

Services & Events in April

Midweek Communion take place monthly at two venues in Slip End, details from Joy.

Sunday 2 nd	10:30am	Family Communion & Church A.P.C.M
Sunday 9 th	10.30am	Palm Sunday Praise
	2.00pm	St Andrew's Ramblers
Monday 10 th	7.00pm	Evening Prayer for Holy Week in the Family Room
Tuesday 11 th	7.00pm	Evening Prayer for Holy Week in the Family Room
Wednesday 12 th	7.00pm	Evening Prayer for Holy Week in the Family Room
Thursday 13 th	7.30pm	Maunday Thursday Agape in Church
Friday 14 th	11.30am	Good Friday Procession of Witness
	12.00pm	Good Friday service in Church
Sunday 16 th	9.15am	Holy Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Easter Day Communion at St Andrew's
Wednesday 19 th	10.30am	Pram Service in the Family Room
Sunday 23 rd	10.30am	Morning Praise
Thursday 27 th	8.00pm	Footsteps Meet in the Family Room
Friday 28 th	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 30 th	10.30am	Morning Praise (Preacher Revd Mike Withey)
	6.15pm	3:16 Meet in the Family Room

Calling all new Mums & Dads Grandparents & Carers.

Here is an opportunity to get out, meet other new parents, have a cup of tea or coffee and have your children entertained? The children are often allowed to make a mess and create a lot of noise! The children's activities are usually based around a biblical story or theme.

All this happens at our "Pram Service." Not so much a service, more an informal gathering for new and preschool children accompanied by their carers! It all takes place in the cosy warmth of family room at St Andrews' Church.

We meet on alternate Wednesday mornings from about 10:30am to noon-ish, though timing is not important, come as the chores allow! We have comfortable seating and adequate facilities to allow for most aspects of baby care, including nappy changing and potty training etc. Our next sessions are on the 19th April, after the school holiday, then every two weeks from that date.

For more information contact Mary 738435 or Paddy 413108.



Bells

In celebration of the of Her Majesty the Queen's 80th Birthday we will, along with churches throughout the land, be ringing the bells at church during the morning of April 21st.

Fancy a Walk?

On the second Sunday of most months, when weather permits, a group sets off from the church for a short walk. Anyone is welcome to join in, we walk for 3 or 4 miles finishing at a watering-hole for refreshment and de-brief. Recently, we have walked in the area which just might be affected by an expansive airport, just to see the lie of the land: very interesting it was too. Decent walking shoes or boots are best and be prepared for some clag!

If you are interested and want me detail, call Susan Wiltshire on 725984.



SCHOOL RE-ORGANSIATION
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

You recently received a short questionnaire asking for your opinion on how the school system in Bedfordshire should be organised. This is part of a consultation process being carried out by a company called 4S on behalf of the Council which will end on the 4th April.

Based on the information gathered by 4S Beds County Council will decide whether to keep or change our current 3 tier system.

Why is this important?

It should concern not just every parent but every member of the community, because if the council do decide to move to a 2 tier system there are major implications for your children and your neighbourhood.

At a public meeting at Streetfield School, their Headteacher, Deputy Head, Board of Governors Chairman, and Head of the Dunstable Parents Action Group made it very clear that IF the council decide to change to a two tier system then the outcomes could include:

Closure of small village schools – which will rip the heart out of rural communities

Less parental choice – fewer bigger primary schools

Further for young children to travel to get to these schools

Mixing of 11 year olds with 16 to 18 year olds

*Increased council taxes to fund the change over
Expansion of secondary schools*

People at this meeting were strongly against changing to a 2 tier structure and raised many important points which have not been addressed in any of the information provided by 4S or the Council including:-

Which lower schools will close? Will Slip End Lower be one of them?

Will the sites be sold off for housing?

How big will the new Primary / Junior schools be?

How will children get to these schools? – impact on roads, communities, etc.

Where is the proof that a 2 tier system produces better results?

HOW MUCH IS IT GOING TO COST? WHO IS GOING TO PAY?

No one knows what the council will decide to do but they have said “To do nothing is not an option.” They have also said they do not have a preferred structure, so it is vital that you make your opinions known. We are being asked for our opinion without being given the full picture of what possible changes will mean to our children and our community. Do you feel you know enough to make an informed decision?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Please take time to understand the implications of these changes and make your views known by completing the questionnaire in the Bedfordshire magazine or the leaflet sent out from the school.

Visit the Parents Action Group website at <http://www.bedfordshireschoolstructure.org.uk/index.asp> to find out more. Understand what the implications of these changes can mean.

Your opinion counts, so make it known.

Sandra Colins

LAUGHTER

The footballer walks into a library and says “A cheeseburger and fries, please.” The librarian looks puzzled and replies, “You do realise you’re in a library.” “Sorry,” whispers the footballer, “A cheeseburger and fries, please.”

The family was watching a caricature artist at work when an older woman stopped beside them to watch. “Seven pounds!” she gasped on seeing the artist’s fee. “Just to have someone draw my wrinkles?” She immediately sat down and had her portrait drawn.

Vegetable Garden

If the weather is good and the soil works well, there is no point in delaying the planting of second early and main crop potatoes. Keep an eye on early potatoes and as soon as shoots appear protect them by covering with soil. Make a sowing of main crop carrots, intermediate or long variety.



All kinds of winter greens should now be sown, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and cabbages. Also runner beans can be sown now for an early crop, but remember these are tender and may be damaged by late frost.

Flower & Fruit

New roses must not be planted later than the first half of April. Hardy annuals can be sown in open boarders.



Finish grafting fruit trees and spraying and pruning roses.

Lawns

From April onwards lawns will require mowing more frequently. If the lawn is patchy then scatter some seed over the bare bits and covering to deter the birds from having a free meal!

Brownies



Only 2 adults turned up for our recent Slide

Show and Talk, a disappointment as no parents came along! We will break for the Easter holiday, restarting on Wednesday April 26th.

*Gillian Plummer
Brown Owl*

SLIP END & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

CAR BOOT SALE

Slip End Village Hall & Grounds

Easter Monday April 17th

10am to 2pm

Far a Stall ring 01582 414796 / 723109

At the Car Boot Sale on Easter Monday we will be taking names for our Annual Outing on June 3rd. At the time of writing I am having some difficulty in finding somewhere to take our numbers: watch this space!

MI Widening Project - Brief report

After last month whinge here in Parish News, it was interesting and informative to visit the presentation at the Peter Edwards Hall last month. Feelings still remain that it would have been of benefit all round if this had taken place much sooner. However, it was good to meet, talk and exchange views as well as picking up on many of the details. There was a receptiveness to local feeling about diversions which could lead to lessening some of our potential problems. Environmental barrier (sound deadening) details were interesting as well as better perspectives on what is really going to happen in the Church Road and Half Moon Lane areas. It came as a bit of a surprise that the road from Pepperstock to the A1054 is to be closed for 10 months, although not concurrent with Church Road closure.

David Kingston



We had a very welcome visitor to St Andrews a few weeks ago when Mary Bolster came to talk to us about the book she has recently written. Many of you that knew Mary may know that she has always been very concerned with the plight of the Karenni refugees in Thailand/Burma and she has been out to visit them. She has written a fiction book about a young girl which she hopes will appeal to many. Below is her press release. I hope you will buy the book and thereby encourage Mary to write her second book.

(Photos taken with Edie Ham having her book signed by Mary)

Press release

In late 1993 Mary Bolster travelled to the border of Burma and Thailand in order to visit a small hospital that served refugees from some of the ethnic minority areas of Burma. Before going she had no idea what it would be like but once there she had many questions. Why were there so many refugees? What had driven them to leave their homes and livelihoods and cross into Thailand? What was being done to help them and the people they left behind? Why did we only rarely hear about such things in the media? Mary began a quest to find out as much as she could about the situation in the country of Burma. She wrote letters, talked to other people who she knew were interested in the same things, read books and helped to set up a charity to give humanitarian aid to the refugees. In 2001 she took a Masters degree in South East Asian Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

'I have read many, many reports of the sufferings of ordinary people in Burma including the burning of villages, the extracting of forced labour, rape and so on. However, it is a fact that such reports are read by very few people and, horrifying as they might be, they do not always move us if we do

not know the people involved. I began to toy with the idea of writing a novel, perhaps a romance, which would be accessible to a wider readership than a report could ever be and would move people emotionally.' And so, Mary's first novel, 'in a strange land', was born.

The story begins with Katie, an English girl, who travels to the Thai Burma border with friends. When invited to work there for an extended period she jumps at the chance.

The novel includes a foreword written by Baroness Caroline Cox who is a member of the House of Lords and an active champion of numerous oppressed minorities in the world including the Karenni people who feature in this particular novel. Caroline writes: 'Anyone who reads this book must feel profoundly moved. There is a saying: "Pity weeps and turns away; compassion weeps - and puts out a hand to help". I hope and pray that all readers who weep with and for the Karenni people described in this book will not turn away.'

'In a strange land' is available from most independent bookshops and from www.amazon.co.uk ISBN number: 09951136-0-1 or from the author:

Mary Bolster—March 2006

Unfortunately Pat was missing from the February meeting with an asthma attack. We wish her a speedy recovery. The rest of us heard from Craig Fisher about his business trip to San Diego on 11 September 2001. He made what could have been a very depressing subject, both interesting and informative.

When he felt the wheels of the plane descend and they were still over the sea he knew something was amiss. If you land a plane still full of fuel the wings fall off. So they circled around dumping the fuel over the sea to enable them to land in Gander, Newfoundland. 39 other planes also landed here and the 196 passengers on the flight had to remain on board a further 22% hours before being transferred to a Salvation Army Church in Gambo. Craig told us of the kindness and generosity of the people of Gambo who provided food, clothing, and washing facilities as well as toiletries, as their luggage had to remain on the plane. They organised walks and musical entertainment for the four days they had to stay in the church, sleeping on small stretchers between the pews. He even became an honorary Newfie by drinking a dram of rum and kissing a cod full on the mouth!!

A heart warming story of people pulling together in the face of adversity, and amazing that an act of madmen can create such an unbelievably life changing experience.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 25 April 2006 - Dunstable Ladies Choir Concert - In the Baptist Church Hall. Tickets are £3 including refreshments, or pay on the night. Non members welcome.

We meet third Tuesday in the month at the Baptist Church Hall 7.30 p.m.

Hope to see you there.

Maureen

Slip End Tennis Club was formed in 1987 and is affiliated to the Beds Lawn Tennis Association. It is a small friendly club with approx. 50 members. It has two hard courts, sited at the Playing Fields, Church Road, Slip End, which are due to be replaced in a new position, hopefully later this year, before existing courts are closed. Membership costs are as below. (There is a reduction for early payment of subscriptions) Juniors £14 (Those in full time education) Seniors £26 Family £38 Club members have priority in the use of courts, except when matches are to be played. The general public are welcome to use the courts, when not in use by club members, at a cost of £1 per person. Club night is on Monday evenings and Adult night on Wednesday evenings from 7pm, to which all members are welcome. Junior coaching is provided by our LTA coach, Sally Parry on Fridays, £3 per session. Beginners 4-5pm and Intermediates 5-6pm. Ladies Friday morning from 10-11am. Private coaching is also available. (Give Sally a call (413501) We field a Men's Doubles and Mixed Team in the South Beds Leagues also a Men's Indoor and Mixed Outdoor Team in the Winter Leagues.

Any enquiries about the club can be made to

Peter Smith Chairman 01582 733253 or

Steve Lyons Treasurer 01582 414162



The Quiz Night held on Sat. 4th March was well supported with nine teams “pitting their wits” against each other. Thank you to everybody who supported the event. Competition between the Teams was very close up to and including the addition of marathon round scores at the end. Congratulations to the “Winners” Steve & Sue Greenwood’s Team who won a bottle of wine each. (Steve and Sue are former residents of New Street) The “Parry Team” took the wooden spoon and was given four Lottery Lucky Dip tickets. (They could have had the last laugh, if the tickets had been the winning numbers!!).

A special thank you to Peter and Margaret Smith for a very good quiz and buffet.



WOMENS INSTITUTE (RECENT MEETING)

The members night meeting when the usual committee take a back seat, saw Mesdame J Bunyan in the chair with Mesdame S Kedge hon. sec. The minutes from last years members Night were read and signed, oh dear! where has the time gone? and did we really do that? This year Mr R Bunyan with daughters Holly and Melisa had our grey cells working with a quiz. Why is it that an answer you know without thinking escapes you when asked point blank. The refreshments were brought to our tables and the competition was ‘on the spot’ It has always been our way at this meeting for a member who has been outstanding in some way to receive an award in appreciation. This year Mesdame L Caves was presented with a begonia plant for her forty seven, yes forty seven years as Hon Sec to our ad hoc committee for the Over 60’s club which is sadly no more. Perhaps it should have been a medal!

Very well done Lenis.

Goodbye March. Often you have been rough and unmannerly. Many times your mischievous winds have whisked off my hat at an inconvenient moment and blown smoke down the chimney when I was expecting guests, but I am ready to forgive your wild ways, for in your footprints the damson blooms and the daffodils dance. (by P Strong)

Daffodils by Williams Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills.
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company;
I gazed--and gazed--but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

A lovely poem by Wordsworth is my choice for this month, with some even on the cover pages. Looking around, they have just started to appear so April will be a very colourful month and hopefully warmer. Parish News team wishes you all a very Happy Easter and if you are going away have a wonderful time. Don't forget subs are due this month so be ready for your distributor knocking.

Sue Cowell, Editor

SLIP END LINE DANCING GROUP

Ever Conga'd round the floor? Marched with the mods? Or even sloshed you way though a party? Well guess what? You've LINE danced believe it or not line dancing has been around for many a year, you don't have be a cowboy or cowgirl to line dance, it's suitable for all ages and all abilities. It has a history of being a low aerobic activity which is now highly recommended by the medical profession and so good for the body, great for the mind and has a huge fun factor. What more could you want?

Music - well you can dance to anything, yes it's well known for the Country/Western Music, but today it is danced to an assortment of music - from Jazz to Rock. Line Dance, as we know it today has been around for more than 20years and is increasing in popularity, due to these music changes. There is no partner needed and you soon make new friends.

Here in Slip End we run a small, but friendly group, catering for beginners/upper beginners, every Wednesday morning. If you enjoy good company, good music and want to learn a few

dances, come and give us a try. Look forward to seeing you there

Val Reeves, Instructor



BEST OF THE WEB

www.entitledto.co.uk

Make sure you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to. Put in your age and family details and you will get a list of all the tax credits and government benefits that you should be claiming.

www.rpoints.com

The place to find all the best offers and free stuff on the web. It has forums where members list tokens and offers they have seen.

www.nethouseprices.com

Ideal for home movers. A website that contains all the information you may want to know about the area you are moving to. Simply put in the postcode and you will see house prices, rental costs, crime levels, planning news and local amenities.

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SLIP END PARISH COUNCIL

One of the most important decisions to be made in Bedfordshire soon will be the question of whether or not BCC change education back to the two tier system or continue with the present three tier system which has been in place for the past 30 years.

To make a personal position quite clear I have to say that when we moved into Slip End 30 years ago the present system had just come into being. Our children went to Slip End Lower School, onto Streetfield Middle School and finally to Manshead Upper. No problem there and they both did quite well. Neither do we have any grandchildren who will be going through the system in Bedfordshire so there is absolutely no axe to grind on my behalf. As far as I know all Parish Councillors are in the same position.

There are pros and cons for both arguments, as there were 30 years ago when the system changed. I am sure that there will be amongst you all, arguments for both sides. What the Parish Council would like you to do is to let us know what system, ie, two or three tier, you would prefer to see in Bedfordshire. With all of this information to hand then we can go forward and make our decision known. Without your input we could make the wrong decision so we really need your help.

Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us. Our email addresses are on the front page of the PN and I am sure that at least one of us is well known to you all so that a personal approach is not out of the question.

Crime Figures

Still no simplified crime figures, alas. However, our PCSO Darrell Saunders-Fern has been seen around the village quite a lot lately.

Parish Clerk

Just to remind you that we are looking for a new Parish Clerk as our present clerk, David

Haste, will be leaving us shortly. If you are interested, contact me .

MI Widening

You've seen the maps, you've met the suits, you've seen the road closure signs. Let's be vigilant and make sure that we are aware what is going on all the time. If you see something wrong, don't think that someone else will report it - get to it, even if its only to one of your Parish Councillors.

Keep safe.

*Christine Benson
Chairman, Slip End Parish Council.*

LUTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

Luton Male Voice Choir members and friends enjoyed an excellent Race Night judging by the roars of encouragement given to the various horses and jockeys in the 12 Race programme. The event raised funds towards the week end tour of North Norfolk where the choir take part in local Charity Events each year. This year the tour is extended by one day and takes place on 19,20 & 21 May.

The Race Films and programmes were kindly donated by Fantastic of Luton who are Members of the Friends of the LMVC.

Mr Lewan Sown was Master of Ceremonies.

Prior to the tour the Choir sing at the Central Baptist Church on Saturday May 6th at 7.pm and on return from the tour at Farley Hill Methodist Church on Saturday 10th June with a 7 pm start.

FARLEY HILL METHODISTS

FARLEY HILL METHODISTS promote an 'Evening with Irvin Berlin' on Saturday 22nd April, 7.pm in their Church Hall Northdrift Way.

The 'Happy Wanderers' under their Director of Music Harry Rappaport lead the way with talent from other local groups.

The audience is promised a return to the days when 'Music had melody and words had meaning'.

'Oliver' will feature largely in the programme, but will include by way of variety a Tale of Woe of unfulfilled love written and told by Ken Cameron Social Secretary of Parley Hill Methodists. Among the other local talent threading the boards Geraldine Johnson, well known as a Producer herself, Des Walding Choir member of the Year of the Luton Male Voice Choir, Richard Garwood. Boris Shamul (who will be Singing in the Rain) and Ann Magee. The excellent Tony Heathcote provides the musical support.

Admission is £3.00 and £2.00 (Concession) refreshments will be served at 'half time' an interesting programme produced; pre-show music will also be played.



For any of you who have been following the success of the above Rock Band you will be pleased to hear they have just released their new single 'Jewels' (HMV record shops). They have had a very good year since they were signed by Eminence Records last year and are at present on their Spring Tour traveling all over the country, where they have been receiving excellent reviews. They have been mentioned in The Sun as One of the Stars to look out for in 2006 and also 'the answer to the prayers of Guns N Roses fans as a genuine Rock and Roll Band'. Keep it up lads, and well done. www.imperialvipers.com

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

March 16th was the clubs birthday party and it was very successful, with 49 members attending. We were entertained by the Razzle Dazzle ladies group which performed a song and dance routine for our age group, followed on by a lovely buffet and slice of cake which was made by Ena one of our committee members—thank you very much Ena.

Our outings have now been arranged for the year. The first one on May 9th a trip around the countryside calling at the Five Bells Henlow for a meal.

Pam King.

OLD FRIENDS RE-VISITED -

Many of you I expect will remember the young charming vicar who was at St Andrew's before Reverend David Bolster. The Reverend Michael Withey, who I believe left the parish to become a prison chaplain. is finally coming back to visit and speak at the Church. It would be lovely if as many of you as possible could come along to the service and give him a warm welcome. He is now working in a parish in Gloucestershire and this is the first time he has been back to St Andrew's since he left in 1987 (where has the time gone) so it will be a real treat to chat to him to see what else he has been doing.

He will be at St Andrew's on April 30th at 10.30a.m. and I am sure would love to see some old friends there.

There is a lot that has happened over the Queen's 80 years.—The Television was invented We have had a man on the moon for the first time. The Berlin Wall has been built and then pulled down. Her Majesty's life has seen many changes from fulfilling her role as Queen at the age of 25, to raising a family, to world travel on a scale unprecedented by other Monarchs.



The Queen celebrates her actual birthday 21 April and celebrates her official birthday on 17 June 2006.

The Queen spends her actual birthday privately at Windsor with friends and family whilst her official birthday is always marked in the same way with the Trooping of the Colour ceremony and a fly-past over Buckingham Palace. In addition, The Queen's Birthday Honours List is announced, the Union flag is flown from government buildings and gun salutes are fired at noon.

A short quiz for you – answers next month

What is the Queen's full name?

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, Elizabeth Alexandra Louise or Elizabeth Louise Victoria

What colours does The Queen use for racing?

Purple and Pink, Green and Scarlet, Purple and Scarlet

Who was the Queen's first grandchild?

Prince William, Peter Phillips, Lady Louise

Why couldn't the Queen open Parliament in 1959?

She was pregnant, She was ill, She was in Canada

How many Prime-Ministers during her reign?

8, 10, 11

How many countries is she Queen Sovereign ?
12, 14, 16

What was the name of the Queen's 1st corgi?

Sarah, Susan, Sandra

What is the Queen known as on the Isle of Man?

Lord of Man, King of Man, Protector of Man

What was the Queen's first London home with the Duke of Edinburgh?

Buckingham Palace, Clarence House, York House

Then and Now Facts

Life expectancy for women

1920's: 59.6 years. Now: 80.9 years

Average age at marriage

1920's: 25.5 years. Now: 28.9 years

Average number of children for women

1920's: 8. Now: 1.77

Average size and price of family home

1920's: 5 bedroom detached house £2074

Now: 4 bed detached £301,771

Average difference in wages - men and women

1920's: Men earned 50% more than women

Now: Men earn 27% more than women

Typical evening meal

1920s: Kidney pudding, boiled cabbage followed by Lardy cake (bread dough, currants and syrup)

Now: Pasta with chicken in tomato sauce, followed by yoghurt.

Some important facts from 1926

Vaccines against diphtheria and tetanus were discovered

Television was first demonstrated by John Logie Baird.

London's first traffic lights were installed at Piccadilly Circus

Britain's first general strike

First woman swam the English Channel – Gertrude Ederle, it took her over 14 hours!

Princess Elizabeth was born.

THOUGHTS OF EASTER & MEMORIES OF JERUSALEM

On Easter Sunday we shall remember that Jesus rose from the dead and we shall sing “Hallelujah, Christ is risen.

In the City of Jerusalem there is a longish wall, which separates the old city from the modern one. Some time ago we went through the old city to find The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which stands over Golgotha, the Place of the Crucifixion, and the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid. The place of the crucifixion was outside the city wall. Since its first construction in 324 AD the Church of the Holy Sepulchre has stood in almost the centre of the city. Eleven years after the Crucifixion Golgotha was included within the perimeter of the city by a new wall built by Herod Agrippa. In 44AD Hadrian wanting to wipe out every remembrance of Jewish and Christian religions, obliterated Calvary and the Tomb of Jesus by building a temple dedicated to Jupiter. Instead of obliterating the place he preserved it. In 326 AD Constantine demolished Hadrian’s Temple and then built it again. In 1009 the destruction of the Church by caliph al-Hakim sparked off war and animosity but the Crusaders re-built the present Church. Despite the different additions and resuscitations, the Church, so far as I know exists to this day in its main original outline. Golgotha, the place of a skull was a large rock rising 45 feet out of the ground probably came from its appearance, which remembers a skull. When we visited the place we saw two chapels on the Top of Calvary. One is believed to be the site of the crucifixion and belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church. The second is believed to be the site where Jesus was stripped of his garments and nailed to the cross. It was hewn out of the rock. Joseph of Arimatheas asked for his body and laid it in a tomb, which had never before used. In his garden it was composed of two chambers, the first served as a meeting place for the mourners and the second as a couch for the

corpse to be laid. A stone was placed at the entrance.

On Easter Sunday we shall remember that Jesus rose from the dead and sing “Hallelujah Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

By David Barker



Holy Sepulchre Church, Jerusalem

EASTER CELEBRATION

Easter is a time of Joy - It is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the son of Christian God.

Easter falls between March 22 and April 25 every year. In 325 AD, the Council of Nicaea fixed the day as 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the 21st of March. The origin of Easter is thought to be the mythological goddesses "Ostra", "Ostern" or "Eastre".

Easter is related to a number of different traditions like the Jewish festival of Passover, or Pesach, from which is derived Pasch, another name used by Europeans for Easter. Passover is an important feast in the Jewish calendar, which, is celebrated for 8 days and commemorates the flight and freedom of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.



'GOOD NEWS 2006'

The Easter Monday Pilgrimage in St. Albans Diocese has been happening for over sixty years. Pilgrims come from all over the diocese to celebrate the resurrection on the holiday after the Easter holy day itself. Many people walk miles to the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban for an informal service of singing and fellowship. The Eucharist is celebrated by the Bishop and all are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

In 2006 the Easter Monday Pilgrimage takes place on 17th April. Just come along. The theme this year is GOOD NEWS, celebrating the good news in Christ and good news stories from the parishes.

Pilgrims gather on the Abbey Orchard from 1pm. There is a BBQ, ice creams, a bouncy castle and parachute games. Bring a picnic, play soccer or rounder's, just enjoy the atmosphere. Your group may get an impromptu visit from one of the Bishops who are wandering around meeting people. When you arrive, register your parish at the white lorry and receive your Pilgrimage Badge for 2006. If it is wet, everyone shelters in the Abbey.

At 2.30pm processions form up and, with the Abbey bells ringing out, everyone marches into the Abbey to sing the first of ten hymns. There is great enthusiasm and a festival atmosphere. Dogs are welcome too.

The worship is vibrant and reflects all traditions. All ages should feel comfortable, even if you don't feel completely comfy as the Abbey nave will have been cleared of chairs. The service begins proper at 3pm and lasts an hour or less. The Cathedral Café will be open. There is a collection after the service for ASCEND which is a project which serves one of the most deprived parishes in the diocese by offering support to young homeless people and includes training, advice, guidance and counselling.

You may like to use this Pilgrimage Prayer. See you there.

God of life, you have made this day for joy and gladness. Let the risen Lord be among us as we walk, as we talk, as we pray, and set our hearts on fire with love for your will. Increase our love for one another, that in both name and truth we may be faithful disciples of the risen Lord Jesus. To God be the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Contact: Canon Stephen Lake , Sub Dean, St. Albans Cathedral 01727 890201

subdean@stalbanscathedral.org.uk

EASTER BISCUITS

Ingredients

110g/4oz caster sugar
110g/4oz butter
1 egg, separated
225g/8oz plain flour
good pinch mixed spice
55g/2oz currants
30g/1oz candied peel
3 tbsp milk
a little extra caster sugar, to finish

Method

1. Preheat the oven 160C/325F/Gas 3 and grease a baking sheet.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy and beat in the egg yolk.
3. Sieve flour, fold into the mixture together with the mixed spice, currants and candied peel. Add enough milk to make a stiff dough.
4. Roll out the dough, cut out the biscuits with a fluted cutter. Place them on the prepared baking sheet and bake for about 10 minutes.
5. Remove, brush with the egg white, sprinkle with sugar and return to the oven for 5-10 minutes until they are a pale golden brown
6. Remove from the tray and cool on a wire rack.



DIARY *If you would like your event put in the Diary please contact the Editor*

April

- 1st *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
1st *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
4th *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*
17th *Easter Pilgrimage to St Albans Abbey*
17th *Easter Car boot sale—Slip End & District from 10—2*
21st *Queen's 80th Birthday—Bells to ring out across the land.*
22nd *Aley Green Methodist Church Spring Fayre*
22nd *Farley Hill Methodists—Evening with Irvin Berlin at 7pm*
29th *Unlock Walk No 223 North Greenwich, Lewisham, Charlton, Blackheath*
30th *St Andrew's Church—Reverend Michael Withey 10.30a.m.*

May

- 1st *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*
6th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
6th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
17th *Good as new sale—Aley Green Church*

June

- 3rd *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
5th *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*
10th *Craft Fayre at the Village Hall: Call Gill Plummer on 723109*

17th ***FoSELS: Summer Fair at the School***

July

- 1st *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
3rd *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*
15th *Open Gardens at Slip End*

August

- 5th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
7th *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*

September

- 4th *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*
9th *Craft Fayre at the Village Hall: Call Gill Plummer on 723109*

October

- 2nd *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*
28th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holiday adventures, etc? Please contact us. Articles should be sent by the 15th of the month before publication to: Sue Cowell at 83 The Crescent, Caddington; email: parishnews@slipend.co.uk or David Kingston 7 Crawley Close, Slip End davidgoodmankington@hotmail.com. Delivery enquiries to Brian Church 2 Summer Street on 458443. Advertising enquiries to Steve Lyons, on 414162 SteveSueLyons@aol.com

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HAPPY EASTER GREETINGS TO OUR READERS