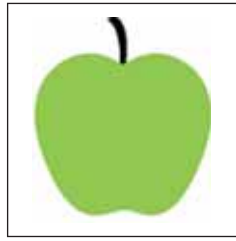




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Cross Keys

Giving Church a go

It can be a scary business, going to church! But to many people who've started coming to church recently, it's well worth getting past any initial worries or pre-conceptions to find out what the Church and Christianity are really about.

To mark Back to Church Sunday on 28 September we asked a few of those who've recently started to come to church in our diocese about their experiences.



Ruth Webster (left) from All Saints Church in Wellingborough was very sceptical about religion. "It was not part of my upbringing and had never played a part in my life," she said.

The family started going to support her son at school events in church. "We really liked the Vicar and thought he was very good with the children – our son spoke about him a lot!" Nevertheless Ruth felt apprehensive about coming. "I found it very confusing and it didn't make a lot of sense." Finding they knew many people already, the family started coming to social events. "My husband became a Beaver Scout Leader and our links with the Church got stronger. Then I felt at ease to ask the questions that had puzzled me before. Having been Christened and Confirmed in the last 18 months I am still on the

journey but well on my way." To anyone thinking of getting involved in church Ruth says, "Give it a go! You just might enjoy yourself."

For Tony Allen (below) from St Giles Church in Northampton it was the chance to express his anti-Christian views in an Alpha course that made the difference. Tony was brought up in the Jewish faith and thought the New Testament was nothing to do with him. He was coming through a difficult time in his life when a friend asked him if he'd come to an Alpha supper. "This was my first visit to St Giles and everyone was so friendly. It felt warm and inviting and I ended up signing up for the ten week course. Initially I enjoyed it as there was no commitment to keep going and I could freely express my negative opinions about a belief that was alien to me. As the weeks progressed, I realised that the New Testament had many references to the Old Testament and perhaps it was relevant after all. When it came to Holy Spirit day I cried and was moved beyond words." A year later Tony was Baptised and Confirmed. "My life has changed so much that I feel reborn; rejuvenated. I can now see what's really important in life and the real purpose of our existence. I learn a little more about Christianity each day and my faith gets stronger and stronger. I want to live life as Jesus intended us to. I thank God for his love, support and the fellowship of my new found family."



continued on back page

BacktoChurchSunday





Wider church news

Lambeth reflections

Discussion groups formed the backbone of the Lambeth Conference this summer. Each group had a "listener" and the combined thoughts of the bishops have been published in a Reflections document which is available on the Lambeth web site www.lambethconference.org. It affirms commitment to mission and evangelism in culturally sensitive ways, calls on everyone to live out their faith in ways that demonstrate commitment to the millennium goals of eradicating world poverty and tackling ecological issues, and reaffirms its commitment to the moratoria on blessings of same-sex unions.

Getting greener in September

The period from 1 September to 4 October has been designated as "Time for God's Creation" in which churches are encouraged to put the environment at the heart of their worship. And a new book *Don't stop at the lights* just been published by CHP includes sermon ideas and Bible study notes to encourage churches to take further practical action to reduce their carbon footprint (and save money). The book suggests using Lent for an environmental audit of the church. It offers "not just tips on energy saving but a reorientation," said the Bishop of London.

Edging forward

A new booklet and DVD *On the edge* published by Fresh Expressions overturns the myth that the church is struggling to survive. It tells stories of new forms of church life being encouraged by ordained pioneer ministers within the context of established church structures. Commending it, the Archbishop of Canterbury said "We look for more flexibility and the ability to go where people are" from ministers today.

Marriage just got easier

The new Church of England Marriage Measure comes into force on 1 October. It widens, but does not dispense with, the residential or connectional requirement for marriage in a parish church. From then, couples can be married in a parish church if one was baptised or confirmed in it; one has lived or attended public worship in the parish for over six months; one of their parents lived in the parish or attended public worship there for over six months during their child's lifetime; their parents or grandparents were married there. Full details are on the diocesan registry website www.peterboroughdiocesanregistry.co.uk.

[Log on to the diocesan web site www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk) for more local and national news. National news also appears on the Church of England web site.

A Cross Keys survey

The diocesan magazine, Cross Keys, has been produced in its current form for nearly three years. Always keen to improve our service, we are reviewing its progress and we would be glad to receive feedback from readers.

You can do this by completing the brief survey on the website at: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/survey.doc,

or write to:

Liz Hurst, The Palace, Peterborough, PE1 1YB.
Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

The Church of England Diocese of Peterborough

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No summer lull for children's workers!

Everyone else may regard the summer as a quiet time in the church, but for those who work with children it is often the busiest time of year as they put on holiday clubs. This year an estimated 2000 children have taken part in holiday clubs in the diocese.



"Clubs are a great opportunity to nurture the children already involved in the church family, and an amazing opportunity for outreach to unchurched children," said Rona Orme, Children's Missioner. "2008 has been a vintage year for mission through holiday clubs and I am thrilled to see so many children offered an experience of worship, a chance to receive teaching from the Bible and to build relationships with church communities."

Whilst some clubs are well established, it was the first time that the churches at Great with Little Harrowden, Orlingbury and Isham with Pychley had run a Holiday Club. "We used Pychley

Church due to its size and the lack of pews," said Heather Dommett. "People from each church were involved in the organisation and the children came from each of our three schools and five villages."

The Club took a nautical theme and looked at the life of St Paul. This included a drama story being acted out by a group of teenagers from the village (pictured) as well as study, crafts and games. "The final part was a Sunday family service with all the children and parents invited, as well as the usual congregations. The Church was packed and there was a great atmosphere. Someone who wasn't involved said to me, there's such a wonderful feeling in this church today, it's obvious the course was very successful," said Gillian Watson, one of the team.

At Wootton "Kidzone" was also a first attempt. It was an ecumenical



venture with two other local churches. Mask and kite making (photo above) and sumo wrestling in padded body suits were amongst the attractions, as were the provision of homemade cakes at breaktime.

At Oundle the Chattabox Holiday Club held at Laxton Junor School sports field has been going for several years. It is also an ecumenical venture and over 90

helpers are involved, including 30 junior leaders who have their own programme of events and camp on site. Many come as leaders because they attended the club as children and enjoyed it so much. The games included team water bomb throwing, seen below being judged by Chattabox leaders Nic Shaw (Oundle Churches Youth Association youth worker) and Simon Campling and Matt Wild from the Peterborough based Christian education charity, CROPS.

Choosing the lighter side of Halloween

Churches, schools and parents are being encouraged to get ideas from the Halloween Choice website and help children to take a less ghoulish view of Halloween. The Church's Halloween Choice campaign started in 2007 by asking major supermarket chains to offer a wider range of Halloween goods. This year the Children's Society has joined forces with the Church to offer a window poster saying, "I've given my treat to The Children's Society", suggesting a

donation to their funds rather than sweets for uninvited Trick or Treaters. In our own diocese senior clergy will be out and about handing out apples bearing stickers advertising the Halloween Choice website. For more information visit www.halloweenchoice.org or call Rona Orme, Children's Missioner, on 01604 887045.



HalloweenChoice.org

Water flows from Bungoma link

Geoff Brown from St Margaret's, Crick, was pleased to host one of the four visitors from our link diocese of Bungoma this summer. Geoff had stayed with his guest, Mama Rhoda Lusaka, during his own visit to Bungoma last year.

"Mama Rhoda is a distinguished elder in her community, a former Primary School head, and a Lay Canon at her parish church of Mapela," he said. "She is also farms 25 acres with her youngest son and his wife."



Geoff's visit to Kenya was during the rainy season, but he became acutely aware of the lack of water in the dry season. Since his return he has worked with a UK water charity to secure a grant of £1500 to sink a well in the grounds of Mama Rhoda's church in Mapela, and £4500 for an underground storage scheme in the grounds of the school for harvested rain water.

Photo: Mama Rhoda with Geoff Brown

Chocolate brings Hope

The Youth Group from St Mary's, Far Cotton, were out and about on the streets Northampton earlier in the summer. As their part of the Hope 08 initiative, they offered free Fairtrade chocolate bars to commuters at local bus stops. The following Saturday morning they gave chocolate bars to shopkeepers in the parish and customers visiting the local Netto store. Each bar contained a message which read: With love from St Mary's Youth Group: You are special to God. "Most people were surprised", commented one Youth Group member, "but seemed pleased to receive them. Some even offered us money, but we explained that it was free. One or two people asked why, so we said that it was a sign of God's love – and also that we believed in Fairtrade!"

Young adults invited on Taizé pilgrimage

Liz Cundy joined the York and Durham Diocesan pilgrimage to the Taizé community this summer and is hoping to organise a similar pilgrimage from our diocese in summer 2009.

Taizé is a unique Christian community near Cluny in France. It was founded by Brother Roger after the Second World War as a place of reconciliation and has become a place of particular importance to young people who, every year, come in their thousands for what can be a very life changing experience. In preparation for the 2009 pilgrimage, Brother Paolo from the community will be

visiting Peterborough on **Friday 14th November**. This will be an opportunity to discover more about life at Taizé and share together in a meal and worship.

If you are a young adult and will be aged 18-29 next summer and would like more details, please contact Liz Cundy at liz.cundy@googlemail.com



Photo: Worship at Taizé

Nostalgic reunion for Land Girls

Christ Church Northampton hosted a Women's Land Army Celebration in August. One of the congregation, Mary Paley, came to the area during the war with six other women from Leeds who had volunteered to work on Northamptonshire farms. Mary described how many people today laughed at their work for the war effort but the recent decision by Government to award badges to recognise their contribution had made her feel that the work had been valued.

Christ Church's Parish Priest, Revd David Wiseman, had met other Land Army women at St Giles' Church lunch club and thought it would be good to get them together to tell their stories. Most of the women who came had not met before. Some had served in the Women's Land Army, driving tractors, milking cows and working in other parts of farm life. One had been in the Women's Timber Corp, chopping down trees with a seven- pound axe and another had worked in the office that paid their wages.



Christ Church members had gathered together a "Dig for Victory" stall with local grown vegetables being sold for church funds. BBC radio Northampton covered the event with many women phoning in with their own memories of Land Army service.

Quentin hits Top Gear



Photo: Mike Jiggie

Quentin Chandler, Rector of Burton Latimer and Director of PA Training – and Chairman of the South Midlands Section of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club – made a brief appearance on BBC TV's Top Gear in July, talking to presenter Richard Hammond about the severely road-tested Alfa Romeo cars that he and his co-presenters had brought along to an Alfa Romeo show.

A story that can make things happen

Jo Cundy attended the Lambeth Conference with her husband, Bishop Ian, and took part in the programme for spouses. These extracts from her diary give a unique glimpse into the Lambeth Conference.



Tuesday 15th July: Evensong in Peterborough Cathedral and the commissioning of eight bishops – two of ‘our own’ and six visitors here for the pre-Lambeth hospitality ... the reality has finally arrived.

Wednesday 16th July. The Lambeth experience today is one of queuing – both for registration (up to 2 hours) and for dinner (up to 1 hour) Interestingly this mostly irritates the Westerners, whilst our overseas visitors are far less worried about time and use the opportunity to meet people and talk to them.

Monday 21st July: In the spouses plenary we discussed our marriages and the different cultural traditions which create and shape them – those who romantically ‘fell in love’ sharing with those who met their husband for the first time on the day of their wedding.

Tuesday 22nd July: A few windows on the world:

A Kenyan wife talked of added responsibilities as a bishop’s wife, becoming ‘Mama’ to the people and women of the diocese, and providing food to all who turn to the bishop when they are hungry or displaced as in the recent troubles, and of her lack of resources. Priests are often not paid, and a bishop’s salary is very small, so growing some of your own food is essential.

A Melanesian wife also spoke of the duty to be hospitable, their concern not to waste any food, and her shock at the wastage here in the conference dining rooms, both by individuals and in the kitchens.

Then there was the isolation of the Australian wife in a diocese with an area larger than the whole of the UK, only 130,000 people, 25 churches, and 16 stipendiary and 4 non-stipendiary clergy.

In Madagascar the bishop may have to walk for 8 hours to take a church service and will be away from his home and family for weeks at a time visiting distant parishes.

Thursday 24th July: The ‘London Day’ – and the sun didn’t just shine, it was hot! The morning focus was on the Walk of Witness to raise awareness of the urgent need to meet the Millennium Development Goals – a colourful crowd of 1,500 bishops and spouses etc, walking with banners down Whitehall to Lambeth Palace and then a splendid, stirring and heartfelt message of support from Gordon Brown in the true ‘son of the manse’ style! ... Then from one Palace to another for the Queen’s Garden Party – cucumber sandwiches and raspberry tarts, roses and herbaceous borders, bands and beefeaters – wonderfully English and elegant!

Saturday 26th July: Photograph day! It takes patience, efficiency and good humour to organise first the spouses, who kept breaking into spontaneous song, (‘Siahamba’ and ‘Amen’ seemed reasonable choices; ‘O come all ye faithful’ and ‘Jesus Christ is risen today’ were less obvious), and then the bishops whose numbers seemed to have swelled so that it was a squeeze to get them onto the stand.

Monday 28th July: We turned our focus to issues of peacemaking in situations of conflict a Kenyan wife shared that following the violence after the elections she is now caring for 27 orphans, providing not just for the basic needs of shelter, food, clothing and education for these children, but dealing also with the trauma of these and other people who turn to the bishop for help.

Friday 1st August: After two weeks of sharing in our Bible study group, one of the Sudanese at last feels safe enough to share her deep troubles and fears. We listen, we hold hands and pray, we have a ‘big hug’, and then the tension goes and we laugh in the extraordinarily releasing way that Africans do.

Saturday 2nd August: It is the final weekend and we have reached that ‘end of term’ or ‘demob’ feeling. We are drawing the threads together, and for the spouses the focus is on nurturing our unity, and then going out into our differing contexts ‘to love and serve the Lord’.

Sunday 3rd August: The final day. The weather changed from glorious sunshine to something cool, grey and wet. Nevertheless, we ended on a real high, with an exuberant sense of commitment and unity at the final plenary, and a wonderful evening Eucharist in the Cathedral, with Archbishop Rowan speaking splendidly at both. And after that... we boogied! OK, it was raining, and we were inside instead of on the lawns in the Precincts, but the Cathedral laid on supper and a big band, and it all felt rather surreal, with African bishops swaying and dancing to Latin rhythms, and certain UK bishops displaying amazing skills and energy as they jived into the night!

And now...

I need time to reflect and absorb all that I have heard and learnt, and then to share the experience of the Lambeth Conference more widely, and, to quote the Archbishop, ‘to share a story that can make things happen’!

Pictured above: Bishop Ian and Jo Cundy with visiting bishops and the Dean in Peterborough.

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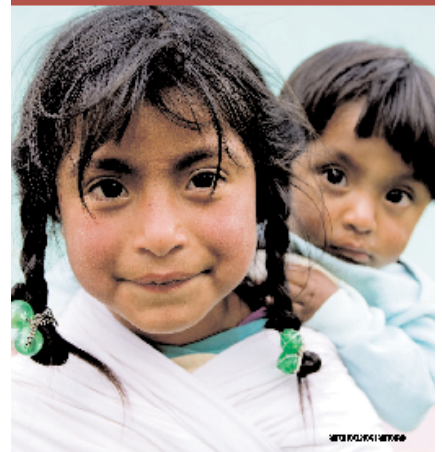
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SEPTEMBER

Fri 19, Holistic Quiet Day, 10am-4pm at Launde Abbey. £35 inclusive. Tel: 01572 717254 or www.launde.org.uk

Sat 20, Inaugural Recital by James O'Donnell, Organist at Westminster Abbey. 7.30pm at St Mary the Virgin, Wellingborough. Tel: 01933 276110.

Sat 20 and Sun 21, Thorpe Malsor Scarecrow and Harvest Festival, nr Kettering. The story of Harvest from sowing to finished produce. Old fashioned farming equipment, corn dollies, etc. Tel: 01536 790165.

Sun 21, Oundle ecumenical open air Harvest Festival. The Market Place, Oundle at 11am.

Fri 26 to Sun 28, Peterborough Christian Festival & Cathedral Open Day. At city centre Churches. Includes Songs of Praise with Pam Rhodes. Visit www.hopepeterborough.org.uk

Sat 27 and Sun 28, Great Brington Church Flower Festival. Open 10am-5pm. Sat 27, concert at 7.30pm. Tel: 01604 754167.

Sat 27, Quilt Show and floral display at St Peter and St Paul, Weedon. Open Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 12.30pm-4pm. Entry £2. Tel: 01327 341361.

Sat 27, Harvest festival at Deene, nr Corby at 5pm. Celebrate the restored organ at this redundant 19th Century church. Choirs from Workshop and Northampton.

Sat 27, Peterborough Male Voice Choir. 7.30pm at Peterborough St Mark's. Tickets

WHAT'S ON

£7.50. Tel: 01733 452336. For Leprosy Mission in Burma.

Sat 27, St Cecilia Singers and Orchestra. 7.30pm at St Mary the Virgin, Wellingborough. A Last Night at the Proms. Tel: 01933 276110.

Sat 27, Fortheringhay Organ Recital with Iain Farrington. 7.30pm at church. Tickets £10 (£2 under 16). Tel: 01832 274333.

Sun 28, 1662 Choral Evensong for Michelmas, 6pm St Mary the Virgin, Burton Latimer. Organised by Diocesan Prayer Book Society.

OCTOBER

Sat 4, Mammoth Book Sale. 9am-12 noon at All Saints, Wellingborough, Church Hall. Tel: 01933 278484.

Sat 4, Concert at Holy Trinity, Rotherwell. Anna Burgon-Lewis (soprano) accompanied by Tony Edwards (organist). 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Rotherwell. Tel: 01536 710268. Tickets on door.

Sat 4, Music in Lyddington: Libor Nováček, pianist. 7.30pm at St Andrew's, Lyddington. Tickets: £12 (£14/£2). Tel: 01572 820017. www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk

Sun 5, Pet Service at Christ Church, Northampton at 3.30pm. Tel: 01604 633254.

Sun 5, Pet Service at All Saints, Wellingborough, 3pm. Tel: 01933 278484.

Sun 5, Organ recital by Philip Britcher, 3.30pm at Abington Parish Church, Northampton.

Mon 6, Launde Abbey Quiet Day. Open to all. £22 for Friends, £27 for others. Tel: 01572 717254 or visit www.launde.org.uk

Sat 11, Diocesan Choral Festival at Peterborough Cathedral. Evensong at 6pm. Tel: 01733 343342.

Fri 17, Vicar's Auction at All Saints, Wellingborough. Viewing from 4.30pm. Auction at 7pm. Tel: 01933 278484.

Sat 18, Youth Brass 2000 in concert. 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell. Tel: 01536 710268. Tickets on door.

Sat 18, Peterborough Male Voice Choir. 7.30pm at St Jude's Community Hall, Cranford Drive, Peterborough. Tickets £7.50. Tel: 01733 330483.

Fri 17 – Sun 19, Little Houghton 2008 Art Exhibition. Open 7pm Fri. Sat 11am-4pm and Sun 11.30am-4pm. Admission £1. With Network Arts. Tel: 01604 890584.

Sat 18 – Sun 19, Pytchley Heritage Weekend. Exhibition of house and family histories by Pytchley Church Heritage Trust. Open afternoons. Tel: 01536 790049 or 01536 790322.

Mon 20 – Fri 24, Individually Guided Retreat at Launde Abbey, led by Glenn Martin. £275. Tel: 01572 717254 or visit www.launde.org.uk

Sat 25, Myths and Legends of the Bermuda Triangle. A talk by Captain William Wells, 7.30pm at Christ Church Hall, Northampton. Tickets £5 (Under 16s £2.50). 01604 719468.

Fri 17, Chris Bowater and Friends with Christian jazz. 7.30pm at St Mark's, Lincoln Road Peterborough. Tickets: £7.50. Tel: 01733 352679.

Tues 28 – Fri 31, The Transfiguration of Jesus. Silent retreat at Launde Abbey. £175. Tel: 01572 717254 or visit www.launde.org.uk

NOVEMBER

Sat 1, Friends of Fotheringhay Church AGM & Lecture by David Baldwin on "Richard III and the Fate of the Princes in the Tower". 2.30pm at Fotheringhay Village Hall. Members free, non-members £5. Tel: 01832 226243 or on door. 9pm All Saints Day Compline by candlelight.

Sat 1, Music in Lyddington: The Martinu Quartet. 7.30pm at St Andrew's Lyddington. Tickets: £12 in advance, £14 on door. Students £2. Tel: 01572 820017/822211. www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk

Mon 3, Quiet Day at Launde Abbey. £22 for Friends, £27 for others. Tel: 01572 717254 or visit www.launde.org.uk

Wed 5 – Fri 7, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, 7.30pm at St Peter's, Oundle. Tickets from 01832 275675.

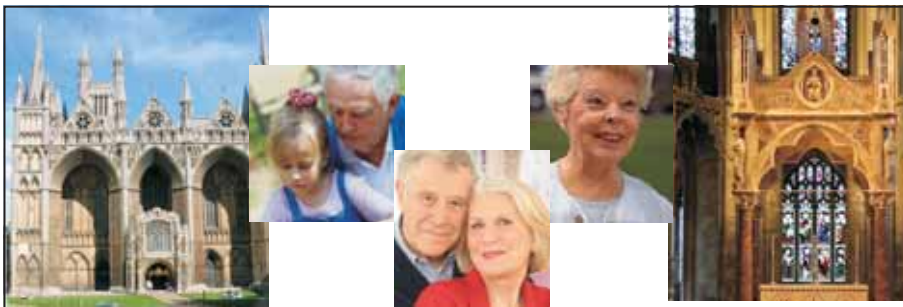
Sat 8, Fair Trade Fair at St Peter's, Oundle. From 9am-2pm.

Sat 8, Barn Dance with Sleeping Moggy. 7.30pm at Abington Parish Rooms, Northampton. In aid of St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy. Tickets £10 or £30 for a family ticket (inc supper). Tel: 01604 631041.

Thurs 20 – Sat 22, Nathan the Wise staged at St Peter's Church, Oundle. Tickets from 01832 274333.

Sat 29, Rutland Sinfonia in concert at St Peter's Church, Oundle at 7.30pm. Tickets from 01832 274333.

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Giving Church a go continued from front page

Marion Dent (right) made a positive decision to start coming to church more regularly when she retired. Until then she had what she calls "a here and there relationship" with church but always enjoyed it when she brought her grandsons to church parade services. "Now I look forward very much to Sunday mornings. I find the church service gives me a great sense of peace and happiness – I always feel uplifted and eager for the next Sunday. If I had not come back to church I would not have had the lovely experience of being Confirmed. I now feel I fully BELONG to the church. Through coming to church I have found my faith in God more concrete and through associating with other church members I think I am more outgoing. I used to be quite shy."



Marion is keen to encourage others too. "I would like people to know they would feel peace, happiness, friendship and a true love for God," she says.

"Keep an open mind and an open heart, and don't let church put you off!" says CJ Crookenden-Johnson. Like Tony Allen he first came to church through an Alpha Course and felt touched by the Holy Spirit. Until then church for him had been about "bells, incense and lots of ceremonial stuff I didn't understand" as well as the expectation that people would know what to do when (stand up, sit down, spoken response, sung response etc), with no explanations.

I would like people to know they would feel peace, happiness, friendship and a true love for God

After his experience at Alpha, church still felt a bit odd. "I wasn't sure if this was the church of the same Holy Spirit!" But since then church has begun to help him in his new faith. "Bible readings, certain hymns, prayers, sermons have made a lot of sense," says CJ, "It feels good to be involved (albeit peripherally) in the church community. I am still very near the beginning but now I think now about my actions within the context of my developing faith".



Amanda Hollowell (below) only became a regular at Church when her daughter, Hope, and sons, Jacob and Noah, decided that they wanted to be Baptised. "I felt it was important to ensure that this wasn't just a whim, which meant encouraging regular church attendance," says Amanda.

"We were all made to feel very welcome. Now my faith is an ongoing personal project which continues daily and will do so throughout my life.

"There are times when life takes over – being a mum, social secretary, chauffeur and counsellor to three great children, as well as a wife and working three days a week – as we all do! Despite these diversions I continue with faith as a daily component, sometimes its presence is more obvious, other days it sits in the background keeping me level and safe."

Around sixty churches in the Diocese of Peterborough are taking part in Back to Church Sunday on 28 September 2008.

To find out where you can join in, call 01604 887048.

For more about churches in the diocese visit www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

To find out more about the Christian Faith visit www.rejesus.co.uk



Back to Church Sunday

