

## Newton Matters

No. 39 August 2009

St.Margaret's Church

Dear Friends,

It is school holiday time, and most children are excited about 'going away' somewhere with their family. Looking back to the period when my children were of school age; it seems to me that what they were really excited about was not the destination so much as having their parent's time and attention. What they longed for was seeing their parents relaxed, not in a rush, and able and willing to play with them. And the reason why the children were so disappointed when the holiday was over, and it was back to normal at home, was that within a few hours their parents were answering the phone, sending emails etc.

These family times are very important in the life of a child. None of us can be the perfect parent. Yet most men of grandfather age look back a little regretfully and wonder whether they could have and should have given more time and effort spent with children. All we can do is say sorry to God and to our own children if and when appropriate; and leave the matter in the hands of God. His grace somehow can reach back into the past and heal

hurts, even if we cannot right the wrongs of yesteryear.

What is the role of parenthood? Perhaps it is to reflect the character of our heavenly Father. It is to model, in a lesser way, how Father in Heaven loves and cares for his children. Jesus obviously felt very loved and secure when speaking to his heavenly Father, even when agonising over a life changing decision. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed, 'Abba' – which we can translate as 'Dad'. That is how Jesus taught us to pray - start with 'Our Father'. In one of his letters Paul encourages believers to address almighty God in the same way – he says, in effect, that you don't have to live in fear of God, frightened to knock on the door of his study in case he shouts at you and tells you to clear off: you are his child in Christ: so knock on the door in prayer and call him 'Abba'.

Another part of parenthood is to discipline children. The parent who neglects to discipline is not showing love, rather they are showing a lack of care and interest – it is the parent who is close enough to the child to know what is actually going on and takes on the hassle of finding and applying the appropriate discipline, who really loves the child. If they just let children run riot it will ruin their adult life, because they will not be prepared for the reality of it.

It is also the joy of parenthood to teach children the skills and morals of life. Talk about them when you sit with them at home and when you walk with them along the road, and when you are putting them into bed. Tell them stories when they are young, and show them how to maintain a car, cook, and use tools etc. when they are a bit older. Happy holidays!

Vicar *Peter Wainwright*

### **St. Margaret's Day**

On 19<sup>th</sup> July the Rt. Revd. Dr. David Thomson, Bishop of Huntingdon confirmed five candidates at the morning service. Afterwards coffee was enjoyed at the Manor by the generosity of Mr. Henry Hurrell. At 1.00 pm the BBQ event on the Green was moved to the Village Hall and over 90 people enjoyed the meal despite the weather. John Russell thanked Joe Oakes and his helpers for producing the BBQ.

### **Harvest**

The Harvest Supper will be on 26<sup>th</sup> September in the Village Hall, tickets from David Short, and the Festival at 4.00pm in the Church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Tickets for the Supper will be limited to 80 so apply early to avoid disappointment.

### **Choir for Harvest 2009**

Choir for both events will begin rehearsals on 6<sup>th</sup> September and will be on Sundays at 7.00pm and Tuesdays at 8.00pm. If you would like to be in the choir please phone Joe Oakes 870954

### **Travelling Supper Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Our last Travelling Supper was in February 2007 and was so popular that I've been asked to organise another one. It is always a very enjoyable and friendly occasion and the ideal opportunity to socialise with you fellow Newtonians. The food, of course, will be home cooked and delicious. The ticket price of £12.50 includes sherry, a three course meal with wine. Details and tickets from Gill Johnson

*Gill Johnson*

### **Newton Sports & Social Club**

The Club is holding an open day, 11am to 11pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Members and non-members are invited to a free drink and a bite to eat while having the opportunity to have a look round

*Eddie Gray*

### **100 Club**

The winners for May and June were Diane Oakley and Joyce Arbour respectively, each winning £40.00. Congratulations.

**Coffee morning hosts** for August and September are:  
August 1<sup>st</sup> Cambridge Road, 15<sup>th</sup> Parish Council, 29<sup>th</sup> Harston Road  
September 12<sup>th</sup> Town Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Kidmans Close