



St. Mary's

&



1 News

Issue 1

June '08



Christian comments

"Welcome to your Communications Committee's first news letter. This was set up by your new PCC, elected last month, the members of which are as follows;

Christian Rose (Chairman), Glenn Huntington (Treasurer), Lucy Robertson (Secretary), Peter Davies (Church Warden), Jill Davis (Church Warden), Simon Harris, Jennifer McLean, Edward Powley, Wendy Smith, Clive Steer, Jeremy Taylor, Justin Underwood, Sarah Khadka-Lowe (Mission Chairman, PCC co-opted))
The committee was set up to achieve the following mission;

'Through communication, our aim is to enable every member of the congregation to feel involved with all aspects of Church life, to express their thoughts and opinions and know that they will be listened to'

This is a pretty tall order and it may take us some time to achieve it, so please bear with us. Your Communications Committee members are as follows;

Christian Rose

Jill Davis

Peter Davies

Helen Lock

Jennifer McLean

Linda Hill

We will communicate key updates on topics including, finance, youth, mission and many other newsworthy topics. We will achieve this through the following methods;

Bulletins both via email and snail mail (the paper version)

Communicating news at a dedicated slot in the services.

Introducing various members of the PCC and the Church's Leadership team.

Providing a chance for questions, after the service, to the communications team.

We do hope this will help in understanding what is going on in our Church and look forward to gaining your thoughts and views, we look forward to serving you through God's Word.

Christian Rose (Chairman)

Who's Who in choosing a new minister

1. The Patron

Each church has a Patron, who has the right to "present" a new minister. In many cases, the right belongs to the Queen or to the Bishop of the diocese. The Patron may, however, be a private person. This is so in our own case. The right has been in the family of Col. Weston for many years. He himself was actively involved in the appointment of Anthony and of Peter Robinson before him.

As the 9.00 congregation know well, Tony Weston, despite having a car journey of an hour and a half each way, worships with us regularly. We are blessed in having a Patron who has the interests of our church so much at heart.

2. The Bishop / Archdeacon

Every new minister coming to the diocese has to be licensed by the Bishop of Guildford. The Bishop will want to ensure that the interests of the diocese and of the wider Anglican church are being met when an appointment is made. Those interests may sometimes differ from those of the local church, and discussion will then be held between the Bishop, the Patron and the PCC.

The Bishop delegates much of his work to the Archdeacon of Dorking, the Ven. Julian Henderson, who has a close working relationship with the Churchwardens throughout the process.

3. The PCC

The PCC represents the local church in the appointment. In practice, it delegates the practical work to two of its members, who are the Parish Representatives. In our case, these will be people who can adequately represent each of our two congregations. The Parish Representatives are usually, but not necessarily, the Churchwardens.

4. The Churchwardens

Jill Davis and Peter Davies were appointed Churchwardens at our Annual Meeting in May. Whether or not they are our Parish Representatives, they will be responsible for maintaining church services during the interregnum, and for providing clergy whenever necessary, for example for communions, baptisms and marriages. At law, a churchwarden is an officer of the

Bishop, and is accountable to him, and to the Archdeacon, as to the state of the church and parish. Jill and Peter will endeavour to consult every part of the Church and community so that all views are represented. They have already started the consultation process by hearing the views of the new LIFE Leadership committee and starting discussions with leaders at the Church Leadership meeting.

Procedure and Timetable

1. The PCC will soon have two important meetings –
 - a) A Vacancy Meeting on 19 June, when the Archdeacon will discuss the whole process of appointing a new minister with the PCC and the Patron;
 - b) a follow-up Meeting on 10 July, to appoint the Parish representatives; to prepare a Parish Statement. This document describes the parish of West Horsley, the church buildings and Rectory, the Staff and other team members who help to lead our two congregations, the types of services

we have, a summary of our financial position, our Mission Partners, etc. It also identifies our core values as a church, our present needs and aspirations, and what we shall be looking for in a new leader. The document is important in focusing our minds on the future as well as the present. It is also a valuable guide for any candidate who applies for the job; to ask the Patron to put in motion the search for a new minister. In practice, the Patron and the Parish Representatives and the Archdeacon will work closely together. The

2. At this stage, the Bishop may ask for a joint meeting of the Patron, the PCC and himself to put forward the needs of the diocese. If that happens, the search will be deferred until all the parties are agreed.
3. It is hoped that the search will result in some outstanding candidates being short-listed. We will produce another Newsletter at that stage to give you our thoughts on interviewing and selection.

Peter Davies (Church Warden)

L1FE Leadership Committee

This committee is a sub-committee of the PCC. It consists of nine members of the PCC, one PCC co-opted member and three co-opted members.

Jill Davis

Peter Davies

Simon Harris

Glenn Huntington

Sarah Khadka-Lowe

Jennifer McLean

Wendy Smith

Jeremy Taylor

Justin Underwood

Co-opted

Ben Jeffrey

Steve Lock

Sarah Phillpot

The remit of this committee is to oversee the running of the L1FE Congregation during the Interregnum. It must make sure the L1FE Congregation complies with the wishes of our Rural Dean (Jeremy Cresswell) and that the Parish Representatives are aware of the L1FE Congregation's wishes. It must also make sure that the L1FE Congregation are fully informed of the process for installing their new incumbent.

At the first meeting on 21st May 2008 Peter Davies reminded the committee of the processes of the interregnum and the members gave views on their ideal candidate.

Bible based teacher

Ability to lead and meet the needs of both congregations

30-40yr old family man

Balanced between being an anointed teacher of the Word and a charismatic believer in the working of the Spirit.

Attractive personality

Team leader and mentor (shepherd)

Jill Davis

Prayer Meeting for the Whole Church

Especially in view of our requirements above! Please do not forget our Prayer Meeting for the interregnum at St Mary's Church on 30th June 8pm.

P.U.S.H
'Pray until something happens'

Anthony's Leaving Party

In case you haven't heard! – You are invited to this on 20th July, Kingston Meadows 1.30 pm.

SEE BULLETIN AND PARISH MAGAZINE.

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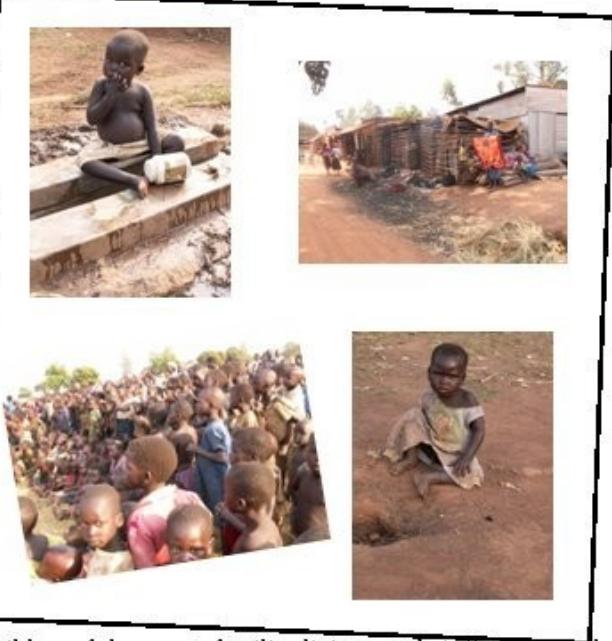


Steve in—UGANDA

Miracles, Signs and Wonders?

At the end of May I took a trip to Uganda. I went looking for miracles, signs and wonders; what I found was so much more.

Firstly I went to catch up on what my wife has been getting up to with the church plant in Luzira – and it is truly amazing. I spent the first week being thrown right into the deep end, on more than one occasion being given 5 minutes notice that I was 'to preach next', and yet I can honestly say that I have never **felt such an incredible anointing** than in those times when, as I walked up onto the platform not knowing what I was going to say, I was totally dependant on God. Luzira is an incredible place, very hard to describe. 'Busy' comes close. I was struck by constant 'life' going on everywhere. Cars, horns blowing, motorbikes, their familiar buzz and hum, and people – people all over the place, busily hurrying about. All sorts of different people – rich and poor, lots of very poor. In fact the thing that struck me most were the children of those poor families living out their lives in shacks built onto the back of the theatre that is now Faith Assembly Chapel. That week I was stretched in a whole load of areas – talk about breaking out of comfort zones. The Sunday morning service started at 10. I lead some worship, spoke a bit, went out with the children, came back in, spoke some more, prayed a lot, and finally left at gone 3 O'clock in the afternoon! "That's because it was raining" was the excuse the pastor gave. The people have nowhere to go if it rains. They don't have cars, if it rains they get wet, and that caring pastor didn't want them to get wet. So we didn't finish the service until the rain stopped!!



The Invisible Children

... and so to a district called Gulu, in the north of Uganda, to the centre of what has become famous for a war that has been raging for the last 22 years. A war using children as soldiers. This was the main reason for my trip. I had heard about this war last year when the team came from Canada. I was so appalled by the stories they told that I knew I had to do something. I could no longer sit back into my ignorant world and let this go on.

They're called 'the invisible children.' Thousands of them. Children, who since 1986, when the conflict started, have been abducted from their homes or villages. One former young child soldier I met, now only 14, was taken as he went to collect water for his household when he was just 10 years old. He tells of the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) ambushing him as he carried his jerry-can. He was made to kneel down and told he would be shot if he tried to escape. I still find that too hard to imagine, yet his account was repeated again and again by the many former child soldiers I spoke to in the various rehabilitation projects I visited. Children, both boys and girls, are being abducted and forced into fighting and killing, or the girls into sex as the 'wives' of the 'bossmen' and yet it's never on the news. At some point, someone has to say **'enough, this incredible injustice against children has got to stop.'**

I spent that week in Gulu visiting a number of schools, other community projects and the NGO's (non government organisations) that are in place working against extreme odds to help. One manager from Save the Children in Gulu told me what they're able to do is merely 'a drop in the ocean.' But a drop causes ripples and a ripple works its way out until it affects things. Something is better than nothing.

I've seen the children. I've seen the fallout on their families and communities. I've met them, I know them – they're real and the pain is enormous. What did I find? That these people have more faith in God than you or I ever will have. They see God working in everything. They called me 'an angel sent by God' I hope and pray I can live up to that.

I took the trip because I believe that even one person can make a difference.

My journey has only just begun.... to be cont...

Steve Lock

Children and Family worker