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Cross Keys

With Mission Matters



Danielle Westleigh (left) with Violet, Jack and Rose Bedwell-Clayton helping out at Critical Mass.

Calling all speed debaters

There's more than one way to explore a call to ministry. Speed debating was the method used at a special Critical Mass service held at Peterborough Cathedral in April.

During the interactive communion service, led by Bishop Frank, the 300 or so young people and adults present were invited to spend four minutes with some of the nineteen "speed debaters" dotted around the cathedral. The debaters ranged from a gap year student with Christian Aid, to someone running music projects with youngsters outside the church, to a Special Constable, to a wearer of Christian T shirts. As they summed up their vocation in a nutshell, their listeners were able to ask questions and consider their own personal call.

In keeping with the "God Calling?" theme of the service, a chorus of mobile phone ring tones sounded just before the Confession. Missed calls from God were noted on the back of slips showing mobile phones. These were collected up and shredded during the Absolution (photo left).



The Cathedral's acoustics turned the hum of the shredder's motor to a chainsaw pitch, although Paul Niemiec (Diocesan Youth Officer) denied that this was because some sins were proving more difficult to shred than others.

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Wider church news

Help for Iraqi Christians: The Archbishop of Canterbury has announced a scholarship fund to study the impact of migration on Iraqi Christians. Dr Williams said that there is a numerically huge exodus of Christians across the Middle East, and that those who remain in many countries are exposed to violence or extremism.

Help for the abused: A resource card to help churches support people who have suffered the trauma of abuse has been issued jointly by the Church of England and the Methodist Church. It contains prayers and contact details of help agencies, and stresses the importance of fully implementing child protection policies at parish level.

Help for searching teens: A five-session course for 13-18 year olds, *Get a Life!* Ties in with our diocesan strategy theme for the year. It encourages teenagers to consider vocation and to listen to God's voice for careers advice.

Help for debtors: With average household debt at £8985 excluding mortgages, the Church of England has launched an inter-active online resource to help people manage their household budgets, together with prayers and Bible teaching. It can be found at www.cofe.anglican.org/debt.

Help for marriages: The Church's Mission and Public Affairs Council has stressed its opposition to forced marriages and its support for policy to

protect people from it. The Church has also launched a marriage preparation course written by a relate counsellor and priest, *Growing Together*; surveys show that 44% believe the Church should offer wedding preparation.

Help for the planet: The EU Budget is not matching up to the EU's objectives and fails to provide sufficiently for the common good, concludes the House of Bishops' Europe Panel in a submission to the European Commission's Budget Review. They called for a greener budget that reinforces carbon reduction.

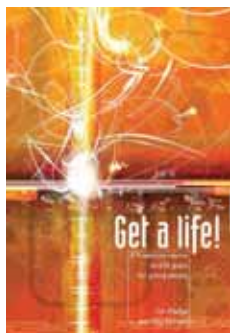
Help for a new start: The Archbishop of York baptised 25 people by full immersion in the freezing open air on Easter Sunday in York city centre.

Earlier he preached to a 2000 strong congregation including Conservative leader David Cameron, saying that Christ's resurrection makes possible a radical style of new life. He called on people to create communities that will heal divisions and tackle conflicts.

Speaking out for Zimbabwe:

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have spoken out about the deteriorating situation of ordinary people in Zimbabwe calling for "a civil society movement that gives voice to those who demand an end to the mayhem that grows out of injustice, poverty, exclusion and violence".

For more news from that national Church visit: www.cofe.anglican.org/news



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Editor: Liz Hurst,

The Diocesan Office, The Palace,
Peterborough PE1 1YB

Tel: 01733 887012

Email: communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

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continued from front page

Youth Evangelism Fund presents golden opportunity

Val Bedwell from St Andrew's Kettering and her children have been to several Critical Mass services and helped out with the refreshments, which included pizza at the end. Her daughter Rose, aged 14, said she enjoyed the services because "you can understand a lot more and there isn't a boring sermon."

This Critical Mass was for adults too, especially those who had been confirmed in recent years. Bishop Frank ended by saying he hoped anyone who had been feeling their age would leave at least a year younger as a result of the worship.

The service was filmed by a cameraman preparing a DVD for the Archbishop's conference on Fresh Expressions and Eucharistic worship, to be held in December.

"Much of what we do as a church seems irrelevant to young people," says Youth Officer Paul Niemiec, "but now we have a golden opportunity to change that." He was referring to the Youth Evangelism Fund that was launched in April.

The purpose of the Fund is to "share the Good News of Jesus in ways that make sense to young people".

The Peterborough Diocese has £24,000 to spend in grants ranging from £200 - £2000. The money is allocated to the diocese from the National Youth Evangelism Fund and



applications are open to those aged 11-20 years. With the support of their church they can apply for a grant to help pay for evangelistic activities designed to reach people of their own age.

For more information contact Paul on 01604 887044.

God is not ageist



A booklet has been produced by the Enabling Elderly Group in the diocese and sent to parishes to help them consider their outreach to the elderly, housebound and isolated.

It gives a snapshot of some of the things churches in the diocese are offering to elderly people. It is

available free, on request to Gillian Spokes, 01604 887048. It can be downloaded from the homepage of the website at: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Time to sign up for Back to Church Sunday

It may seem a long time until 28 September, the next Back to Church Sunday, but you need to register immediately if your church would like to be involved this year.

Nearly 2000 people came back to church in the diocese on Back to Church Sunday last year and 180 of our churches participated.

For details of how to register, order invitations and find out about the training meeting in your area, call Gillian Spokes on 01604 887048 or email: gillian.spokes@peterborough-diocese.org.uk



Lay ministry continues to flourish

A record 28 people started training this year for Licensed Lay Ministry in the diocese. The course, which began after Easter, will last for two years for Pastoral Assistants and Parish Evangelists and three years for Readers.

For future trainees a new course structure is being introduced, beginning in September. It is designed to offer greater flexibility to students. There will be two centres of training, in Northampton and in Peterborough, and some sessions will be open to other

church members.

New Lay Ministers licensed at Peterborough Cathedral in May are:

Pastoral Assistants: Diane Batey, Gloria Blott, Lisa Holland, Michael McIntyre, Janet Roberts, David Scott, Gillian Spokes, Jackie Withington.

Readers: Anne Adamson, Peter Byng, Susan Harris, Sonya Lennon, Ray Railton, Nicola Upson-Smith.

Parish Evangelists: Annie Bamforth, Joan Harris, Bryan Hazeldine, Lara Hosier.

Bungoma Day gives food for thought

Around sixty people from the diocese gathered at Weston Favell on 26 April to hear news from our link Diocese of Bungoma.

The day began with Bishop Ian conveying the best wishes and prayers of Bishop Eliud, to whom he had spoken very recently. Bishop Eliud said that there were now many refugees in Bungoma who had been driven away from other parts of the country following the disputed election in January. Otherwise things had begun to settle down and he asked for prayers that the new political solution would hold.

Each of the first hand accounts that followed captured something of the inspiration and complexity surrounding a link between churches in different continents and cultures.

Geoff Brown from Crick spoke of the humility he felt in the face of both paradise – a joyful people in an abundant land – and poverty – in the town and in the dry season. Deborah Hayter and Pam Walden puzzled over a society that traditionally forbade women from privileges like riding a bike or eating chicken “for health reasons”, and yet

who treated their female guests with the honour they would give to men. Melvyn Hunter reported on progress in getting computers donated from our diocese into Butonge Boys Schools, including the frustrations of shipping and delivery.

Beth Waweru, a Kenyan living in Northampton, highlighted the centrality of the Bible to Kenyan life and challenged those present to give generously to those who were in need. Finally, Sally Keeble, MP for Northampton North, described how much work had been destroyed in the recent tribal clashes. She has been involved in humanitarian work in Kenya for many years and stressed the important role of agencies, including the Church, in continuing with development projects.

“Hearing about our diocesan link always raises huge questions in my mind”, said Clive Evans, Chair of the Bungoma



Paul Parker, Deborah Hayter, Pam Walden, Melvyn Hunter, Beth Waweru, Geoff Brown, Mary Garbutt and Clive Evans at Bungoma day

Link Committee. “It thrills and saddens, puzzles and convicts! Bungoma, though one small area, is a microcosm of Kenya, Africa, indeed the wider developing world. Yet its struggles and challenges so often turn out to be very close to our own.”

“Bungoma Day was a moving overture to the forthcoming visit of not only a party from Bungoma but also of bishops and their wives from the worldwide Anglican Communion at the start of the Lambeth Conference,” said Clive. “We hope that many in our diocese will be able to get on board with the World Church as a result.”

For more information contact Clive Evans at cliver.evans@tiscali.co.uk or visit: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/social/bungoma.htm

“Hearing about our diocesan link always raises huge questions in my mind. It thrills and saddens, puzzles and convicts!”

Church members asked to lobby for greater support for armed forces

At its meeting in April the Diocesan Synod called on church members to lobby government, MPs and local authorities for greater practical support for armed forces personnel.

Speakers at the Synod meeting expressed concern at the reported lack of equipment for front line personnel and especially the apparently inadequate provision of long-term specialist medical and mental care for people who have been injured or traumatised in recent conflicts.

Those proposing the call strongly emphasised that it was issued out of pastoral concern rather than as an endorsement of any particular armed conflict.

Synod passed a motion assuring members of Her Majesty's Forces currently on active service, and their families, of our support and prayers. It also encouraged leaders of church communities in the diocese to lobby the Government, their MPs and local authorities for full moral and logistical support for personnel on active service, as well as support for the wounded, traumatised and bereaved.

Bishops visit diocese prior to Lambeth

There will be an opportunity for the diocese to welcome visiting Bishops from the Anglican Communion prior to the Lambeth Conference in July.

The Archbishop of Seoul in Korea, Bishop Eliud and a neighbouring Kenyan bishop have been personally invited by the diocese. Two others are making private visits to friends here and two more have been allocated to our diocese by the Lambeth Conference organisers.

During their stay, from 11-16 July, they will speak at Deanery meetings and preach in local churches. Details will be posted on the website shortly.

Children's work sprouts green shoots

"It's so exciting to see the green shoots of children's work developing around the diocese," said Rona Orme, Children's Missioner. Judging by the vibrant children's activities in churches leading up to Easter, it is easy to see what she means.

Each Sunday during Lent, children at St Mary's Peterborough created a footpath on a huge board. Week by week they added pictures and words to illustrate Jesus' journey to the cross. A winding path through temptations, signposts and prayers ended in a riot of colourful flowers at the resurrection. "Adults mark Lent but children rarely do," said children's leader



Rebecca Yates. "I wanted to get them thinking about what God meant to them." It certainly seemed to work for both the children and the

adults in the congregation. "I was fun and it helped to remember that it was Lent," said Amber, one of the children in the group. The adults enjoyed reading the children's ideas and opinions.

Children's leaders at St Michael's Silverstone found themselves on a last minute quest for extra copies of the little Easter book they were to give to every entrant in their Easter garden competition. They had bought 45 but it was nowhere near enough when so many children from the village Infant and Junior schools brought their entries to the church's Good Friday workshop (photo top right). Through school the children had been given a strong cardboard plate and asked to include three crosses and a tomb. The resulting entries were beautifully made and imaginative. "This was a wonderful way for many children and families engage with the details of the Easter story," said Rona.

At St Mark's Wellingborough (photo above) the usual 50-60 participants in the Good Friday activity morning



swelled to 79, with others turned away to avoid overcrowding. "We had been into local schools to invite children to enter an Easter Garden competition and we mentioned the activity morning" said Joy Cain, "Very few entered the competition but lots of children turned up to the morning. The Lord has a strange sense of humour sometimes!"

St Peter's Rushden held an Easter activity morning for the first time this year. With Rona's help they took an interactive journey from Palm Sunday to Easter, making palm crosses, learning to sign a Bible verse, baking bread, sharing a feast and visiting the Easter garden in the church.

"It's encouraging to see so many people with a heart for children in the Church", said Rona. Just some of these are pictured below at the Rural Children Rural Church conference at Great Addington on 26 April.

Children taken seriously

At St Peter and St Paul Kettering, on the feast of Christ the King, 70 children and young people were admitted to Communion before Confirmation for the first time.

"The parents of all children in the church family were approached to see if they wanted their children to be involved and nearly all were very positive," said Dominic Barrington, priest in charge. "They were overjoyed to see that their children were taken seriously," he said.

Rona Orme has produced some new materials to help parishes who'd like to explore introducing Communion before Confirmation for children. See the children's pages of the diocesan website for details.

New national regulations for Communion before Confirmation were introduced in 2006 and these form part of our own Bishop's Regulations.

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JUNE

Wednesdays, 1.30pm recitals at All Saints Oakham. Tel: 01572 722698.

Sun 1, Lowick village open afternoon, 2-6pm. Tel: 01832 734952.

Sun 1, Creaton in Bloom. Village gardens open from 1pm. BBQ, teas, stalls in aid of St Michael and All Angels.

Sun 1, Organ recital by Donald Barford at 3.30pm at St Peter & St Paul Abington, Northampton.

Sat 7, Organ Music for a Summer Evening with Simon Johnson. 7.30pm at St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby. Tickets £10 (£7.50) 01604 696080.

Sat 7 & Sun 8, A Weekend of English Music at St Mary's, Ketton, nr Stamford. Sat 7.30pm, piano Margaret Fingerhut, violin Isabelle Flory, conductor Barry Collett. Sun 6pm, The Cantus Choir. Tickets from 01780 721015.

Sat 7 & Sun 8, St Laurence's Brafield on the Green Flower Festival & Fete 1.30pm-4.30pm daily.

Sun 8, Oundle Open Gardens. Refreshments at St Peter's, 2pm-5pm.

Sun 8, Slapton Open Gardens 1pm-6pm. Tel: 01327 860019

Sun 8, Woodend Open Gardens, 2pm-6pm, in aid of St Mary's, Blakesley.

Wed 11, BRF Quiet Day at St Peter's Brackley, 10am-4pm. £25 incl lunch. www.quietplaces.org.uk.

WHAT'S ON

Thurs 12, Werrington Mothers' Union Strawberry Fayre. 2.30pm in Village Centre. Tel: 01733 576541.

Sat 14, Music in Lyddington: Ian Partridge, tenor; Jennifer Partridge, piano. 7.30pm St Andrew's Lyddington. Tel: 01572 820017 for ticket details.

Sat 14, Fiori Musicale at St Peter's Empingham at 7pm. Tickets £14. Tel: 01780 460354.

Sat 14, Enderby Band at St Lawrence's Long Buckby, 7.30pm. Tickets £5 on door or from 01327 842466.

Sat 14 & Sun 15 Laxton Flower Festival, 2.30pm-4.30pm. Sun 7pm, concert with Eleanor Turner, harpist. Tickets £8. Tel: 01780 450362.

Sun 15, Brockhall Concerts: Quartet Camerata at 7.30pm at Brockhall Church. Tickets £12.50 from 01788 892000.

Sat 14, Recital at St Mary's Burton Latimer. Tickets £5. Tel: 01536 724966.

Sun 15, Greetham Open Gardens 11am-6pm.

Sun 15, Pilgrimage to Launde Abbey. Tel: 01572 717254.

Sat 21, All Saints Wellingborough Summer Fete, 10.30am-2.30pm.

Sat 21 & Sun 22, St Peter's Cogenhoe Flower Festival & Fete, Sat 2pm-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm.

Sun 22, Bulwick Church Fete, 2pm with Thrapston Town Band. Tel: 01780 450300.

Sat 28, Peterfest. A celebration of Releasing Ministry, Peterborough Cathedral, 12 noon-3pm.

Sat 28, St Peter's Rushden Centenary Fayre, 2pm to 4pm.

Sat 28, Northampton Philharmonic Choir concert at St Michael's, Northampton, 7.30pm. Tickets: £12 - £18. Tel: 07958 768661.

Sat 28, Scirocco wind ensemble at St Mary's Rushden 7.30pm. Tel: 07760 111825.

Sat 28 & Sun 29, St James' Grettton Flower Festival. Tel: 01536 770728.

Sat 28 & Sun 29, St John's, Werrington Flower Festival, 2-5pm. Tel: 01733 576541.

JULY

Sat 5, Newton Bromswold Fete at 2.30pm. Children's Fancy Dress 3pm.

Sat 5, Abington Summer Fete, the Church in the Park, Northampton at 2pm.

Sat 5, Ordination of Priests, 4pm at Peterborough Cathedral

Sat 5, Music in Lyddington: O Duo percussion duo. 7.30pm at St Andrew's Lyddington. Tickets: £12/£14/students £2. Tel: 01572 820017. www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk

Sun 6, Ordination of Deacons, 11am at Peterborough Cathedral

Sat 5 & Sun 6, Yardley Gobion Open Gardens. 1.30pm-5.30pm daily. Flower display in the Church. Entry £4 to all.

Sat 5 & Sun, Little Houghton Festival. Sat 2pm Fete. Sat & Sun open gardens and exhibition in Church.

Sun 6, Hannington Open Gardens, 11am-5pm. Historical 13th Century church.

Sun 6, Organ recital at St Peter & St Paul Abington, Northampton, 3.30pm.

Mon 7, Tallis Scholars sung Eucharist, 5.30pm;

Tues 8, Tallis Scholars Choral Evensong, 5.30pm.

Fri 11, Tallis Scholars gala concert, 7.30pm. Tickets 01572 723000. At All Saints Oakham.

Sat 12, 'The Armed Man' – A Mass for Peace, by Karl Jenkins sung by Northampton Chamber Choir. 7.30pm at Christ Church, Northampton. Tickets: £12 (£10) on door or 01604 250905. www.northamptonchamberchoir.org.uk

Sat 12 & Sun 13, St Faith's Kilsby Flower Festival. Church open 11am-5pm. Classic cars and other attractions 2-5pm. Family service 10am Sunday.

AUGUST

Mon 4 – Sat 8, Chattabox Holiday Club for ages 4 and 11 at St Peter's Oundle, 9am-1pm. Call Youth and Community Youth Worker on 07811 160047.

Sat 16, Music in Lyddington – wind quintet with Tom Poster. 7.30pm at St Andrew's Lyddington. Tickets: £12/£14/students £2. Tel: 01572 820017. www.musicinlyddington.rutnet.co.uk

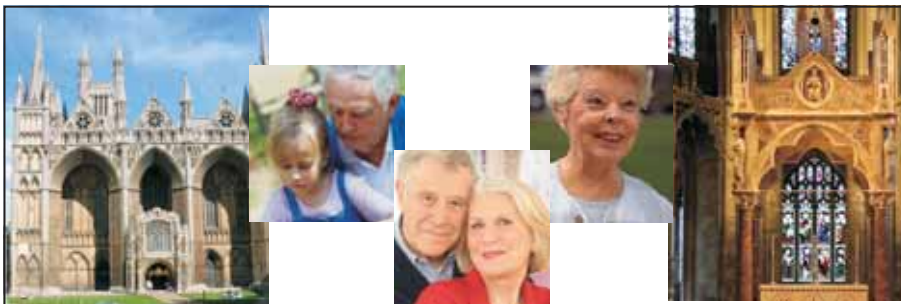
Sat 23 – Mon 25, Flower Festival at Launde Abbey 11am-4pm.

Sat 23 & Sun 24, Bulwick & Blatherwycke Horticultural Show, 2pm in St Nicholas Church.

Sat 23 – Mon 25, Centenary Flower & Music Festival, St Mary the Virgin, Wellingborough. Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12 noon-5pm.

Mon 25, Organ recital, 11.15am at All Saints, Oakham. Retiring collection.

For details of retreats, holidays and summer Sunday afternoon teas at Launde Abbey call 01572 717254 or visit www.launde.org.uk



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Sue clocks up deaneries

Sue Parkinson, Lay Chair of Northampton Deanery, set out on a quest after attending the opening of the newly refurbished St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy last year.

"A huge amount of money had been raised but there were still lots of extras needed," said Sue. "I noticed there were no clocks in any of the rooms or at the nurses' station. Realising 12 were needed and we have 12 deaneries, I decided to approach my fellow lay chairs and invite each deanery to buy one. The Hospital chose simple, clear faced stainless steel clocks which only cost £9 each so it wasn't an enormous commitment. Not being one to give up easily, I managed to collect 12 cheques during the last year and these were sent off for the clock purchase."

Bishop helps school celebrate 20 years



Photo: Kevin Heasman

At one of his first public engagements since finishing a course of chemotherapy, Bishop Ian was at William Law CE Primary School at Werrington, Peterborough in April to help them celebrate their 20th anniversary.

A special service of thanksgiving and re-dedication was held at the school, which is also the home of Emmanuel Church, Werrington.

Bishop Ian is being treated for a rare form of cancer of the lung cavity. A scan following his chemotherapy showed that the cancer, whilst still there, has shrunk quite dramatically. "I am feeling much better and the unpleasant effects of chemotherapy are gradually wearing off," he said. "My next appointment with the oncologist is in late June and in the meantime he has encouraged me to do as much work as I feel able to."

Rushden's ringers win the day



At the Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers' Spring Festival at the end of April, the six bell striking competition attracted eight tower teams to Braunston near Daventry. The competition was won by ringers from Rushden.

Judge Brian Foley (left) presents the Weaver Shield to Simon Dixon of Rushden. *Photo: Carole Pullin*

New deacons ordained at Petertide

The following will be ordained at Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 6 July.

Stipendiary Deacons:

Paul Armstead, Northampton St Matthew
Paul Frost, Kettering Christ the King
Robert Miles, Moulton, St Peter & St Paul
Michael Moore, Peterborough St Mary
Colin Simpson, The Astwell Group of Parishes

Andrea Watkins, Heyford w Stowe-Nine-Churches & Flore w Brockhall

SSM Deacons:

Gary Alderson, Wellingborough St Mark
Sarah Brown, Welford w Sibbertoft & Marston Trussell
Hildred Crowther, Oakham w Hambleton & Egleton & Braunston w Brooke
Rachel Hetherington, St Crispin Group
Peter Morrell, Uppingham w Ayston & Wardley w Belton
Carolyn Oley, The Lamfold Benefice
Elizabeth Pelly, The Tove Benefice
Susan Rolfe, Peterborough Christ the Carpenter
Janet Tebby, Wootton w Quinton & Preston
Geoff Waters, Northampton St Giles

Floods remembered

The tenth anniversary of the devastating floods in Northampton on Good Friday 1998 was marked at Becket's Park in the town by a short service and the laying of a wreath by Northampton Sea Scouts. The Area Dean of Northampton, David Wiseman, took the service and said that the floods were part of the shared memory of the town. "It is a memory made up of individual acts of kindness and bravery".



Two people were killed in the floods which injured more than 150 and ruined some 2,000 homes and businesses. *Photo: Northants Newspapers*