



CROSS KEYS

## Special Issue:

### International Year of the Child 2009

To mark International Year of the child, this special issue of Cross Keys features the part that children and young people play in the life of our churches. It was planned before we received the sad news of Bishop Ian's death in May. Throughout his ministry he showed a keen interest in the spiritual development of young people, for which we give thanks. For full article see back page.

Cover design: Owen Hamson from St Andrew's, Old. See page 2.



Delegates at the Starburst conference

## Conference boost for children's workers

"I feel energised and refuelled," said one of the delegates at Starburst, the major diocesan conference on children's work held at All Saints School, Northampton, in May.

In all there were 120 delegates from 40 churches at the conference, including some from Baptist, Methodist and URC churches. "The only negative my group could find was that they didn't want to leave at the end of the day and they would have liked to do all the workshops," said another delegate.

The conference was organised by Rona Orme, Children's Missioner, with the REACH (Resourcing Evangelism Amongst Children) group. There were numerous workshops on different aspects of children's work including *Working with boys*, *Sacred space for children*, *Going into schools* and *Planning a balanced session*.

A new award, the Diocesan Children's Work Cup, was presented at the conference by Lucy Moore from Messy Church, who was the keynote speaker. See story on page 3.

## Wider church news

### Pouring in

The “rain tax” petition on the Downing Street web site attracted 45,000 signatures, the highest of any petition on the site this year. It was part of a campaign to give churches and charitable organisations relief from the likely effects of increased drainage charges. When fully implemented, it is estimated the new charges could cost the Church of England over £15m a year, with a further £10m in professional charges to handle appeals. It is the equivalent of the church being drained of 375 clergy.

### Hope in debt

The Church of England’s online initiative to help people who are feeling hopeless in the current financial situation has been extended. Finding hope when struggling with debt complements the practical advice and resources in *Matter of life and debt*. The new pages advise people to look beyond the present to count their blessings, and to remember that they are valuable to God even if they lose the status that comes from work and money. It can be accessed at [www.cofe.anglican.org/debt/findinghope](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/debt/findinghope).

### Open doors

Guidance on how to make church buildings more accessible to people with disabilities has been revised and re-issued. *Widening the eye of the needle* helps people responsible for church buildings to understand legal principles and practical steps

required to comply with relevant legislation. It is published by Church House Publishing and costs £16.99.

### Faith up to government

The East Midlands Churches Forum (EMCF) has signed a groundbreaking partnership agreement to develop the Faith to Engage project and to form the East Midlands Belief in Action by Regional Churches (EMBARC) limited company. Faith to Engage is managed nationally by Faithworks and funded through the Big Lottery Fund. It encourages effective consultation between faith groups and regional government. EMBARC’s objectives are to advance the Christian religion by providing liaison between churches and government bodies or agencies.

### Cramming prayers

A set of downloadable prayer cards to be included in students’ revision packs has been produced to help young people cramming for exams this summer. The prayers call for God’s help in facing the stressful time and ask for calm and focus in revision for big tests. The Church of England in association with the Culham Institute has also published resources for school assemblies in the run-up to the exam period. They incorporate reflections from sporting heroes and business leaders as well as Bible readings. They are freely available at [www.cofe.anglican.org/exams](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/exams).



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## Children brighten up Cross Keys

An invitation to enter a colouring competition to brighten up this issue of Cross Keys was taken up by 73 children from 12 different churches.

There were so many good entries that not only have we chosen Owen Hamson’s design for this issue, but we hope to use those of Rachel Wallace from Exton with Horn and William Brodie from Badby on the Autumn and Winter issues.

Look out for some of the eye-catching drawings from the entries elsewhere in this issue. Many thanks to everyone who took part.



*Cross Keys by Violet Bedwell-Clayton of Kettering St Andrew’s*

## Seventeen new lay ministers licensed



Amongst those licensed at Peterborough Cathedral on 16 May were seventeen new lay ministers. They are:

*Readers:* Caroline Brawn, Ruth Compton, Diane Creasy, Christopher Hammett, Katherine Reade, Ann Reed, Karin Smith, Philip Spriggs, Marion Welch.

*Lay Pastoral Ministers:* Valerie Brown, Ingrid Cartwright, Jan Lowe, Pat Thomas, Val Watkinson.

*Licensed Evangelists:* Anthony Armstrong, Michael Bell, Valerie Wingate.

# Men win top prize for children's work

It was the men of St Barnabas Church in Wellingborough who bagged the first ever Diocesan Children's Work Cup. They were chosen because of the large number of male leaders they have on their Holiday Club team and as a result a high number of boys attending.

"Their holiday club showed us just how well it goes when men are involved as leaders," said Rona Orme, Children's Missioner.

The holiday club has been running for five years and last year had a boy junior boy leader as well as several male helpers. Of the 40 children who attended a good 50% were boys.

"I really enjoy the work with children," said Martin Clarke, "I feel we need to show children that

church can be fun and enjoyable and give them a foot in the door. Then if they decide to attend other church activities in the year, we are familiar faces. Winning the cup was a complete surprise and was very encouraging."

Sam, a boy who attended the club last year, said, "We all had a great time at the holiday club and we are really happy that we won the cup."

This year the church is hosting a "getting to know you" session on the Sunday afternoon before the holiday club starts, to allow time for the children to get to know the leaders – with the help of a bouncy castle and picnic for their families.

St Barnabas offers a host of other activities for children and young



*Martin Clarke and John Wilson of St Barnabas with the Children's Work Cup*

people, ranging from a weekly toddler's church and drop in coffee morning for parents who've just dropped their children off at the school opposite the church, to Koinonia, a twice monthly group for aged 14 and upwards.

**"Winning the cup was a complete surprise and was very encouraging"**

## Hunsbury's well trained team

St Benedict's at Hunsbury, Northampton, earned a place on the shortlist for the Children's Work Cup for sending the highest number of people on children's work training in the past year.

It was when the regular leader of their junior church, a Church Army Officer, left that a band of twelve helpers came forward to share the task of running the weekly Sunday morning junior church session.

"We have a rota of three helpers each week, one to plan and lead the session and the others as assistants," said Sylvia Coles, Curate. "That way no-one has the daunting task of taking on the responsibility every week. Most of the children who come are from church families so they know the leaders already."

The church also offers "30 minute church" once a month for families who have had their children baptised but are not regulars at the 10am service. "It's like an exploded Sunday School!" said Sylvia Coles.

## Lenten get together for youngsters in Daventry

Churches Together in Daventry, were shortlisted for the Cup for their Lent course designed just for ages 8-17 years.

The group attracted 40 children and young people and is part of a much wider commitment to developing children's and youth work within the churches.

Daventry Holy Cross was the first church in the diocese to use the "My Say" questionnaire devised for the International Year of the Child [[www.yearofthechild2009.org.uk](http://www.yearofthechild2009.org.uk)].

They used it to consult children in the church about what they thought of services and children's work.

"We like to be busy doing all sorts of things," was one of the responses and as a result pew activity packs and Hidden Treasure book bags have been devised and are now being trialled.



*Abigail and Jessica Compton trial the book bags*

## Nominations sought for 2010 Children's Work Cup

Nominations of work with children that is innovative, or a particularly fine example of good practice, or something unusual that is having a significant impact on children's work, are sought for next year's Children's Work Cup.

If you know of a parish, church, or children's activity in the diocese that is worthy of nomination, please let Rona Orme know so that the REACH group can arrange to visit or make contact. Tel: 01604 887045 or email: [rona.orme@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:rona.orme@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

**"Excellence comes in many forms – we want to celebrate it!"**

## Fresh ideas from St Lawrence's youth group

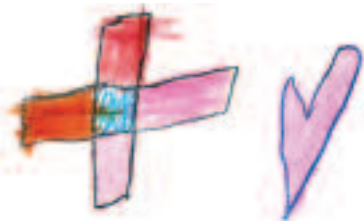
At St Lawrence, Towcester, the youth group were charged with leading the 9.30am service, up until The Peace, on 17 May. Helen Warwick, one of the group's leaders, explains more.

"Simply being asked to plan a service has made us all learn and think about what really needs to be in an act of worship. The Gospel reading was from John 15, focusing on love and Jesus' new commandment for us to love one another as Jesus loved us. We agreed that it is easier to love some people more than others and this led to a lot of discussion!

In order to get the whole congregation thinking about the theme we organised a sketch based on *Britain's got talent*, a prayer activity where we ask people to think of someone they would like to be able to love more, some contemporary music including music from Godspell, (Day by Day) and intercessions with this as the theme.

As expected, the young people brought fresh ideas, few preconceptions and an intuitive desire to try different things to planning the service. They are not concerned about what others will think and had a genuine desire to "make it good!"

I wonder if we can learn a lot from them. Loving each other may sometimes mean being a bit more flexible, being tolerant of people doing things that may not always be our preference, being willing to try new things and having a "can do" attitude!"



Drawing by Megan Percival, St Andrew's, Old

## True stories to inspire from Ugandan school children



Pupils at Finedon Mulso CEVA Junior School recently enjoyed a visit from a choir of 18 children from the Watoto Christian school in Uganda (above).

"Our children sat entranced to start with," said head teacher Avril Wise. "Then they were invited to join in and did so enthusiastically, following the choir's lively example. In between the amazing singing and

dancing, some of the Ugandan children told their harrowing, personal stories and bore witness to their faith that Jesus had saved them. All of the children in the choir (and at the school) are orphans, many of them having lost their parents to AIDS." Pupils at Finedon Mulso had a non-uniform day at the end of term to raise funds to give a donation to the choir.

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## Snippets from Starburst

At the Starburst conference there was a "scribble board" on which people could note down any good news stories about family and children's work at their church. Here are a few of them:

### Liturgy for toddlers

At Castor they have recently started a service for pre-school children and their carers. "This idea is far from new but it seemed to be the right time for us," said the Rector William Burke. He provides a framework for the service which takes place each Friday in the Lady Chapel. It includes a hymn, a Bible story, some prayers and the lighting of a prayer candle. "The key thing is that although I provide a programme, the service is led by those who themselves have children of that age," said William. Numbers attending the service leapt dramatically after the first week, when the local playgroup decided to come along en masse as a regular outing!

### Outdoor nativity pageant

It took most of a year for St Botolph's at Barton Seagrave to plan their first nativity pageant last year, but it was so good they hope to repeat it this year. With a cast that included two donkeys, a horse and a few sheep, as well as numerous members of the congregation as players, stewards and costume makers it had a big impact. The pageant took place on the village green at 4pm, in place of the usual evening service. A narrator told the story as the action played out, ending in a conveniently situated garage as a stable.

### Christmas shopping help

In late November Rushden St Mary's hosts a Saturday Christmas activity day for children, freeing their parents to take a rest or blitz the Christmas shopping. The day runs from 10am to 4pm and offers about ten craft or drama activities based around the Christmas story. The day is very popular and usually attracts the maximum of 60 children.

# Rushden's youth choose Morning Prayer

Ashleigh Pott, and a handful of other sixth formers from various schools in Rushden, could have a lie in on a Friday morning when they don't have any lessons. Instead, they make a detour – over 2 miles in Ashleigh's case – to Whitefriars Church for Morning Prayer.

"It's so encouraging that Morning Prayer, something that I had initially considered to be a bit of an obligation, continues to be a fresh blessing to a new generation," said Steve Chadwick, Whitefriars' Youth Worker.

There are about 45 people in the church's older youth group and Morning Prayer is not something they are specifically invited to, but nevertheless they come.

Ashleigh, who is Chair of the church's Youth Panel, spent a day a week for three months on work experience at Whitefriars. She is currently in the first year of the 6th form and hopes to go on to study for A levels.



*Drawing by William Abbott,  
St Andrew's, Old*

# Badby PCC consults nine year old

Hannah Wakeford (pictured), aged nine, has been appointed as a "child warden" at Badby St Mary's and asked to keep the parochial church council informed of the views and needs of the children in its congregation.

"Both the children and their parents were unanimous in their support of Hannah for this role," said Susan Rose, former Churchwarden. "Often children will say things to one another about church that we could learn from. It's so valuable to have someone who can pass these things on when it's needed."

Hannah is looking forward to her new role and agrees that it's really important for children to play a full part in the church.



"We already feel special at Badby," she said. "Church is fun and we definitely feel included".

The most difficult thing, she thinks, will be passing on things that the children don't like.

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# Youthful PCC member attends vocations conference

Sixteen year old Parochial Church Council member from Peterborough St Mary's, Michael Wiles, is exploring whether God may be calling him to ordained ministry. As part of this exploration he attended a special conference in Cambridge for young people interested in ordination. Here he explains more:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and would fully recommend it for any young person. I found out about it from my Vicar, Sharon Walker. My family and friends urged me to go in order to gain experience and to find out more about becoming a vicar.

I think the starting point for me was the religious experience I had last August whilst on holiday with



*Michael Wiles*

my parents at Buckfast Abbey in Devon. Afterwards I became more aware of God and his plan for me.

At the conference, with my friends who attended from various parts of England, I listened to lectures from curates, vicars and deacons. We experienced lots of worship in the different college chapels around the city of Cambridge. Also, the food was great.

The thing I loved the most is that all the other young people who attended the conference felt the same as me, that God is calling them to become vicars.

My hope for the future is to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to as many people as I can by becoming a servant of God."

# TRAINING FOR CHILDREN'S WORK

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The five taught sessions will cover: Child Development; Programme Planning; Children and Community; Pastoral awareness with children; Spirituality and the Bible. The sixth session, to be undertaken during the module, will comprise an hour's observation of one or more children in an educational setting.

For more information visit [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/om10.pdf](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/om10.pdf) or call 01604 887048, email: [adulted@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:adulted@peterborough-diocese.org.uk). There is no charge for this course.

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*Drawing by Naomi Waters,  
St Giles, Northampton*

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## JULY 2009

**Wed 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Oakham All Saints, Lunchtime Recitals.** 1.30pm at All Saints Oakham. Retiring collection.

**Sat 4, Newton Bromswold Village Fete,** 2.30pm. Tombola, plants, raffle, stalls, games, Rushden Mission Band, teas. Children's Fancy Dress, 3pm.

**Sat 4, Abington St Peter and St Paul Fete,** Northampton. 2pm at "The Church in the Park". Opened by Radio Northants presenters Joe Pignatiello and Julia Morgan.

**Sat 4 & Sun 5, Nassington Open Gardens.** 12 noon-6pm. A "Feast of Flowers" in church. Tel: 01780 782025.

**Sat 4 & Sun 5, Little Houghton Open Gardens.** Cream teas, flowers in Church, Fete 2pm (Sat). Tel: 01604 890263/890584.

**Sun 5, Mozart's Coronation Mass.** At Abington Choir at St Peter & St Paul, Abington, Northampton (the Church in the Park), 3pm. Donations invited.

**Sat 4, Northampton Bach Choir Concert,** 7.30pm St Matthew's Church, Kettering Road, Northampton. Programme includes Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem and

## WHAT'S ON

Hamlet Overture, Joachim (arr. Brahms).

**Sat 11 & Sun 12, St Mary's Woodford Flower Festival & Feast.** Sat 2pm, fete. Sun open 2-6pm, closing with Songs of Praise service 6pm. Tel: 01832 734024.

**Sat 11 & Sun 12, Local artists exhibition,** St Peter and St Paul, Abington, Northampton (the Church in the park). Open 10am-5pm Sat, 12 noon-4pm Sun.

**Sat 11, Come and Sing Faure's Requiem** at All Saints, Wellingborough, 1pm-6pm. Organised by Wellingborough Orpheus Choir, led by Stephen Ostler. Tel: 01933 665191.

**Sat 11, Cori, Corni & Clarions,** 7.30pm at St Giles, Northampton. Northampton Chamber Choir with the Sennet Brass Ensemble. Programme includes Rutter, Purcell, John Williams. Tickets £12.50 (£10) on the door or from 01604 622372. [www.northamptonchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.northamptonchamberchoir.org.uk).

**Sat 18, Strawberry Teas at Hartwell** St John the Baptist, 2.30pm-5pm.

**Sat 18, Music in Lyddington: Lucy Wakeford** Ensemble with harp, flute,

violin, viola and cello. 7.30pm at St Andrews, Lyddington. Tickets £12 in advance, £14 on door from 01572 820017 or visit [www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk](http://www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk)

**Sat 18, Organ Marathon** at All Saints, Wellingborough, 10am-4pm. In celebration of the return to use of the church organ after repairs and refurbishment. Free.

**Sat 25, Singing Workshop,** 10am-12.30pm, at All Saints, Wellingborough, led by Claire Radd. Free.

## AUGUST 2009

**Weds 5, 12, 19, 26, Oakham All Saints, Lunchtime Recitals.** 1.30pm at All Saints Oakham. Retiring collection.

**Sun 2, Summer recital at St Peter and St Paul,** Abington, Northampton (The Church in the Park). Stephen George, choral concert, 3pm. Donations invited.

**Wed 5, Children's singing workshop** at All Saints, Wellingborough. Led by Lindsay Hall, Head of All Saints Primary School. 10am to 1pm. Places limited so booking is essential. Tel: 01933 278484 or 01933 383868. Free.

**Wed 12, Guided tour of Stained Glass.** All Saints Wellingborough from 10am - 12 noon. Led by Paul Sharpling. Free. Tel: 01933 278484. *See also Wed 26 August.*

**Sat 15, Music in Lyddington: Anton Stadler Trio,** clarinet, viola and piano. 7.30pm at St Andrew's Lyddington. Tickets £12 in advance, £14 on door from 01572 820017 or [www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk](http://www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk)

**Wed 26, Guided tour of Stained Glass.** All Saints Wellingborough from 2pm-4pm. Led by Paul Sharpling. Tel: 01933 278484. Free.

**Sat 29 - Mon 31, Flower Festival** at Eye St Matthews, Peterborough. Tel: 01733 222334.

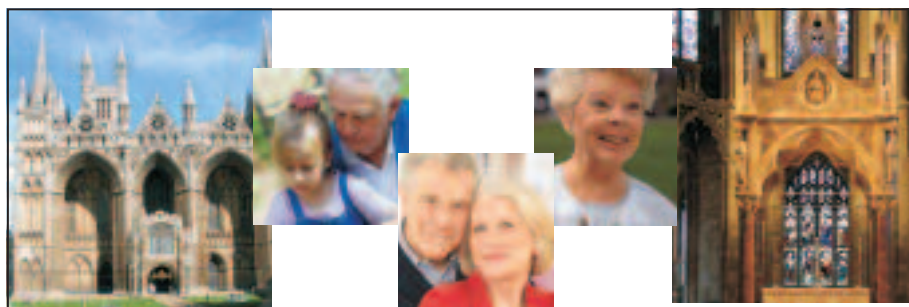
**Mon 31, Organ recital at All Saints Oakham** at 11.15am. Luke Bartlett, organist at Uppingham Parish Church. Retiring collection. Ploughman's lunches.

## SEPTEMBER 2009

**Wed 2, Multum in Choro,** lunchtime recital at Oakham All Saints. 1.30pm at All Saints Oakham. Retiring collection.

**Sat 5, Music in Lyddington: The Heath Quartet with Hannah Roberts,** cellist. 7.30pm at St Andrew's Lyddington. Tickets £12 in advance, £14 on door from 01572 820017 or visit [www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk](http://www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk)

**Sun 6, Summer recital with Philip Britcher & Friends.** A mixture of organ and instrumental music. 3pm at St Peter & St Paul, Abington, Northampton (the Church in the Park). Donations invited.



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# Bishop Ian – at home with children

In May some 1300 people from the diocese and across the country packed Peterborough Cathedral for the funeral of Bishop Ian who died, aged 64, less than three months short of his planned early retirement.

Throughout his 13 years in the diocese, and indeed through his whole life, Bishop Ian had taken a special interest in the spiritual development of young people. He himself had been a gifted teacher with a warm pastoral concern for the students he had nurtured at Oak Hill Theological College and Cranmer Hall Durham.

He had been a lead bishop in the House of Lords on education matters, and as Bishop of Peterborough had been automatically included on the governing bodies of several schools in the diocese, a responsibility he always took seriously and made time for.

Many church schools in the diocese welcomed him to special occasions. In a very real sense, Bishop Ian was never more comfortable and relaxed than when he was talking to children in an informal setting. He had that easy way of engaging with them that enabled them to respond and made them feel valued rather than patronised.



Among the tributes to him were these words from St Luke's CEVA Primary School in Duston, Northampton. They sum up what many feel. "We fondly remember him coming to look around our old School, where he was particularly interested in the art work and music that our School is involved in. Our sincere best wishes and thoughts are with his family and friends at this time."

The man who was at home with children is now at home with the Lord he served and who he commended to children and adults alike.

Pictures and a brief report of Bishop Ian's funeral are on the diocesan web site [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk).

*Photos are taken from schools around the diocese.*