

NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2010

Harvest

Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

The burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water (Isaiah 35.6-7)

We can be part of a wind of change

This harvest we are focusing on Christian Aid's work in bringing water to desert people. By harnessing the power of the wind, Christian Aid's partner RAADA is pumping water from under the desert with wind-powered wells.

With funds from Christian Aid, the wind well has been built in the village of Baz Girha, in the western desert of Afghanistan. It transforms '120 days of wind' (which is what the people call their summer!) into water for animals, less arduous work for the people and a healthier life.

As Golah Nurzei (a Baz Girha resident) says, 'The wind well is wonderful! Before, we used to have to bring water up in a bucket from a deep well, it took a long time and a lot of hard work and it was still difficult to get enough water for all the animals to have a proper drink. But now the wind powers a mechanism that draws the water up for us. We can water 2,000 animals here now.'

We all become part of this wind of change – as we pray for the work of Christian Aid around the world, give money to improve the harvest and lives of others and thank God for all he has given us.

Congregational News

Congratulations to **James and Beth Smith**, who were married at Beth's family church in Norfolk on 3 September, and after their Caribbean honeymoon came to their own church for a simple act of thanksgiving and blessing within our main Sunday service on 26 September, so that the congregation and some of their London friends could share in their celebrations. Because of their evident devotion – to God and to each other! - it was a most moving event, and was followed by a splendid bring and share lunch. They provided wine, wedding cake and two huge and delicious Norfolk cheeses (carefully selected by James – crumbly Walsingham¹ and veined Binham Blue, plus an equally fine goat's cheese), and members of the congregation provided other goodies.

Beth's mother, who is a churchwarden back home, read one of the lessons. Her father Harry had a day off from organ-playing duties, to which he now adds Reader ministry; having completed a three-year training, he was admitted and licensed at Norwich Cathedral the day after the wedding². Beth and James, needless to say, delayed their honeymoon in order to be there. So this has been a very special time for all the family, and we were glad to be a part of it!

¹ readers who are devotees of the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham should note that this is simply the description of a cheese....

² this specially delights the Rector, who was formerly a Reader Moderator in the north-west, and has been part of the group working for Reader training in Stepney and the other areas of London diocese to share part of their training with NTMTC in our crypt, which began in September.

Annadale Ramanoop has persevered with her legal studies and has now completed her BA degree. Part-time adult study is always demanding, so we congratulate her, and hope that after a well-earned rest she will be able to put her training to good use.

After two spells in hospital, **Edith Wyeth** is making good progress at home and is now getting up the steps into church on good days, and continues to share her wisdom from her flat! **Olive Wagstaff** is also cheerful, despite a nasty fall which will keep her housebound for a little while longer. We hope that **Rodney Sawers** will soon be back with us on a more regular basis, and we are continuing to remember **Alice Daniels**, who is making good progress.

Alice (Lally) Britton was laid to rest on 9 September, aged 90, in a grave with her husband Johnnie, who died in 1967, leaving her to bring up three young children, which she did in a typically independent and hard-working fashion; all have prospered, and presented her with grandchildren and a first great-grandchild, on all of whom she doted. She was linked with our church for most of her life, as a regular worshipper, and PCC member for a time, and latterly as a devoted home communicant, before her move to residential care in Essex over a year ago, to be nearer her family. It was a wrench – but a right decision – to leave the East End in which she had spent her whole life, in five homes all within a small radius. Her patriotic and political views

were strongly held – fittingly, we all wore a red rose of St George at her funeral – as was her faith: at home, she always lit candles for her loved ones, living and departed, on special days. We extend our condolences to her splendid family.

St Paul's School news

The school year has got off to a good start, despite frustrating difficulties and problems with the major building project, which meant that the new nursery (phase 1) is still not open, and has delayed and complicated the next two phases of the work. The staff are as dedicated and committed as ever, and we look forward to reporting significant events in the coming months. Their first service in church this term is for Harvest, on 1 October.

As autumn and winter approach....

...we are working on site maintenance and improvements. We hope that additional lighting and security cameras, primarily for the nursery school but of benefit to us all, will shortly be installed, and that the drive will be resurfaced. Our thanks to Danny, who is keeping the forecourt clean. Another of the four church flats is now refurbished and ready for new occupants; we plan to do the same with a third as soon as possible.

Ride+Stride ~ Open House Weekend

As reported last month, **Ride+Stride** on 11 September (cycling or walking around churches to raise funds and awareness of conservation issues), which has operated nationally for some years, was launched in London at rather short notice, so the number of visitors to this and other churches in the deanery was small. But there was greater participation locally than elsewhere in the capital, and the principle has been established for future years.

Similarly, we had a trickle rather than a flood of visitors a week later for **Open House Weekend**; but that is because, unlike other participating buildings, our church is normally open every day anyway.

Ecclesiastical Insurance

Like most parish churches, we are insured with the EIO, who provide an excellent and competitive service. They also provide home and contents insurance, and vouchers giving a 30% discount (plus potential benefits to our church) are available in church for anyone who would like to explore this.