



St John's News

Autumn 2009

Harvest Weekend

18th -20th September



Friday 18th

16.00 Cream Tea at St John's *A chance to meet up for a chat over scrumptious cakes*

18.00 Songs of Praise

This is a fun fund raising event, favourite hymns interspersed with choir items and readings. You can request your favourite hymn in advance, if it is chosen you are asked to pay €10. All for a good cause!!

Sunday 20th

10.30 Harvest Festival ThanksGiving Service

Harvest Lunch. *Please bring a salad or dessert. Chicken , wine and bread provided.*

Sign up in advance please anneaton@orange.fr 0494404861

It has been our tradition for some years to celebrate Harvest on the third Sunday of September and to make it a reunion weekend. We hope as many of you as possible will be with us.

Dear Friends,

This long hot summer here has been absolutely brilliant, and it has been even more brilliant to have seen so many members of St John's coming back at different times, braving the heat and sharing with us all in lovely coolness of our church and the warmth of its fellowship and worship. So many friends have been here it seems that everyone was able to escape a little "the great British summer"! nevertheless I hope all of us have had some time this summer – heat or cold- some time for recovery and renewal spiritually mentally and physically, and have had time to listen to and hear the voice of the our Lord.

It is with great joy we celebrate Christmas, and with great devotion we celebrate Holy Week and Easter, all essential key points in the Christian year to bring home to all Christians the foundations of the faith and the springboards of their hope.

At Harvest we come together to celebrate God's abounding goodness and provision, and to give grateful thanks for "all the wonders of his love." Christmas speaks of God's love for the world "the word made flesh"; Easter of Christ's sacrifice for us, rising from the dead, bringing us salvation and eternal life. This is the basis of our faith, devotion, and commitment to live the new life in Christ. Harvest has a further foundational theme of the whole Biblical witness of God, the overriding sense

of gratitude that we must have for the God of "creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life" and our salvation. Being thankful to God in our hearts and minds by our words, by our actions and by our whole way of life is the fulfillment of our Christian vocation.

Harvest Festival, standing as it does, at the "rentrée" the beginning of a new year, as we come back from holidays, calls us to renew our Christian vocation and to put our "hand to our plough", so that walking more and more in the way of Christ we might bear the fruitful harvest God calls us to.

With many thanks to our God and to you for our common life together, Ben

Contact details: beneaton@orange.fr
0033494404861

Our Harvest Charity for 2009

In June, old friends of Ben and Anne, who are Egyptians and medical people, Doctor Atif and Christine Salib, were invited to tell us of their Christian service amongst the most deprived people of Cairo. We were all deeply impressed by their sincere sense of dedication and Christian commitment. On retirement, after international careers as a doctor and nurse, they went back to Cairo to live with the aim of freely giving their services to the poorest community in the city, the people forced to live in the city's garbage pit. We decided that the need was so great, and their work so important, that this would be our Harvest Charity for 2009. Doctor Salib writes of their work and the needs :

These people, mainly Coptic Christians, are known as the Zabaleens. The men and young boys go out early every morning with donkey and carts collecting the garbage from homes, take it back to their dwellings where the garbage is dumped right where they live. Then the wives and daughters recycle everything, for example metal is flattened with bare feet and sold for a small fee to the metal dealer. They reclaim the cotton or any fabric, cut and weave it to make rugs or coverings which they use for sitting on.

The Zabaleens, who try to make a living by such occupations, have to work in the most inhospitable climate of malodorous and unsightly trash, and expose themselves to lethal diseases such as hepatitis, cancer, chest diseasesetc in return for very little remuneration.. This is so unfairly disproportionate to the enormous, but unrecognised benefit the community at large receives from them

35 Years ago Sister Emmanuelle, who died at Caillan, chose at the age 62 to share in this life of poverty and suffering. When sister Emmanuelle retired at the age of 97, she left a worthy successor, Sister Sara, who now is currently the Mother Superior of the group of Coptic nuns who have inherited sister Emmanuelle mission. They are an order of working nuns known as ' Daughters of Mary". One part of Sister Emmanuelle's and their mission work in the Zabaleen, has been to build the Mahaba Benevolent Hospital. This hospital, in order to serve the garbage people, depends on donations.

Christine and I support the hospital in different ways. I conduct a Clinic 3 times a week, and Christine makes home visits with Sister Anastasia to the sick patients who need home care.

We are very committed to help these people, and we appreciate your church support. I am enclosing some photo of the Zabaleen area and the hospital.

with love Christine & Atif Salib



The Late Mrs Sybil Blackett.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Sybil Blackett. In the 80's and 90's she, and her husband Alan, attended St John's when holidaying in their caravan at Estelle Camping. Alan, a lay reader, sometimes took a service here. She told us the happiest days of her life were here at St Raphael. We are so



grateful to her for the generous bequest of £5000 that she left to St John's. Two chairs will be dedicated to their memory.

A Life Worth Living

An exciting follow-up to the Alpha Course which was well attended and much appreciated last year is the study course by Nicky Gumble called **A Life Worth Living**. This is an nine-week course based on the book of Philippians.

Each session explores how it is possible to live the Christian life positively, practically and joyfully!

Full time and part time residents are urged to take part as we here at St John's try to grow in our Christian faith. Full details available in church or on the web-site.

Beginning from Tuesday October 6th at St John's, and Tuesdays thereafter at 11.30 with light bring and share lunch followed by discussion. Please contact us if you intend to come so that we can order a copy of the book for you.

Only 20 Praying Days to Christmas! Sunday 6th December

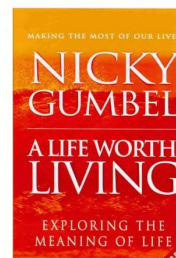
On the first Sunday in December The Rev Peter Anderson chaplain of Cannes Church will be with us help us think our way through the commercialism and help us prepare ourselves for a meaningful celebration of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will preach at the morning service and after a bring and share lunch will lead us in discussion. Please put the date in your diary!



Philippine Self Help Foundation Margery's son Richard writes;

Thank you for the support you have given to the paella party held at my mother, Margery's home in Le Muy, each year. It is not only a great social occasion but also a fund-raiser for the work of the Philippine Self help Foundation. I was particularly delighted to be able to attend in person this year for the first time and to have a chance to talk with so many of you. The support for our work from St. John's and some individual members of the congregation has been deeply appreciated over the years. The recent paella party raised 1,200 euros and I am pleased to give you the details on how some of these funds have been disbursed.

- Mary Joy and Jaime Visca have received 5,000 pesos (€70) to restore their rice farming capital.
- Rosemarie Orbista has received a loan of 4,000 pesos (€60) to enable her to have her own capital for salt and vegetable trading; She hopes to make a weekly income of 3,200 pesos (€45) from her sales.
- Johnsil Osio (5) is critically ill with meningitis in a hospital on the island of Bohol. We have provided his parents with a grant of 25,000 pesos (€350) to pay for antibiotics and the rental of a respirator machine.
- Warlita Pabella is a field worker on the PSHF staff. Her loan of 15,000 pesos (€210) was used to purchase a trisikad for her husband and to pay for the construction of a lavatory in their home.



Please reply to Anneaton@orange.fr

1. Songs of Praise 18th September

Send in your choice of hymn

2. Harvest Lunch 20th September

Book your place tell me if you will bring a salad or dessert

3. A Life Worth Living

Let us know if you are coming. Would you like us to order you a copy of the book or you can order your own . A Like Worth Living by Nicky Gumbel