

The Octagon



BAR HILL CHURCH NEWSLETTER ISSUE 356: NOVEMBER 2011

Memorial Garden Update by Chris Stannard



The Memorial Garden continues to be appreciated by many including people who merely spend maybe a minute or two amongst the flowers or those who have their lunch in the garden. The summer plants have been fantastic and I am grateful to everyone who has given up their time to help water the garden and remove the odd weed or two.

Autumn is fast approaching and we are preparing to undertake the autumn plant-out of bulbs and shrubs on Saturday 19th November, subject to frost. We will be there from 0930am until lunchtime. Can you help? Please bring a spade and fork. We have been extremely grateful for the work that Harry and his team at the Post Office have done in collecting monies on behalf of our village. It has been agreed to close this facility now. We still require further monies for this work in order to maintain the garden in the future. We have opened an account at the Cambridge Building Society called the "Memorial Garden Fund" and further donations may be made here. If you would like to make a donation or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me, Chris Stannard, Project Co-ordinator, either by email c.e.stannard@ntlworld.com or telephone 01954 781978.

Jim Platts – Interim Moderator during Interregnum



Jim reminded the church council to have confidence in what God has called us to do and that our strength lies in the roots of our different denominations and to celebrate that.

The LAG is delighted to announce that Jim Platts is to be our Interim Moderator. Jim is the Quaker member of the LAG and serves on the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council. He is involved with Bar Hill Scout Group and has been a member of the LAG for about six years. Jim and his wife Meg know the history of our church from the start and Jim supported the church during the previous interregnum. We unanimously invited him to be our Interim Moderator. Jim would like to visit as many groups within the church as possible including a home group, knit and natter, a youth service as well as attending some of the wider leadership meetings.

As servants of Christ we commit ourselves to worship, work and witness together in his name to establish his kingdom in our village and beyond.

Eddie Patrick

It is with sadness that we report the death of Eddie Patrick. Eddie died in his sleep on 24 October after suffering from a chest infection. He was 94 years old, a well –respected member of our community, a keen supporter of Northampton Saints Rugby Club and a member of the Royal British Legion. Eddie will be greatly missed by all of us in the Church Community.

PRAYER TIMES

There will be regular times of prayer for us to discern the Lord's direction for His church here in Bar Hill. Meetings will be held every first Tuesday of the month and also on the Saturday before a Church Meeting i.e. Tuesday 1 November at 7:30pm and Saturday 12 November from 10am to 1pm. The Church meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 November.

400th anniversary of the King James Bible



This year is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and to mark the occasion, and promote interest in the Bible, the Bible Society have organised The People's Bible - a national tour which will produce a unique, hand-written edition of the Bible. The project was launched on 19 June, at Edinburgh Castle - the anniversary of James' birth at the castle, in 1566. It will end at Westminster Abbey on 16th November 2011. Both a paper copy and an on-line version will be produced and we have the chance to make our mark in history when the tour comes to Cambridge in November. If you go along you will be given 2 bible verses and a volunteer will show you how to copy them onto digital paper. You could also personalise them with your name, location etc to mark your historic moment. Within minutes your handwritten verses will be on the website www.thepeoplesbible.org and remain there for future generations to see – the first ever digital handwritten Bible. An estimated 35,000 people will take part, and for many it will be their first ever contact with the bible. **Pam Vendy**

Sunday Morning Creche

From November onwards, in the Sunday morning services, there will be crèche provision for children of reception year and younger. Two members of the crèche team will be available each week, and will simply attend the service if not required. A member of the team will be with the welcoming team, and the crèche will operate in the TNT room. The team rota is organised by Lesley Huggett (200786).



Training for Lay Ministry: Update by Richard Lewney

Just over two years ago I began a course of training for lay ministry offered by the United Reformed Church called TLS (Training for Learning and Serving). In July I completed the first two years' 'Foundation' stage, and in September I began a third year focusing on training for leading worship and preaching. All being well, after this year I will be accredited by the URC as a lay preacher, which means that I will be recognised as called and suitably trained and gifted to take services in a lay (i.e. not ordained) capacity.

The course involves working through various modules designed to deepen our thinking about what worship is and how to lead it, six tutorials per term (with tutors who generously volunteer their time), four residential weekends with 15 others who are doing the same course, written assignments, and practical work on assignment at a church other than my home church. My assignment is at Emmanuel URC on Trumpington Street in Cambridge, together with two smaller churches with which it is associated (Cherry Hinton Road and Castle End Mission). So when I'm not in Bar Hill on a Sunday I'll either be on a residential weekend or at one of those three churches. In May/June next year I shall lead and preach at a service which is assessed (kind of like a driving test!).

I've really enjoyed the course so far and I feel that I've grown a lot through the various learning opportunities. There's quite a lot to pack in around the day job, but what else is there to do as the dark evenings draw in? I always appreciate any feedback you may have to give about any service I help to lead in Bar Hill, whether positive or (constructively!) negative.



Richard Lewney

TLS is not just about training for lay preaching. It's intended to help people develop various gifts for various ways of serving others, and I think the URC do a great job investing in lay ministry. If you're interested, you can find out more at www.tlsonline.co.uk



Recycling postcards for MAF

Are you ready to get rid of holiday post cards you've been sent this summer? Mission Aviation Fellowship can sell any post cards, used or unused, and so far have raised thousands of pounds to help keep their aircraft flying in remote areas of the world – a real life line to many isolated communities without easy access to health care facilities, emergency aid etc. So if you have any post cards, now or in the future, do please pass them to me and I will make sure they reach MAF. Many thanks, Pam Vendy

A Day in the Life of...Jan Hewins

One great pleasure of retirement is that every day is different but, for me, days begin the same. Woken by early news on the radio, it's put the kettle on, feed the wild birds, open the greenhouse, feed the fish and have a fruitless hunt for frogs to keep the dog happy. Every morning the dog has a long walk; frequently to Dry Drayton to see the rabbits. Sometimes it is just me and sometimes Mike and I go together. Once a week I go to a painting class and, on Wednesday afternoons, to the Church Art Group. Rediscovering a talent I gave up after primary school gives me great pleasure and seeing the Art Group growing to be part of the church community, making displays, Christmas cards and in the fete makes it so much better.

Thursday afternoons is Knit and Natter; it is coming up to the Shoe Box appeal time now. After school, we will often see Amy, the granddaughter who lives closest. Playing with her mum's Sindy dolls is the current favourite game. While Grandad reads Raymond Brigg's "Father Christmas" yet again, I can cook her sausage and waffles and leave the worry about healthy eating to her mother.

Almost every day I will spend some time in the garden. At this time of year I will make sure I have cuttings of special fuchsias; these are my particular favourites. There are all the end of summer jobs to be done, taking out plants which have finished flowering, run wild or just need cutting down.

Most days I will also be doing something in my publicity coordinator's role. Checking emails for the weekly notices and writing notices is the easy part. Making posters is even easier. Updating the website is still a struggle.

After a short dog walk (she does take up a lot of time), I always cook. Mike and I have always eaten together in the evenings. Our evenings seem to have become really busy. Sometimes I have the daughter or, more likely now, a granddaughter of a friend to help with school science. This is usually a confidence building exercise for a worried child. We host Home Group on Mondays and on Thursdays it is dog training night. This should be called dog's social club where she meets her friends but we do obedience displays for fun and charity several times a year, including Bar Hill Fete this time.

And so to bed or at least falling asleep in front of the television. Writing this has made me realise I am living a very easy life!





Bar Hill Church November 2011 Services

Sunday 6 November	10am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Worship
Monday 7 November	10am Wreath Laying Service (in the Memorial Garden)
Sunday 13 November	8am Holy Communion 10am Service of Remembrance 3.30pm Family Fun* 6.30pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 20 November	10am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday 23 November	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 27 November	10am All-age Advent Service 6.30pm Evening Worship
There is also a Roman Catholic service on Saturday evenings at 6.00 pm	People to contact: Church Centre Manager: Tel/Fax: 01954 206120 (office hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30-10.30)

*particularly appropriate for children of year 2 and under