

UPDATE

THE MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN FOR THE LIVING STONES AT ST PETER'S AND ST JAMES' WITH ST OWEN AND ST BARNABAS'

August 2010

Please remember to collect a PRAYER FOCUS FOR August sheet from the back of church. Monthly Parish Prayer Meeting 17th August 2010 @ 7.30 pm, St. Peter's Church House. ALL WELCOME



**THANK YOU - THANK YOU -
THANK YOU!
THAT'S BOTH TO GOD AND
TO HIS PEOPLE!**

That was my response as I heard from Andy Butterfill about the recent changes to our finances, a few days after our Gift Day. Having written to everyone about our financial needs, and asked everyone to pray about their response, it is only right that I let you know what has been happening. There has been a small but significant response to the invitation to join in the planned giving schemes, for which we are very grateful. It is fantastic to think that 70% or so of our needs for each year are met through such generous committed giving - **THANK YOU**. But there has also been a significant boost through one-off gifts. When Andy told me today

it was a good job I was sitting down - over £30,000 has been given to the church in the last two weeks!

This is a generous total for which I am very thankful. May it warm your hearts and boost your faith!

Paul Towner

R U FREE

On Saturday 14th August, 2-4pm?
THEN WHY NOT COME ALONG TO THE
9th Hereford Brownie Fete

@ St. Barnabas' Church Hall, Venns Lane?
Lots of fun to be had, including
Cafe, Tombola, Hook an apple, Treasure Island, Raffle, Guess the name of the Teddy, Ladder game and much, much more!

TO HELP THE CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA
please bring chocolate of any size or shape to church for Rebecca Wilkinson to collect before the fete. All funds will help to pay for the Brownies' holiday.

Y O U T H Z O N E

There will be lots of new faces in **D2B** and **ACCESS** next year as Edward Taylor, Heidi Smith, Harry Hutton, Esme Coppock & Aimee Hattersley leave Sunday School and go to **D2B**, and Emily Hairsnape, Sophie Taylor, Kirsty Meredith, Sophie Wallis, Maisy Lind, Jack Taylor, Daniel Hattersley & Harry Randall leave **D2B** and move up to **ACCESS**. New and old **ACCESS** members spent a weekend at the Gaines Youth Centre recently. Activities including go-karting (extremely competitive!), graffiti spray painting, some study of 1 Peter, loads of good food and even a modicum of sleep!

WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER HOLIDAY AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN YOUR NEW GROUPS THIS SEPTEMBER.

ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU

TO ALL OF YOU WHO SUPPORTED AND HELPED WITH TWO WONDERFUL MUSICAL EVENINGS DURING JULY.

About 50 people came to a superb clarinet concert in St. Peter's on Saturday evening, July 3rd and enjoyed the excellent and varied programme played by

Winforton Wind, raising £375.

The Bishop's Palace was the beautiful setting for an evening of music from Richard Glasspoole and Band interspersed with poetry read by Bill Thomas and Jeff Rees.

This event on the 17th July raised £442.10.

**ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO FLIC.
(FINDING LIFE IN THE CITY)**

PLEASE SAVE YOUR PENNIES FOR AMY TAYLOR!

A MILE OF PENNIES = £844.80

This will go a long way to help her spend three months working in **Rwanda** during her gap year.

Communication! ... Communication!... Communication!

Could everybody who is organising a church event, and wanting the event to be known, please send details to Helen in the Parish Office

(contact details on reverse). Helen will then make sure that you get lots of publicity in the weekly notice sheet, UPDATE, the website and all notice boards, both indoors and outside. Many thanks.

Paul's Ponderings

As I write there are two things happening on the wider Christian scene in Hereford which involve these churches - and to a certain extent *flow from* these churches - which are looking very exciting, and which I hope will encourage you.

The first looks rather mundane, and a bit formal, but behind it lies something quite significant. Our local Anglican churches, through Deanery Synod in June, are being challenged to plan and prepare for growth, and to do so by giving thought and attention to four areas of church life - spiritual roots, connecting to the community, training, and financial resources. Can you imagine what the benefit might be if every church in the area grew stronger in each of those aspects of church life in the next 12 months? But don't just think how this challenge might be taken up "out there" by other churches - how might *we* respond? By the way, if you want to see the full text of the Deanery Mission Statement and this growth plan, they are both on the Deanery web pages of the Diocesan site - or you can get a paper copy from the parish office.

The second exciting prospect is the move to take our Friday healing prayers out into High Town, working together with several other local churches such as the Baptists, Christian Life Centre, Freedom, Challenge etc. Nationally God has been using Healing On The Streets (HOTS) to be a real source of blessing to many cities and towns - and to many hundreds of lives. It will be great to see this same kind of blessing released in a new way in this City - do please be praying. There will be the chance to hear about HOTS at an open evening on Monday 13th September at 7.30pm at St Paul's, Tupsley.

I used the phrase "*flow from*" about these projects earlier. What I meant was that whilst of course the glory goes to God in Christ, and we recognise that every good gift comes from His hand, the local church has been - as so often - the tool He has chosen to use, and this is true of both these projects. I would not be able to stand up and promote Mission in the Deanery if it were not already central to the life of these churches, nor could I extol the virtues of community links and lay training unless they were being put into practice here. And the background work in relationships and teamwork, and in gathering material and promoting HOTS, has come from Jonathan and our prayer team. Please don't misunderstand what I am saying here - I am not trying to grab the glory for us - but I do want to encourage you, to let you know that there appears to be fruit - fruit that will last, we trust - growing. Praise be to God!

AUGUST SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

1st	St Barnabas'	Evening Worship
8th	St Peter's	Holy Communion
15th	St James'	Evening Worship
22nd	St Peter's	Evening Worship
29th	St James'	Evening Worship



Everyone agreed the band played really well - until the wasp appeared!

St Peter's and St James' Churches. CONTACT DETAILS: PARISH OFFICE

Helen Durant, Parish Administrator,
24, St James' Road, Hereford, HR1 2QS
Tel: 01432 276320

email: spsjoffice@btinternet.com

The deadline for items for our weekly Sunday Notice Sheet is Thursday 10.30am.

UPDATE Coordinator Diana Thomas.
dianathomas@btinternet.com

The deadline for items for **UPDATE** is the 20th of each month: email your items to Diana.

For all of this and more look on our

WEBSITE www.spsj.org.uk

Website items to Peter Massey

pwmassey@btinternet.com

Clergy Corner by Sharon Elson.

My downstairs neighbour has just moved. I popped in to see her before the great day and was surprised to find her surrounded with boxes bulging with household items, toys, clothes and the usual TV, video and DVD player etc. She's only been in the flat 20 months and was absolutely amazed at just how quickly stuff has accumulated.



After my visit in 2008 to Rwanda I have become even more aware of how much we store up. While we were visiting the village of Rugendabali we were invited into a number of homes. In one home we found that the mud floor had been swept clean; there was a school bench similar to the ones I sat on during my infant school days along one wall, and there was precious little else. The lady who lived in this home took us into her kitchen which was all of six foot square and showed us, with pride shining from her eyes, her pots and pans. Well to be exact, her one cooking pot, two battered tin plates and a couple of chipped enamel mugs. This was her kitchen, and she was proud of it, and it was spotless.

In the west we have become so acquisitive, sometimes getting caught up with the advertisers' "must haves". It starts early, as children look enviously at others who have the latest trainers, iPod or "Barbie" outfit. In Matthew chapter 6:19-21 Jesus warns us not to store up treasure on earth where moths and rust destroy: we are instead to store up treasures in heaven. How do we know the difference? Well, as a rule of thumb, if we can't possibly part with or do without it, whatever it may be, then we don't possess it, "it" possesses us. It wouldn't hurt us to spend some time assessing what is really important, the possessions or a lasting relationship with Jesus; and as for the accumulated items, well why not send them to the charity shop?

God loves each one of us as if there was only
one of us to love.

St Augustine of Hippo - contributed by Naomi Bell