This Lent, can we give serious thought to

supporting Restart? Without serious support across the town this imaginative initiative can't get off the ground. The red bucket will be out ready to receive your contributions but if you can think of some new way to multiply your offering, selling cakes? making cards? designing and filling a piggy bank? we would love to hear about it and make an award for the most original and the most productive ideas. The need is urgent. Please help all you can.

Jenny Loder

Happy Birthday Wednesday Church

We shall be celebrating our second birthday when Wednesday Church meets on March 6th. It seems a good moment to look back and rejoice at the progress we have made since this time last year. We have much to be thankful for. We continue to welcome old friends each month as well as new members though we have been sad to lose sight of some who had to move on when their homes were closed. We are getting to know each other well, building up a Christian community. New friendships are developing between people who have no shared background and only meet at Wednesday Church. Confidence is growing so that more of the members want to play an active part in our worship, lighting candles, ringing the bell, reading a short Bible passage or contributing to the prayers. We all sing and sign the songs and there is great delight when we get out the percussion instruments or the streamers, most of all when we learn a new dance that everyone can join in. Our worship is varied and lively as you can imagine. With our other craft activities, we now have a regular bulletin with pictures and puzzles which can be taken home.

We continue to

be very grateful for the financial support which the local churches have given us. Some have been very generous. We are now on a more secure financial footing than we were this time last year. We have been able to make donations to St Peter's for the use of the hall and to Prospects for their training expertise and we were able to provide small presents for the members at Christmas. We shall soon have our own projector which we will share with St Peter's. The proceeds of the raffle at the last Quiz made a big difference and we can now subsidize a day out together at the Cotswold Wildlife Park next summer.

Do come and join us on the first Wednesday of any month – just turn up towards 11AM and bring your lunch if you are staying on afterwards. You will be most welcome.

Jenny Loder

Les Misérables – A Film Review

Written 150 years ago by Victor Hugo Les Misérables - the film is now reaching an even wider audience. Despite seeing the musical twice in London, being involved with, and watching many school productions I had never read the book and was not sure what to expect from the film.

Victor Hugo was deeply concerned with the unjust social conditions of 19th century France. He highlighted them in his book and they are clearly reflected in the film. In the introduction he wrote: “while ignorance and poverty persist on the earth, books such as this cannot fail to be of value.” The story he wrote was fictional and reflected the appalling conditions which he saw around him at the

time. You may have seen the familiar, haunting face of the Les Misérables ‘poster girl’ – Cosette. She represents the downtrodden and destitute of whom Hugo wrote. In fact the poster picture was based on the original drawing by Emile Bayard in Hugo’s original book.

The story is timeless with themes of passion, sacrifice, love, justice and redemption all played out through the story with singing that was recorded live on set. The music is central to the way in which the film poignantly brings to life many of the profound challenges of our human experience.

Life is hard for Jean Valjean an ex-convict and he is driven to steal from the first person who is kind to him, a bishop. At the

very moment he is threatened with re-arrest, he is startled when the bishop rescues him so giving him a new start in life. His first-hand experience of mercy redefines Valjean and he attempts to help the destitute Fantine and her daughter Cosette, all the while attempting to escape the determined and ruthless Inspector Javert.

The startling contrast between the two main characters, Jean Valjean and Inspector Javert reveals the heart of the story. The policeman thinks that because he has fulfilled and upheld the law, he has God on his side. ‘Those who falter and those who fall,’ he sings, ‘Must pay the price.’

But Jean Valjean the ex-convict begins at complete rock-bottom, knowing he’s morally

bankrupt, and that he doesn’t deserve anything from God. He has certainly faltered, and he is fallen, but he discovers that God loves and cares for him despite his worst crimes. We see one man living by law, the other by grace. In contrasting their journeys, the story becomes a parable about different reactions to the grace of God. You may even sense echoes of the Prodigal son.

It is a truly thought provoking story and makes a great film with memorable characters, stirring songs and at times some brilliant comedy. This is just my personal view so if you would like an outing why not go and see it and decide for yourself! Let me know what you think.

Julie Mintern

Love and Return thy Neighbour

Love and Return thy Neighbour. That’s the aim of the new Neighbourhood Return scheme, which aims to act quickly to find people with memory problems, such as dementia, who have got lost. We are looking for volunteers to join searches in their immediate area, who have a mobile phone which is regularly charged and has credit on it, and who can use text messaging.

We know

everyone isn’t available all the time, so the scheme aims to sign up as many volunteers across Oxfordshire as possible. If you aren’t available or in the area when we alert you that someone has gone missing, just text back ‘no’. If you are free to help, our care centre will send you a description of the person and let you know where to search. When you reach the destination, you let them know and they

will provide further instructions on where to look next. A safe searching guide helps to give you guidance about searching and how to gently approach the person who is lost, should you find them. Searches are conducted for up to two-and-a-half hours by volunteers, who can join or leave the search at any point during this time, if the person isn’t found by then the search is then handed over to the police.

You can

sign up to the scheme at www.ourturn.org.uk or by phoning 0116 229 3118. This isn’t a huge commitment. You will rarely or may never be called to help, but by registering, not only will you help carers to feel supported by their local community, but should someone in your local area go missing you could help save a life. If you are a carer of someone with memory problems, you can register them using the contacts above. It’s absolutely free.

Quiz-n-Chip Charity Raffles

The raffles at the Quiz 'n' Chip evenings have raised over £1380 during 2012.

Here are some extracts from the letters of thanks that I have received.

Thank you for your cheque. It is a great total and this money will go towards helping to care for more people in the community through funding the Marie Curie Nursing service.

(Marie Curie Cancer Care, £277.20p, February 2012)

Thank you for thinking of the centre again. We really appreciate it. It is getting more difficult these days to raise funds.

(Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Abingdon, £193.00p, May 2012)

Thank you so much for the fantastic donation of £130.00p for See Saw. Your donation will towards helping See Saw provide support to bereaved children in Oxfordshire.

(See Saw Grief support for the young in Oxfordshire, £130.00p, June 2012)

The acknowledgement from PACT was in the form of a 'Certificate of Appreciation' thanking us for our generous donation.

(PACT South Didcot Children's Centre, £150.00p, November 2012)

We have also raised funds for TRAIN (£262.00p, January 2012, reported last March, and again in October 2012, £194.10p)

The Oxford Gang Show would like to thank St Peter's for considering the show for your quiz evening in September. The money raised will go towards new equipment needed due to the change of venue.

(Oxford Gang Show, £177.56p, September 2012)

Didcot Food Bank

The whole congregation also continues to support Didcot Food Bank at certain times throughout the year. Your donation of tins and packets of dry food are always very welcome. Please remember that the 'use by' dates must have at least six months left. Also, small packets are much more useful than the larger ones, as they are easier to distribute fairly.

Thank you to all that have helped us support these charities in the past year.

Sheila Brown

Charity Raffle and Food Bank co-ordinator

Abingdon Operatic Society

Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association

Is delighted to present

Oliver!

**8th to 13th April 2013, Performances
at 7.30 pm**

**Matinee Performance on Saturday
13th at 2.30 pm**

**The Amey Theatre, Abingdon
School OX14 1DE**

**Tickets (£15 - £8.50) are on sale now.
Download a booking form, or Book Online
at www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk, or
buy unreserved balcony seats from
Newbury Building Society, Abingdon.**

Didcot All Saints' & The Ladygrove Church Services

All Saints'

Sunday 8:00 AM	The Holy Eucharist (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language)
10:00 AM	The Parish Eucharist (Except first Sunday of Month)
10:00 AM	Family Service (First Sunday of Month)
6:30 PM	The Holy Eucharist with a hymn and Prayer for Healing (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language, First Sunday of Month)
Tuesday 9:30 AM	The Holy Eucharist (Common Worship Order One, Traditional Language)

The Ladygrove Church

Sunday 10:00 AM At the Ladygrove Community Centre
(All ages, with Sunday School)

Services

Sundays

8.00AM Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
10.00AM Parish Sung Eucharist
6.00PM Evensong (1st Sunday in month)

Weekday Services

Tuesday 12.00NOON Little Fishes Eucharist
Thursday 9.30AM Eucharist

The Sacrament is reserved at St Peter's and is available to any who wish to receive it in their home or in the hospital.

Weekday Offices

Morning Prayer: usually said at 8.30AM on weekdays (except Fridays) & Saturday.

Registers

Baptisms 'made one with Christ'

None this month

Marriages 'those whom God has joined together'

None this month

Funerals 'may they rest in peace and rise in glory'

Sandra Jones; William George Turner

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

DIDCOT & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

The March meeting of D&DU3A is being held at 2pm on Tuesday 19 March 2013 at Didcot Civic Hall. The topic is **The Incredible World of the Honey Bee.**

Didcot & District U3A is a democratic, self-funded and self-managed organisation which exists to provide

educational and leisure activities at minimal cost. It draws upon the knowledge, experience, skills and enthusiasms of its members to organise interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership.

Tel: 07804159993
Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

Subscription and website information

St Peter's offers a few ways in which one can keep up-to-date with events and happenings at the church—the website, the monthly magazine, the weekly news-sheet. The website—www.stpeters-didcot.org.uk is updated on a weekly basis.

If you would like to subscribe to the monthly magazine or electronically receive the weekly news-sheet, please contact the editor, Margaret Meardon, on 01235 210525 or email maurice.meardon@ntlworld.com.

Faith notes...

St. Athanasius

I wanted to share with you an ancient letter from St. Athanasius, Archbishop of Alexandria in the 4th century. It is written to encourage a friend, one Marcellinus, in his study of the Psalms, and is as good an introduction and preliminary commentary on those wonderful works as I have found.

It begins by detailing the references in the Psalms to the history of the Israelites as told in the Old Testament, going on the the prophetic references to Christ, his birth, ministry and final triumph. There follows a long section illustrating the huge variety and richness of the Psalms with very many references. We then get to the part which I found most useful; Athanasius then goes through every Psalm, one by one, suggesting how they could be used, for example:

"Suppose, then, for example, that you want to declare anyone to be blessed; you find the way to do it in Psalm 1, and likewise in 32, 41, 112, 119, and 128."

Though as a "potted guide" to the basic tenor of each

Psalm this is very useful, what I consider its greatest value is its facilitating the finding of a Psalm to fit your situation or mood at any particular time, especially for one (like me) whose knowledge of these beautiful songs is less than encyclopaedic. There is much else of great interest besides.

You can find the complete text of the letter (in English, and with hyperlinks to each Psalm) by visiting: www.athanasius.com, and clicking on "Spiritual Texts" at the top right. I have it in Word document form, and I'd be happy to print it out if needs be for anyone who cannot access it on a computer.

If this information is no great revelation or use to some, I apologise and pray that, as for me, it might be of use at least to a few of you.

Tom Radcliffe

Forthcoming Social Events

2013

April 20 th	7.30PM	Quiz 'n' Chips
May 4 th	10.30AM	Plant Sale
May 18 th	7.30PM	Quiz 'n' Chips
June 15 th	7.30PM	Quiz 'n' Chips

Year's Mind for March

1 Eric Stratford	16 Ernest Pease
2 Christopher Preece	17 John Pruett
3 Edwin Gibbens	Stella Scott
Samuel Lane	18 Audrey Johansen
Daisy Culliford	Arthur Goodall
4 Gertrude Edmonds	19 Elizabeth Keep
Vera Cook	20 Cyril Goodgen
5 James East	Bernerd Measor
Ernest Cox	21 Ernest Bennell
Lizzie Humphreys	Rose Burrows
6 Phyllis Waddicor	Roderick Harper
Eliza Turner	John Luke
7 Bernard Powell	22 Sarah Mathews
8 Harold Cooper	Edward Knights
Jack Weston	23 William James
Maurice Engle	Millicent Grimes
Charlotte Denwood	John Hall
9 Charles Wood	Doris Fisher
10 Margery Buckingham	24 Ted Hillier
Dorothy Belcher	Stephen Mitchell
Timothy Hartnett	Edgar Bean
Frederick Hatt	25 Anton Janiw
11 Priscilla Grimes	26 Peter Williams
Edward Taylor	27 Alfred Ball
12 Ethel James	Ernest Edmonds
Stasia James	George Jones
Elisabeth Smith	Alice Daniels
13 Elizabeth Jarvis	David Welch
Henry Stone	Barbara Varney
Gwilym Evans	28
14 Valerie Kelly	29 Frederick Cleverly
Arthur	Ted Sharp
Kestell-Cornish	30 William Howell
Edwin Reid	William Nicholls
Sheila Burnham	Muriel Cullen
15 Gladys Andrews	31 Irene Belton
Peter Brown	Eva Peall

Church Calendar for March 2013

Friday 1

6.00PM Choir practice.

Sunday 3 Third Sunday of Lent

**8.00AM Morning Prayer & Holy Communion—
Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding, Fran Childs
preaching.**

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist —

**Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding, Fran Childs
preaching.**

10.00AM Sunday school.

**6.00PM Evensong—Fran Childs presiding,
Jenny Loder preaching.**

Tuesday 5

12.00NOON Tuesday Club with Little Fishes
Communion—Jenny Loder.

7.30PM—Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 6

11.30AM Wednesday Church.

7.30PM Didcot Community Gospel Choir rehearsal.

Thursday 7

9.30AM Holy Communion (MU)—
Revd. Josie Midwinter.

Friday 8

6.00PM Choir practice.

Sunday 10 Mothering Sunday

**8.00AM Morning Prayer & Holy Communion—
Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding,
Jenny Loder preaching.**

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist—

**Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding,
Jenny Loder preaching.**

Monday 11

10.30AM Alzheimer's 'Singing for the Brain'

Tuesday 12

12.00NOON Tuesday Club with Little Fishes
Communion—Revd. Hannah Reynolds.

7.30PM—Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 13

11.45AM Lunchtime Eucharist—
Revd. Ernest Adley.

Thursday 14

9.30AM Holy Communion—
Revd. Hannah Reynolds.

7.00PM Youth Group.

Friday 15

6.00PM Choir practice

Sunday 17 Fifth Sunday of Lent

**8.00AM Morning Prayer & Holy Communion—
Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding & preaching.**

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist —

Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding & preaching.

10.00AM Sunday school.

Tuesday 19

12.00NOON Tuesday Club with Little Fishes
Communion—Revd. Hannah Reynolds.

7.30PM—Didcot Choral Society rehearsal.

Wednesday 20

7.30PM Didcot Community Gospel Choir rehearsal.

Thursday 21

9.30AM Holy Communion—
Revd. Hannah Reynolds.

7.00PM Youth Group

Friday 22

6.00PM Choir practice.

Sunday 24 Palm Sunday

**8.00AM Morning Prayer & Holy Communion—
Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding & preaching.**

8.45AM Parish Breakfast in Church.

10.00AM Sung Eucharist—

Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding & preaching.

6.00PM Stations of the Cross—Fran Childs

Monday 25

10.30AM—Alzheimer's 'Singing for the Brain'

6.00PM Stations of the Cross—

Revd. Hannah Reynolds

Tuesday 26

12.00NOON Tuesday Club with Little Fishes
Communion—Jenny Loder

2.00PM St John's Guild Office—

Revd. Josie Midwinter presiding.

Thursday 28 Maundy Thursday

9.30AM Holy Communion—

Revd. Ernest Adley.

7.30PM—Eucharist of the Last Supper—

Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding,

Jenny Loder preaching.

Friday 29 Good Friday

**10.00AM Children's Activities—Jenny Loder +
Youth Group.**

2.00PM Liturgy of the Cross—

Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding & preaching.

9.00PM Compline—Fran Childs presiding.

Saturday 30 Holy Saturday

**9.30PM Easter Vigil—Revd. Hannah Reynolds
presiding, Fran Childs preaching.**

Sunday 31 Easter Day

8.00AM—NO SERVICE

10.00AM Sung Eucharist—

Revd. Hannah Reynolds presiding & preaching.