

Building communities of wholeness with Christ at the centre.



St Mary's



All Saints'



St Giles



After the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York in September, 2001 out of the wreckage appeared a cross beam which had fallen as the buildings collapsed. Standing upright, it was gradually uncovered as the search for survivors went on. The cross, which remains at Ground Zero, has become a symbol of healing and hope.

There are places in the world where terrible things have happened and where the atmosphere remains strained and sombre. Auschwitz, which was liberated in January 1945, I am told, is one. Another, that I have visited myself, is Ground Zero in New York.

Before the rebuilding began, one looked through the surrounding wire at the base of the Twin Towers in the centre of Manhattan at the huge hole where the buildings once stood. Reading the stories of heroism and loss of that day around the site was both moving and terrible. It is indeed a reserved and sombre place at the very heart of one of the world's greatest cities.

The cross that emerged from the rubble is to be preserved and it stands today as a testament to human hope in the face of adversity and hatred. Pictures of the cross are being used on resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which celebrates its centenary this year.

It is hard to imagine now, but a century ago there was little or no contact between the various denominations of the Christian church. In history, Roman Catholics and Protestants had persecuted each other, often using the most brutal and horrifying methods of torture and execution. It wasn't until the early years of the last century that Catholic priests were even allowed to say the Lord's Prayer with their Protestant counterparts.

In 1907, the then Vicar of Moreton-on-Marsh, Revd Spencer Jones, wrote to Revd Paul Wattson, a priest in the Episcopal Church of America, suggesting a day be set aside to pray for Christian unity. Wattson suggested instead an 'Octave' of prayer between the Roman Catholic feast day of the 'Chair of St. Peter' (formerly 18th January) and the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (25th January). One might say, typically, the idea was taken up by Protestant churches who began their own week of prayer for unity which ended around Pentecost. It was the ground breaking Second Vatican Council that called for joint observance of a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which, since 1968, as been held during the octave originally envisaged by Revd Wattson in 1907.

Moves toward Christian unity and the ecumenical movement that followed have seen great advances during the last century. 'Churches Together' are umbrella organisations where local Christian denominations work closely together, showing a 'unity in diversity'. In North Wilts deanery, Malmesbury and Cricklade are part of the 'Churches Together' movement and Hullavington, Norton and Stanton made an 'Ecumenical Declaration of Welcome' in 2001, a practical outworking of which is that two of the Churchwardens in these churches were originally baptised Roman Catholics.

In John 17:21 Christ himself called that 'all may be one' and the theme of this centenary year of the Week of Prayer is taken from Paul's first letter to Timothy that we ought to 'pray without ceasing'. Given the very public divisions within the worldwide Anglican Communion, and 2008 will almost certainly see a boycott of the Lambeth Conference by some Provinces, it could be argued that we need to get our own house in order before seeking common ground with others. And it might be said that there is still much work to be done to enable Gauzebrook to fulfil its vision of unity of purpose in diversity, although progress was indeed made in many areas last year.

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Group and Deanery Office opens for business!

After more than a year in the planning and conversion, the new office for Braydon Brook Churches, Gauzebrook and the North Wiltshire Deanery is opening the week beginning 28th January.

The office will be open four mornings and one afternoon a week, so look out on the pew sheet for times which, at the time of writing, have yet to be finally confirmed.

The administrator is Steve Slarke, who is leaving a post with the Department of Work and Pensions to take up this employment.

Steve is married to Sarah and their daughter, Rebekah, was born earlier this year. Steve has considerable knowledge and expertise in the field of IT and will bring many skills to the post as new systems of communication are implemented and begin to operate.

The office is an exciting development and an example of partnership and collaboration between parishes in the deanery.

Full details, including telephone number and e mail address will be published in next month's magazine.

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There is no doubt that 2008 will provide us with fresh challenges. Our secular world has both a fascination with faith and belief and a suspicion of organised religion. When Christians are able to speak and pray with one voice there is little doubt of the impact that can be made.

This year we will be marking the centenary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a special service at Holy Cross, Sherston on Sunday 20th January at 6.00 p.m. I do hope Christians of all denominations will feel able to join us to 'pray without ceasing' that 'all may be one'.



Andrew Evans

ST. GILES LIVING CHURCHYARD PROJECT AGM

We will be holding an informal AGM on Monday 4th February at the New Inn, Seagry 7.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in finding out what the project is about, please do come along.

We are a friendly group and you may be able to bring new ideas; everyone has equal input! 2008 will be our 10th anniversary year, so we hope to organise a special event to celebrate this milestone.

For further information contact Ivan 01249 657684 or Liz 01666 837921.



Sherston has an active branch of the Mothers Union which meets in Sherston Church once a month at 7pm on a Thursday. They welcome visitors.

This month there is an Epiphany Service at 2.30pm on January 6th at Minety.

The Annual General Meeting is on January 17th in Sherston.

For further information please contact Pat Whitehouse on 840640

Deuteronomy would like to thank everyone who contributed to the £73 that was collected whilst Carol singing around the streets of Hullavington.

The money has been donated to Water Aid.
We all wish you a very Happy New Year.

January Services

Alderton

13th 10.00 am Family Service

Easton Grey

6th 6.00 pm Evening Worship

20th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Foxley

13th 11.00am Holy Communion BCP

27th 9.30 am Family Service

Hullavington

6th 11.00am www.firstsunday@11.00

6.00 pm Evensong

13th 11.00am Holy Communion

20th 11.00am Morning Praise

27th 11.00am All Age Family Service

Luckington

6th 11.00am Family Communion

13th 11.00am Mattins

20th 11.00am All Age Family Service

27th 11.00am Holy Communion

Norton

6th 9.30am Holy Communion

Sherston

6th 8.00 am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

13th 8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

20th 8.00am Holy Communion

9.30 am Family Service

6.00pm Holy Communion

27th 8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

Stanton St Quintin

6th 11.00am Morning Praise

13th 9.30am All Age Family Service

20th 9.30am Holy Communion

27th 6.00pm Holy Communion

www.firstSunday@11.00 is on the first Sunday of every month at St Mary's, Hullavington. It is an informal service welcoming anyone of any age with any or no previous experience of church.

Hullavington prayer and study groups will start again on:

Tuesday 8 Jan at 8.00pm at Court House

Tuesday 22 Jan at 12.45pm chez Haffenden

These are very informal and fun, if you would be interested in joining one let Henny know (837778).

Coffee at Serendipity

Every Friday morning as usual throughout January



For information about **MUSTARD SEEDS, DEUTERONOMY, OR GOLDEN THREADS**, ring Alison on 01666 837661.

ADVANCE NOTICE—QUIZ

On Saturday 1st March in the Church Hall in Stanton St Quintin we will be running another of our enjoyable Quizzes!

Starting at 7.30pm, teams of 4-6,

£6.50 per person.

Delicious Hot Supper served at half-time.



Spotted in other Church Magazines and Newsletters!

1. Thursday night—potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
2. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
3. Don't let worry kill you off, let the Church help.
4. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
5. Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm in the Church Hall. Please use large double doors at the side entrance.

Our thanks to Furry Tails, your local pet suppliers of Chippenham and Cirencester who have extended their sponsorship of The Net. Tel 01249 444332, 01285 650444 or 01225 775375