

Newton Matters

No. 45 August 2010

St. Margaret's Church

From the Minister

According to some recent statistics 75% of the German population feel guilty when they have nothing to do. Since Britain has some of the longest working hours in Europe, it should not surprise me if our figures were even higher. For many of us, being too busy has become a way of life for many of us and we are lost with an empty diary or a long list of outstanding jobs. Holidays often reflect our busy life-style. They have to be fun-packed, full of activity and excitement.

During one of the recent bank holiday weekends we were booked on a small campsite in the Cotswolds. On arrival we were amazed that it was full to bursting; and yet it was the happiest place we had been to for a long time. Children ran around freely, doing nothing in particular, or making up their own games. Families played games together, adults chatted happily for hours over a few bottles of wine and a campfire. There was not a TV in sight and there was no mobile phone reception. "Listen", said my husband, as we relaxed after supper. All we could hear was contented noises and laughter, something you don't often hear in an airport lounge, or anywhere else for that matter.

Blessings can be found in everything. As many people are forced to tighten their belts, thankfully we are also rediscovering the simpler pleasures of life. For our well-being, it is vital to remember that we are not "human doings" but "human beings", that we need "dead time" i.e. space to do nothing, simply to be and recharge our batteries, to become aware of the wonder which surrounds us; time to enjoy a flower or bird song, time to switch off the engine and watch a sunset in silence. Those moments of wonder can often lead us into real, heartfelt prayer, into a deep thankfulness for what we have been given. They can even make us re-think our priorities. Similarly, human relationships need time and space if they are to flourish. We need time to talk and listen to each

other without constant diversion, we need time to be together without pressure or interruption. Our busy workday schedules seldom offer such space but we need to find it if we want to keep sane, if our children and our relationships are to thrive.

As many of you get ready for your holiday, even a holiday at home, I wish you a good time away from it all, preferably without computer, TV or mobile phone. I wish you the courage occasionally to do nothing without feeling guilty or inadequate and just to be. I hope that you will discover afresh the goodness and beauty which surrounds you.

Brigitte Snell

Newton Choir

The Choir reconvenes on Sunday 5th September to rehearse for Harvest and continues in October with Fauré's Requiem before working for the Christmas Carol service. If anyone would like to join the choir, please contact Joe Oakes 870954. Fauré's Requiem will be part of the All Souls' Service in Harston Church on 2nd November and the Carol Service in Newton is on 19th December..

Harvest

This year's Harvest celebrations will be Supper on 2nd October and the Festival at 4.00 pm in the church on Sunday 3rd Oct..

After the festival service there will be the opportunity to publically thank our Vicar, Peter Wainwright who is retiring, for his ministry in Newton for the past 5 years. To mark the occasion there will be a presentation of a parting gift, for which a collection is being made. Should you wish to contribute, please give a cheque, payable to St. Margaret's Church, to Denise Dent, 5 Offa Lea, and mark the envelope Vicar's Gift. There will be refreshments and wine.

Church organist. We have two organists serving three parishes in the Benefice. If another one could be found to help on just one Sunday a month in Newton Church this would be a great help. For more information please phone Joe Oakes 870954

Benches for the Churchyard.

Thanks to the Tancock and Walker families who are donating benches to the churchyard in memory their loved and departed relatives.

100 Club

The winners for May and June were Mr. Webb and Mr. Short respectively, each winning £40. Congratulations. If you would like to know more, or how to join, please call Joe Oakes 870954.

Coffee morning hosts for August/ September 2010

August 14th Queen's Head 28th Town Street
September 11th Cockle Close 25th Cambridge Road

Newton Drama & Social Club

At the AGM held in July a new committee was formed with Rowena Harvey as Chairperson, Chris Lyon Treasurer and Kay Tipper Secretary.

Mike Knapton will be a busy Director and Musical Director of the next pantomime for Newton Drama & Social Club's 40th Year. It will be *Alice in Wonderland*.

There will be a workshop to become familiar with the script on 21st September, and auditions on 28th Sept, and 5th October (Musical).

If you are not a member but would like to know more about the Club please phone Kay Tipper 870435.

Mobile Library - Early Notification

Changes to mobile library services will be made as a result of reduced budget. As from October 2010 the Mobile Library will be visiting Newton on 2nd Friday of the month at 10.40 to 11.20 am.

Newton Parish Council

In order to include the wishes of villagers, a survey about services and amenities in the village is in progress so that full consideration can be given to creating a Parish Plan. Please take a little time to complete the questionnaire.