

Welcome

TO STOKE POGES PARISH AND THE CHURCHES OF ST. GILES' & ST. ANDREW'S



St Giles'

**Church Lane, Stoke Poges, SL2
4NZ**



St Andrew's

**Roger's Lane, Stoke Poges, SL2
4LN**

"Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!"

We are an Anglican Parish that celebrates Jesus Christ as God made man for us. He was born of Mary, showed us the Father's love, died on the Cross - so that we might be forgiven - and was raised on the third day. We are growing in our experience of the Holy Spirit and in what it means to have become children of God.

We have a range of both traditional/formal services (mainly at St. Giles') and contemporary/informal services (mainly at St. Andrew's). St. Andrew's is especially family-friendly. Taste & See!

**Contact: Harry (Vicar) on 642261
Charlie (Curate) on 07725 264991
Kate (Administrator) on 642331**

Christmas has come and gone, the weather is trying to make up it's mind and is trying out various options. Within the church we are beginning to prepare for Easter. The new Sermon series has begun as we "Discover the God revealed by Jesus" and this theme will be picked up by the Lent Course (see page 14).

Our Front cover remains the same for another year, this saved us money, but to compensate our back cover has changed. A new website has come into being and is well worth looking at. It is on the way to becoming a comprehensive source of everything you want to know about our church. Take the time to have a look.

RB.

CONTENTS

THE VICARAGE LETTER	2
TOTS' PRAISE	4
OUR PCC AND VISION	6
CHURCHWARDENS' NEWS	7
THE STATE WE'RE IN	8
PICTURE GALLERY - CHRISTMAS SERVICES	10
FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS	12
SERMON SERIES & LENT COURSE	14
FORTHCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS	15
CHURCH SERVICES	16
NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH GROUPS	18
NEWS FROM OUR VILLAGE GROUPS	21
NURSERY RHYMES	23
COFFEE SHOP	24
PASTORAL VISITING TEAM	27
"THE RACE"	28
PARISH RECORDS AND PARISH PRAYER	31
USEFUL CONTACTS	32

THE VICARAGE LETTER



The Vicarage
Park Road
Stoke Poges

February 2012

Harry writes:

True knowledge of *God* will lead us to worship, but it will also lead to changed lives. As we receive *God's* love and forgiveness, as we experience Him as our Father and find ourselves to have become his children we are set on a course of change as natural as the path in human development from baby to toddler to teenager to adult!

Indeed not to change is unnatural. In the Guinness Book of Records I found a picture of the world's smallest man - he is called *Jurney Bal*, he lives in the Philippines he is 18 years old but do you know how high? 23.6 inches. The average 1 year old is 28 inches tall. No one knows why he is so small, I hope his celebrity means he is well looked after, but I wonder if there is an analogy at all to our Christian development?

Is it possible to be a Christian but not to have grown spiritually? Are we really meant to be becoming more like *Jesus*? Well I think the answer to both questions is "yes." To the extent that my life is not changed or not changing it seems to me there is room for growth but how does that growth happen?

Is it about a greater experience of the Holy Spirit (well that will help but it's not all)? Is it about trying harder, more perspiration needed (well it's good to desire change but something more than self-help is needed)? Paul says (Romans 12:1) we must act in response to God's mercy as Living Sacrifices. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is true worship."

Far from being a dead sacrifice, this challenging phrase suggests a daily putting God first and offering ourselves to Him, but there is more in Romans 12:2 and we find a path to follow, a way to train. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."

J.B. Phillips translated that verse as: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould." It reminds us that we are all moulded by the world around us and all our experiences of it.

None of us are just as God would have us to be, the original design in each of us is spoilt and flawed and broken, but for the Christian the very real hope of restoration and renewal is held out. Transformation is achievable with God's help.

What we see is that our Beliefs and our Behaviour are closely linked. Right Beliefs can lead to freedom and change, but wrong Beliefs imprison and harm us. So if we are going to see change we need to be aware of our own minds and particularly what we think about God and about ourselves.

Now I am not an expert on the brain and the mind, but I know that like an old tape machine we have messages wound

into us (some by ourselves and some by other people) and they go round and round our heads.

They influence us and they shape our world, our expectations and our behaviour. James Bryan Smith calls them our "Narratives" and identifies "False Narratives" that we need to get rid of, whilst helping us to see "Jesus' Narrative" which we need to adopt.

Let me encourage you to engage with our preaching series this term in which we shall be looking at the truths of God being Good, Trustworthy, Generous, Loving, Holy, Self Sacrificing and able to Transform us. Our Mission is to fall in love or grow more in love with the God Jesus shows us, the God Jesus knows and reveals to us perfectly.

As Paul writes to Timothy (1 Tim 2:5): "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for all."

Come along to TOTS' Praise



Tots' Praise is a play group for pre-schoolers and their Mums/Dads/Grannies/Nannies!

Every Monday during term-time from 10:30 to 11:45
at St. Andrew's Centre, Rogers Lane, Stoke Poges.

For more information phone Tara 07748 638761.

We will be closed on February 13th for half-term.



Stoke Park, Country Club and Resort

5 Star Hotel
 49 Traditional and Contemporary Bedrooms
 Two AA Rosette Dining Room and Additional Restaurants
 Home to the Famous Bridget Jones, Goldfinger and Layer Cake
 27 Hole Championship Golf Course
 9 Meeting and Private Entertaining Rooms
 State-of-the-art Spa and Gymnasium
 Superb Tennis Courts inc. Grass and Indoor
 Social, Spa, Golf and Tennis Memberships

“It is widely regarded as excellent”

Conde Nast Traveller



Please contact the Reservations Team on 01753 717 172
 Stoke Park . Park Road . Stoke Poges . Bucks SL2 4PG
www.stokepark.com

OUR PCC AND VISION



Nigel
Lowe
(Church-
warden)



Paul
Elderfield
(Deputy Warden
& Deanery
Synod)



Jennifer
Pickering



Gaynor
Houghton-
Jones



Mark
Wells
(Deanery
Synod)



John
Wheatley
(Deanery
Synod)



Kate
Holliday



Dermot
Purcell



Tony
Bunce



Martina
Gardner

Contact numbers for the PCC members can be found inside the back cover.

OUR VISION IS TO SEE GOD GROW HIS CHURCH IN STOKE POGES

numerically as we reach out in evangelism, and
spiritually as the members grow in faith.

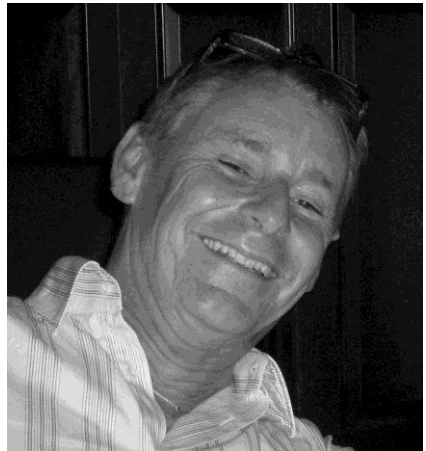
OUR VALUES ARE:

1. Encompassing all we do in Prayer.
2. Holding ourselves accountable to being Mission Shaped.
3. Continuing to foster a worshipping family of all ages.
4. Seeking to develop and release a recognised local ministry team: including LIFE Group leaders, youth & children's leaders, worship leaders, prayer ministry team, preachers, sick/home/pastoral visiting teams, and enabling those leaders.
5. Developing our Staff and Volunteer team.

CHURCHWARDENS' NEWS

Harry writes:

Churchwardens do an amazing amount of work on behalf of the Parish and support me wonderfully in the Mission and Ministry entrusted to us. Though there will be a formal "Thank you" at our APCM, I want to register my particular thanks in this magazine to Pam Blewett who asked to stand down from her role at Christmas after more than five and a half years. As someone who found the Alpha Course very significant herself, Pam has been led to join in the work of teams taking the Alpha Course into prisons. This is a fantastic ministry and we look forward to learning more about it in the years ahead. "Thank you Pam for all you have given of yourself, your time, your kindness, wisdom and generosity."



On November 21st the PCC (being advised of this) unanimously approved the appointment of Paul Elderfield as a special "deputy warden" to take us up to the APCM. "Many thanks indeed to you Paul."

THE STATE WE'RE IN

Fathers in the Father's World.

What do you think are the three most influential factors on a child's education in the UK? Where you live? The school they go to? Their teacher?

In fact, according to recent research by the Fatherhood Institute, the three biggest factors are:

1. Father's education.
2. Father's involvement in the child's education.
3. Father's income.

Amazed? Of course, as a dad, I know it's important for me to be involved, but I was certainly surprised to see it put so starkly.

Sadly, when asked who taught them to read, in this research, children mention dad third, behind both mum and teacher. One survey revealed that only 15% of dads read to their children every day and a tragic 20% of us never read to our children. Yet, a father's commitment to his child's education and his involvement with the school are also associated with better behaviour at school, including reduced risk of suspension or expulsion. A child's school behaviour is strongly linked with their educational attainment; and father's influence on that behaviour is not only significant, but may at times be more influential than mother's!

So why is it that men are less involved with their children than women?

We might argue in part that many of the problems flow from the prevailing assumptions and attitudes in our society. For example, think of the different treatment men and women receive on issues such as paternity/maternity leave and flexibility in working hours.

Or think of the treatment of the father in the 'new baby' manuals that many an expectant mum-to-be devours with enthusiasm. Read for example, *A Perfect Start* (in which fathers get one chapter) or the *Haynes Baby Manual* (in which dad is cast as a sitcom fool). I have noticed recently that any advertising or unsolicited mail concerning our children is automatically addressed to Sophie. Why?

Marriage and the stability of the parents' relationship obviously play a big factor too. Sadly now in the UK a third of modern marriages don't make it to their fifteenth wedding anniversary. The Office for National Statistics reports that nearly a quarter of children live with only one parent and nine out of ten of those households are headed by lone mothers.

We might consider the stats and bemoan the limitations thrust upon us by modern society, or we can step up and make a difference.

Encouragingly 38% of working fathers would take a pay cut to spend more time with their children, indeed British fathers' care of infants and young children has risen more than 800% over the past forty years. And while fathers remain the sole or main earners in almost 3 out of 5 two-parent households containing a five-year-old they do

not work longer hours than non-fathers, and during the first year after the birth work fewer hours than they worked before it.

Still, in modern Britain it can be hard to be a good dad - or granddad or uncle, come to that. Demands on our time, many exciting distractions, our own laziness and selfishness all make being a good dad difficult. But let's man up and get involved.

There are major benefits to being part of a church community. Isn't it a privilege to be in part of a church family where we have both men and women eager to help! It's great also to have fellow-dads with us, encouraging us, challenging us as we seek together to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4).

To that end, we're currently considering a number of events to help us be better dads. Watch this space for details of a dads and lads camping trip, dads and toddlers breakfasts and Princess Day or come and share your even better ideas with me.

If you're feeling inspired already, you might take a look at www.actedad.co.uk or just tell the kids to find their wellies and head with you to the park.

Charlie Styles



PICTURE GALLERY - CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Give the Gift of Hope in 2012

The all-new Gift of Hope catalogue from WorldShare is packed with life-changing alternative gifts, focusing on women and children, food and water, health and education, shelter and compassion. From China to Zimbabwe, Haiti, Pakistan, Congo, Albania and Burma, your Gift of Hope works through local partners committed to sharing God's love in word and deed in their communities.



G201 - School meals for child, Sudan - £9
No parent wants to see their child go to school with an empty stomach. Sadly, many children in Sudan arrive at school hungry - then go the whole day without anything to eat! For just £9, you can provide a month of healthy nutritious breakfasts or lunches for a well-fed and fit child. Boost a child's concentration, readiness for learning and general wellbeing with their great gift!

G209 - School for child, Tibet - £22
In Tibet, many families are too poor to send their children to school. We are working with local education and government leaders to provide education for 100 of the most vulnerable children. Your gift provides a child with tuition and educational materials for a month, and helps with fun activities, games and God's love.



G203 - Care for street child, Senegal - £4
Poor families in Senegal often leave their children in the care of teachers at the local school. Sadly, many of these 'lucky' children spend their days begging on the streets instead of going to school. In Dakar, local Christians operate a day care programme that provides food, clothing and overnight shelter to street children. Your gift provides care for a child for one day.

GIFT OF HOPE ORDER FORM - PAGES 3 & 4

G204 - Health education for girl, Bangladesh - £9
With 1 billion of the world's poorest people, Bangladesh is a common ground for partner in Bangladesh. It's being a friend to have valuable gifts being of the future. Your gift enables an adolescent girl to attend education and awareness programme to discuss, discuss, and access to healthcare which will both reduce the risk of her contracting HIV and increase her overall wellbeing.



G205 Health & skills for child, Brazil - £15
In the isolated fishing villages in the mouth of the Amazon River, many children face life's challenges, many children's problems ranging from generational poverty to lack of clean water and access to healthcare. Your gift provides preventative education, access to medical and dental care, for an on child.

G206 - Therapy for disabled child, North Africa see website
www.worldshare.org.uk/gift-of-hope



G207 - Nutrition for slim child, India - £36
The gift gets malnourished, malnourished food to a child living in poverty in one of the 10,000 villages in India, India's poorest. Your gift provides local, healthy local foods like rice, oil, pulses and lentils, and fresh vegetables, which together will help a child slim and flourish from a young age. Parents who hope a slim child struggle simply to provide enough food to survive, are truly blessed by the help for their child.

Choice of Gift Cards...

Photo and description of the gift that you order will appear on the inside of your Gift Card.

A COVER PHOTO - A photo of the child, woman, or child, or group of people, health and education therapy for girl.

B COVER PHOTO - A photo of the child, woman, or child, or group of people, health and education therapy for girl.

C COVER PHOTO - A photo of the child, woman, or child, or group of people, health and education therapy for girl.

Order online: www.worldshare.org.uk/gift-of-hope



Request your **FREE** catalogue from

WorldShare, Armstrong House, First Avenue, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster DN9 3GA. (01302) 775209. www.worldshare.org.uk

Website: www.worldshare.org.uk/gift-of-hope

Email: goh@worldshare.org.uk



Together - Building the Church

WorldShare

Armstrong House, First Avenue, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster DN9 3GA

Tel: 01302 775209

E-mail: info@worldshare.org.uk Website: www.worldshare.org.uk

Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No. 2498199.

Registered Charity in England & Wales No. 803575

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Money, Money, Money.

The other day, during our lunch break, we were talking about some of our old contracts and the customers.

Someone reminded us of one of our long since dead clients, who was quite a character.

He always paid his invoices promptly but he was to put it kindly, thrifty. His daughter's response when I described him as careful was to say "No he's just mean".

We also recalled that at the time there was a rumour that after she had said to him "you can't take it with you dad", he became so worried about this that he enquired into the possibility of having pockets sewn into his skin.

After we stopped laughing at this story, Simon quoted the old saying "Money is the root of all evil".

Unfortunately, that's a misquote, it's "THE LOVE of money that's the root of all evil".

Anyone who has read George Orwell's account of his struggle to survive, entitled 'Down and out in Paris and London', will recall the story of the miser who having been tricked out of some of his money became so distressed that he died shortly after from a broken heart.

We might well shake our heads in bemused sadness at the thought of someone getting into such a state, at the loss of a comparatively small portion of his fortune, that his anguish killed him.

But what's our attitude to our wealth and I use the word wealth advisedly.

Do we realise that virtually everyone we know is included in the category of the 10% richest people in the world. Just living in Britain does that for us.

Of course everything we own is in reality merely leasehold we can only hold it until we die.

In Matthew 6 beginning at verse 19 Jesus advises us "not to store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is your heart will be also."

We all need to be fed, housed and clothed but no matter how nice we keep our home, garden and clothes they will all deteriorate and disappear.

As a builder I have often been employed to refurbish the house of some elderly person who has died and its quite sad to see their old home stripped bare and things they treasured thrown out with the rubbish.

The real issue is how do we regard our "worldly goods" where are we on the scale from George Orwell's miser to the advice and example set by Jesus.

The Bible speaks of the principle of tithing or giving away 10% of our income each year to good causes (Not to friends and family.) As a Church here in Stoke Poges we also aim to donate at least 10% of our income to others less well off than us.

There is no doubt if every one followed this teaching we would see amazing good things happen in our world. However as important as it is that those in need are helped, its equally important for our own well being that we can happily obey this teaching. Being able to give cheerfully is an indication of how we regard our own treasure and whether we are masters of it or it has an unhealthy hold on us.

A clever word-smith coined the phrase: "Give until it hurts"

A wise and spiritual man responded: "No give until it stops hurting"

NIGEL LOWE

Gaynor Houghton Jones is pleased to report that as a result of the efforts of the Gardners and Parrys taking part in the cycle ride for the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust, Stoke Poges Church has received the princely sum of £104. Well done.

If the editor has missed anyone who also did this, he is sorry.

NEW SERMON SERIES AND LENT COURSE

January – March Sermon Series 2012

“Discovering the God revealed by Jesus”

January 15th	Introduction	Romans 11:33 – 12:2
January 22nd	God is Good	Luke 11: 5-13
January 29th	God is Trustworthy	Mark 14: 32-42
February 12th	God is Generous	Matthew 20: 1-15
February 19th	God is Love	Luke 15: 11-32
February 26th	God is Holy	Matthew 22: 1-14
March 11th	God is Self-Sacrificing	Matthew 16: 13-23
March 25th	God Transforms	John 17: 13-26

This series draws upon the Book “The Good & Beautiful God” by James Bryan Smith (published by Hodder & Stoughton). Contact Harry for a copy, if you would like one.

Lent Course 2012

February 23rd - March 29th in St Andrew's Chapel at 8pm

Several of the Life Groups are joining together to host a Lent Course, led by Harry & Charlie in the St Andrew's Chapel that is open to all. Please come and join us - especially if you do not normally attend a Life Group. The Course will link into our Sermon Series and the book from which it draws. (See above). The topics each week can be seen below.

23/2 God is Love;

1/3 God is Holy;

8/3 God is Trustworthy;

15/3 God is Self -Sacrificing;

22/3 God is Generous;

29/3 God Transforms

There is no need to book, but it would be a help if you can let Kate (642331) know if you are planning to attend. It would also be a help if you buy and read the Book!

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Mothering Sunday - Sunday 18th March

Family Service at St. Giles' at 10:30am

Palm Sunday - Sunday 1st April

All Age Service at St. Andrew's at 10:30am

Holy Week 2012 - April 2nd to April 8th

Please enter these dates in your diaries and plan to make the most of Holy Week 2012.

Monday to Friday at 7:15-8am

Morning Prayer in St Andrew's Chapel.

Monday to Thursday at 8pm

Easter Meditations and Compline in St Andrew's Chapel.

Wednesday Holy Communion at 10:30am in

St Andrew's Chapel.

Good Friday

10:00am United Service by the Village Flagpole, and then at

10:30am Joint Family Service at **St Andrew's.**

Easter Sunday 10:30am

All-age Service and Communion, and at 6:30pm Evensong

St Giles' Church.

CHURCH SERVICES – FEBRUARY

(* with children's groups)

Wednesday 1st February

St. Andrew's Chapel 10.30am Communion Service

Sunday 5th February

St. Giles' 9.00am Communion Service

St. Andrew's 10.30am All-age Service

Wednesday 8th February

St. Andrew's Chapel 10.30am Communion Service

Sunday 12th February

St. Giles' 9.00am Communion Service

St. Andrew's 10.30am Family Service *

St. Giles' 6.30pm Evensong

Wednesday 15th February

St. Andrew's Chapel 10.30am Communion Service

Sunday 19th February

St. Giles' 9.00am Morning Prayer

St. Andrew's 10.30am Family Communion with Healing Prayer*

St. Giles' 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 22nd February

St. Andrew's Chapel 10.30am Communion Service

Sunday 26th February

St. Giles' 9.00am Morning Prayer

St. Andrew's 10.30am Family Service *

St. Giles' 6.30pm Evensong Communion

Wednesday 29th February

St. Andrew's Chapel 10.30am Communion Service

CHURCH SERVICES - MARCH

Sunday 4th March

St. Giles'	9.00am	Communion Service
St. Andrew's	10.30am	All-age Service

Wednesday 7th March

St. Andrew's Chapel	10.30am	Communion Service
---------------------	---------	-------------------

Sunday 11th March

St. Giles'	9.00am	Communion Service
St. Andrew's	10.30am	Family Service*
St. Giles'	6.30pm	Evensong

Wednesday 14th March

St. Andrew's Chapel	10.30am	Communion Service
---------------------	---------	-------------------

Sunday 18th March

		<i>Mothering Sunday</i>
St. Giles'	10.30am	Family Service
St. Giles'	6.30pm	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 21st March

St. Andrew's Chapel	10.30am	Communion Service
---------------------	---------	-------------------

Sunday 25th March

		<i>Healing Prayer</i>
St. Giles'	9.00am	Morning Prayer
St. Andrew's	10.30am	Family Service *
St. Giles'	6.30pm	Evensong Communion with Healing Prayer

Wednesday 28th March

St. Andrew's Chapel	10.30am	Communion Service
---------------------	---------	-------------------

Sunday 1st April

		<i>Palm Sunday</i>
St. Giles'	9.00am	Communion Service
St. Andrew's	10.30am	All Age Family Service *
St. Giles'	6.30pm	Evening Prayer

April

Wednesday 4th April

St. Andrew's Chapel	10.30am	Communion Service
---------------------	---------	-------------------

Sunday 8th April

		<i>Easter Day</i>
St. Giles'	10.30am	All Age Service with Communion
St. Giles'	6.30pm	Evening Prayer

Stoke Poges Men's Group

Men's Breakfast – Saturday 10th March 2012

Having previously enjoyed some really good food at the Crown Inn in Crown Lane, Farnham Royal, we are returning there for our next men's breakfast.

Our speaker will be John Slater, who will share his thoughts on
"Me a Policeman – What a Joke".

John spent over 30 years as a police officer in the London area, rising to the rank of Chief Superintendent. Since retiring from the Met, he has been providing training and consultancy to senior police and politicians around the world. In recent years he was a founder of the Pointman Leadership Institute which provides ethical leadership to the police, military and governments in many countries. Following John's talk, there will be a question and answer session and we will be on our way by 10:15am.

Please put this date in your diary now.

For more information or to book your place, contact:

Nigel on 07973-349721 email: nigel@suchlowe.f2s.com

Tony on 01844-350014 email: tony-mavis@shortman.eclipse.co.uk

=====

Report on the Skittles Evening 20th January at St. Andrew's Centre.

39 men gathered for a great evening where the main event was the Skittles. Run on a newly made alley it was a triumphant success with a Team led by Paul Elderfield winning after a tie-break.

The Table Football and Pool tables were kept busy, and an excellent supper of Fish & Chips was enjoyed by all.



NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH GROUPS

The Reapers by Mike Wright

It is still the close season for the reapers, but as we have had no prolonged spells of cold weather quite a few spring flowering bulbs and shrubs are "on the move". Snowdrops are flowering in St. Giles' outer Churchyard.

We have planted over 100 pink tulip bulbs in the verge at the top of St. Andrew's car park (adjacent to an unmarked space), at the time of writing (first week in January) some of these are or were showing out of the ground, unfortunately, some were crushed by a large tyre mark, despite some low fencing. I request users of St. Andrew's car park to keep off the surrounds.

Also, of interest to gardeners, grass seed planted at St. Andrew's in the last week of November germinated and is growing well.....more reaping to come !!!

I remember from previous articles that this is the season for cracker jokes. No new gems have emerged, so at the risk of being boring, I take a dip, or rather a plunge into archives of humour.

These come under the heading of "A Couple of Groaners".....

A docker was unloading wheat from a tanker using vacuum transfer. Unfortunately the grain was a bit damp and it was a very slow process.

He went to his boss for advice who replied,

wait for it

If at first you don't suck seed, try a drier grain!!!! permission to groan. and there's more.....

Two chefs were competing for the title of "Finest Fish Fryer of The Year"

Their talents were about equal, their dishes equally excellent.

However, at the last moment one of the chefs glazed his entry and won the title. "Alas!" lamented the other, "There but for the glaze of cod go I!"

Permission to groan again !!!!!!!!!!!

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH GROUPS

St Giles Bellringers

During the Church Open Day in July the bellringers held a session in the ringing room for visitors to watch bellringing, and have a go at chiming a bell. There was a lot interest and three people were enthused by this taster session to try bellringing. Over the following months Rowena Exley, Anne Frank, and Ralph Bagge were taught to handle a bell by Robert Lister. They have made excellent progress and rang 'rounds' on the eight bells with the band, before the Carol Service on 18th December.

In November a researcher came to look at the bells, the bell-founder, the bell inscriptions, the bell frame and fittings. He is updating a book on The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire, written in 1897. So far he has inspected 140 towers in the County.

Anyone interested in learning to ring can contact Peter Mackie on 01753 645510.

WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship held on 16th January 2012, Jane Wall the Leader, resigned the post having served for 11 years, explaining that she felt she had been at the helm for long enough. The Revd Harry Latham, who chaired the meeting, thanked Jane on behalf of everyone there for all she had done during this time, and Jane in turn thanked the committee and all members for the support and help she had received while she had been Leader and said how much she had enjoyed it all. She was presented with a gift token from members and flowers from the committee and assured everyone that she would continue to be part of the Fellowship.

As no new Leader was forthcoming, Harry explained that a decision had been made for the Fellowship to take on a new format and be run by the committee, and made an appeal for volunteers to join the existing team, including someone to help organise the programme events for the year. One person offered their help on the committee, and when the meeting finished, another member showed interest in taking on the organisation of the programme, and both were given a warm welcome.

Sybil Hastings, Secretary

NEWS FROM OUR VILLAGE GROUPS

Stoke Poges and Wexham Women's Institute.

We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Party with a delicious tea paid for by Mary Martin's generous legacy to Stoke Poges WI. We made sure every member received a Christmas present by donating a festive gift to the value of £3 to our present bank. To complete a perfect afternoon, our favourite entertainer, Stoke Poges' own Jean Purdy, reminisced about her experiences working with children and animals.

As we peruse our 2012 Bucks Federation WI Calendar, flushed with pride that three of the twelve photographs are by Stoke Poges members, we were delighted to hear that a Stoke Poges member, Jean Porter, has a winning photograph in the 2013 WI Calendar.

At our next meeting we will decide which Resolution to support at the NFWI's 2012 AGM at the Royal Albert Hall on 30th May. This year's short list of topics include six Resolutions:-

- 1) The WI opposes the closure of Outdoor and Field Study Centres for school children.
- 2) The WI wants legislation against the sale & release of Chinese lanterns and balloons because of the damage to animals, crops and property.
- 3) The WI wants the Government to address fuel poverty.
- 4) The WI wants the Government to increase investment in training of midwives.
- 5) The WI wants British Sign Language to be given the same status as other minority languages.
- 6) The WI wants the wearing of helmets when cycling to become a legal requirement.

Once these Resolutions have been narrowed down by members, the most popular one will be put to the vote & thereafter passed on to Her Majesty's Government.

On Monday 27th February a group of us will join the Bucks Federation for a timed visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, to view Cecil Beaton's portraits of Queen Elisabeth II. The 100 portraits follow Her Majesty from the Coronation to this year's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

On Wednesday 28th March we have been invited to a Bucks Federation Diamond Jubilee Celebration 3-course lunch at Longueville Hall. The

guest speaker Hugo Vickers, DL, will give a talk entitled 'The Queen'. Mr Vickers is an acknowledged expert on the Royal Family having written many biographies including that of the Queen Mother, a History of St. George's Chapel & was historical advisor on 'The King's Speech'.

On Monday 16th March we have a rare treat with an organised visit to the Royal Academy to view the David Hockney Exhibition. The landscape views, mostly of East Yorkshire, come from when Hockney as a teenager cycled around the area looking for summer jobs on farms. Now in his 70's he has returned from L.A. to live in his mothers house in his native Yorkshire. In the Royal Academy show there is a room taking the viewer through a year of seasonal change with vivid reds, golds, ice greens, & pinks. Hanging in long rows they leave the viewer looking at a brighter, fresher world.

For our own meetings in dreary February and March, we have chosen happy & uplifting topics for our speakers. On 8th February, Kate Miller will tell us how a visit to sunny Nepal changed her life, whilst on 14th March Elaine Watts & Karen Welch will entertain us with a musical miscellany for two voices and a piano.

If you would like to join us at any of these events, pop into the Village Hall at 2:15pm on the second Wednesday of the month, you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Gwyn Alcock, WI Secretary.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICES.

We are delighted to note a continuing increase in the popularity of our Christmas Eve Carol Services.

In 2009 attendance totalled 386, in 2010 447, and in 2011 it reached 560.

We were able to donate £1,100 to The Children's Society as a consequence.

G H-J

Nursery Rhymes

Did you know that:

Old Mother Hubbard refers to Cardinal Wolsey who unsuccessfully attempted to obtain an annulment of the marriage between Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon. The cupboard is the church, the doggie is the King and the bone is the annulment.

Mary, Mary Quite Contrary refers to Queen Mary 1 (Bloody Mary). The garden is a graveyard, silver bells and cockleshells are euphemisms for instruments of torture and maids is a term for a beheading machine.

Three Blind Mice refers to three Protestant Loyalists who were accused of plotting against Queen Mary and were burned at the stake. The farmer's wife is the Queen who, with her husband Philip of Spain, owned large estates.

Little Jack Horner refers to the steward of the Abbot of Glastonbury who was sent to London, at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, to give a Christmas pie to Henry VIII in an attempt to ingratiate himself with the monarch. The pie contained the title deeds of twelve manor houses. During the journey Jack pulled out one deed to Mells Manor where he and his descendants allegedly lived thereafter.

Humpty Dumpty refers to a cannon which was put on the top of the church tower of St. Mary-at-the-walls by the royalists during the Civil War 1642-1651. The Parliamentarians shot it down so that it came crashing to the ground. The King's cavalry and infantry hurried to retrieve it but couldn't put it together as they were overrun by Parliamentary troops.

Baa Baa Black Sheep refers to the system of taxing wool to fund military campaigns in 1272. One third of the price of each bag went to the King (the master), one to the church or monasteries (the Dame) and one to the shepherd (the little boy who cries down the lane).

The Coffee Shop at St Andrew's

Open - Tuesday to Thursday

10.00 – 12.30 & 2.30 – 5.00

Friday 9.00 – 12.30 & 2.30 – 5.00

Closed Saturday to Monday

Fresh Fair Trade Columbian coffee and snacks for sale.

Do call in and enjoy a rest and cup of coffee.

The Coffee shop has a good range of Greetings Cards, and Gifts, to suit all tastes and budgets.

It is local, with friendly assistants, and if you bring this advert with you, we will give you a free coffee or tea.

We are better priced than Costa - why go elsewhere?

Can you be one of the Coffee Shop team of volunteers?

We do need your help.

Please do give me a ring. Kate Holliday - 642331

Knit, Sew and Natter

at

THE COFFEE SHOP ON TUESDAY MORNINGS

10am to 12noon

Come along and meet like-minded people - bring something to do, and chat and do whilst having a cuppa! Or just come for the natter!

SHOCH HOMELESS OUR CONCERN (SHOC)**Our Mission**

SHOC aims to provide, within a safe and friendly environment, a comprehensive package of services to tackle homelessness and social exclusion. We aim to provide clients with the knowledge and tools that will help them to re-integrate back into society and become useful members of the community. Our service is open to all; it is non-judgmental, confidential, friendly and anti-discriminatory.

**History**

SHOC was set up in 1997 and is the only day centre supporting the most vulnerable members of our society within a 20-mile radius. In 2007 our Springboard Learning Centre was opened with support from the Big Lottery Fund.

Location and Facilities

SHOC is based at Serena Hall in Burlington Avenue close to the centre of Slough. The ground floor consists of a kitchen, a lounge/dining area, staff offices, laundry facilities and shower room.

The upper floor houses the new Springboard Learning Centre which has two large training rooms containing basic IT and AV equipment and two smaller office/meeting rooms. The clothes and food stores are also located upstairs.

Basic Services

The basic services that are made available to clients include the provision of one hot meal a day (either breakfast or lunch), all day coffee and tea, and access to shower and laundry facilities. We also provide a stock of clothes and toiletries which are available for use by the clients.

Health Management

SHOC provides assistance to register with a GP, advice, support and referrals around substance misuse, needle exchange and emotional support.

Advocacy / Accommodation

We help clients to obtain accommodation and sustain their tenancies. We attend meetings with clients to support their rights.

Financial Management

We provide advice on which benefits are available and how to claim them. Clients have access to a phone free of charge to make a claim and apply for grants. We help with managing debts and finances.

Education

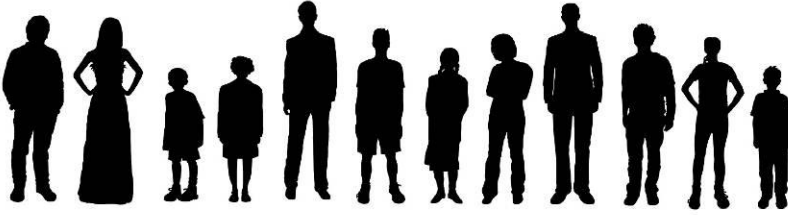
At our Springboard Learning Centre our clients can learn the basic skills they need to find work and manage their lives more effectively. Clients go through a process of needs assessment, leading to learning plans which are then actioned through the provision of courses. Clients are offered the support of a one to one mentor while they attend courses.

How you can help:- As a Volunteer, or through a donation.

Contact us at: "SHOC, Serena Hall, Burlington Avenue, Slough SL1 2JT",

Email: shoc.serenahall@googlemail.co

Website: www.sloughhomeless.org



Every week at least 12 apparently fit and healthy young people in the UK die from undiagnosed heart conditions and every loss is heartbreak.

CRY strives to prevent these tragedies through:

- Our National Screening Programme
- Funding medical research into young sudden cardiac death
- Developing the CRY Centre for Inherited Cardiovascular Conditions and Sports Cardiology at St. George's Hospital
- Raising awareness of the risk of undetected cardiac conditions in young people.

CRY also supports young people diagnosed with life-threatening cardiac conditions through:

- The Surgery Supporters Network.

and those affected by young sudden cardiac death by:

- Offering a fast-track expert cardiac pathology service through the Centre for Cardiac Pathology at the Royal Brompton Hospital
- Providing a Bereavement Support Service
- Providing information and literature free of charge.

**For further information please visit
www.c-r-y.org.uk or www.testmyheart.org**

**CRY holds regular subsidised screenings,
visit the screening page of our website for
details of upcoming clinics**



Charity No. 1050845

PASTORAL VISITING TEAM

It's been so encouraging to join a church so united in supporting and caring for one another. The informal grapevine works well to share news, if someone falls ill or needs help and we usually hear quite quickly.

Unfortunately however, some people can fall through the cracks. Perhaps there is a problem in communication, or perhaps we forget. It's very easy to get so caught up in the busy-ness of life: out-of-sight is too easily out-of-mind.



I know too that some in our church have a particular ministry to their neighbours and friends who are housebound or severely limited. It's so encouraging to hear testimonies to the Christian love displayed amongst our community. Yet, we can do more.

To that end I am re-launching a Pastoral Visiting Team. This new group is intended to help support the informal care and support that is already going on and enable us to better care for all. This will involve visiting people at home and also offering lifts to church and giving some practical support.

It might also mean offering to pray with someone, to open the Bible with them or help take them Holy Communion at home. There are many ways we can help, some in the short-term, some more regularly.

It's worth at this early stage mapping out a few things:

- This team isn't for the especially holy, but I hope it will help the whole church to help one another. Anyone who's concerned about others in the church can volunteer to be part of the team and commit even a small amount of time.
- This team isn't going to be a gossip shop for busy-bodies. Unless you say otherwise everything you share with someone will be confidential between you, them and the clergy. The rest of the group will only know that you are on the list so that they can pray for you.
- This team isn't just going to be about the occasional visit, but about us all encouraging each other to be more like Jesus, to live together during the rough and the smooth.

If you'd like to be part of the team in any way or if you'd appreciate a visitor, please do get in touch with me. Charlie.

"THE RACE"

Written by Sheila Chase Greco (from www.ibethel.org)

On the morning of the funeral, she sat her children in five seats across the front row of the sanctuary, near the open casket. Mourners were already gathering in the foyer. The funeral director - a former Naval officer - was watching the clock. She would have just a few minutes. She sat down facing the kids and talked to them about the grain of wheat that must fall into the earth and die so that it can bear fruit. She promised them there would be fruit from their father's life, fruit they could see.

Her oldest son had volunteered to help close the casket and to be a pallbearer. All the kids - ages 5 to 14 - had participated in choosing the songs for worship during the funeral. Were these signs of healthy and hopeful grief? Or did they signal shock and denial in the wake of so sudden a death?

Much was said during the service about the reasons we do not grieve as those who have no hope: the well-run race of a good and giving person, the lasting effects of loving relationships and, of course, heaven.

Heaven. Her head went there now in a way it never had before. Now, whenever she lost herself in the music and words of worship songs she would think: this is what he is doing, twenty-four seven. We're doing it together, just in different places. This was not a poetic abstraction for her. As she pictured him there, the dim mental images of heaven that had sat hazily in her mind for years began to brighten.

The kids could talk about Daddy. They could laugh remembering Daddy. He was real to them.

Raised in church, they could also talk about God and heaven. But now, as they faced the rest of their earthly lives separated from their Dad, would "heavenly Father" be any more than a Sunday school phrase?

She could map out their days, do her best to model a healthy mix of sadness and hope, reassure them that they would be safe and cared for. She could tell them what she herself took as fact: God is good. Heaven is real. But she couldn't write on their hearts.

Her oldest son had exploded in anger at God a few weeks after his father's death. She let him yell. An odd sense of comfort had come over her. He wasn't turning away from God. He was shouting in His face, as any young teen might do with a father. Painful as it was, it gave her hope.

The first glimmer that heaven could be a matter-of-fact reality for a child came later, unexpectedly, through her younger son.

Months after the funeral, when the visits had quieted and the calls and cards had subsided, she was in the kitchen, getting dinner ready. Her blue-eyed eight-year-old was at the counter, talking to her.

"Mommy," he wanted to know, "did you and Daddy fight?" "Sure, honey." "Did you love each other?" "Very much." "Well how come you fought?" "People who are close do fight sometimes while they're working out how to live together."

He was quiet.

She put down the knife and potato she was holding and turned to face him across the counter.

"It was like this," she said, positioning her index fingers about a foot apart from each other. "Daddy and I had a triangular marriage. I was here" and she poked the air with her left index finger. "Daddy was there" and she poked the air with her right index finger. "God," she said, "was here" and she used her right finger to place an imaginary point high above but centered between the Mommy and Daddy points.

"What we worked on was each of us getting closer to God." She began to move the Mommy-Daddy points up the respective sides of the triangle, aiming steadily at the "God" point.

"As we each moved closer to God, - - - see? We would automatically get closer to each other." She illustrated in the air the Mommy point moving slowly toward the God point, the Daddy point moving a little further up, the Mommy point gaining, the two levelling off across from one another for a moment, staying in motion, all three points getting closer with every move.

Her son studied the air picture for a moment.

"Right!" he said, beaming triumphantly the way he did when his favourite soccer player scored a goal. "And Daddy beat you."

Newman & Son

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS



*Serving the
local community
for 3 generations*

Under the personal supervision of Eric, Petula, Robert and Tina
Our family caring for your family

*The professional and
personal service for which
we are renowned is available
day and night*

- **Private Chapels of Rest**
- **Pre-Paid Funeral Plans**
- **Horse Drawn Funerals**
- **Facilities for the disabled**
- **If you wish arrangements
can be made in the
privacy of your home**



TEL: 01753 524286

180 STOKE ROAD, SLOUGH, BERKS SL2 5AS



PARISH RECORDS - PARISH OF STOKE POGES

NOVEMBER 2011 - JANUARY 2012

Baptisms

November 20th Oscar Jack Elderfield

December 4th Oliver Field

Oscar with his proud mother Michaela.



Funerals and Services of Thanksgiving

November 24th Fred Bell

January 16th Eileen Gutteridge

January 25th Rose Dean

January 27th Phyllis Gould

Cecil Higgins

PARISH PRAYER

Prayer Meeting

Monday February 6th 2012

Our Series of Prayer Meetings continues with a Meeting on Monday February 6th from 8pm at the home of Charlie & Sophie Styles:-
19, Goodwin Road, Britwell SL2 2ET (07725 264991). We shall be praying for our Sunday Services and the worshipping Life of our Church.

Weekly Prayer

There is a weekly Prayer meeting in the St Andrew's Chapel on **Fridays** from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. We pray for any person named to us for healing or any kind of need. You are welcome to come in person if you need prayer. Please contact Pat Hegarty on 643662.

USEFUL CONTACTS

**All 6-digit telephone numbers are prefixed 01753 unless otherwise noted
(PCC) identifies Parochial Church Council Members**

The Vicar	Harry Latham The Vicarage, Park Road, Stoke Poges, SL2 4PE isaiah61@uwclub.net <i>(Harry's day off is Friday)</i>	642261
The Curate	Charlie Styles 19, Goodwin Road, Britwell, SL2 2ET cams@vicarhub.com <i>(Charlie's day off is Thursday)</i>	07725 264991
Parish Administrator	Kate Holliday (PCC) Church Office, St. Andrew's, Roger's Lane, Stoke Poges, SL2 4LN stokepogeschurch@btinternet.com	642331
Church Warden	Nigel Lowe (PCC) North Lodge, Framewood Road, Stoke Poges, SL2 4QS nigel@suchlowe.f2s.com	664141 07973 349721
Deputy Warden	Paul Elderfield (PCC) Autumn Rise, Duffield Lane, Stoke Poges, SL2 4AH paul.elderfield@btinternet.com	643283
Hon. Verger	Denis Hartley 46 Rogers Lane, Stoke Poges SL2 4LF	642047
Hon. PCC Secretary	Martina Gardner (PCC) 33 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, SL2 4BS gardnermartina@hotmail.com	646812
Hon. Treasurer	Gaynor Houghton-Jones (PCC) The Cranfields, 27 Dukes Wood Drive, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7LS merlin.hj@clara.co.uk	884220
Other PCC Members	Jennifer Pickering	538129
	Tony Bunce	643509
	Mark Wells	527822
	John Wheatley	(01628)681873
	Dermot Purcell	643163

USEFUL CONTACTS

All telephone numbers are prefixed 01753 unless otherwise noted

Alpha Course	Harry Latham	642261
Bell Ringing – Captain of the Tower	Peter Mackie	645510
Choir at St Giles’	Christine Meyer	643461
Cleaning of St Giles’	Jean Porter	643517
Coffee at St Andrew’s	Paul Elderfield	643283
Coffee at St Giles’	Hywel Houghton-Jones	884220
Electoral Roll	Kate Holliday	642331
Flower Arranging at St Andrew’s	Margriet Wells	527822
Flower Arranging at St Giles’	Rowena Exley	537098
Letting Secretary St Andrew’s	Roland Bailey	643361
LIFE Groups	Harry Latham	642261
Magazine Distribution	Ken Morris	644411
Reapers’ Care of St Giles’ Churchyard	Mike Wright	643263
St Andrew’s Caretaker	Ken Miller	643488
Stoke Poges Men’s Group	Nigel Lowe (PCC)	07973 349721
Supper Club	Peter Wilkinson Mike Hastings	642774 662563
Tots’ Praise	Tara Purcell	07748 638761
Web Administrators	Tina Edwards Charlie Styles	663161 07725 264991
Women’s Fellowship	Sybil Hastings	662563
Worship Music at St Andrew’s	Tina Edwards	663161



Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Welcome to our church



We are an Anglican Parish that celebrates Jesus Christ as God made man for us – God in the flesh for us. He was born of Mary, showed us the Father's love, died on the Cross - so that we might be forgiven - and was raised on the third day. We are growing in our experience of the Holy Spirit and in what it means to have become children of God.

Explore Life



The Alpha course is open to everyone interested in discovering what Christianity is about. Come, relax, eat, share your thoughts and explore the meaning of life.

[Find out more about the Alpha Course.](#)
[Find out more about Jesus.](#)

Our History



There has been a church at Stoke Poges since Saxon times so villagers have worshipped here for over 1000 years. We continue that tradition today.

[Read more...](#)

Have you seen the **NEW STOKE POGES CHURCH WEBSITE?**

**Please send your copy for the NEXT issue
by Sunday 4th March 2012, to: Nicky Parry
[2, Pennylets Green, Stoke Poges]
(parry@vamparry.eclipse.co.uk)**

The Editorial Team are:

**Richard Beckingsale 01753 642060 (rbeckingsale@tiscali.co.uk)
Nicky Parry 01753 644239 (parry@vamparry.eclipse.co.uk)**

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

Printed by Jubilee Greenwood Press Ltd. 22-24 Abercromby Ave. High Wycombe.
HP12 3AZ. Tel: 01628 669420, email sales@greenwoodpress.co.uk