

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

MAY 2006



Reverend Michael Withey who came back to St Andrew's on April 30th finds time to have a chat with one of the senior members of the congregation, Dori Strong. It was good to see him and find out what he has been doing since leaving St Andrew's Church in 1987.

The Parish @ Large

SCHOOLS

*Slip End Lower: 720152
Five Oaks: 726058
Streetfield: 613421
Ashton: 663511
Manshead: 608641*

SPORT

*Bowling Club: 412506
Tennis: 733253
Darts League: 425323
Football: 733156
Cricket: 414157*

HALLS

*Village Hall: 723109
Peter Edwards Hall: 455185*

COMMUNITY

*Brownies: 723109
Beavers: 725297
Cubs: 414168
Fly Tipping (SBDC): 472222
Friendship Club: 720392
Slip End Assoc: 414796
Mother's Union: 738435
Playgroup: 728865
Toddler Group 405931
Allotments: 736892
FoSELS (PTA):
alex.mcpherson@btinternet.com
Women's Institute: 421034
Police: 471212*

PARISH COUNCILLORS

*Christine Benson: 456200
Christinebenson@bensons-autosupplies.co.uk
Stephen Fuell: 417792
stevefuell@f2s.com
Philip Penman: 455185
PhilipPenman@aol.com
Geoff Daniel: 424363
Geoff@daniel67.freemove.co.uk
Ken Crossett 414168
kencrossett@slipend.co.uk
Mike McKeivitt: 720596
*mike.mckevitt@mndassociation.org**

*Clerk to the Parish Council - David Haste:
10 Highwood Grove, Mill Hill, NW7 3LY
*Davidhaste7@aol.com**

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

*Anne Spencer 713267
anne@connorspencer.com
Philip Penman: 455185
PhilipPenman@aol.com
Ruth Gammons 738398
*fairgreen@btopenworld.com**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

*Richard Stay: 724685
*Richard.Stay@bedscc.gov.uk**

CHURCHES

***St Andrew's Church**
Rev Joy Daniel 01582 424363
Wardens: David Kingston 416138
Ken Crossett 414168*

***Aley Green Methodist Church**
Minister: Rev Julia Dowding 730129
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668*

SHOPS & SERVICES

***Post Office:** At the Crossroads, telephone 401069
Monday to Friday 6.30 to 21.00
Saturday 7.00 to 21.00 - Sunday 7.30 to 21.00
Garage: Slip End Garage, Markyate Road, telephone 456888*

Website: slipend.co.uk

Services & Events in May

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

Wednesday 3 rd	10:30am	Pram Service in the Family Room
Sunday 7 th	10:30 am	Family Communion
Thursday 11 th	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 14 th	10:30am	Morning Praise
	2.30pm	St Andrews Ramblers meet at the church
	6.15pm	3;16 Meet in the Family Room
Monday 15 th	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday 17 th	10.30am	Pram Service in the Family Room
Sunday 21 st	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 25 th	7.30pm	Ascension Day Agape in Church
Friday 26 th	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Saturday 27 th	2.00pm	Wedding - Daniel Downs & Samantha Goodyear
Sunday 28 th	9.15am	Holy Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Wednesday 31 st	10.30am	Pram Service in the Family Room

Easter at St Andrews

We celebrated Easter in joyous style. But before the big celebration on Easter Day, during Holy Week we reflected day by day Jesus' path to the cross starting with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. On Good Friday we witnessed Christ's Crucifixion in procession around our village as we moved into church at mid-day, to spend quiet hour of bible readings, contemplation and prayer.

**Easter day was a different scene.
He had risen!**

On the first Easter Day, the women had gone to tend to the tomb. At Easter 2006, the ladies at St Andrew's had decorated the church with lilies and flowers to reflect the joy of Christ's Resurrection. But this year, an added bonus! We celebrated Joy and Geoff's 40th Wedding Anniversary and the party in church continued into the afternoon: a great day! A little later in Eastertide, Joy and Geoff were away for a 40th Anniversary get-together with their family.

We at St Andrew's were left in the very capable hands of Michael Withey who as many will remember, was Vicar here in the eighties. Michael was in great form as he addressed us at the morning service on the second Sunday of Easter. He had very warm reflections about two gentlemen who have passed away, Nick Crapnell and Bob Strong and Joan Austin, still very much with us and Michael went on to visit Joan at her home in Dunstable later that Day. We had a good time remembering the 'old days' and Michael recounted the evening when he and Tony Willson had to cut down branches and trees from the Vicarage Garden to make way for a marquee where we held a very enjoyable barn dance, complete with real straw bales! Muriel Allsop has never been the same since—and was sure she had termites in her knickers!!

It was great to see Michael and good to see him in such fine fettle. (chance to see him again on page 14)

St George's Day 2006

I had very mixed feelings at the morning service at St Andrew's on St George's Day last month: to be honest, I was not in a "churchy" mood at all.

We sang our praises, said our prayers, listened to words from the Bible (which included Romans 14 1-7, essential background reading), then we listened the sermon message as Chris Barnes kicked off a series entitled "Wars and Rumours of War". Heavy, sombre stuff this and if you were not at St Andrew's that day, please take out a few minutes and listen to it on www.slipend.co.uk/Sermons/230406S.mp3, you will not be disappointed! Included there are words about "Respect for Authority" relating to the Romans passage which struck deep at my misgivings that morning.

As I arrived at church, I had had a chat with Peter Smith (who is on the Playing Field and Tennis Club committees) as we leaned over the playing field gate.

"Mornin' Pete!" I said as we looked over the playing field, recovering from the Golf Cart Grand Prix of the previous weekend, when youths had driven over the football pitch on carts stolen from Griffin Golf Club in Caddington. "What were the so-and-so's up to last night?"

I did not expect the response he gave me to this somewhat facetious question. "Oh, they've trashed the tennis courts!" he said in that plegmatic tone of his. I have to confess that my language became unprintable at this point, not worthy of a churchwarden. Peter went on to explain that the tennis court nets and supports had been destroyed and the wire netting around the courts systematically pulled up. This was the reason I was so fed up that morning as I went off to church.

Recently we have suffered at the hands of criminals (let's stop calling them "vandals"). You may have noticed around the village that traffic lights have been smashed, the bus shelter is regularly plastered with offensive

daubings, property has been damaged at the playing field, vehicle theft, not to mention noise and disturbance, etc. Thousands of pounds will be needed to restore and repair, money which largely comes from our pockets. This is an unacceptable situation, so what should *we* do about it?

There's a general perception that calling the police is ineffectual and I share that feeling to some extent. But I do strongly urge that in the event of witnessing misdemeanour you must call the police. 01582 471212 seems to connect to the call centre in remotest Kempston which, to be frank, seems to me to be a waste of the call charge. Try calling 01582 473224 or 473333 which gets through to Dunstable, where I feel our interests are slightly better served. Do not leave these calls to others, do it yourself. My impression is that police response is directly proportional to the number of calls from individuals relating to a particular incident, so the more calls made, the better. It may help to express fears to the police about potential damage to life and limb if, for example, an unfortunate youth should fall from the Village Hall roof! Police have heavy responsibilities in that regard which may sharpen responsiveness and action.

So we must be vigilant and, to be sure, we should do more in the community for the young and there are some moves afoot. As parents we must have a concern about where our young men and women are and what they are up to, particularly at night.

Hope for these individuals is that they will grow up to become the future pillars of our society: fear is that younger elements might be attracted to a transitionally criminal phase which would lead us into ongoing, continual problems the likes of which are so painful to us all at the moment.

Following St George's Day misgivings I have difficulty trying to end on a hopeful, positive note. The best I can do is to refer all law abiding people to Romans 13 verses 3 and 4.

David Kingston

Photos taken of the tennis courts after the damage—see page 3. Even the notice board—only recently erected suffered malicious damage. If you know who was responsible please inform the police—it just isn't fair on the people who work hard to upkeep the courts for the enjoyment of many Slip End and district villagers.





Vegetable Garden

Runner beans can be put in, but beware of late frosts which can still cause damage to seedlings. Put the stakes in at the time of sowing, deep enough to withstand strong breezes which we experience in the South Bedfordshire foothills. Peas will be growing freely now and these will also need support, stakes for climbers twigs for the dwarf varieties.

Thin out young seedlings from various crops sown in drills and remember to earth up early potatoes as foliage appears and watch out for frosts.

Flower Garden

The flower garden now demands close attention if fine plants are to develop. All annuals should be in vigorous growth so any weaklings can be discarded: allow plenty of growing space.

Thin out rose growth by pinching out any badly placed or overcrowded shoots.

Fruit Garden

Spread a fairly thick layer of well rotted farmyard or stable manure around fruit trees and bushes of all types. Spray apple trees against scab: pear trees will also need spraying.

SLIP END & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

There is still time to put your name forward for the (Free) Senior Citizens Outing which will take place this year on July 3rd.

If you live in Slip End, Pepperstock or Woodside and wish to come along call me on 723109, stating your name, address, phone number and your preference for Fish & Chips or Ham Salad.

Gillian Plummer

Nothing from the Brownies this month so a few jokes for the children instead.

Knock, knock, who's there?

Annabel. Annabel who?

Annabel would be useful on this door.....

Knock knock, who's there?

Annette. Annette who?

Annette curtain looks good in the window.....

The mother was worried because she hadn't heard from her son who was away at boarding school. for several weeks Finally, she received a letter which read: Dear Mother: they are making us write to our parents. Love Jack.....

Lady of the house: "and what can I do for you?"

Tramp: "If you don't mind, I'd like a coat sewed on this button!"

Have you recently upgraded your digital camera?

If so, then is there an older digital camera now gathering dust in a drawer? Slip End Lower School would love to give it a good home as they would like to get their hands on some digital cameras and camcorders for the children to use for school projects, IT studies and class work. If you would like to donate a digital camera you no longer use, then please contact Sandra Collins on Sandra@askmarketing.co.uk and she will be happy to come & collect it from you.

Almighty God, we have been privileged to glimpse pictures of your Son through the lives of other people from the Bible. In our lives too, we want to keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus. Help us to make Him the prime focus of all our studies and keep us walking with Him in the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek to follow Jesus - the true Author and Perfecter of our faith. Bless us now and in the future, surround us with Your love and keep us in Your care.
This prayer was the final prayer after our six week ecumenical Lent meetings. We thank Mike Bull for leading them and the 18 people from the four village churches that came along. We are having a fellowship tea on April 24th to talk together about future meetings. Every one got a lot out of the course and we are talking about meeting together more often in the year, not just in Lent. We will let you know the dates so you can join us if you'd like to. We had a very moving service on Palm Sunday when three ladies were confirmed and 5 became member of Aley Green Church. The Sunday school children heard the Palm Sunday story and made palm branches.

Our Coffee Evenings are a time where we can welcome people into the church and have a chat over a three drink and a home made cake, (Beats sitting in front of the TV), so please pop along to our next one on Wednesday 3rd May 7:30pm onwards. You may remember last year we had our church rewired. The electricians told us we really need new heaters in the church because the ones we have got are very old. We are holding a Good as New Sale on Saturday May 13th to start saving towards this project. Please come along and pick up a bargain or two. Afternoon tea, homemade cakes and preserves will be served in the schoolroom. If you have any books you no longer want, please leave them on my doorstep, 45 Manor road Caddington. On Saturday May 20th Member's of our church will be helping at the 'Friends of Caddington Allotments' May Fayre. To be held at the produce hut in Folly Lane, Caddington from 9am to 4pm. We hope to see you there. Yours in Christ Ann Meader

Sorry that I have missed a few months but I have missed a couple of meetings so had nothing to write about. Two committee members resigned at the A G M but I dare not ask for replacements again as I hate to be disappointed There are only nine members now and one of them is a council representative. I was sorry to see that the car park was full with footballers again after thinking they go to the football fields at the Terrapin playing field.

What a mess the bridge works are causing around the diversion area. The corner from Farley Hill to Woodside road is splattered with mud and stones that are thrown about owing to being too tight to maneuver round. I am sure that within the next six months there will be many complaints as to scratched cars and dented cars because of the narrow road. We have had the Paths and frontage to our homes tarmacked and a great job done there. See I don't always moan about things just simply tell the truth as to how I feel about things in the Village.

The street light outside my home must have been replaced with an extra sparkly light bulb because I now need blackout curtains to stop the glare. Don't ask me where I got the blackout curtains from as I don't remember.

Well - Easter has passed and we will all look forward now to hopefully a nice summer. Perhaps I should be purely writing about the Village Hall but as its a Parish News edition that this piece goes into and what I have scantily written is about the Village maybe you readers wont mind as to what I do write about. Next month I will have a wander around and perhaps observe other things that I can let you all know about. I really would like to write such a lot more but will promise to do that next time.

from Muriel

RESULTS OF THE QUEEN QUIZ IN LAST MONTHS ISSUE.

1. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary - name
2. Purple and Scarlet – racing colours
3. Peter Phillips – 1st grandchild
4. She was pregnant in 1959
5. 10 prime-ministers in her reign
6. 16 countries as Queen Sovereign
7. Susan was her 1st corgi
8. Known as Lord of Man on the Isle of Man
9. Clarence House was her 1st London home

Some more amazing facts about our Queen for you –

Since 1952 the Queen has conferred over 387,700 honours and awards (*does anyone in Slip End have one?*)

The Queen has received over 3 million items of correspondence during her reign.

Tony Blair is the first Prime Minister to have been born during the Queen's reign.

The Queen has given over 91 State Banquets during her reign.

The Queen was a girl guide in 1937 and a Sea Ranger in 1943 and is Patron of more than 620 charities and organisations.

The Queen has 30 Godchildren. There have been 11 sculptures of the Queen

The Queen has taken the salute in every Trooping the Colour since the start of her reign apart from 1955 when a national rail strike cancelled the parade.

The Queen has sent more than 280,000 telegrams to couples in the UK and Commonwealth celebrating their diamond wedding of 60 years anniversary (*has anyone in Slip End reached that very important milestone yet?*)



Elizabeth

WOMENS INSTITUTE

The speaker booked for the evening gave her apologies. With his usual generous spirit after a very heavy day, Peter Tilcock stepped into the breach. Marion his wife was unwell and not able to come and keep him in order! All our best wishes and prayers are with you Marion. His talk was “Wartime Entertainment” and goodness did it bring back memories. I felt really sorry for members too young to remember - the radio was our life, or a record to play, the cinema a treat and T.V. was in its infancy for those with money and living close to a ‘station’. If I gave all the names with their favourite songs and sayings I would go on forever. We had their music to back it up – Lovely. After refreshments we were given song sheets to sing from but it was amazing I didn’t need it, they all came back to me. If only I could sing! I couldn’t tell you a word of today songs, if they have any! Names were taken for a coach outing in August to Drury Lane Theatre. We will be put down at Covent Garden for a wander around and refreshments, then onto the Theatre to be taken back stage and a guided tour.



Forthcoming dates:-

May 16th – Annual meeting Speaker E Parker

June 20th – Babies in Prison Speaker Mrs V Brown

We meet 3rd Tuesday in the month 7.30 – 10 at Baptist Church, Caddington.

You will be very welcome, Patricia Crick

At the recent Local Council elections the Parish Councillors were elected unopposed as there were fewer nominations than seats available. We have six Parish Councillors: Ken Crossett, Geoff Daniel, Steve Fuell, Mike McKevitt, Philip Penman (who is also one of our District Councillors) and myself.

Whilst I like to think that we were returned because we are doing such a brilliant job, I am inclined to think that nobody else wants to do the job. At least, being elected means you all know where we are for the next four years.

Advertisements for a Clerk to the Council went out in March. The closing date for the applications was 14th April and we intend to start interviewing in May. Hopefully we will have a new Clerk by June, who will work with David Haste until July, so that she/he can take over in September after the August break.

Councillors have been contacted by parents concerned over the debate on 2 versus 3 tier education system in Bedfordshire. To date, it would seem that parents prefer the current 3three-tier system stays in place. Councillors are of the opinion that whatever the majority want, then if asked for our opinion, we would go with whatever parents tell us.

Our thanks to a resident in Prebendal Drive for going out with a paint pot to cover the obscene graffiti that appeared on the Bus stop outside the Village Hall. I have had several enquiries as to what is going to happen about the problem of graffiti. We have one or two options that need to be discussed and estimates need to be asked for before any decision is made. Watch this space.

Hosepipe Ban

This came into force in April and will continue to be enforced into the foreseeable future. If you have questions as to how it will affect you and you have internet access Three Valleys website is www.3valleys.co.uk, click onto Our Supply Area on the Home page. Meantime

use of hose pipes, even if you have a water meter, are banned. You can however, use a hose pipe to top up ponds and fill your swimming pool. Advice is to half fill your pool and only if it has a fitted filter. Your paddling pools must be filled by bucket. You may however, use a jet wash to wash down your driveway, or patio or your patio furniture for hygiene reasons. You cannot wash your car with either a hose pipe or a jet wash. As most gardeners know, lawns can be left for weeks as grass will always grow back when it rains. New lawns could be a problem so may I suggest that you get an industrial size watering can. Most flowers and bushes in beds are OK, the only vulnerable plants are those in containers, or newly bedded, and obviously vegetables and some soft fruit.

Three Valleys tell me that there should be advertisements in local pages. They also say that 'there will be inspectors visiting areas at all times of the day and night' obviously to catch anyone having a quick water of the lawn at 3 in the morning. I can only imagine these super spies and operatives -a bit like Smersh, watching us and waiting to pounce, which brings a whole new meaning to Mokroye Dyelo, that's Russian for 'wet business'.

*Christine Benson, Chairman
Slip End Parish Council.*

Councillor Christine Benson is presented with a new Gavel by the craftsman who skilfully made it. She will use to maintain order at forthcoming Parish Council meetings, so watch out!





I recently visited Nora Flitton and had a wonderful time listening to Nora's recollections of yesteryear. In 1938, Nora's boyfriend Albert (as he was then) bought a plot of land from Charlie Cook and hired Webbs of Luton to build what is now known as Slip End Garage. When the garage opened in May 1939 it was called Albert Flitton, Agriculture and Motor Engineer. Albert had worked for the Luton Motor Company at the time doing a lot of tractor repairs and maintenance and in the early days continued in this field. The garage measured 75 by 25 feet (so much smaller than it is now) and on either side of the garage there were two little offices – one being used as the accounts office etc.. On the other side there was a place to charge up the 'wet' batteries and in those days it cost 6d to charge up a battery! Albert used to do everything himself, serve the petrol, get the spares, repair any vehicles but Nora was also a great help, collecting the paperwork and sorting that out for Albert. You could say they had a very un-romantic courtship with invoices, figures and filing! Another job for Nora on a Saturday night was taking the accumulators off the cars, charge them up and then put the charged battery back onto the car. In those days, before they were married, it meant a walk from Markyate and it wasn't until 1954 that they moved into the bungalow on Markyate Road, Slip End. In 1947 the first big workshop was built and in the 1960's another workshop was built on the side for MOT's. In 1962 a workshop was built on the land at the back of Claydown where a lot of work was carried out on the large

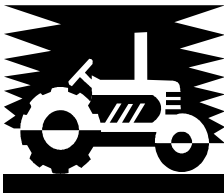
transporters that were using the land alongside the workshop. There were plans for a second workshop but then sadly Albert died in 1973 and the work was not carried out until the late 70's. On one occasion, as war had now broken out, Albert turned up for work to find that the garage had been commandeered by the REME who wanted to use it for repairs to their vehicles. Luckily, at lunchtime they decided that the premises weren't big enough and left to look for a larger workshop. During wartime Albert managed to continue selling some petrol and repairs to agricultural machinery and although he did receive papers to go to war did not have to go because of the importance of his garage work. As all petrol was rationed at that time Neills, who had a filling station at Markyate, were given responsibility for the petrol in the area. However, the government continued to pay other garages a sum of money to assist towards their upkeep and ensure they were able to survive. After Albert and Nora were married and whilst they were still living in Markyate Nora would push the pram up the hills, collect the paperwork from the garage, take it home and sort it out while Geoff and Dennis were in bed. Of course when they were old enough Geoff joined his father with the repairs side of the garage and Dennis became the salesman.

I also heard about all the shops that used to be in Slip End – how different to how it is now. There was a Post Office further down Front Street on the side of the road of the pub next to the butchers, that was run by Joan Austin's father. At the top of the road, where the post office is now, there was a greengrocer and allsorts - owned by Mrs Cheney. At No 31 there was Percy Burgess who was a milk and dairyman and next door his brother who was a butcher had a shop in his back garden. Mrs Freeman at the end of Summer Street had the shoe repairs and sold newspapers and used to come round the village with papers piled on her pram. At the top end of Summer Street there was Philpot's the haberdashery shop and next door was Chapman the Bakers who was nicknamed the Midnight Baker as he used to

bake late into the night and then deliver to Markyate. Harry Halfhead owned the newsagents and sweet shop and there was another cobbler, Mr Watts who repaired shoes in his front room. Quite a change to the services that are supplied in Slip End these days and such a shame that we have lost the individuality of all those trades- people. Thank you very much Nora for spending such a pleasant morning with me and your memories, it was very interesting to hear of the 'old times' of Slip End village. If anyone else has memories of the old days please let us know at Parish News, if only that some kind of record is kept for future generations. Also, if anyone has any old photographs of the village or the garage please let us know.

Lastly I would like to wish Nora a wonderful 90th birthday on the 28th May, you certainly don't look old enough to be celebrating ninety years of birthdays! Have a lovely time with your family, who must be very proud of you.

Sue Cowell, Editor



A Wish for you—Nora
 May you always be blessed with:
 walls for the wind,
 a roof for the rain,
 a warm cup of tea by the fire.
 Laughter to cheer you,
 those you love near you,
 and all that your heart might desire.

LAUGHTER

The housewife called the AA with a flat battery after leaving her lights on whilst shopping. She was very concerned but her son bought a smile to her face when he asked, "Mummy, are you phoning for a nervous

breakdown?"

When the tumble-dryer broke down, the housewife called the engineer who suggested she had tried to dry something too heavy, perhaps a carpet which she indignantly denied. Later her older sons told her that they had put their younger brother into the dryer to find out if it would still turn round. Naturally, it didn't and the dryer screeched to a stop. "You little monsters," she said, "you might have killed him." "It was alright, mum" they said, "we put the dryer on low heat."

EDITORS CHOICE

I wrote a little letter
 And posted it one day.
 Said I, "I hope you're better,
 And everything's okay."
 The cost was nothing, really –
 Some coppers at the most
 I signed it, "Yours sincerely,"
 And dropped it in the post.
 But, lo, the one who read it,
 When life was hard and grim,
 Fresh courage found. He said it
 Meant all the world to him!

Francis Gay

Finally what we all need to do more of.....

Leisure

*What is this life, if full of care
 we have no time to stop and stare.
 No time to stand beneath the boughs
 and stare as long as sheep or cows.
 No time to see, when woods we pass,
 where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
 No time to see, in broad daylight,
 streams full of stars, like skies at night.
 No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
 and watch her feet, how they can dance.
 No time to wait til her mouth can
 enrich that smile her eyes began.
 A poor life this if, full of care,
 we have no time to stand and stare.*

By W H Davies

*Wishing you all a very happy month of May,
 from the editorial team.*

Sue C

HELP SUPPORT YOUR POST OFFICE

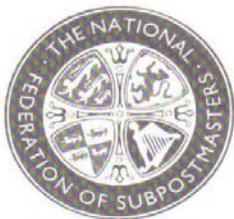
Caddington and Slip End Post Offices need your help. There is real danger that many of the village post offices will close if the government continue to withdraw services from the Post Offices—next on the list is the Post Office card which many pensioners now use to withdraw their pension.

Please remember to look out for the petition featured below and add your name to the list.

It should be available at all Post Offices—I know it is at the Caddington one as I have signed it!

Help to keep your Post Office in the village. You will be lost without it!

Sue Cowell

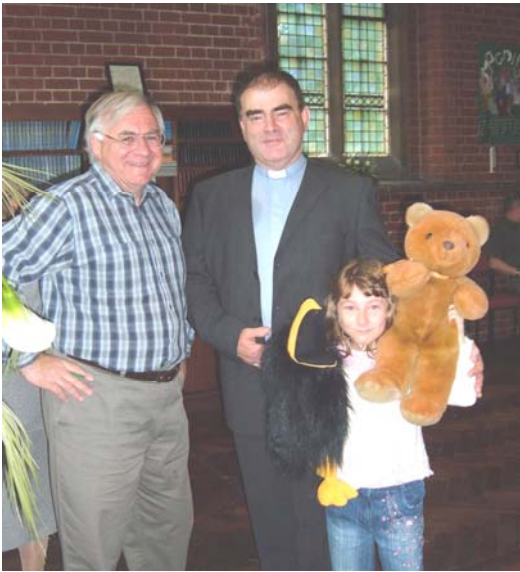


PETITION SIGN HERE

'We, the undersigned, believe that the post office network provides a vital service to local communities in both urban and rural areas which are threatened by the Government's withdrawal of services from local post offices. Accordingly we call on the Government to reverse its announcement that it will end support for the Post Office Card Account in 2010 thereby threatening the viability of thousands of post offices and we urge it to immediately halt its activities designed to kill the account off in advance of that date.'

Sign now and support your Post Office

UNLOCK WALK



Rev Michael Withey drops in at St Andrew's. David Kingston, Michael, and Francine from ZJB with friends Alban the bear and Colin the Crow who helped Michael with the children's focus time.

After all the goings on at Easter, several St Andrew's folk join in the annual "Unlock" Walk in London on April 29th, when we had the pleasure of meeting up with another St A's "old-boy", David Bolster. He joined us with Mary and their Dalmatian Tom on the walk around East Greenwich and Lewisham where we called on several churches enjoying great hospitality and sharing of interests.

A fine day for walking with lots of interest: next year's Unlock Walk is on April 21st, join us if you can, it's very worthwhile.

We had some great views of the controversial Millennium Dome which at last is going to be put to some good use with the Olympics coming up in 2012. The Churches we visited were so different and it was good to learn some of the history, the surroundings and the problems that many face in the inner city. Not all are in difficulties though, we went to the very impressive Tabernacle Church in Lewisham

... And another St Andrew's "old boy" ...



David and Tom and a chance to have two of our ex-vicars on the same page! David & Mary Bolster joined us on the Unlock Walk around Lewsiaham and East Greenwich. David never looks his best in front of the camera and is outshone by Tom (with spots). However, this is an improvement on the last picture of David which we carried on our pages, where he appeared with his mobile phone at his ear. A photographer's nightmare!



Using the computer to put the scriptures and words to hymns up on the wide screen of the church)

which even has its own IT room and records each service and then sells the CD's and tapes after it has finished. They have a café and their own chef, a resource centre and have just finished work on a Chapel which will be used as a multi-purpose area.



Steve outside the entrance to St Saviour's

We also visited the grand St Saviours Roman Catholic Church which brought back memories for Steve Lyons who lived in that area as a child and went to the school and church of St Saviours. It The Church is right in Lewisham High Street by the shopping centre and they have five masses each Sunday with over 1600 parishioners to serve.

One of the more unusual churches was the Blackheath Friends Meeting house which is used by different community groups and also a Quaker Group. In the meeting room there is no cross, no altar, no organ and no pulpit. The chairs are arranged around a table, with flowers on, a bible and a very large sand timer.

It was finally time to leave the last Church which was the Blackheath and Chalton Church and were we pleased to see that. This was near the Shooters Hill Road which was notorious for highway men, especially Dick Turpin. The church has just celebrated its centenary and they are on the first mile post for the London Marathon which saw thousands of runners and walkers filing past last week. On that day they hold an outdoor service and invite all around to join in, also giving out sweets with scripture verses on to people watching the runners go by. All in all a very interesting—yet exhausting day and good to meet so many different people and visit so many different churches.

Sue Cowell



David and Mary Bolster and Brian Church find time for a quick rest at Blackheath.

May

- 8th *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm (note change of date!)*
6th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
6th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
20th *Friends of Caddington Allotments Fayre 9—4pm*
27th *Wedding of Daniel Downs and Samantha Goodyear at
St Andrew's Church at 2.00pm*



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 *Marriage Blessing of Alan Barton and Karen Kaye 2.30pm
at St Andrews Church*
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

- 2nd *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
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*
7th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
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

Printers: Hardy Clarke Creative Ltd, Park St, Luton Tel: 749991 www.hardyclarke.com



Wishing Nora Flitton a very happy 90th Birthday on the 28th May 2006.

Have a lovely day Nora!



The team from St Andrew's meet up with Rev David Bolster for the annual "Unlock Walk" and find time for a quick photo shoot at the second church on the circuit, the Holy Trinity Centre at Lewisham. Only another five to go!