

St. Teresa's Parish Magazine



Spring / Summer 2013



Sunday Mass Times
Enstone 9.00am
Charlbury 11.00am

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coffee Morning **Saturday 4th May**

The Parish is holding a coffee morning on Saturday 4th May from 9.30-12.00 in the Corner House. If you would like to donate cakes, scones, biscuits, marmalade etc., they can be brought on the morning between 9.00 and 9.30 or left with Jessie Horn at 4, Wychwood Paddocks, or Sheila Peacock at 5, Hone Court. We will also be holding a raffle, so if you would like to provide a prize, that too would be gratefully received.

In the past we have had a very good response to our coffee mornings and would like to continue with this annual event, so your support would be very much appreciated.

Parish Bar-B-Q **Sunday 30th June**

The annual Parish Bar-B-Q will take place on Sunday 30th June in the Presbytery garden, after 11.00 Mass. All food will be provided. Tickets are £5.00 per adult and £2.50 per child, and will be on sale outside church from the beginning of June. Tickets must be purchased in advance as we need to know the numbers for catering.

Jessie

MATHEMATICAL CONUNDRUM

Each of the nine letters represents a number (1-9). Can you solve the conundrum?

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} & C & R & O & S & S & + \\ & R & O & A & D & S & \\ \hline D & A & N & G & E & R & \end{array}$$

The solution is on page 8

Contributed by Michael M

 The cover picture was drawn by Tiye 

if anyone would like to contribute pictures for the Advent/Christmas issue, their contributions would be very welcome

LETTER FROM FR. ALDO

As a Church we have recently lived through amazing and changing times with the announcement that Pope Benedict XVI would resign on 28th February.

His reason for doing so was clearly stated "I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering. However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognise my incapacity to adequately fulfil the ministry entrusted to me."

Such was the humility and honesty of the man and one could not adversely comment on the decision that he had come to but who would be the one who would fill the Shoes of the Fisherman? There was no obvious answer to that question.

Shortly after, a rather swift Conclave, did Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, a 'consummate outsider' assume the office and was presented to us as Pope Francis. We were reminded that he was the first non-European to be elected for many centuries and that he was the first Jesuit to ever have been elected Pope but obviously the Cardinals saw that he was the one to occupy the Chair of Peter for it has been said that they were looking for a Pope who "must be a man who, from the contemplation and adoration of Jesus Christ, helps the church to go out to the existential peripheries, that helps her to be the fruitful mother, who gains life from the sweet and comforting joy of evangelizing". These qualities do not imply criticism of the Pope–Emeritus or Blessed John Paul II but signify that there was to be a different approach in the new Papacy and as we have already seen this is becoming increasingly apparent.

Pope Francis is not a polyglot, nor is he a theologian, philosopher or an academic as were his immediate predecessors and, it is being said, the likelihood of him writing an encyclical is remote but his vast pastoral experience is such as to make him the one who is to faithfully shepherd the Flock of Christ in the difficult future that lies ahead of us all and so we must listen and learn from him as he leads us on our pilgrim way and pray for him daily.

Fr. Aldo

MORE WISDOM FROM THE DESERT

A certain brother went to Abbot Moses and asked him for a good word. The elder said: Go sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything.

Abbot Hyperichius said: It is better to eat meat and drink wine, than by detraction devour the flesh of your brother.

An elder said: The monks cell is that furnace or Babylon in which the three children found the son of God; but it is also the pillar of cloud, out of which God spoke to Moses.

A REFLECTION ON BEREAVEMENT

When we suffer loss and bereavement or illness, especially when it is unexpected, the thought comes, "Why me Lord?".

"The Lord will never give you a cross too big to bear and if he does he will send someone to help you carry it" I can't remember who said that. Over the past few months I have found this to be true, I have felt uplifted and felt held by the many prayers and kindnesses of people in our parish and beyond. There have been bad days when all was bleak, but many days when kind words and thoughts have been a great help and I am truly grateful. So Thank you to all of you.

Hilda J J

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Monday 5 August – Saturday 10 August 2013 - TO THE SHRINES OF ST CUTHBERT and TOMB of ST BEDE, DURHAM -

Our plans for the pilgrimage are progressing well, with accommodation and local coaches booked; and most of the churches we wish to visit have confirmed our visits.

We currently have 15 pilgrims; if anyone else would like to join us there are still places available. If you want to know more about the pilgrimage, please contact Sue Mathews

SAFEGUARDING AT ST.TERESA'S

As you all know, Louise Littledale has been diligently working as our Parish Safeguarding Representative for many years. It is an essential role in a parish, and we are all hugely grateful for the time and effort Louise has devoted to it. Last year, I was asked if I would consider becoming a second Safeguarding Rep, having already been working with our children, and become familiar with the safeguarding issues. It was a job I was happy to undertake, and, under Louise's guidance, and with full approval of first Canon Evans and then Fr. Aldo, I have been appointed by the Archdiocese of Birmingham as a Safeguarding Representative in St. Teresa's Parish.

Now, more than ever, it is crucial that we all do our utmost to promote the wellbeing and development of our children and young people, as well as any vulnerable adults, ensuring that our parish always provides a safe environment. It is the responsibility of each one of us, as members of a caring church, but Louise and I will continue to make sure that, as a parish, we comply with the Catholic Church's national policies on child and vulnerable adult safeguarding.

Jane Jones, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese, is very approachable and can be contacted at any time, if you are affected by issues of abuse. As Parish Reps,

Louise and I hope that you will also feel able to contact us should you have any concerns regarding parish activities with children and vulnerable adults, or safeguarding policy. These numbers can also be found on the notice at the back of the church:

Fr. Aldo
Louise L
Sharnalee F
Jane Jones, Safeguarding Co-ordinator: 07976 516629
Safeguarding Team (during office hours): 0121 230 6240

I appreciate I have a lot to learn, and would welcome your prayers.

*Sharnalee F,
Safeguarding Representative*

**Thank you to everyone who
contributed articles to this
7th edition of the
St.Teresa's magazine.**

**We hope to distribute the
next issue during in Advent.**

**If you have anything that
you would like to contribute,
please contact Alison
(813063)**

LENT REFLECTION GROUP "BE RECONCILLED TO GOD"

This year, seven people took part in our Lent reflection group. We met for five weeks during Lent to pray, discuss and reflect on the Sunday readings for the five Sundays from the second Sunday of Lent through to Palm Sunday.

We used as our guide a series of reflections based on the subject of reconciliation. This took extracts from the catechism on confession, combined with reflections on the Lenten Sunday Mass readings to guide the reflections and discussions. Some weeks we followed this closely, other weeks our discussions were more wide ranging picking up on different aspects of the Sunday gospel. Sometimes it was quiet reflection, sometimes it was more animated. However it went, there was always something unexpected to take away. The Gospel readings are well known but often a new insight or new way of understanding them would come out of the discussions. I was surprised at how beautiful and wise the extracts from the catechism could be.

The Lent reflection group fits in to our annual journey through Lent. Like travellers at the beginning of a journey, the first meeting of the group is a bit tentative as we find our way, but over the five weeks of Lent we become more relaxed, more open

and more willing to share our thoughts and reflections. Personally I find that coming together in this journey of discovery helps develop my faith.

Alison

ST TERESA'S CHURCH BAZAAR SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2013

Our Annual Church Bazaar will be held on **Saturday 28 September** in the Memorial Hall, Charlbury.

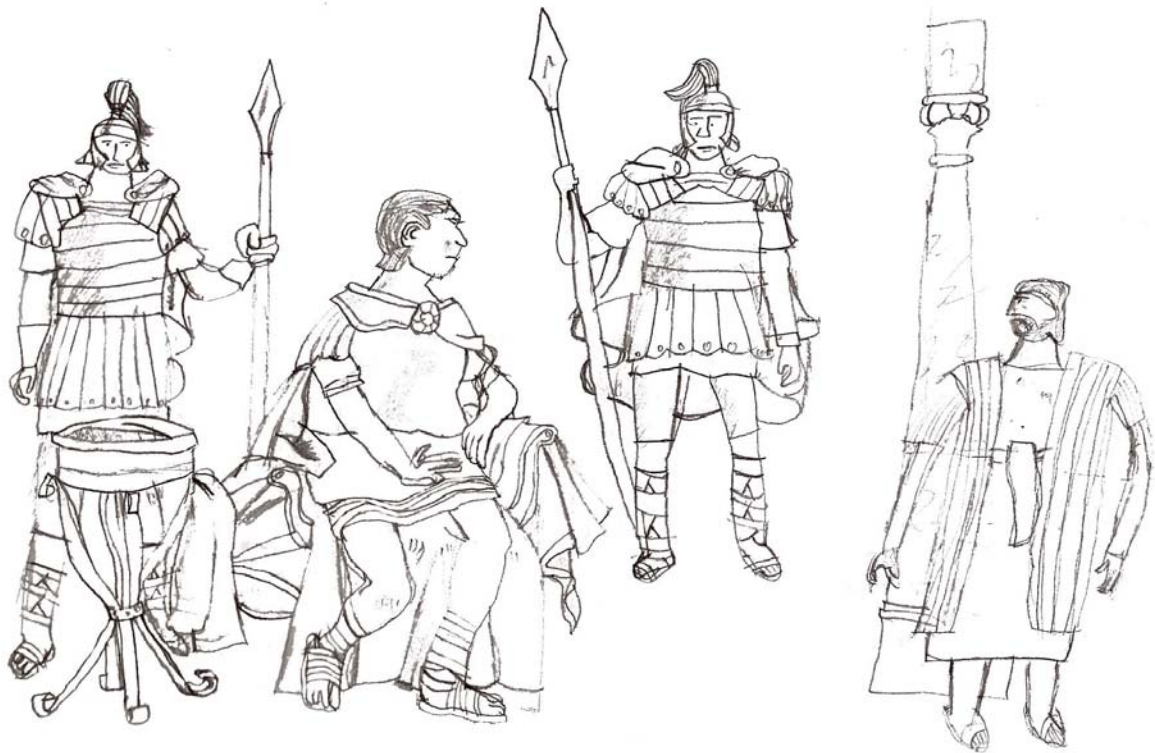
This is the premier Fund raising event of the year for our parish and is an inclusive event - parishioners from every outlying part of our parish are welcome and indeed, needed.

There will no doubt be a series of stalls, a raffle and a Café, as well as Fairtrade Christmas cards and Fair-trade goods. The Youth Group will no doubt want to run a particular stall also. We are open to new ideas as well.

It would be good to start thinking about these things well before the summer is upon us. I suggest we meet informally in the next month or two to start discussing everything. If you are interested in being part of the team and helping in however small a way, please contact the Bazaar Coordinator:

Madeleine W

WALKING THE WAY OF THE CROSS IN CHARLBURY - 2013



On Good Friday, I went on a walk with lots of other people around all the churches in Charlbury. We visited each one, and acted out different scenes from the Stations of the Cross. At St.Teresa's, Zoe, Hannah, Agnieszka and I acted out a scene where Jesus is brought to Pontius Pilate.

Max

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE - LENT 2013

Where were you when you heard about the new Pope?

Well, I was in Walsingham on a pilgrimage to pray for Peace and for the flourishing of ever-improving relationships among Christians. Our society, the E.S.B.V.M. (Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary) believes that, far from being a cause of friction, the Blessed Virgin can bind us together in a very special way.

In the five days of our celebrations we follow the services and traditions of our various churches, attending Mass with the Catholics and Matins with the Anglicans, singing hymns with the Methodists and rejoicing with the saints and studying the spirituality of the Orthodox. This year we also had a talk given by a Lutheran priest

and enjoyed a fine, rousing sermon from a Minister of the Church of Scotland.

As well as conferences and services we also enjoyed excellent meals, sitting randomly at long dining tables, thus ensuring that we met and conversed with as many of the 40 participants as possible. Thus it was that we were all gathered together over our evening meal when, after white smoke had been seen, we eagerly awaited the announcement. When it came there was a puzzled silence – no-one at our table had heard of him!!

Dawn W

FAIRTRADE STALL

Our stall reopens on Sunday 28 April 2013

St Teresa's is one of five churches in Charlbury to actively support the FAIRTRADE movement. Launched in Sept 2010, our stall makes a selection of the TRAIDCRAFT /Fairtrade product line available - mostly food but also fashion and gift items from around the world.

TRAIDCRAFT was established as a Christian response to poverty, working with people of all faiths and none. As a dedicated fair trade company, they buy from disadvantaged producers, and as a charity they help producers to engage in trade and campaign for trade justice.

Their vision is A WORLD FREED FROM THE SCANDAL OF POVERTY.

Our parish's contribution is to sell/buy these goods at cost on a weekly basis. There is a stall outside St Teresa's after the 11 am Mass on Sundays when the weather is fair. The catalogue is also available for orders from those who attend St Kenelm's. These orders can be taken any time.

St Teresa's belong to the Charlbury Fairtraders group and we pool our weekly orders to save on delivery charges and minimise costs.

Thank you to all parishioners for supporting our mission of fighting poverty through trade.

"My children, our love is not just to be words or mere talk, but something real and active."

1 John 3:18

To receive or order from our catalogue please contact:

Madeleine Wheare

servers over the age of 18 all have had to be CRB (now DBS) checked, and that the parish is now compliant and the process not too arduous. Louise is now stepping down as a safeguarding representative, and she was thanked for the nearly 10 years work she has done.

Paul Radcliffe gave a detailed account of the financial situation in the parish. He pointed out that collections have remained at about the same level as last year. Covenanted income has remained static since 2006, whilst non-covenanted collection income has fluctuated with the economic climate. The importance to the parish of people gift aiding their contributions was discussed – last year reclaimed tax contributed 5½ thousand pounds to the parish income. This was a substantial portion of the total income. Paul explained how a significant percent of the parish income goes to the diocese, and that the parish also has to fund the ongoing maintenance at St.Teresa's Church and Presbytery expenses including maintenance, fuel, food, council tax etc. It has been suggested that the financial issues should be explained one Sunday to give people a better understanding of what is required.

There were reports on forthcoming events - all of which are covered elsewhere in this magazine - then the meeting went on to discuss the practicalities of providing tea and coffee after Mass at St Teresa's and St.Kenelm's, and whether there was any way it could be done at St Teresa's in bad weather. There was a discussion of the possibility of converting the store outside St.Teresa's into a parish room - it has been looked at and is prohibitively expensive. Anne Clifton pointed out that the monthly newsletter used to include a long list of villages in the parish (Charlbury, Combe, Duns Tew, Enstone, Gagingwell, Glympton, Middle Barton, Radford, Ramsden, Steeple Aston and Stonesfield), and made a plea for ideas to improve communication with people in the outlying areas. There was a long discussion about the acoustics in St.Teresa's, and the fact that people at the back of the church find it hard to hear what is being said during Mass, and a related discussion on the pros and cons of Mass sheets. It was decided that the possibility of installing speakers should be investigated. Finally there was a brief discussion on outreach.

Solution to the Conundrum on the inside cover:

D=1, O=2, S=3, E=4, A=5, R=6, G=7, N=8, C=9

MAGNIFICAT: DAILY MASS READINGS AND MUCH MORE

MAGNIFICAT is a pocket sized monthly publication by The Catholic Herald which provides all readings, psalms and prayers for every day of the year - Matins, Mass and Vespers. It also carries a wealth of other spiritual reading and daily reflections by inspirational theologians and writers from all ages. The UK edition is edited by former parishioners Leonie and Stratford Caldecott, who many of you will remember warmly.

Since its inception in September 2010, it has proven an excellent way to enter fully into the Church's liturgical rhythms and spiritual legacy, especially during Holy Week. It has also made the transition into the new liturgical form a more manageable and comprehensible experience.

As an "ambassador" for this publication, I have been given 20 free copies of April's issue, to distribute as I see fit amongst parishioners likely to be interested in enjoying the booklet and seeing its uses, as part of daily devotion as well as preparation for Sunday's liturgy.

Should you be interested in trialing this publication please let me know. I hope to have one or two spare copies for the next few months. The current rate is £38 per year - a £10 saving on the cover cost. For this you will receive 12 monthly copies and a special issue for Holy Week.

For more information, please contact Madeleine

Madeleine

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING : 25th APRIL 2013

On Thursday 24th April 2013, around 20 members of the parish attended the Annual Parish Meeting in St. Teresa's Church. The meeting had an open agenda and many different issues were raised. Official minutes of the meeting were taken and will be available later, this is just a brief and unofficial report to give you an overview of some of the things that were discussed.

The meeting started by appointing a chair person, both for the meeting and as chair of the Pastoral Council. There was only one nomination – Madeleine Wheare, and she was duly appointed.

Louise Littledale and Sharnalee Foster gave a report on safeguarding in St. Teresa's and answered questions arising. Louise explained how people involved in Children's Liturgy, catechists, eucharistic ministers and altar

ST TERESA'S YOUTH



St Teresa's youth joined forces with Chipping Norton for a music night...

It was brilliant to meet up and share our music with each other and I was amazed by how much music we managed to produce as a group.

Zoe

It was totally awesome! I didn't realise that everyone was amazing. It was just WOW!

Naomi

The smallest guitar in the world is 10 micrometres long with strings 50 nanometres (100 atoms) wide)

It was nice to be able to share our music and get to know everyone better, especially the people from Chipping Norton youth group. I hope we will do things together in the future

Hannah

Termites eat wood twice as fast when listening to heavy metal music

I think it was really nice to come together and play music and listen to other people playing music. It was a good way of getting to know each other.

Agnieszka

The longest piano piece of any

Kind is 'Vexations' by Erik Satie. It consists of a 180-note composition which must be repeated 840 times so that the whole performance is 18hrs 40 mins long. It's first reported public performance in Sept 1963 required a relay team of 10 pianists. The New York Times critic fell asleep at 4am and the audience dwindled to 6. At the conclusion, one shouted 'Encore!'

A CALL TO ACTION

Last June I read a letter in The Tablet from seven priests in the Portsmouth Diocese who expressed their concern about stagnation and decline in the Church, under the heading 'A Call To Action'. They feel – like many of us – that the decline in the number of Catholics has reached alarming proportions and something needs to be done about it.

There was a meeting after the letter's publication which I went to last October in London, attended by over 400 mainly lay people. Since then there has been slow but steady progress in discussing ways of meeting this challenge of decline, and you can visit the ACTA website since created at www.acalltoaction.org.uk to read about it.

I feel I need to reassure you about discussing governance, people and even doctrine in the Church. We parishioners come from a background of defending our beliefs from people of other faiths and none, so our first instinct can be to withdraw from engaging with problems – we'll get by with God's help, and the bishops and hierarchy will provide leadership. So I feel that the first reassurance I need to give you is that *no-one is proposing a new Church without bishops* - the people of ACTA take as a starting point that there is no way of achieving change *without* the leadership of the bishops. But for a next step, they all know that it is very difficult to get a conversation going with the bishops to achieve change. Surely that has been our experience - you cannot make changes unless you can talk without anxiety about how things might be differently arranged. You can talk to the bishops forever, but if they won't entertain any solutions we put forward it is a waste of time.

A second reassurance I want to give you is not quite so strong, but still relevant. It is that not only are the members of ACTA practising Catholics, but their average age is well over sixty. Reassurance? - by the time we all get going on the Church's problems, we may well all be dead! Well, just to say these are not wild young men and women, but (in some ways very) conservative, older individuals, many of them shying away from confrontation. The good side of that is that they are not going to be rude to you, they are not going to run off in a huff if you or the bishops snub them, and they don't for a second accept that they are 'weirdoes' because they think that some things could be and should be changed in the Church.

We and they have been driven into a corner where we ask ourselves "Who else will put this right if we don't try to do it ourselves?"

What are the ideas and issues worth discussing? The most favoured is probably that mandatory celibacy for priests should end, as a step towards recruiting more of the priests we so badly need. Beyond that there is a wide spectrum of ideas and unrealised visions of Vatican II, and these are discussed in a robust way in an ACTA forum online. Robust means finger-wagging and finger-pointing are avoided by most people, but no one gets too uptight if the tone gets a bit shrill from time to time. You can't discuss everything as if you were at a philosophy seminar, after all.

Are things any better than they were a year ago? There was no forum for concerned Catholics at that time; contact with loyal concerned Catholics in the USA and Australia with the same concerns was minimal; and any change at the level of the Pope seemed unlikely for years to come. The recent arrival of a new Pope has stirred hope for change among many Catholics.

I will report on the Oxfordshire ACTA meeting later in the year. Let me conclude by telling you what I want for my children's children in the Church – to be able to go to weekly Mass without setting out on a journey of more than twenty-five minutes, to be able to attend Catholic schools, to be able to live according to Christ's preaching of love for others, and to be easy about their relationships with other Christians and all other people. None of these things will be achieved without change.

Peter C

A MEMORY OF CHILDHOOD

I made my First Holy Communion at the age of seven, having had instruction including on fasting before receiving the Host. A few weeks later I went with my parents as usual to Sunday Mass. After leaving the Church, my father asked me why I did not go to receive Holy Communion. I answered, sobbing, "When I brushed my teeth this morning, I swallowed the tooth paste by mistake"!

Paula B

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY - CTC

Hilda J J and Clare C are St Teresa's CTC representatives.

Madeleine Wheare who served on the committee for three years has stepped down. The Committee meets every two months to discuss and coordinate activities as well as to support each other. The Chairmanship rotates around the churches - the current Chair is Liz Tait of St Mary's. There are many events which happen in Charlbury organised by CTC.

UNITED SERVICES: There are three United Services a year, in January for Christian Unity, in May for Christian Aid and in October for One World Week and they are hosted in rotation between the five denominations. United Services are usually held at 9.45 am in St Mary's Church. This is convenient as the Catholics and Quakers can still attend their own services. As a rule only two or three people from St Teresa's attend - sadly, we are under represented. It would be good to work together and share worship with our fellow Christians.

St Teresa's turn to organise a service will arise in January 2014 - the service for CHRISTIAN UNITY. Our service is normally held in St Teresa's Church at 3 pm on that Sunday and a modified form of liturgy is used. It is always well attended by other denominations.

LENT LUNCHES: The series of **Lent lunches** was very successful with all churches taking part on a rota system. St Teresa's turn was ably supported by parishioners, providing home made soups, setting up and serving on the day. I overheard someone from another church say: "St Teresa's make the best soups!"

LENT TALKS: The theme of this year's Lenten series was 'Five pathways: exploring Christian tradition in Charlbury'. We had another impressive group of speakers including our very own Dr Judith Champ, a lecturer in Church History from St Mary's College Oscott. All talks were recorded and are available online at <http://www.charlburychurch.co.uk/index.php/news-a-events/recordings>

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 1 March 2013 The Friends Meeting House: This one hour service prepared by the Quakers and collaboratively produced by all the five churches was a thoughtful and meaningful view of FRANCE - this year's country. It was not one's usual view of that country and depicted the plight of immigrants in that affluent society. The service was well attended and at least ten parishioners from St Teresa's participated. These

services have grown in popularity over the last few years and attract women of all ages and some men.

The SPRING MEETING of CTC was held on 17 April and the special speaker was Dr Mick Donegan, founder and CEO of "SPECIAL EFFECT" a charity for the disabled. This charity is especially attractive to young donors and fund raisers as its main aim is to give everyone the opportunity to play computer games, regardless of any disability. They say "We'll do whatever it takes, because we've seen first-hand what a kick-start effect games can have on rehabilitation, inclusion and quality of life."

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH Friday 17 May Baptist Church 12 - 2 pm

All churches take it in turns to organise this event in May as part of Christian Aid week. This year it is the Baptists' turn. They will organise the menu and all five churches will take part in preparing the food. This lunch is open to the wider community and is usually a lavish meal well attended by all. Donations to Christian Aid.

CHURCH FRIENDS

This initiative welcomes new people to Charlbury with a welcome pack explaining where all the nearest shops can be found. It also contains an information map of the town and details of organisations and churches. There are 53 people listed as Church Friends throughout Charlbury but this still does not cover the whole of the town. They are always looking for new people to cover a street, so if you think you might be able to help please contact Liz Tait 01608 810150.

Upcoming Events:

Christian Aid United Service Sunday 19 May: St Mary's has offered to arrange a Eucharistic service at 9.45 am to which everyone is invited.

One World Week United Service Sunday 20 October: The Methodist Church will lead the service.

STREET FAIR: Churches Together all band together to run the Home made and home grown stall at Street Fair, mid September. Please bear this in mind and think about your extra produce from the garden or home made jams and cakes. The money raised is used for the many charities that CTC support. Usually the latest disaster fund but often, local charitable initiatives in Charlbury itself.

CLEANING GOD'S HOUSE

The church is cleaned fortnightly by three teams of TWO parishioners who rotate throughout the year. Some of these people have been doing this job for "many" years and it would be good if some new blood felt moved to step forward and help lighten the load. The more teams we have, the fewer times a year you will be called upon.

Normally, the team meets on a weekday and time of their choice to Hoover and dust the church and sacristy and mop the floors. This takes about an hour.

All new volunteers gratefully welcomed. Please contact Hilda J J

KEEPING IN TOUCH – THE PARISH E-MAIL LIST

Although the weekly bulletins provide the main means of keeping in touch with what is happening in the parish, it is always useful to have other means of keeping in touch. One of these is the parish e-mail group – St.Teresa's Network.

St.Teresa's Network is an e-mail group for information about parish events. Recent postings have been a post with information about the forthcoming coffee morning and parish barbecue, posts about the Holy week services – including a correction to the time of the Easter vigil - and a reminder about the penitential service, requests for articles for this magazine, requests for singers and information about Lent activities.

We have recently changed the group so that replies to e-mails sent to the group no longer get sent to everyone by default, as there was previously a problem with some unwanted e-mails. Hopefully with this change and the introduction of some light moderation, this will no longer be a problem.

If you wish to be added to the e-mail list please contact Alison O asking to be added to the list. You will be able to unsubscribe from the list at any time if you should change your mind.

Having read the contents of the Magazine, Father Aldo would like to point out that he does not necessarily endorse or promote what has been expressed in these articles.