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JULY 2010

From Bishop Richard

I have much pleasure in reporting that we have advertised and interviewed for a new County Ecumenical Development Officer and that the Reverend Andrew Gale has been offered and has accepted the post. This is subject to satisfactory CRB clearance. Andrew is a Baptist minister whose present role is the three quarter time Chaplain at Oakhill Secure Training Centre, Milton Keynes and so his commitment of ten hours a week for us fits in nicely with his other work. He will start the job on 1st October 2010 and we look forward to his starting with us. He will bring energy and a real commitment to the churches' mission to this task and we look forward to his contribution.

Shortly after Andrew starts, the October meeting of BEC will take place and this will be the last of the present committee. A new committee will then be formed under the new constitution and we shall be in touch about appointments to the committee in due course.

In the meantime, can I wish you a very pleasant summer and, if you are able to take some holiday, that it will be a restful and refreshing time.

With best wishes and prayers
+Richard

From the Secretary



It was good to meet so many of you at the 'new style' Forum in May. We are very grateful to Canon Denis McSweeney and the friends at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church at Flitwick, for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

We are also grateful to the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad who was our speaker on that occasion.

If anyone has not yet found the text of his address it is on the CTE Website: Go to Features+Reviews, click on Features, Left of screen scroll down to '*An International ...*' and photo of Andrew Prasad, click on *More*, click on *Lecture* and you should have it!

Thank you to all who have sent me information about past events and your plans for future activities.

I am pleased to learn that the CEDO appointment has been made and look forward to working with the Revd Andrew Gale.

The next newsletter should go out in October so please let me have any articles at the beginning of the month.

Thank you
Jocelyn

FEEDBACK is welcomed

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Woburn and District Churches Together

Woburn and District Churches Together are planning a retreat for all churches to Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in Leicestershire in September. The Cistercian Abbey offers overnight accommodation and the opportunity to take part in the services through the day, morning (very early) and night, as well as having talks with the Brothers and walks around the beautiful grounds.

Details of the Abbey and the life of the brothers can be found at www.mountsaintbernard.org



BELIEF

13 October End of Life Issues
20 October Anxiety and Stress
3 November Abortion

Sessions will also be held on 10 and 17 November (details in the next newsletter).
Further details from office@beliefbeds.org.uk

In Hitchin

Beginners New Testament Greek Courses

Starting September 2010 - Day and Evening Classes

For further details contact Dr Brendan Devitt

Tel 01462 621776 E-mail: bwdevitt@readntgreek.com Website: www.readntgreek.com

Thinking about adoption?

St. Francis' Children's Society is a specialist adoption agency finding families for children in UK Care. The roots of this charity are in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton but it is now a wholly independent organisation with its base in Milton Keynes. It aims to recruit diverse families from all sorts of cultural and social backgrounds; people who have the space and energy to give a child a home.

If you are interested, why not attend their Adoption Drop In Session on Friday 13 August from 12.00pm - 2.00pm at Collis House, 48 Newport Road, Woolstone, Milton Keynes, MK15 0AA or call 01908 572700 or visit www.sfcs.org.uk.

Up and Away – Fun Weekend **Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th September 2010**

For 5 to 12 year olds
At Thomas Johnson Lower School, Lidlington

Crafts, Drama, Songs, Games and more

Sessions are free of charge

Run by Lidlington Church - www.lidlingtonchurch.org.uk
For further info. contact Siân 01525 405952

For registration form/info.
e-mail: lidlingtonchurch@newsletter.org.uk

Events at Turvey Abbey



22 - 24 OCTOBER 2010

Listen with the ear of your heart: Discover the word God speaks to your heart through the practice of the ancient art of Lectio Divina.

27 NOVEMBER 2010

Advent Retreat Day A quiet day of meditation including pondering and praying with icons in preparation for Christmas.

10 - 12 DECEMBER 2010

Faithful Love God kept his promises to send the Messiah; on this silent weekend, we'll reflect on how God keeps his promises today.

For information and booking please contact:

The Retreat Secretary
Priory of our Lady of Peace
Turvey Abbey
Turvey
Beds
MK 43 8DE

Reg Charity No: 246754

Website: turveyabbey.org.uk

Toddington Pentecost Party Sunday 23 May

Sun, fun, food and music, what more could you ask for and that was what we got at the Pentecost Party on Sunday, 23 May. The Lord answered our prayers for good weather by giving us one of the hottest days so far this year. The Village Green in Toddington was a hive of activity, with hundreds of people enjoying all the free activities and the food and drink provided by CTTC - Churches Together in Toddington and Chalgrave (Hope Church, St Elizabeth's RC Church, St George's Church, Toddington Methodist Church and All Saints Church, Chalgrave).

Each church looked after various aspects of the day. We had a fantastic band made up of members of Hope Church and Toddington Baptist Church and we received many positive comments on their outstanding performance, the two Blues ones went down particularly well. Helpers from the churches manned the inflatables, organised children's games, biscuit decorating, handed out soft drinks, and cooked burgers and sausages cheerfully suffering the heat and the queuing hoards. We had a fantastic face-painting team who worked quickly through the line of excited children. We also had a Prayer Tent which had a steady stream of people looking for prayer, healing and comfort.

It was a great day and there has been really good feedback from many non-Christians. In an age where people feel you never get something for nothing, people were amazed at the churches providing a free event. CTTC achieved its aim of providing a fun packed day for the village and surrounding areas which has helped raise the profile of the churches and has planted seeds within the community.

Louise Morris (Chairperson CTTC)

Shillington Congregational Church

Forthcoming Social Evenings

14 August Evening Meal

18 September Evening Meal followed by a Talk by a local personality

Our social evenings start at 7.00pm and are usually over by 9.30pm All are Welcome

Special Sunday Events

5 September Church Luncheon followed by
Songs of Praise at 3.00pm at Elstow Bunyan Christian Fellowship

12 September Harvest Thanksgiving followed by Church Luncheon

Table Tennis Club

Our table tennis club continues to meet on alternate Thursdays at 7.30pm throughout the summer period, returning to **weekly meetings** from 7 October.

New members are welcome. Anyone interested please telephone Tom Rainey: 01462 712562

Elstow Bunyan Christian Fellowship (Churches Together in South Bedford)



The Fellowship at Elstow continues to celebrate 100 years since the original church building, known as Bunyan Memorial Hall, was opened. The following Centenary events will take place at Elstow Bunyan, High Street, Elstow.

September 5 th	3.00pm	'Songs of Praise' Songs chosen by local Congregational Churches.
October 3 rd	11.00am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service All welcome
October 31 st		Remembering 100 years (time to be confirmed) If any reader has a contribution that they would like to make to this event, please contact Mrs Pat Cox on the number below

For further details on any of the above, please telephone Mrs Pat Cox: 01234 402475

Wixams

This new development, close to Wilstead, is now growing fast, with over 200 properties occupied. Members of the Kempston Hardwick Ecumenical Group (KHEG) continue to meet regularly and are working closely with Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association's Community Development Officer for Wixams.

A house has been selected and should be completed before the end of this year. It is hoped that a Christian Minister will be appointed to begin work in January 2011.

Members of KHEG are planning to hold a Barbecue at Wixams on Sunday 19 September; this will be their first opportunity to meet the people there. Please continue to pray for this project.