

June 2005

Gridiron

The Magazine of Saint Laurence's Church, Upton.



From the Editor:

Dear Friends,

Christian Aid Week may have come and gone again, but the issue of poverty remains and the solution remains elusive. Our Prime Minister is making all the right noises about focussing the G8 summit on Africa and climate change, but it remains to be seen how much will be achieved. The French (and possibly Dutch, not known at the time of writing) rejection of the EU Constitution is likely to be a major distraction.

Your DCC is considering revised plans for reordering the church and we expect there to be some action in the near future. Our immediate priority is to cure the damp problems and then move rapidly on to improving the facilities. Although some Parish funds are available, we must keep up our fundraising efforts in order to pay for this and maintain the building. You don't need me to tell you that our Medieval Fayre will soon be upon us, so please look out those bottles, items of bric-a-brac, craftwork and jars to fill with jam!

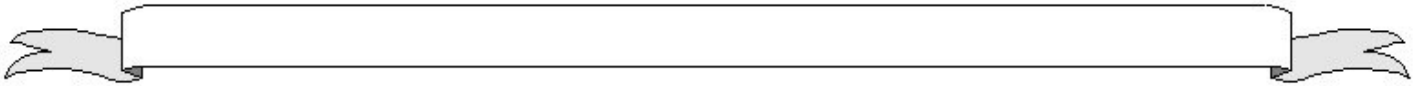
Next month's Gridiron will be a double issue for July and August. It would be nice to receive some articles on life at St Laurence's!

Yours in Christ,

Dave



SERVICES AT ST LAURENCE'S

- 1st Sunday: 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 11.00am Family Service
- 2nd Sunday: 11.00am Sung Communion
- 3rd Sunday: 9.45am Children's Service
 11.00am Sung Communion
- 4th Sunday: 11.00am Sung Communion
- Thursdays: 10.00am Holy Communion
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EVENTS IN JUNE

Sat 4th	9.30am	Parish Outing to Bath (meet at SM)
Sun 12th	5.20pm	Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Healing Service: Holy Communion & laying on of Hands (SM)

Christian Aid is 60 years old this year!

Like all 60 year olds, we have seen many changes in the world around us and in ourselves. And like many 60 year olds, we are planning to celebrate the birthday in style. In April volunteers, staff and overseas partners are coming together for special services across the country. In cathedrals and halls in Dublin, London, Chester Sheffield and elsewhere, people will gather to celebrate what has been achieved over the past 60 years, and to look to the future. And that is just the start of celebrations that will take place in churches large and small throughout the year. During the last 60 years many important changes have taken place in development, in society and in politics. There have been significant achievements. The number of children in developing countries who died before their fifth birthday fell by more than half between 1960 and 2000. During the same period, the number of adults who can read rose from half the world's population to three quarters.

There is much to celebrate: people who are alive today because of the work of Christian Aid's partners, people who have a sustainable income and a secure supply of food and clean water, women and marginalised people who have found a voice in decision making.

But there is still much that shames and challenges. Overall in the last 60 years, global inequality has increased. While wealth has increased and we have the capacity to cure diseases that were once fatal, still half the world's population lives on less than £1.30 per day and children die every day from diarrhoea. The advances in technology, medicine and standards of living have not been shared equally.

We have many hopes for the next 60 years. We want the world to be significantly nearer to eradicating poverty by 2065. People throughout the UK and Ireland and around the world are acting, campaigning, praying and giving to make that vision a reality. So let's enjoy the celebrations throughout the year, looking back on what has been achieved during the last six decades. But let's also look to the future, and rededicate ourselves to working for the eradication of poverty, however long it takes.

From the Christian Aid website

2005: A year to make history - A year to make poverty history

'Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that generation' – Nelson Mandela, speaking in Trafalgar Square, London, 3 February 2005.

As midnight struck on 31 December 2004 Christian Aid was looking forward to some unprecedented opportunities lying ahead in 2005. Already on New Year's Day the Vicar of Dibley introduced the Make Poverty History campaign on prime time TV. And white wristbands rapidly became the 'must have fashion accessory', in the words of Heat magazine. There were plans for mass mobilisation in Whitehall in April and Edinburgh in July. And there was excitement around the UK's presidency of the EU in the second half of this year and the G8 summit being held in Gleneagles.

On the night of 15 April, 25,000 people flocked to London. Whitehall was filled with deafening cries for Trade Justice, not free trade. Organisers of the Make Poverty History coalition and local police estimate that up to 250,000 campaigners dressed in white T shirts will descend on Edinburgh on 2 July, to form a white band round the centre of the Scottish capital.

The campaign has caught the attention of the media and of the public, uniting people of different ages, from the Boys Brigade to the Mothers Union, and different faiths, from CAFOD and Christian Aid to Islamic Relief, in an unprecedented call for action. This year has been and continues to be a time of unrivalled opportunity to lobby the leaders of the world's leading industrialised nations. An opportunity to make changes that could save the 30,000 children that die every day from preventable causes.

On 1 July the UK takes over the presidency of the EU for six months. The annual summit of the G8 takes place in Gleneagles from 6 to 8 July. The events so eagerly anticipated have finally arrived! Presidency of the EU gives a state significant control over the agenda of the meetings, with opportunities to launch and build support for their own initiatives. Tony Blair has said that the focus of the G8 summit will be climate change and the challenges of Africa, agreeing on ways to take the recommendations of the Africa Commission forward. Thanks to the lobbying of thousands of campaigners, the Commission is saying things which directly endorse what the Trade Justice Campaign has been saying since 2001: 'Forcing poor countries to

liberalise through trade agreements is the wrong approach to achieving growth and poverty reduction in Africa, and elsewhere.'

There is a long way still to go if talk and wise words are to find their way into action and structural change. It may be a long road, but we can be a generation that is great, that Makes History, that sees an end to the scandal of poverty.

For further details on the Trade Justice campaign and related events go to www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/index.htm

Friends' Letter from Merton Priory after 8th Nones, 1st May 2005

Aware that this week is the 60th anniversary of VE Day, I was reminded that the men and women who worked so hard for us in the war years were brought up within the sound of the Authorised Version of the Bible. Many of them would have heard the Prayer Book every Sunday. As a teacher in the 1960s and 1970s, it became more and more clear that words of hymns were being changed for no good reason. I taught in many very "deprived" areas and know very well that there was never any need to change the beauty of a sentence in order to make it better understood. (One of the pupils I taught in such an area for six years now teaches Hebrew at a Theological College) We do English a grave disservice if we think that the Authorised Version and the Prayer Book use language too difficult to understand.

The attendance at this year's Nones was well above average and a new reader was added to our rota. After the service, we were able to serve biscuits made to a medieval style recipe with the refreshments. A delegation from Huntingdon surprised us all when they donated a document celebrating the event and our 900 years joint history. It was canons of St Mary's Huntingdon who helped Gilbert the Norman establish St Mary's Priory, Merton, in the 11th century.

The recent events in St Peter's Square in Rome have reminded us how lively Christianity can be when based on the Word of God. The canons here at Merton encapsulated the message of Christianity – new birth in Jesus. They

wrote later of their ministry at Merton – “and there during many years, many persons both noble and gentle, casting aside the world and the Old Man, very devoutly put on the New Man created in justice and sanctity of life”. (Heales. The Merton Priory Records, p4.)

Nones at Merton shows no partiality to church allegiance. Following centuries of no significant change, after 1538AD church allegiance diversified and developed. The body of Christ, however, stays the same – a body of believers who trust Him for salvation and work out their faith in good works that He may be glorified. Leaders and readers alike have come from different Christian backgrounds, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Moravian, Salvation Army and Nonconformist. The “Introducer” has introduced every Nones and several readers have attended eight annual services. Others have returned again and again. Interest in this service is now very widely distributed throughout the UK and it is thrilling to see more and more groups taking part.

The 9th Nones will be on Sunday 7th May 2006 at 3pm.

Wanted: Stamps

Mons is collecting used postage stamps which can be sold to raise money for good causes. If you can collect some, Barbara or I would be pleased to receive them on Mons' behalf.

Dave Kill

Remember

Always remember to forget the things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember the things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget the friend that proved untrue.
But never forget to remember those who have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget the trouble that passed away.
But never forget to remember the blessings that come each day.

Found by Beryl Bond in another magazine.

The Blessing of Peace

The blessing of Him
Who stilled the storm.
The blessing of peace
And a new deep calm.
The blessing of joy
Come to your mind.
The blessing of love
Help you unwind.
Peace in your dealings
Peace in your days
Peace in you living
And give God praise.

Submitted by Gloria Thompson

Bad Parenting



Submitted by Mike Macleod

**MOTHERS' UNION – UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY SLOUGH BRANCH
PROGRAMME FOR 2005**

All are open meetings

Morning meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month at St Laurence's.

Doors open 10.30am, Service at 10.40am, Talk at 11pm, Coffee 12noon approx., followed by a light lunch.

Afternoon meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at St Peter's 3pm.

Meeting followed by tea.

Evening meetings: 1st Tuesday of every month at St Laurence's,

7.30pm, followed by supper, beginning on 6th January.

Prayer Group: Last Wednesday of the month at 8pm; Winter months at St Laurence's, Summer months at St Mary's.

Wed 15 June

Rosemary Pierce: The MU in The Congo

Sat 18 June

(2.30pm) Cream Teas at 16 Dolphin Road

Tue 5 July

Gillian Hopkinson: Making Time for God

Fri 15 July

Welcoming at Christ Church, Oxford

Mon 25 July

(5.30pm) AGM, followed by Diocesan Open Meeting:
Marigold Seager-Berry

Tue 5 July

NEXT MONTH'S GRIDIRON

Please let me have any articles for the July-August double issue by **Sunday 12th June** at the latest!

Dave

