



The Grapevine

November 2016

Catholic Parish of the Sacred Heart
St Ives

Contents

Dear Readers	1
Father Karol updates ...	2
The season of Advent	4
The Autumn Club – what’s it all about?	6
Fringe in the Fen	8
2016 Confirmations	10
Pilgrimage for the sick to Walsingham	12
Evangelisation	14
Wednesday Word	16
The Bridge Chapel – Chapel of St Leger	17
Aloe vera: the medicine plant	20
<i>Memento mori</i>	21
The power of a smile	22
2016 – Year of Mercy Pilgrimage from St Ives to Norwich	24
World Youth Day 2016	26
A Beloved’s Bouquet – A Villanelle	31
Anniversary bookmarks	32
Christians in the Holy Land – reality and reconciliation	33
Saint Ivo	35
Parish Information	
• Steering Committee	42
• Groups, committees and activities	43
• SVP report	45
• Open Meeting Minutes	47
• Mass times and other services	inside back cover

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DEAR READERS!



We present the new edition of *The Grapevine*, which we now intend to print at least twice a year. A team of volunteers have formed an editing body for our magazine, and, through it, we hope to share many of the rich experiences of our parishioners with others in our community

We also hope that *The Grapevine* might become a chronicle of the events and a history of life in this part of the Diocese of East Anglia. May the communion we gain through our magazine help us all to grow and be strengthened in our faith, hope and charity.

Let us then pray to the Holy Spirit to make Him penetrate our hearts and minds to encourage us to take advantage of this means of communication so that it benefits of all readers: parishioners, visitors and neighbours of any denomination and any outlook.

With all the blessings,

Fr Karol Porczak MS

Parish Priest

Father Karol updates...

It has been almost 2 years of my enjoyable service to our parish community. In spite of being alone as the pastor, I am never lonely thanks to YOUR great support. During this time: 34 new parishioners were welcomed into our parish and received the Sacrament of Baptism; 22 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation; 21 children in 2015, and 17 in 2016, for the first time, received the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ (Holy Communion); 3 couples entered the Sacrament of Matrimony; and 24 members of our community departed to eternity. Over the last year (October 2015 to October 2016), church attendance dropped from an average of 380 to 300 Mass count. However, during the previous year, there had been regular Masses in Polish, with an average of 30 people; so this will account for some of this reduction.

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, announced by Pope Francis, proved to have a very significant impact on us. In our church, the additional time for confessions on Saturday mornings attracted the attention of many people, not only members of our parish. The 40 hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was challenging but very well attended, even during the nights! We did it twice in one year and in the future we are capable of doing it again. The *Posada* journey in Advent represented by a figure of Joseph leading pregnant Mary on a donkey helped many of us to prepare better for Christmas; Lenten Talks gave us the opportunity to approach the topics of the Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Two coach pilgrimages organised in connection with the Year of Mercy led us to the Walsingham Shrine and the Norwich Cathedral, where we could walk through the Door of Mercy in both of them.

The World Youth Day in Kraków (Poland) was well represented by our young parishioners. Five of them (3 young men and 2 young ladies) were part of the 80 people in the group from the Diocese of East Anglia Youth. I was delighted to join them in Poland thanks to the hospitality given us by La Salette Congregation's house in the Tatra Mountains (town of Zakopane).

We have had the personnel changes in our Parish Steering Committee, and I appointed the Parish Administrator after Mrs Veronica Boland's retirement. I would like to thank Mrs Rosalind Bubb who helped me with parish administration last year, as she ended her employment in the parish office in November 2016. The noteworthy presence of Fr Ivan Weston has helped me greatly in managing the pastoral demands of the parish as well. But,

regrettably, until September 2017 there will be again no other La Salette priest to support me in pastoral duties, so we are now looking for another Parish Administrator in order to manage the busy organisation of the parish. In November we started *The Gift* – six meetings on Tuesday evenings – in order to regain the understanding of the Baptismal Promises. We hope that this event will bring a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit’s gifts in our parish.

The construction of the courtyard room is scheduled in April 2017. We look forward for the start of it, and we hope that 12 weeks will be sufficient time to complete the project.

This year: we prepare 11 children for their First Holy Communion; due to the small number of candidates, we will ask Bishop Alan for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2018; and 6 couples are preparing for their Sacrament of Matrimony. To all my parishioners, I wish a long and beautiful life in expectation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (The Parousia). Nobody knows how many new parishioners might be conceived in the future and how many already living might die. All in The Lord’s hands...

May God bless us all and the Holy Virgin of La Salette intercede for us.

The Grapevine needs you ...

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of *The Grapevine*. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to the Parish Office, who will forward them to the Editorial Team.

If you are able to spare some time, please join our small team of volunteers. We need help with: content suggestions, liaising with contributors, seeking advertisements, proof-reading etc. Please send your contact details to the Parish Office , and a member of the team will contact you.

Thank you

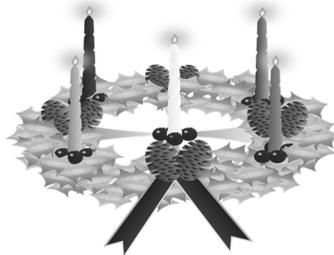
The season of Advent

What does it mean to you?

The season of Advent begins the Church's Liturgical Year, and has always been well celebrated at the Sacred Heart Parish, St Ives with the lighting of the first candle on the Advent Wreath by a child on the first Sunday while the Advent Carol is sung. Each wreath has five candles: three purple ones to signify a time of repentance; a pink candle, which is lit on the third Sunday, known as Gaudete Sunday to remember the joy that Mary, Our Lady, contemplated as she looked forward to giving birth to the Messiah; and a white candle, lit on Christmas Day for Christ, the Light of the World.

Over the last 15 years, Advent talks have been held on Tuesday evenings in the parish hall, covering such themes as "Isaiah, a prophet for Advent", "Prepare the Way of the Lord" and "Our Blessed Lady, Virgin and Mother". This year there will be a 6-week course entitled "The Gift" beginning on Thursday 3rd November, and continuing on Tuesdays 15th, 22nd and 29th November and the 6th and 13th of December. "The Gift" is an opportunity to grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit and discover the treasures of the Gift of your Faith given to you at Baptism.

Elizabeth Barker, Parish R.E. Coordinator



“

Advent is a time of waiting, vigil, expectations. For us Christians, it has two meanings. The first two weeks underlines the constant waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the Judgement Day which the whole world could experience at any time but we are the only ones who are aware of it! The third and fourth weeks are a direct preparation for Christmas in order to celebrate with jubilant hearts and minds the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who lived among us for 33 years in visible form as a boy and man. We can celebrate and follow all the prophetic indications of His Coming to help us make a memorable Christmas again this year of the time Jesus Christ wanted to spend with us.

Fr Karol

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A quiet time for reflection and preparation for the New Year.

David Kerr

Advent is a time for us to reflect on our spiritual needs, to make amends for our sins, and to prepare ourselves for the Birth of Jesus, Our Saviour.

Pat Francis

As the word Advent implies, it is the start of an adventure, time to contemplate the miraculous Birth of Jesus, time to remember those destined for a stable birth. Think of the families here and abroad longing for peace, food and safety for their long-awaited miracle baby.

John Sayer

As I see the children light the candles on the Advent Wreath, it makes me think this is a special time leading us forward to Christmas.

Rita O'Neill

Advent is an opportunity to remember, reflect on and realign myself to the history of salvation and in our role in making the kingdom come using the gifts we have been given.

Laura Mitcham.

Advent is a time of waiting, of contemplation, of expectation of the great joy we experience every year at the Birth of Our Saviour.

Elizabeth Barker

To me, Advent is a time of preparation and looking forward with a renewed sense of hope, expectation and encouragement. On a nostalgic note, it takes me back to the many Advents I have experienced before in different circumstances, and gives a comforting sense of continuity and eternity. The promise of something wonderful about to happen and the certainty that we will never be let down..

Deborah Daniel

My first thought was family and coming together, and good and happy memories. But it also means to me a new beginning. Jesus came into this world to bring peace to a troubled world, and I hope and pray that this Advent will bring peace to our very turbulent world.

Valerie Dunster

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The Autumn Club – what's it all about?

The senior citizens in our parish and friends from the wider community meet together once a month, sometimes for tea and cake and a chat in the church hall, and at other times we venture out and about.

What we've done so far this year...

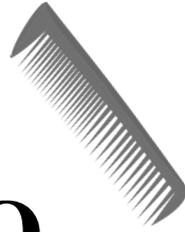
This year we have had some great outings. In May we were treated to a most interesting talk by councillor Ian Dobson. He talked about the history of St Ivo but, with the limited time, was only able to scratch the surface, so we are hoping that he will one day come back and expand on what he has already told us. In June we had a boat trip on the river. The weather wasn't kind, but the picnic lunch on the boat, with wine and a sing-song, made it great fun. On a much sunnier day in July we visited the garden of one of our parishioners in Somersham, Twin Tarns; it is a really beautiful garden, and we enjoyed a lovely cream tea, freshly baked scones, with generous amounts of jam and cream.

We had a break in August, but restarted on 28th September when we caught up on each other's news, and had fun with a memory quiz. We also visited Wyevale Garden Centre on 26th October to give members a chance to do Christmas shopping and enjoy a cream tea.

Upcoming events

A trip to The Windmill – At the end of November there will be a lunch at the Windmill in Somersham, as a special Christmas treat, but no party in December. SVP members will provide lifts to anybody who has mobility problems. If you are new to the parish and feel shy about coming alone, do get in touch with the SVP President (01480 383608), and we can arrange for one of our members to bring you along. You will be very welcome.

Members hope to enjoy a performance of The Wizard of Oz in January at the Burgess Hall, St Ives.



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Fringe in the Fen 2016

Jackie Tevlin

*"Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
Let this be made known in all the earth." Isaiah 12:5*

Music, song and dance can set the soul ablaze by a loving touch, like a hot spark leaping from a fire. So thought St John of the Cross. If this is true, then the whole of our village, Fenstanton, was ablaze in our *Fringe in the Fen* festival this July. A dedicated group from the Sacred Heart signed up for four days of the most sublime events, all put on to raise an amazing total of £30,000 for MacMillan Cancer Support Woodlands Centre in Huntingdon.

The festival itself celebrated the 300th anniversary of the birth of our village's most famous resident, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown; and as Graham Ross the festival director explained, the "packed programme of incredible music, and extraordinary musicians" brought to life music that celebrated "the architecture of our landscapes and the great outdoors". Graham himself commemorated this anniversary by composing a new composition '*The Fallen Elm*' based on John Clare's poem. This was premiered at the *Proms in the Park* finale with the promise of all future proceeds going to MacMillan Cancer Support. But before our grand firework ending, what a glorious wealth of musical delights (and art) we enjoyed...

The City of Cambridge Brass Band entertained us on Chapel Green with a traditional repertoire. And did I mention the amazing refreshment provided at each event? On this Sunday afternoon delight, I polished off a cream tea without blinking! The children of Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School performed *THE BIG BUZZ* in the parish church of St Peter and St Paul. John Rutter directed a



scratch choir in a whole day with the well-loved and familiar. It is difficult to choose a favourite event. Was it *An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan*, with our stunning team of now familiar opera singers? Or the *1940s Land Girls' Big Band Party Night* at Capability Barns? My daughter Clare and I were agog at all the wonderful 40s outfits and 40s setting and 40s dancing. I never knew the lindy hop could be such fun!



And the music continued around the clock. At lunchtime, there were concerts in the United Reformed Church: Tanya Houghton on the harp; Stewart French on the classical guitar; Leo Popplewell on the cello. All concerts were preceded with the option of a light lunch. For those who enjoy laughter with their entertainment, *The Fringe Comedy Night* obliged.

It is hard to pick a favourite event then. For me, it was the sheer beauty of the choir of Clare College as they sang out in youthful splendour the anonymous and ancient "*Sumer is Icumen in*" positioned all around us in aisles of the parish church. For my husband Aidan, it was *Proms in The Park* embellished with posh nosh. We all waved



our flags – Ellen of course waved the Welsh Dragon – as we sat enjoying Huntingdonshire Concert Band, the Fen Massed Choir and the beautiful Kay Symonds-Joy as she led us in Sir Malcolm Sargent's edition of Thomas Arne's *Rule Britannia*! Move over the Albert Hall: a new venue – Fenstanton Manor – is in town!

This is the third *Fringe in the Fen* – it is a tribute to the great team of volunteers, who gave their time, energy and space to put it all together. May they be blessed for their inspiration, dedication and sheer bloomin' talent! And as I started with Isaiah may we ever "praise the Lord" together for his greatness, brought to us, so memorably, through the music and generosity of others.



2016 Confirmations

Thoughts of some young confirmands

On Monday 16th May 2016, thirteen candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Sacred Heart Church. Eleven (ten youngsters and one adult) were fellow parishioners from our parish; and we were pleased to welcome two candidates from the St Charles Borromeo Parish in Wisbech. Bishop Alan Hopes, the Bishop of East Anglia, conducted the ceremony, and joined everyone afterwards for refreshments in the hall. Four young parishioners shared their thoughts of this very special day.

Faith Mpkati – a special experience to cherish

I started my Confirmation preparation late last year, and this has been one of the most eye-opening experiences I have been through. It made me more in touch with my Faith and strengthened my understanding of God and the Church. I met lots of new people, and also made new friends. Three highlights come to mind. The first was the *Ignite Festival*, a weekend camp that involved loads of activities and live music. I met lots of lovely people who were also preparing for Confirmation. The only downside was a very cold at night in the tent! I also met the Bishop; he celebrated Mass on Sunday, which was very special. Another highlight was the evening that I was Confirmed. It was a very special evening, and many people came to celebrate it with me and all the other Confirmation candidates. A trip to Thorpe Park was also one of my favourite events, as it was a very fun-filled day. Overall, it was an amazing experience, organised by incredible people, and I am very grateful and also very proud of myself and the other candidates for our Confirmation.



Audrey Rose-Skinner – gaining a deeper understanding of the faith

This year I took part in the Confirmation programme, and was Confirmed. I found the lessons very useful in understanding more about my faith. For example, I had always known the 10 commandments, the most important set of rules for Christians; however, I was surprised by how much deeper they were than I had previously thought, and how they applied to the modern day. The people that run the preparation events were all very supportive and kind, so it was a very loving environment to be in. I am humbled to have had the chance to be involved in this process to expand my faith.

Diana Pereira – understanding what the church means

I initially started going the Confirmation classes because my little brother was doing it, and my mum told me to go with him. After a few sessions, I started to realise (and accept) that I didn't know as much as I thought I did. I started to understand why the church does some of the things it does, and has the things it has; for example the altar is a lot more than "that place where Father stands". I also started feeling like I'm a real part of the Church/am the Church, unlike before when I simply went to church and went back home. Church is more than just a building or something I had to go to: it is a wonderful thing in my life that I choose to be a part of and express in my day-to-day life. The Confirmation classes were nice, and the talk from the Ignite team was great. In all, the *Ignite Festival* was quite an interesting experience as I'd never slept in a tent outside, but it was so cold I didn't really sleep at all! It certainly made me able to empathise with homeless people, and reminded me to keep them in my prayers every night.

Overall, I definitely understand more about what The Lord did for us all and what He wants from us, thanks to the Confirmation classes and the Ignite festival. The trip to Thorpe Park was a cherry on top! Thank you!



Confirmands enjoying a trip to Thorpe Park

Fran Chapman – choosing to live a good life

Hello! My name is Fran Chapman, and I was Confirmed this year. It was important for me to find a patron saint who has some relevance to the girl that I am and the person I want to be when I grow up, so I chose the Confirmation name Gertrude. St Gertrude worked very hard and was kind to people.

I enjoyed the classes with Elizabeth and Phillip, we got to talk about lots of different things and how we live our lives. I chose my older cousin, Eve, as my sponsor, and she came all the way down from Glasgow. The Bishop remembered my sister who was Confirmed last year.

Pilgrimage for the sick to Walsingham

Three personal accounts

*Hilton Rowlings
President of St Neots SVP*

On the 3rd July 2016, a group of parishioners from St Joseph's, St Neots joined the parishioners of The Sacred Heart, St Ives on the annual SVP Pilgrimage Mass for the Sick at Walsingham. During the journey, we recited the Rosary, which was the perfect start for a memorable day of Devotion. We arrived at Walsingham in time for a lovely lunch, provided by the St Ives Conference. After lunch, we took the opportunity to walk through the Holy Door, into the Slipper Chapel. The Shrine has gone through a number of changes recently. Many of the visitors mentioned what an emotional experience it was to see the new amendments.

At 1.30pm, the Bishop of Northampton, the celebrant, including five Priests, took part in the Mass. During the service, the Anointment of the Sick took place. We were all served with a cup of tea and cake. At 4.30pm, the service of Benediction started, which brought the day to its conclusion. Our journey home was a relaxing way to finish a wonderful day of a prayerful pilgrimage.

Our thanks to the SVP, St Ives Conference for a memorable day. We appreciate how much work it was to make the day so successful.

*Josephine Attard
Parish visitor*

While visiting my sister in Needingworth last July, my husband and I joined the Pilgrimage for the Sick at Walsingham. We set out on a beautiful sunny morning, joined by a neighbouring SVP Conference, who were accompanying some elderly and sick people. In preparation for the day ahead, everyone said the Rosary on the coach, which made for perfect start to this wonderful experience. Upon arrival at Walsingham, we were served lunch by the SVP members, with teas and coffees. We also managed to have a walk around the shrine, walked through the Door of Mercy, lit some candles and prayed for our families. Mass was celebrated by the Bishop of Northampton, Peter Doyle, together with

other priests and members of the clergy. It was a joy to see such a faithful congregation of people from all walks of life, joined together in prayer.

I was one of the lucky few to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, a very emotional moment that I will always remember. I am not able to translate such feelings of happiness and peacefulness into words. I took this experience with me back home to Malta, and I will treasure it forever. Thank you SVP, St Ives.

Matthew Baker
Walsingham pilgrim since 1988

My earliest memories about going to Walsingham was when I first met Penny and Martin Wells through the Catholic Church in Papworth; this was in 1988. It wasn't until a couple of years later that I managed an all-day visit; and it was then that I met Kathleen Clewlow [former President of the SVP], who asked me if I would read at the service. Although I had never read at Mass before, I really enjoyed it, especially when everyone said how good I was afterwards.

I have been so grateful to everyone who has looked after me every year I have been, especially in helping to push my chair and support me in getting on and off the coach. I'm particularly grateful to Caroline Aves, who gives people support on these visits. I remember when she very first took me – when I went into the place where candles are lit, and taking the candles up to the bishop during the Mass.

I would like to thank all those people who help out every year, including those who book transport and organise the food and drink that we are given. I also want to say how nice it is to see the same people go every year and put a smile on my face. These are trips of a lifetime for me.

Evangelisation

Rebecca Bretherton

Diocesan Evangelisation Coordinator

Go and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord!

What is the New Evangelisation? In many ways there is nothing new about the New Evangelisation. The New Evangelisation calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. The focus of the New Evangelisation calls all Catholics to be evangelised and then go forth to evangelise. The New Evangelisation invites each Catholic to renew their relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

This is a challenge for every one of us — for our lives — now

In a special way, the New Evangelisation is focused on 're-proposing' the Gospel to those baptised Catholics who have experienced a crisis of faith or who have never lived their faith as disciples.

It's estimated that at least two-thirds of the baptised Catholic community in England and Wales are non-churchgoing — approximately four million people. This makes a significant constituency of people who, in most cases, self-identify as Catholic but never, or rarely, attend Mass. We know these people: they are in every Catholic family; they are the people we miss at Mass; we may have spent some time away from the Church ourselves and have some understanding of what it is like to be a Catholic outside the community.

New Evangelisation calls for a “new ardour”. St Pope John Paul II said we need an evangelisation that is ‘new in its ardour, new in its methods and new in its expression’. New Evangelisation is therefore about every Christian deepening his or her own faith, hope and love, and becoming more fired up with a new ardour, a real love for Jesus Christ and His Church. Filled with such enthusiasm, ‘fire in the belly’, a personal passionate love, one naturally and instinctively reaches out to draw others in.

We are all called to be evangelists

Every week at Mass we are reminded that our relationship with Jesus Christ needs to be shared with others. That's what Christianity is about! This can take some courage. Our families can be some of the most difficult places to proclaim the Good News. If you're like me, we all could use some help with knowing how to proclaim the Gospel when God opens the opportunity. There are ways we can support each other in our parish to do this.

What can I do?

First of all: Pray! Pray for those Catholics in your family or community who are no longer at Mass. Pray for our parish and for our community. Pray the Coming Home Prayer (which is at the end of this article), or just speak to God about the people you know in your own words.

Secondly: You cannot give what you do not have! Before we can tell others about

our relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church, we need to understand and strengthen our own faith. We cannot proclaim the Gospel until we start to try to live the Gospel. This is, of course, the work of our whole lives but we shouldn't wait until we are perfect before sharing the Good News. There are many opportunities to learn more about our faith here in our parish.

Thirdly: With humility, we need to consider the many reasons why people aren't joining us in church. Are there ways we can help them return? Is there something I can do myself or something I can help the parish to do to guide non-churchgoing Catholics back?

It is time to stop talking about evangelisation; we need to start making a difference.

Proclaim!

St Ives parish hosted a Proclaim! event for local parishes on 5th November. The day was full of energy and enthusiasm and included:

- Some presentations on the New Evangelisation and some ideas about reaching out to non-churchgoing Catholics and others
- A chance to discuss some of the difficulties and opportunities
- A chance to pray for our parish as we start to think about how we can answer the challenge to proclaim the Good News.

One of the aims of the day was to begin to create a Parish Proclaim Team. The Parish Proclaim Team will plan some simple evangelisation projects to give everyone opportunities to share their faith for the rest of this year and through 2017. Not everyone needs to be on this co-ordinating team, but everyone can be involved. Keep an eye out for events and opportunities!

The Coming Home Prayer

Loving Father,
we pray for those baptised
who no longer or rarely attend Church:
that they will understand and experience in their hearts
that Christ is the source
of unconditional love and reconciliation.

We pray for everyone who worships in our parish community:
that we may find the right words and means
to invite our absent brothers and sisters
to return to the practice of their faith.
Amen.



Wednesday Word

Joseph McCrossan

Head Teacher at St Alban's Catholic Primary Cambridge

The *Wednesday Word* is a 2-page colourful and glossy document with readings, prayers, puzzles and a Word to focus on in the week. At St Alban's Catholic Primary school, Cambridge, the children have been receiving the *Wednesday Word* for almost 3 years. It was introduced to help prepare the children for the Sunday Mass, and provide them with readings and tasks. When we introduced it each Wednesday, the children were given their copy and, by Friday, I would ask in assembly what was in the *Wednesday Word*. To my delight, all the children would raise their hands. However, when I asked the teachers, an embarrassed look passed between them! This told me it was being given out without any input from the school, and my concern now was, how were the parents receiving it if the teachers did not engage?



After a few staff meetings looking at the *Wednesday Word*, the teachers saw the value: it presents the Gospel in a way in which children could understand; it provides follow-up activities; and, crucially, the teachers have become more knowledgeable. This is important because, although it is written for children, adults will also find it useful. It will help parents develop their faith and, for at least once a week, bring mums, dads and children together to read and pray. This message was conveyed to our parents and, now, each week, the *Wednesday Word* is mentioned in the Friday newsletter. Staff still forget to send it out on a Wednesday, but this is because they want to spend time reading it with the children and not just send it out as another letter.

I am confident that when you sit down with your child and read the Gospel and the short prayer, you will feel richer in your faith, and the whole family can focus on celebrating the Word each week. You don't have to read it as soon as you get it, as God's Word is for every day. I am delighted the Bishop is supporting this, and I am pleased to say that there are now a number of schools in our diocese sending the *Wednesday Word* home.

Editor's note – *The Wednesday Word* is now available for adults to study the readings for the forthcoming Sunday. Copies are available after each Sunday Mass to study the Scriptures that will be read on the following Sunday. If there are no copies available, you can download your own from the website: www.wednesdayword.org. Children's copies are available only through schools. We are currently arranging to buy copies from the nearest Catholic school for the children in our parish.



The Bridge Chapel – Chapel of St Leger

Dot and Doug Wade

Rumours were rife in 1645

The King's forces in Lincolnshire were on the march to London. People were a-feared. Their town was under the jack-booted heel of troops serving a parliament who denied the Right of Kings and imposed strict religious dogma on the inhabitants. Support of Royalty was punishable in the courts or the stocks, but conversely the people did not welcome the arrival of the King's troops, for that meant Battle; and Battle meant a certain loss of livelihood, destruction of their property and businesses and possibly even death.

A notice had appeared around the town. To halt the King's forces' drive to London, the town's sole bridge across the river would be blown to smithereens. If unable to cross, the troops would be forced to march 5 miles upstream to Huntingdon to cross, and those oh-so-superior townies would be forced to suffer the problems of a marauding army.

Problem identified

Except, some wise heads counselled that destruction of the Bridge and its associated Chapel would lead to loss of tourism in the town – why, people came from afar to worship at the Chapel which had been there since 1426, only a year after the bridge was built! And, on top of that, it served a good commercial purpose, collecting tolls, which benefited the entire community and were needed to make up profits after the Puritan occupation forces had closed down alehouses and reduced incomes.

Soon, individuals began to meet in secret to discuss how to overcome the problem. They were led by the local Papists, who were used to secret meetings to protect themselves against persecution by the Puritans. They were joined by non-religious townsfolk who saw the necessity of keeping a crossing across the river open for trade; and even Puritans joined the movement, for Puritanism should not affect profits.

Problem solved

After many meetings and much debate, with objectors putting their names to a scroll to show dissatisfaction with the proposal, and many letters for and against in the local broadsheet, a solution was found and presented to the local Puritan Commandant. Instead of blowing up the entire bridge complete with Chapel, might it not be possible just to blow

up a part of it, say a couple of spans on the south side? A drawbridge could be built to keep out the King's men should they appear and, meanwhile, trade could continue to the benefit of all concerned. Oh, and building the drawbridge could provide a nice little earner for the Commandant.

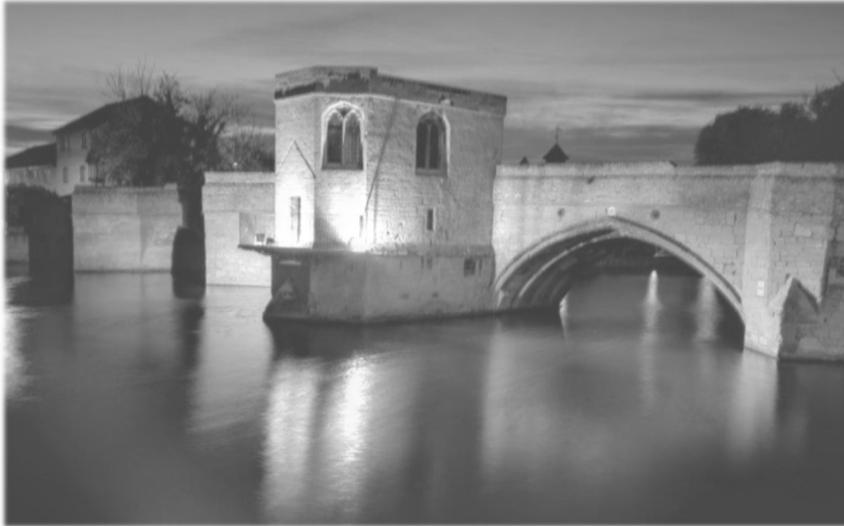
Nearing his pension, the Commandant quickly saw the benefits of the proposal and amended the orders to blow the bridge. Instead, amidst much pomp and ceremony, and attended by many local dignitaries who had absolutely nothing to do with the petition, the two southern arches of the bridge were blown up. A construction consortium, headed by the Commandant, built a drawbridge within the year and, by 1646, the town was showing increased income, with people from far and wide coming to spend at the markets and marvel at the Chapel on the Bridge.

Fast forward nearly 400 years...

Due to problems with finances, the temporary drawbridge had not been replaced until 1716, and, even then, the two replacement arches were a different shape to the old ones. Use of the Chapel declined, and it became used for accommodation, two extra floors being added in 1736. In mid-1800, a local entrepreneur converted it into an ale-house of ill-repute named *Little Hell*, with drunks upstairs and pigs kept in the basement. Later, the building was used as a doctor's surgery before reverting to accommodation, a role it pursued until 1927. Three years later there were fears about the structure of the Chapel, resulting in the two storeys added in 1736 being removed. By now, the Chapel on the Bridge was only one of four left in the country, and, for protection, it became a Grade 1 Listed Building and Ancient Monument, remaining in use for civic functions and meetings.

In August this year, a notice was placed on the door of the St Leger Chapel on the Grade 1 listed medieval St Ives bridge with the following information. Huntingdon District Council as the local Licensing Authority had received an application for a Premises Licence for the Bridge Chapel of St Ives Bridge, London Road, St Ives for carrying on or proposing to carry on a business which involves the use of the premises for licensable activities, namely a licensed bar serving alcohol between the hours of 18.00 and 22.00 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. This was strongly opposed, and a petition was drawn up and circulated to the churches and also given to people who had expressed an interest in objecting to this proposal. This resulted a signed petition of over a hundred names, and also letters sent directly to the council. The interesting part of this exercise was that a good

number of the people who were objecting did not belong to any church, and were raising their objecting purely on the grounds that it was a monument and a chapel, and should be saved as such.



The Bridge Chapel at night

We, of the Sacred Heart, hold a Mass at the Bridge Chapel every Monday morning in the summer months, which raises interest in visitors passing by and even the local population who didn't realise the church was being used. Needless to say these, people are invited in and made welcome, and if time allows given a potted history.

The application was turned down due to the applicant neglecting to advertise the application in the press.

The applicant can still re-apply for the licence but, in view of the comments made by the police on the original application and the continued lack of basic hygiene and toilet facilities, all of which led to wide condemnation of the proposal by large numbers of residents and non-residents, any such proposal should stand limited chance of success. However, we might again have to harness the civic responsibility that showed the council our feelings.

Aloe vera: the medicine plant

Laura Mitchell

Have you ever burnt yourself? Did anyone suggest you use aloe vera on it? For centuries there has been anecdotal evidence about the beneficial effects of taking the aloe vera plant, both by oral ingestion and topical use on the skin. Also known as the Burn Plan, the Silent Healer, and often the Medicine Plant, aloe has been used in cultures from ancient Egypt, Rome, India and China to the modern day.

So what properties have drawn so many people to this plant, which has now prompted clinical trials to support the many widespread stories of wellbeing and healing that are told about it? It's neither a miracle nor an old wives' tale. First, there are only a few species of aloe vera that have medicinal properties, the most potent being a variety called Aloe Barbadosis Miller, or true aloe. Gel from the inner leaf of the plant contains a variety of ingredients that balance the immune system and aid digestion. Regular ingestion of the gel has been known to complement the management of a variety of conditions, like eczema, asthma, ME and ulcerative colitis.



But how? Firstly it contains a large amount of the essential vitamins and minerals we need every day. Antioxidants such as vitamins C and E as well as vitamin B12, which is rarely found in plants, and the precursor to vitamin A, beta-carotene, are all contained within the inner leaf juice. Aloe provides 19 of the 20 amino acids the body requires as the building blocks of proteins, enzymes that break down food; sugars that boost the immune system and plant sterols that act as anti-inflammatories. It also contains substances called saponins and anthraquinones that have anti-microbial and anti-bacterial effects. The combination of ingredients works together in a balanced way that enhances the effects of each; this is called synergism. Many people without particular problems also often report a sense of well-being from using aloe. This is likely to be due to the boost to the immune system that results from this process.



There are a lot of aloe vera products on the market. According to the International Aloe Science Council, 15% aloe content makes a juice, 85% pure aloe qualifies as a gel. The higher the concentration of aloe means the better quality of product. The process of harvesting and stabilising the gel for oral and topical use is also vitally important in ensuring its purity and potency. You can check the aloe content of a product and whether it is approved by the International Aloe Science Council.

Information taken from Dr Peter Atherton, MB.ChB., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.G.P. and a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners, 'Aloe Vera: The Facts'

If in doubt, always seek the advice of your doctor before introducing something new.

MEMENTO MORI

During November we pray for the Holy Souls, especially remembering those who have died in our parish community since November 2nd 2014.

Dennis Rust	Malcom Woolstenholmes
William (Denis) Hallisey	Rodney Pylee
Dea McCretton	Stanislaw Budzynski
Valerie O'Donovan	Margaret Cummings
June Williams	Eileen Buston
Giovanni Pistilli	Paul Abdy
Freda Buttle	Jeremiah Godsell
Gabriel McAlynn	Gerald Gibson
Shelly Ray	Clemente (Clem) Tacconi
Dennis Williams	Vincenzo Di'luorio
Maria Caranci	Margaret (Peggy) Kama
Guiseppe Labriola	Cristina Venditti
Giovanni Coppolaro	Rosa Adamante
Maria Coppolaro	Andrew (Andy) French

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
May their souls and all the souls of the faithful, departed
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Amen

The power of a smile

Thoughts of a new parishioner

Ann Pyne

As a new parishioner last year, I arrived at Mass at the Sacred Heart Church in St Ives feeling very much like a new girl at school, not knowing anybody at all. I had attended Mass as a visitor, while visiting my family in Fenstanton, and it was on one such visit, when shopping in Waitrose, that a lady, whom I now know was Rita, spoke to me. She told me that she had seen me at church, and invited me along to the Autumn Club. As a visitor, I was unable to go, but her kindness touched me so much. I went back to my parish – St John's in Horsham – and told everybody about this lovely gesture and how it made me feel.

Within a few days of my arrival as a parishioner (I now live in Fenstanton with my family), another lovely lady, Elizabeth, greeted me with a smile, and invited me to the monthly lunch and the Autumn Club. I have now been able to go to these friendly meetings, and have got to know lots of new people. These gestures have meant so much to me. Moving from all that I had known and loved for 40 years had not been easy, but the warmth that I have felt from the people in the Sacred Heart parish has been amazing. People truly living in faith and love, which is what Our Blessed Lord has asked us to do: Love Him and love our neighbours as ourselves.

So thank you for making my move from Horsham so much easier. God bless you all, and never underestimate the power of a smile.

Parish Christmas lunch

Thursday 15th December at 12 for 12.30 pm

*Glass of sherry, traditional Christmas fayre
and a glass of wine
in the Parish Hall*

£5

Contact Elizabeth by Monday 5th December (01480 383608)

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2016 – Year of Mercy Pilgrimage from St Ives to Norwich

Elizabeth Barker

RE Coordinator, Sacred Heart, St Ives.

On Saturday 17th September, at 8 am, fifty parishioners set off by coach from outside the Sacred Heart Church, St Ives to make a pilgrimage to our Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich to gain a Plenary Indulgence by entering the Holy Door. On the coach we said Morning Prayer of the 4th week of Ordinary time, the memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday.

Arriving at the cathedral in time for 10am Mass, Canon David Paul greeted us warmly at the beginning of the Mass which he concelebrated with our Parish Priest, Fr Karol Porczak MS. After Mass it was time for Confessions or coffee!

Our group had a memorable ground floor tour of the Cathedral. The guides gave a comprehensive history of the cathedral, pointing out the architectural features of the building, built in the early English gothic style and representing one of the best examples of the Victorian Gothic revival. Many of us who have attended diocesan celebrations over the years were amazed to see the fossils on the Frosterley marble, which we had never noticed before. A delicious lunch in the Narthex was served, followed by free time to stroll around the garden or visit the cathedral shop. The more energetic of us even managed a short visit to the city centre.

The group then met at Our Lady of Walsingham's altar where Fr Karol gave a short talk about the Holy Door and led the prayers for the indulgence. We then all proceeded through the door, and had a few photographs taken of our diverse parishioners ranging in age from 6 months to 93 years.

We proceeded round the Cathedral to meditate on the Stations of the Cross, finishing at the Blessed Sacrament Altar at 3pm (The Hour of Mercy) in time to say together the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and giving us time for quiet prayer before leaving for home.



This pilgrimage was only one of our events to commemorate the Year of Mercy, which began with Advent Talks in December 2015, held in our parish hall led by Fr Henry Whisenant from Kings Lynn who spoke about The Jubilee of Mercy – Why Mercy? On the 8th December last year when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, our parish priest, Fr Karol gave a talk on the Door of Mercy. The following week the talk was given by Fr Adam Sowa MS, Parish Priest at Peterborough, telling us about, The Divine Mercy and Sister Faustina Kowalska.

During Lent, we studied the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and had Forty Hours adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the first weekend of March as suggested by Pope Francis. Fr Karol introduced an additional hour on Saturday mornings for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Year of Mercy which began on 8th December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and ends on 20th November when the Holy Doors will be closed on the Feast of Christ the King.

World Youth Day 2016

In June this year, five young people from our parish went to Poland to celebrate World Youth Day – an international event that takes place at a different location every 4 years, culminating in a visit from His Holy Father, the Pope. The following three articles have been written by Joseph, Kasia and Samantha to give a personal account and impression of their experience: to show those people who supported them either financially or through prayer, what our young people gained from the whole experience, and hopefully to encourage other young people to give World Youth Day a go in the future.

Joseph

I became wrapped up in World Youth Day (WYD) when Fr Karol suggested it. In all honesty, it was easier to say yes than try and refuse him! I had been told it was a hugely rewarding experience, but my expectations were perhaps of a prayer-rich holiday, something I wouldn't be admitting to, had it not been so much more than that. The organisers, most notably Hamish, the man who made this trip possible, provided us with significant opportunity to prepare for WYD with various pilgrimages and festivals, so that we could meet people who were also going and develop our understanding. Unfortunately, we attended very few, and our preparation really revolved around fundraising, to which I again find a place to thank all those who provided this valuable support. It was through this initial experience, however, that our group began to get to know each other, and I have no doubt that we wouldn't have raised a fraction of what we did without a united effort. To be perfectly honest, I have certainly had better ideas than cycling 100 miles in snow, wind and rain to raise money, and I think Samantha would agree; but in hindsight, I have no regrets. The breakfasts and cakes sales, on the other hand, were quite a separate experience. I don't think Kasia and Samantha quite realised that they had it in themselves to do an Apprentice-style attack on people in the streets to rid ourselves of the last cakes!

The trip involved two parts: our retreat to Zakopane on the foothills of the Tetra Mountains in southern Poland, and the official event in Krakow. I think there was a general apprehension for the older members of our group when we came to see the entirety of the East Anglia Diocese at Luton airport. The image of a school trip sprang to my mind. But perhaps we came to conclusions too fast – the people I met on the pilgrimage were some of the friendliest and kindest people I've been blessed to meet. So with a quick 2-hour plane journey (which turned into a long 5 hours after a few hours sitting on the tarmac with small children running up and down the plane), we found ourselves being welcomed into the home of Fr Stan, a



local priest in Zakopane, and being taken to our first celebration of Mass before dinner that evening. I had suspected regular Masses, but being someone who has only ever celebrated Mass on Sundays and special days of celebration, I hadn't expected daily prayers, confessions, reconciliation services or time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. However to my surprise I found I fell easily into the daily routine. With the guidance of the priests who accompanied us, I, and I'm sure many others alongside me, found new ways to pray and appreciate our faith. Throughout the week in Zakopane, we visited some truly beautiful churches and shrines, including those dedicated to St John Paul II, as well as walking in the stunning landscape offered to us. I couldn't agree more with Kasia's comment to me about never feeling closer to God than when surrounded by the mountains and landscapes. On the final day of the retreat, we celebrated Mass in The Holy Cross Church of Zakopane. This was alongside what I can only assume to be fairly bemused locals, and groups from Italy, Germany and France, all of us preparing for the celebrations in Krakow. The thing that amazed me most was how welcome we all were and how we were integrated into the service, so that all those who attended heard the gospel in their own language. I've said how friendly our own group was, and this was more than mirrored in the reception of these other cultures, specifically from the French on this occasion.

The Journey from Krakow took place on our sixth day of the pilgrimage and took us through Katowice, the birth place of St John Paul II. Throughout this journey we saw increasing numbers of pilgrims; personally my greatest respect was for the cyclists who appeared to have

cycled from France for the event. By this point we had been told by the veterans of WYDs that housing in the accommodating city was likely to be rather basic, with stories of school halls and buckets for showers. I think it is fair to say it wasn't just me who was apprehensive. As it turned out, however, Hamish and Bishop



Alan had managed to obtain some really excellent accommodation, which we shared with a group from Canada and another group from East Asia. I think between those who represented the Sacred Heart Parish at WYD, we could write a book about the events of the week that followed; therefore I'll focus on some of the most fun, most rewarding and, to some extent, most challenging parts of our time in Krakow.

The first day, we travelled into the centre and were given free time. We spent hours absorbed in meeting other pilgrims from a whole host of other cultures, while attempting to trade off our possessions for something that represented their homelands. As it turns out, people love our accents and anything with a Union Jack on! The whole experience of hundreds of different cultures together created a huge sense of unity. That evening Mass was celebrated in a park, but its size and significance were dwarfed by the opening ceremony with the Pope two days later.

On hearing the stories of previous all-night vigils, it was agreed that, with an expected 2million pilgrims, an early arrival was the only way forward. A small group of us (including me and Kasia) got up at around 4:30 am to secure a good site for the rest of the group a little later. The major problem with so many people is that, understandably, public transport system cannot accommodate that number of people all meeting at the same place. As it turned out, however, getting there was no problem. As one of our early morning fellows said, "The other 2 million are still in bed." And so they were.

The vigil was a perfect end to the pilgrimage. I felt huge emotion, and an overwhelming connection to God, but unfortunately our view of the Pope was fairly non-existent, and we only saw him by screen. However, we heard him speak and my experience was hardly tarnished.

In trying to keep this short, I have skipped a fair deal of the hardship we all experienced over those last two days; but I will add a comment on how exhaustingly hot it was during the vigil and, with no shade to go around, the following day was plagued by cases of sun stroke, and we were all certainly somewhere on the scale of dehydration. It took a day for most of us to make the journey home, and I lost track of where everyone was. But, although that day can hardly be looked upon as fun, it was made perfect when, after a small group of us had struggled into a hotel to shelter from an outburst of torrential rain, the Pope was driven by the window and we all received a wave. It was, I have to say, fairly amusing that this is what it took to see the Holy Father, and it was all the better for the hardship that had been required.



I have missed out a great deal from this article and although I've tried to be honest, there are experiences which I have kept just for me. Despite all the positives that the pilgrimage was, my most memorable moments were the times I spent just talking to those of the faith: Fr Henry, Edrich (seminarian and group leader) and Fr Karol to name but a few.

Kasia

Overview: So much happened on WYD, that I really struggle to pick a few things to write about here. Bishop Alan has asked that we all do something within our parishes to report back about experiences and we have put together a presentation that many of you attended, where we went into more detail about all the funny challenges we faced, and see some of our photos. I often joked with friends when things were not going that well that we were on a proper pilgrimage, suffering and all. In the end with all our struggles it turned out not to be a joke. Some of us had a mercy points competition, to see who could be the most merciful, with points taken off when we were too tired and lazy to get up. The city was so welcoming, with even the police, army and fire brigade being up for a high five, putting their sirens on and even a selfie or two.

Rewarding: The most rewarding part for me was the penitential service set up for us by Father Karol at the seminary of La Salette in Krakow. It gave me the confidence to go to confession, something I think everyone found hard. Also, I have never experienced anything like the first day we walked into the centre of Krakow: the sheer number of people from every country imaginable was amazing. Everyone was waving



huge flags and so excited to see where you were from, high-fiving as they walked past, shouting chants of their country and singing. All these people from so many backgrounds were so friendly – and all in the same place for the same reason. I have never seen or felt so much Catholic unity, and this was just the beginning.

Challenging: I didn't overly enjoy getting heat stroke on the Saturday when we had to wait all day in the field for the evening vigil in over 30°C heat with no shade, eventually throwing up in front of our whole group (slightly embarrassing). But with the cool evening came my recovery, the sight of over 2 million people holding candles for a beautiful vigil, and a night sleeping under the stars surrounded by friends.

The word "challenging" doesn't quite cover our journey home from the final Sunday Mass, with many of our group and thousands of others suffering from severe heat stroke, to the point of losing consciousness, with everyone else eventually suffering the same problem. There was at least a 3-hour walk back to our hotel (and air-conditioning), which would be extended by at least another 3 hours due to the number of people also making the journey, with some of our group taking 10 hours. At one point I had to force several priests out of a taxi (gold dust at the time) to allow a nun in our group, who was too ill to walk, to get in. Rain eventually came, alleviating the heat and most of our problems. This experience overall was one of my favorites, because, as we were sitting (dripping with rain water) in a hotel, swapping our food vouchers for some warm food saying, "I think we have experienced everything possible on this journey home," comforted by the relief that we were nearly home, that the Pope drove past!

Samantha

Overview: The preparation (making and selling cakes and doing the bike ride) for Poland gave me a big buzz, and I got really excited about arriving in Poland. The closer it got, the more excited I grew!

I had a hard time trying to decide what kind of 'British things' to get for Poland, as I wanted to buy something unique, so after racking my brains I finally decided on badges decorated with Union Jacks and other patriotic themes, London bus key rings, and a Big St George's flag.

I was now all sorted and raring to go! A week or so later and I was on the coach that would take me to the airport; the downside was I had to wake up at 4 am!! We flew by Wizzair, but before setting off we had to wait 2 hours because firstly they thought they had lost passengers, then baggage! We arrived in Slovakia, where we were greeted by Fr Adam, who I thought was the tour guide!!

Most rewarding: While being a pilgrim in Poland, I felt extremely relaxed and found I had a clear head as to what I wanted to do in my life. I also felt closer to God than I ever have been before, so going there helped a lot with my spiritual well-being.

Most challenging: Unfortunately while in Poland, I hit a bump when I got lost for a good half a day. We went on a group outing and I told my friend that I needed the toilet, expecting her to inform someone, but she did not, so when I came out everyone had gone...



A Beloved's Bouquet – A Villanelle

Jackie Tevlin

**Inspired by art, I halted, praying, in the meadow.
In alighted mood, I strayed calmly into the soft evening insight,
With Love remembered; for you are my delight.**

**Let me lie by your lake-side – let my tears of recollection flow -
My dear Lord! Let my indecision tern-like take flight.**

Inspired by art, I halted, praying, in the meadow.

**I knotted, these and those, lightly with a thread of gold,
A bouquet of wild meadow flowers sweet and bright
With Love remembered; for you are my delight.**

Lie now lover – in heart pocket and safely grow -

Do not give in to fear and trembling – it is time to fight.

Inspired by art, I halted praying, in the meadow.

Giant buttercups, bells of Canterbury, cowslips in a row...

**I plucked sighing held – fingers – entwined in mine now tight -
With Love remembered; for you are my delight.**

The church spire beckoned me to speedily go,

**And, clutching my tender bouquet; tender expression of our right
[to love].**

Inspired by art, I halted, praying, in the meadow.

Anniversary bookmarks



Celebrating the 25th anniversary of Father Karol's priesthood

Christians in the Holy Land – reality and reconciliation

Kathy Bishop

On Wednesday 9th November, many parishioners and people from other parishes and traditions gathered in our church hall to hear a presentation from Fr Paul Maddison and Maher Kassis. Fr Paul is known to many of us as a former parish priest of the Sacred Heart. He has been involved in arranging pilgrimages to the Holy land since 2000. In 2010, with the continuing support of Bishop Michael Evans, he established 'Pilgrimage People' – a UK charity and ATOL-bonded tour company – organising pilgrimage tours to the Holy Places and other destinations, with all profits being returned to the Latin Patriarch to support health, social and educational projects in the Holy Land. Maher is a Palestinian Christian from Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, and is the coordinator of *Tunes for Peace*. This project is part of an educational programme supporting local children in academic achievements. There are many young Palestinians who wish to learn music, and have musical skills, but cannot afford the instruments or the expensive fees. The students come from the Bethlehem area, and are mixed in age, sex and religious background.

The evening began with a chance to chat over a glass of wine or juice and the opportunity to purchase olive wood projects from the Holy land – candle sticks, cribs, rosaries, angels etc.

Fr Paul gave a very interesting presentation on the current situation in the Holy Land, and said that the only way to get the whole vision of the situation there was to visit (he has been the 71 times!) and to listen and read widely. He spoke of a land of beauty, history, contrasts, tranquillity, division, pain, hope and future. This was illustrated by many beautiful and some distressing photographs. Maher contributed throughout the presentation with his experiences as a Christian living in the West Bank, and the effect of the 'Wall' and restrictions on their lives. There is poverty, especially among the Jews who have come from Russia and



Ethiopia. The demographics of the country are changing, and this is leading to tensions. The number of Christians is declining. There are 2 million people in Gaza which is half the size of Cambridgeshire.

Maher talked about his inspiring work with the young people in the *Tunes for Peace* project. This is jointly supported by 'Pilgrimage People' and The Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement. They currently have 70 pupils, both Muslim and Christian, being taught violin, guitar, oud, kanoun, piano and percussion. They give concerts, and it is hoped that, at some point, they will be able to travel internationally. Music can be a unique tool to unite people of different nationalities, beliefs and ethnic backgrounds. It helps them to work together, share their skills and build bridges of hope for the future.



Both Fr Paul and Maher believe there is hope, and gave some examples: there are rallies for peace; Rabbis who have helped Palestinians harvest olives; Jewish mothers who will stand at check points and tell Israeli soldiers off if they are rude to Palestinians; Jewish and Palestinian mothers who provide mutual support following killings; and B'Tselem (the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories) championing human rights in the West Bank and Gaza. The future of the Holy Land is in people like these and people like Maher, who are not prepared to do nothing but strive to make a real and lasting difference.

We should show our support for our fellow Christians in our prayers and, if possible, visit the Holy Land on pilgrimage and meet the 'Living Stones', especially those in our twin village of Aboud, to show them that they are not forgotten.

For more information visit www.pilgrimagepeople.org and www.pcr.ps (search *Tunes for Peace*) www.btselem.org (B'Tselem)

Saint Ivo

*Ian Dobson**

Written following a talk given by him to the Autumn Club of the Sacred Heart Church, St Ives, Wednesday 25th May 2016

Introduction

You could ponder why the Saint who gave his name to the Saxon village of Slepe does not occupy a far more prominent and distinctive place in the general public consciousness.

You might ponder about the far-reaching and enduring consequences of the life and miracles of Saint Ivo for the town and people of St Ives, their prosperity and well-being.

You might also ponder:

- the 6th century mission to these parts by Bishop Ivo from Persia
- the wonderful discovery in Slepe of his and his companions' relics in AD 1001 and the vivid description of their Translation to Ramsey Abbey and then back to and the site of their discovery in Slepe, which became St Ives Priory
- the arresting account we have of Saint Ivo's many and diverse miracles at Slepe and Ramsey
- the immediate growth of Ramsey and Slepe as famous places of pilgrimage and healing
- the consequent establishment by the Abbots of Ramsey of hugely wealth-creating fairs and markets in the new St Ives, which brought to the town the prosperity and the flourishing community life that endure to this day
- why all of this has not secured for Saint Ivo a more substantial and palpable place in our respect, affections and worship.

Another question may occur to you: Was the new secondary school in St Ives, opened in 1955, called High Leys School or Westwood Road School or even St Ives School? No, it was not. It was given the name St Ivo School.

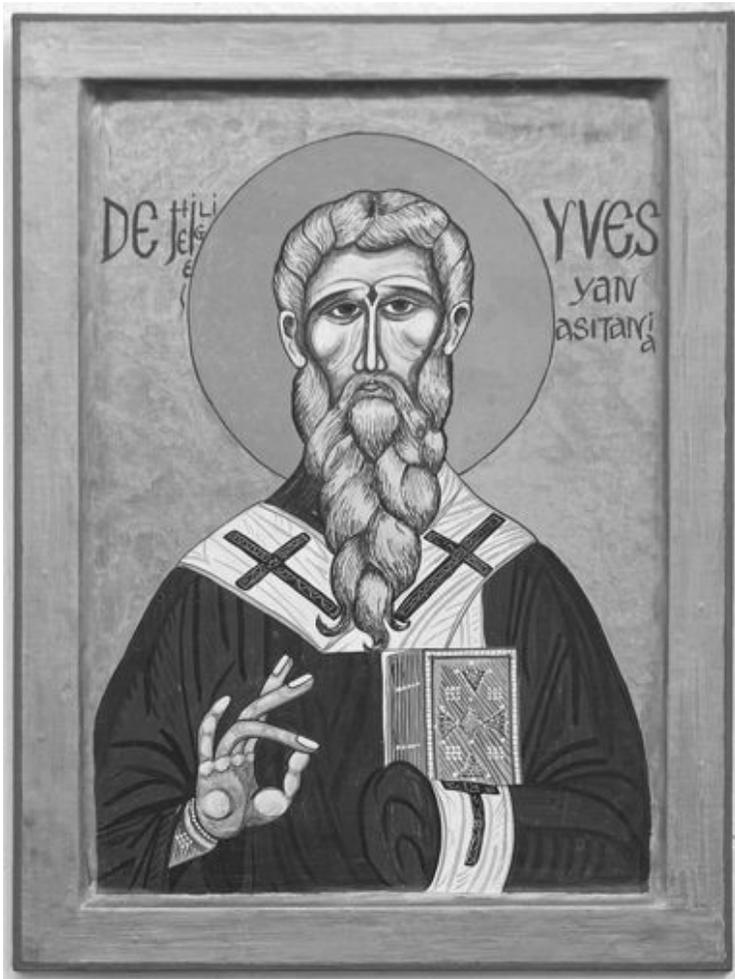
On 24th April 2001, a service was held in All Saints Church, St Ives. It celebrated the Millenary of the Discovery of the Relics of Saint Ivo in 1001. The service sheet was signed by the Clergy and Town Councillors who were present, and it is held in the Norris Museum. In All Saints Church there can be seen an Icon of Saint Ivo, made by the Greek Orthodox community at Walsingham and placed there by the then Vicar, Fr David Moore.

**Ian Dobson is a St Ives town councillor. He was Town Mayor in 2002/3 and 2008/9*

How do we know about Saint Ivo and his times ?

The dating in the late 6th Century for Bishop Ivo's presence in East Mercia, Huntingdon and Slepe is viewed critically in some quarters as too early, when one considers that Augustine arrived in England in AD 597.

However, it is well known that in the British Isles there was Christian missionary work and fervour before the arrival of Augustine from Rome. There was residual Romano-British Christian activity; the Celtic Church was in existence; and there was significant activity in England from across the Channel by the Church in Gaul.



The extent of this activity was set out by The Reverend G F Browne in three Lectures titled "The Christian Church in These Islands before the Coming of Augustine". Revd. Brown was Canon of St Paul's Cathedral and Professor of Archaeology in the University of Cambridge. He delivered the lectures in St Paul's in January 1894.

My own general view and belief is that the first accounts of the origins, arrival and missionary work of Saint Ivo will have been in the rich tradition of oral story-telling that characterised the pre-literary period in northern Europe. These oral accounts would have been written down by the leading scribes of the time, for example in Iceland by the Saga Writers and in England by the Abbots and Monks of the Church, most notably The Venerable Bede. The first written account we know of about the life of Saint Ivo was by Abbot Andrew Wythman, who had been elected Abbot of Ramsey in AD 1016. But it is thought that his book existed only in the original at Ramsey Abbey, and it appears not to have survived. We can but hope that it, or a copy, will be found one day.

The renowned Monk Goscelin, first of Ramsey then of Canterbury, wrote his "Life and Miracles of St Ivo" in about AD 1090. Writing in Latin, he tells us that he was copying from and abridging the book by Abbot Wythman. Goscelin tells us that the relics of Saint Ivo were found on 24th April 1001. Because Abbot Wythman was elected Abbot in 1016, it is very possible that he was in the area when Saint Ivo's remains and personal possessions were discovered.

Abbot Wythman made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in AD 1020. We are told by Goscelin that it was during this pilgrimage that he uncovered detailed information about Bishop Ivo: his homeland and family, and his missionary journey leaving his native Persia. He found that Ivo had become well known in Greece before reaching his goal, Rome, then being encouraged to travel still further westwards to Gaul and coming to Slepe as a Missionary. On his return to Ramsey, Abbot Wythman had written down all he knew and had learned about Ivo. Several copies of Goscelin's manuscript exist today, including those held in the British Library, the Bodleian Library at Oxford University and Trinity College in Dublin.

Herbert Norris, founder of the Norris Museum in St Ives, informed us in his "History of St Ives", published in 1889, that there were other writers of substance who included accounts about Saint Ivo and the discovery of his relics in AD 1001 in their chronicles. He names, principally, William of Malmesbury, who would have been a contemporary of Goscelin. Dr Sue Edgington, in her book titled "The Life and Miracles of St Ivo", published in

1985, stresses William's independence from Goscelin: "The only independent witness to the vigour of the cult is William of Malmesbury ... William's account appears to owe little to Goscelin ... William cannot have seen Goscelin's "Life" of Ivo but must have based his account on hearsay." On that theme of hearsay and oral tradition as the source of writings about Saint Ivo, Dr Edgington tells us that the words of Henry of Huntingdon, writing in 1145, suggest that he was writing down an oral tradition; similarly, that the account in part two of the "Liber Eliensis", a book of records relating to the Abbey of Ely compiled before 1154, could be founded on oral tradition.

Visual evidence

The book by Margaret Gallyon published in 1973 and titled "The Early Church in Eastern England" contains an eye-catching passage on page 62: "Recent archaeological excavations in the abbey precincts (at Ramsey) have revealed some interesting medieval tiles bearing depictions of St Felix and St Ivo. These are now in St Ives Museum." The Norris Museum catalogue reference for the tile which includes a depiction of Saint Ivo is X.2842.

The Norris Museum also holds plaster copies of two seal impressions. The first one is the seal of Hugh of Sulgrave, Abbot of Ramsey 1254-1267, showing "St Ivo and St Benedict, both standing"; the inscription includes St Ivo's name (see photo). The second one is a 14th Century Ramsey Abbey seal, showing "standing figures of St Ivo wearing his Bishop's Mitre, St Oswald and St Benedict with Virgin and Child". The catalogue references are X.3135 and X.3131.



What do we know about Saint Ivo ?

Summarising what Goscelin wrote in his "Life and Miracles of St Ivo", the website of Ramsey Abbey tells us that Saint Ivo was believed to be a Persian Bishop who had travelled throughout Europe, eventually reaching England; that he came into the province of Mercia, to a town called Huntingdon and then on to Slepe, where he settled until his death, which is said to be about AD 600; that the essence of the account is that Bishop Ivo began his life in Persia, left his home as an exile and went through the world looking for the Eternal Kingdom; and that, wherever he went, he brought peoples and nations to the Saviour with his preaching, good works and miracles.

As for evidence for the truth of Saints Ivo's birthplace it is known that under

the Sassanid Dynasty in Persia the Nestorian Christians were celebrated for their missionary activity.

The main source of information about Saint Ivo, easily available to all of us, is the 1985 book by Susan B Edgington, referred to earlier, titled "The Life and Miracles of St Ivo". The prime focus of the book is the work by Goscelin, and draws on Dr Edgington's own translation from the Latin original of Goscelin's three volumes. Copies of Dr Edgington's book are on sale in St Ives Town Hall at £2.50 each. I recommend it as an absorbing study and a very good read.

Dr Edgington writes in positive terms about the reliability of Goscelin: "Wythman's account does not survive but Goscelin is considered a reliable and conscientious historian (page 12). He was very learned, an excellent scholar and a skilful writer. Furthermore he seems to have approached his work in an honest and straightforward way, believing in the value of the saints in a general way ... As a result of his integrity the miracles of St Ivo give us a unique insight into life in eleventh century Huntingdonshire" (page 27).

Although in this article justice cannot be done to the poetry and rich imagery of the story and the miracles, I would like to pick out some extracts from Dr Edgington's translation as vivid and, I hope, captivating examples of what is described.

Discovery of the relics

A villager struggling to furrow the earth with a plough hit against a holy coffin ... When the cover was lifted they found religious tokens suggesting a priest. They were captivated by the shining brightness of the chalice there ... They seized the priestly brooches, transparent with the lustre of glass, which Ramsey Abbey afterwards inherited with the holy body.

The identification of the Relics came in visions, the first of the miracles, when Ivo appeared to the blacksmith who was the village steward and to the monk who acted as the Abbey's bailiff for Slepe, while they were asleep. He identified himself as Bishop Ivo, but in Miracles of Retribution he had to punish both of them – the steward with a painful blow and the bailiff with severe pains in the legs that left him crippled for life – before they could be persuaded to report their dreams to the Abbot.

Abbot Eadnoth was *delighted at such wealth of unexpected treasure*, and he himself hurried to Slepe and uncovered the remains of Ivo's two companions in the same place where the Saint had been found.

Translation of the relics and the shrines at Ramsey and Slepe

The mortal remains and possessions of Bishop Ivo and his companions were first placed in the Saxon Church in Slepe on the site of today's Parish Church to All Saints, and later they were translated to Ramsey with great ceremony and watched by a huge crowd.

[T]hey flocked here from the countryside and town; the open fields could hardly hold the rush of people. Prayers and hymns of praise graced the air; heaven itself seemed to favour the saints, the sun seemed to rejoice with all its rays, such a sweet season and clear day had dawned.

Many of the faithful also claim that during the entire journey of this joyous translation a snow-white dove flew over blessed Ivo's remains, a miracle so widely observed that all would affirm the dove had come from heaven to favour the saint. A crowd from Ramsey met with the rest of the people, dressed in white and crowned with purple ornaments, carrying before it Christ's cross and Christian gilding, and splendid books of the saints, and lights on candelabra, and incense burning in censers, and whatever proof of devotion it could.

On his arrival at Ramsey, Ivo appeared by night to a monk in another vision, his next miracle, to give instructions for the building of the shrine there. But the place of Ivo's discovery in Slepe was not forgotten, and it was the Abbot and Monks who decided to build a Shrine within a cell of the Abbey at Slepe (the future St Ives Priory), to which the relics of the Ivo's two companions were translated.

... abbot Eadnoth at the wish of all the brothers built a church (St Ives Priory) in honour and memory of the blessed Ivo in that very same place of his burial and discovery ... For the Lord is wonderful in His saints and He brought out a river from the rock; the tomb itself gushed with a healing spring, and the flow of this stream gladdens the city of God in His faithful people.

Pilgrimage and miracles

Another article needs to be written about Ramsey and Slepe as they very quickly came to be among the most famous places of pilgrimage in England and about the enthralling accounts of the many visions and miracles of Healing and Retribution by Saint Ivo that occurred here.

As a foretaste and also as an indication of the strength of Saint Ivo's reputation and the power of his healing miracles, I reproduce a favourite

extract from William of Malmesbury's "Deeds of the English Bishops", written in around 1140:

It is not possible to estimate the number, much less to recount the stories, of the many people healed by that blessed one, so much so that no saint in England is more responsive to prayer than Ivo, or more capable of effecting a cure.

Some concluding remarks

I hope that this article will help to increase awareness and respect for the life, miracles and legacy of Saint Ivo. I hope also that it will help to push back against some of the cynicism that has taken hold locally in recent years.

In 1981, a small excavation took place, before the flats named the Ridings were built, near to where the wall remnants of St Ives Priory Barn abut Priory Road. A few human arm bones were found, together with a Roman pot and fragments of building materials. This find was immediately seized upon by Saint Ivo's deniers and detractors as evidence that the coffin and contents found by the Saxon ploughman were in fact a Roman burial, evidently adding great weight to the idea that the supposed saint was simply a rich Roman farmer.

My personal view is that such attempted arguments push well beyond the boundaries of intellectual honesty. Dr Edgington puts it this way on page 18: "for one thing there may be few settlement sites close to fords where Roman remains (pottery and tile, slate and plaster) would not be found in this area; for another, you would not normally expect to find domestic remains in the near vicinity of a formal burial site, since one of the strongest taboos in Roman times led to cemeteries being outside town and village boundaries."

**Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Parish,
St Ives, Cambs
Steering Committee**



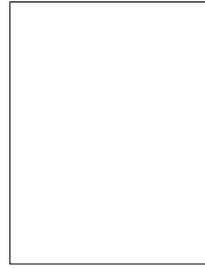
Fr Karol PORCZAK
MS



Elizabeth BARKER
PSC Chairman
RE Coordinator



Carol BEWLEY
SVP



Position vacant
Parish
Administrator



Claire DOWNHAM
11am Mass Repr.



Tony HADDOCK
8am Mass Repr.



James HOWE
Music & Choir



Ellen KEMP
Finance &
Building



David KERR
Way Forward



Michael READ
5pm Mass Repr.



Rika SANDERSON
Social



Fiona SMITH
Holy Land

Groups, committees and activities at the Sacred Heart Parish

Group/activity	Purpose	Timing	Contact
Parish Steering Committee	To discuss and progress parish and diocesan initiatives; to arrange 2 parish open meetings	At least 4 times per year	Elizabeth Barker (Chair)
Finance & Buildings Committee	To discuss the financial budget maintenance and upkeep of parish buildings; to plan new buildings	-	Ellen Kemp (Chair)
Music Group	To accompany singing and music at 11 am Mass and on important Liturgical Feasts	Wednesdays when required	James Howe
Social Group	To arrange social events and BBQ on Parish Feast Days	-	Pat Francis
Holy Land Group <i>Our parish is twinned with Aboud, Palestine</i>	To support the village of our twinned town of Aboud	-	Fiona Smith
Saint Vincent de Paul Society	To care and befriend the sick, elderly, lonely, families. To provide help with financial needs. Also organises Autumn Club and Pilgrimage of the Sick to Walsingham	Conference meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month except August and December	Elizabeth Barker (President)

Group/activity	Purpose	Timing	Contact
Lay Apostolate Prayer Group	Prayer	Every second Wednesday of the month at 11 am	Elizabeth Barker
Monthly Lunches	A chance for the community to share a meal. Cost £4	Meets 10 months each year	Elizabeth Barker
Autumn Club	To foster companionship among senior citizens (organised by SVP)	Last Wednesday of each month	Elizabeth Barker
First Communion	Classes to prepare young people, aged school year 3 or older, for their first Holy Communion	Sundays at 10 am in Parish hall during term time	Claire Downham
Children's Liturgy	To simplify and present Scriptures of the Mass of the day for children aged 4 to 8	Every Sunday 11 am Mass	Elizabeth Barker (RE Co-ordinator)
Confirmation	To offer a programme of preparation to young people aged 13 and older	Sundays 9.30 am when required	Parish Priest Elizabeth Barker Philip Spencer
Advent Talks and Lent Talks	To provide opportunities for a deeper study of our Faith	Tuesdays 7.30 pm during Advent and Lent	Elizabeth Barker



ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY REPORT

Sacred Heart — St Ives Conference

October 2015 to September 2016

History

Sacred Heart Parish Conference was founded in 1977 and has been active ever since, undertaking a range of work in the Parish.

Members

We currently have eight members, one man and seven women. Some of the SVP members have been with the conference since it was formed, others have been well over 10 years and we also have members who have joined us more recently. Members attend a fortnightly meeting and undertake visits to those in need.

Number of people helped

- Elderly in their own home 27
- People in residential / Nursing Home 7
- People in Hospital 0

Hours spent visiting 579

Number of lifts 258

The SVP Conference also provides transport to Mass, Parish events and hospital appointments.

Highlights of the year

October	Visit to Waresley Garden Centre
November	Talk –Santiago by Bike –Rosemary Hill
December	Christmas Party
January	Entertainment in church hall and afternoon tea
February	My childhood memories of Lent and afternoon tea
March	Visit to the Waresley Garden Centre and Lunch
April	DVD St Francis in church hall with afternoon tea
May	History of St Ivo Talk by Cllr Ian Dobson and afternoon tea
June	Boat Trip along the river Ouse with lunch
July	Pilgrimage to Walsingham for the Blessing of the Sick
July	Afternoon Tea at local garden
September	Memory Game followed by afternoon tea

Income		Expenditure	
Member Donations	£809.00	Elderly own home	£1,037.29
Non Member Donations	£215.00	Twinnage	£159.50
Other Donations	£421.48	Administration	£40.00
Raffle	£25.00	Mass Stipends	£5.00
Total	£1370.58	SVP Support Payments	£269.12
		Spiritual Book	£10.50
		Raffle	£25.00
		Total	£1,430.91

The Conference is currently running a deficit of £60.33

Your local contact is: Mrs Elizabeth Barker, who can be contacted through the Parish Office – 01480 462192.

Sacred Heart Parish Open Meeting Minutes

Sunday 8th May, 2016, 4pm in Parish Hall

Present: Fr Karol – Parish Priest; Elizabeth Barker – Chair; Paul Kent – Treasurer; Ellen Kemp – Finance & Building; Rosalind Bubb – Minutes; Mary Baker; Terry Baker; Kathy Bishop; Claire Downham; Iris Flanagan; Pat Francis; Tony Haddock; James Howe; David Kerr; Angela Milledge; Peter Milledge; Angela O’Farrell; Sean O’Farrell; Michael Read; Rika Sanderson; Gina and Mario Sant; Carol Sayer; Mike Smallman; Fiona Smith; John Symmons; Pat Symmons; Dot Wade; Anne-Marie Zimmerman

Welcome and opening prayer – Fr Karol

Chairman’s Report – Elizabeth Barker

Since the last open meeting in May 2016, the parish continues to flourish under the guidance of Fr Karol, who has been our Parish Priest for the last 16 months. Many demands are made on his time, not only from the parish, but also from his order, The Missionaries of La Salette. In November, a new parish secretary was appointed, Mrs Rosalind Bubb on the retirement of Mrs Veronica Boland.

St Ives Parish was one of the group of the first ten parishes to take part in the Alive in Faith initiative, set up by our Diocese, with the help of 12 volunteers. Fr Karol and the parish exceeded their challenge amount of £170,000, and our final total is £213,000 in pledges.

The Parish Steering Committee has continued to meet regularly to consider the views, concerns and suggestions of our parishioners. Each of the 3 weekend Masses has a representative, and each group has representation on the PSC as well. A decision has been made to have two Open Meetings each year in May and November at a different time of day to encourage more people to attend.

The Grapevine, our parish magazine was published in November; we are in the process of forming an editorial committee to produce the magazine twice yearly. A meeting will be arranged with Fr Karol and 4 volunteers to set this in motion.

An updated version of our parish history was recently published, and is on sale.

There have been no changes to the Diocesan Parish Plan as the Council of Laity did not meet with Bishop Alan during 2015. However, two meetings are planned for 2016: one on 14th May, and one in November.

As well as keeping an eye on the continuous maintenance schedule for the church hall and presbytery, Ellen Kemp, the chairman of the F&B Committee is progressing the need for using the courtyard area for our growing congregation.

For the first time in around 40 years in this parish, we had a *Quarante Ore* (translation: 40 hours). The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from Friday 4th May at 8 am until Saturday 5th May at midnight was well attended by parishioners of all ages. This was one of the suggestions of Pope Francis for the Year of Mercy.

Also planned is a Parish Mission from Sunday 10th to 17th July. Fr Karol will be exchanging with Fr Padraig Hawkins, the PP at Poringland, who will be leading our Mission while Fr Karol leads the Mission in his Parish.

Reports from Mass representatives

5pm – Michael Read: The 5pm Mass continues much as usual, with an excellent team of helpers covering all aspects of our Mass and Church life. We are delighted that we have added to the teams of Eucharistic Ministers and Readers. Numbers attending Mass are sustained – about 100 worshippers each week. Sometimes swelled by visitors, sometimes reduced by holidays and illness. We are, however, missing our Sacristan, Ken Walker, who is not well. As father commented last evening, it takes four of us to fill his shoes! We pray for his speedy recovery, and not just for selfish reasons. Despite several appeals in the newsletter, we have been unable to recruit any new blood to our welcome team. So if anyone would like to help, please see us after the meeting.

8am - Tony Haddock: Rotas are created for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, as well as a small list for the Offertory Procession; these have the beneficial effect of involving more people. Our coffee morning is very popular, and gets people talking and laughing. There is an occasional big breakfast every couple of months, which is also very successful. It's all running pretty smoothly, and is going very well.

11am – Claire Downham: This Mass continues to be very popular and, as a consequence is very active and busy with both the extension and the Parish Hall regularly being full. The new arrangement for the distribution of Holy Communion is now established and works well. We are fortunate to have music at this Mass which is beautiful, always welcomed and well performed. The continuing sacramental courses before the 11am Mass always brings a welcomed increase of those partaking in the Mass. This bears witness to the increased use of the Hall during Mass. However, this of course brings concerns to some parishioners with the increase of noise and distraction. To help alleviate this, quiet activities, such as colouring, can be offered to very young children. Also, parents can be informed that once Children's liturgy has finished and especially during the liturgy of the Eucharist the dining room is available for their use. As we once again approach First Holy Communion I am pleased to report that we have 19 candidates this year. The children will be receiving Holy Communion over the weekends of 12th and 19th June. These occasions always bring more people to our church and we are, once again, grateful to parishioners for accommodating the increased attendance.

Coffee after Mass continues to be popular. I'd like to thank all those who help with this provision. The regular training for altar servers which now takes place after Mass also provides an opportunity for their parents to enjoy a coffee after Mass too. The various rotas continue to be well produced and help to organise and manage the 11am Mass.

Finally, please do contact me should you have any suggestions or comments regarding the 11am Mass.

Holy Land – Kathy Bishop

I would like to start by reading a letter which I received from Fr Yousef, the Parish Priest of Our Lady Mother of Sorrows in our twin village of Aboud in Palestine.

Dear Kathy

I am trying to respond your message.

We are in Holy week. Yesterday we celebrated Palm Sunday, because in the Ramallah area we follow the Eastern calendar and celebrate Easter with the Orthodox Church next Sunday on the 1st of May. You can trace our church celebrations and youth activities on Facebook address: (Mother of Sorrows Parish)

You asked me about Aboud and the general political situation and what we really are in need. This is the worst situation we ever face. It's a kind of uprising in the whole West Bank. Israeli army kills many young people in various Palestinian cities. In last Christmas time in Aboud a young man was killed. The village had been closed for a month, as a collective punishment. In one night a battalion composed of 40 cars and more than 100 soldiers occupied the village and entered every house with dogs searching for weapons, but they didn't find anything.

That scared in a special way the children who live in a difficult psychological situation: They live as in trauma and rarely leave the village for a change. I personally help them in July, summer camps for a month serving more than 200 children and 50 volunteers. The camp contains different activities: games, competitions, gifts and manual works. Also 4 trips to swimming pools (I will add the program of this year to this letter.)

I really thank you Kathy and thank everyone in the Aboud fund raising group "Holy Land 2003". And I know you want to know the latest requirements that we need. I have sent you a year ago a letter explaining all the needs of the village. But this time I want to be practical and concise and clear: I want you to think about the needs of the parish priest and what the people are asking from me every day: 3things:

1 Pastoral and social work

- children's activities and youth meetings and all what they need during the whole year.*
- medicines for some patients and sometimes eyes operations for old people.*
- helping some poor families especially on Christmas and Easter occasions.*

2 Adopting some students studying at universities.

3 July Summer Camp for 250 people.

In my opinion these are the most important needs of people and these are the real difficulties I am facing as a priest in this parish.

May God bless you all.

Fr Yousef Rizek

Parish Priest Aboud

The twinning of Sacred Heart Parish with Aboud started in 2003 as a result of the first parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The money raised through the generosity of the people of this parish and their friends has amounted to over £160,000 and this has helped many projects including:

- Paying school fees
- Student travel
- House renovation
- Summer Camp
- Scouts' equipment.

Some parishioners have set up standing orders which are a great help in our fund raising. However, at the moment we cannot claim gift aid on these payments from UK taxpayers and so we, as a group, have decided to ask those with current standing orders if they would make a change so that we can benefit by claiming back the gift aid where appropriate. This would result in an extra 25p in every pound given. The new standing orders would be payable to "Pilgrimage People" which is the charity set up by Fr Paul Maddison. "Pilgrimage People" arranges pilgrimages to the Holy Land and other countries, and all surplus monies are used to support projects in the Holy Land. All the money sent by standing orders from the Parish will be ring fenced for Aboud and used for projects specified by the Sacred Heart Holy Land group. The only change will be that we will be able to claim gift aid where appropriate, thus increasing the available funds.

I have new standing order forms available today. If you have a current standing order in place please, please renew it! If you have not, then please consider setting one up! I will be around at the end of the meeting if you have any questions or would like a form. Even a few pounds every month is very welcome and if there are lots of "a few pounds" then that makes a lot of money. There is a board with details of the summer camp and photographs for those who are interested. We also have some goods for sale at very reasonable prices!!!! All proceeds go to the Holy Land Fund to benefit the people of Aboud.

Thank you. Please pray for Peace in the Holy Land.

Music – James Howe

The Music Group provides music at the 11am Mass, with instruments and singing, and for occasional feasts and events. The recent Holy Week celebrations went very well, with a mix of traditional and modern music. If you know anyone with any music ability, please invite them to come and say hello, and to join us.

R.E. – Elizabeth Barker

In accordance with the suggestion of Pope Francis during the Year of Mercy and recommended by Bishop Alan, Forty Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Quarant Ore) was held on the 4th/5th March and was most successful as every hour had at least one parishioner in church. However the most encouraging observation is that many young people and families with children spent time in adoration.

SVP – Carol Bewley

The SVP has eight members; we have had one new member join this year. The SVP makes regular visits to the housebound; it gives lifts to Church, and to the shops. The SVP is supported by members' donations, and the Palm Sunday collection. The donations are always welcome to help with the cost of the £545, which pays for the Walsingham pilgrimage coach.

The SVP also organises the Autumn Club and activities in the Hall (tea and cake, and talks). We provide entertainment. We take our Autumn Club members out to lunch or to a garden centre; there is an annual boat trip. It's all very enjoyable.

We hope people will keep supporting us. If you know anyone who needs a visit, you can contact the SVP through Fr Karol, the SVP President, or through the office. Please do join us.

SVP Report for Parish Steering Committee Sunday 8th May 2016

Last report given at last meeting 17th March 2016

Members: 8 Members

Current Officers – no change. President - Elizabeth Barker; Treasurer - Gina Sant; Secretary - Ian Wallace

Meetings

The Conference meetings and the Autumn Club continue as normal.

Visits and Lifts

Since the last report of the 17th March 2016 members have done 21 visits and given 16 lifts

Monthly Autumn Club

Since the last PSG meeting the Autumn Club has arranged the following for its members:

- 25th May - Talk by Ian Dobson, former Mayor of St Ives, on the Old Riverside Port and local issues
- 29th June- Boat Trip
- 27th July - Visit to Frances Robinsons garden

Other SVP Business

- a. We now have a full new member to the SVP.
- b. Palm Sunday collection disappointing – only £321.58 but there are a lot of competing demands on donations.
- c. Elizabeth attended the Central Council meeting on the 29th April at which there were 29 members present.
- d. A possible recruitment group to be established in the East Anglian region.
- e. Approximately 10,000 visits were made in the diocese of East Anglia in 2013.
- f. A new Central Council President is needed. It is hoped a new President will be present by the next meeting
- g. The trip to Waresley Garden Centre was successful as was the DVD on St. Francis
- h. The outing to Wood Green Animal Sanctuary was cancelled due to timings and lack of menu details. It was decided to approach Councillor Ian Dobson, former Mayor of St. Ives to give a talk on the Old Riverport & local issues.

Planning sub-committee

We have not met much for population planning purposes – big changes, such as the Northstowe development, are only emerging slowly, but we will keep an eye on them. We have been concentrating more on something closer to our original brief – how to support Fr Karol while he is our sole priest, and beyond. We are therefore re-looking at the opportunities for more lay involvement in the work of the parish, such as:

- Producing a record of our current volunteers, which is already an impressively high number (over 150)
- Identifying gaps where parishioners' skills could ease the pressure on our priest's time and help run the parish even better. A "situations vacant" supplement to the newsletter may come out soon.

Complementary to that, we are still maintaining the parishioner database and looking at ways to keep it up to date and make better use of it. For example identifying parishioners with relevant skills to our volunteer vacancies. (But still conscious of our undertaking not to assume that skills recorded in the Census are necessarily on offer to the parish.)

Courtyard Project update – Ellen Kemp

Ellen introduced her presentation by showing parishioners a picture board of the courtyard space as it is now, and an artist's impression of how it may look when the new room has been created. The board also included a copy of the faculty granted by the Diocesan Historic Churches Committee. She invited parishioners to review the display at the end of the meeting. Ellen then summarised the progress made with the project since the 2015 Open Meeting held on 10th May, which includes:

2015

- June 4th Project approved by the Diocesan Trustees
- June 17th Project discussed by the Diocesan Historic Churches Committee & faculty process commenced
- Dec 11th Faculty documentation received by Fr Karol

2016

- Jan Detailed planning continued on the fixtures and fittings required in preparation for submission of a planning application to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC)
- Feb A Fire Officer from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Service was invited to visit the site to discuss the project., review design plans (sent to him prior to the meeting), tour the site and advise on safety issues in advance of a submission to the Building Regulations Authority for Building Control.
- March Planning & Building Control applications submitted to HDC.
- April Project submitted to 3 firms of builders inviting tenders (replies due w/c 16th May)

Next steps

Ellen noted the following actions:

- Planning approval awaited from HDC
- A building contractor to be appointed
- Pre-building meetings) to be held with the nominated building contractor and other agents – such as a representative from the solar installation company, and the roof lantern manufacturer to ensure work proceeds without difficulties
(Ellen noted that cabling from the solar installation runs across the top of the church wall in the courtyard area, and will need to be moved without detriment to the installation.)
- The above meeting will also review the impact on the church during the building programme and potential impact on neighbours and St Ives Nursery (e.g. the nursery staff are permitted to use some space in the church car park during the week as parishioners are able to park on the nursery site for weekend masses; however, this arrangement may need to be halted during the building phase of the work to offer access to contractors' vehicle and provision of a works site).
- Regular bulletins will be published for parishioners to keep them apprised of the progress of the project, and to inform them of disruption to church activity during the building programme.
- A start date to be agreed and building work.

Child Protection update – Mike Smallman

Mike Smallman is the Parish Safeguarding Representative. He is responsible for undertaking DBS [used to be CRB] checks, and is the first point of contact.

1. The forms need to be updated regularly. An electronic system called bulk is to be introduced in the near future. Out of the 48 people on our books, 28 people need to be re-checked, as their checks are now more than 5 years old. Mike has 6 months in which to do that. In the next few months, anyone who was checked before 2011, will be contacted. It is all done electronically now, including disclosure and barring service checks. Then, Mike will meet with them, and do ID verifications again. It is all surprisingly simple, for everyone!
For non-electronically minded, there is still a paper form available (formerly the CRB form.)
2. Mike wants people to know that there is available an online training programme, by NCSC, being promoted. Mike was a policeman for 30 years, and therefore has a very suspicious mind. Even for him, this on-line training has been eye-opening, in particular regarding Cybercrime and bullying. (Those involved in Children's Liturgy might find this useful.) If you are interested, please sign up for it.

Annual Accounts – Paul Kent

St Ives Parish Church				
	2014	2015		DRAFT
	Actual	Budget	Actual	2016
	£	£	£	Budget
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Collections	63,438	64,072	66,378	67,042
Tax Rebates	9,717	9,814	8,222	8,304
Donations / Grants	1,996	2,016	784	792
DEA Interest	282	285	346	349
Repository / Candles	2,113	2,134	2,889	2,918
Mass Stipends	2,095	2,116	2,820	2,848
Stole Fees / Catechists	3,061	3,092	2,330	2,353
Chaplaincy	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,030
Fundraising (Hall rent, etc)	6,565	5,500	4,639	4,685
Other	566	100	59	60
Solar Panel rebates		0	1,774	1,792
Sub total	92,833	92,129	93,241	94,173
PAYMENTS				
Property (inc maintenance, utilities, insurance)	19,984	20,000	14,236	14,378
Courtyard Project Initial Cost and Loan Repayment	0	0	1,020	8,000
Priest - salary / expenses	12,563	14,000	19,752	19,950
Levies	24,412	24,656	25,154	25,406
Administration (inc salaries and cleaners costs)	11,963	12,083	17,260	17,433
Other (inc cost of sales - rep / candles)	7,546	7,621	7,602	7,678
				0
				0
				0
Sub total	76,468	78,360	85,024	92,844
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	16,365	13,769	8,217	1,329
Analysis of Property Expenses				
Church & Hall - maintenance & repairs	4,149		7,056	
House - maintenance & repairs	9,295		2,014	
Council Tax	1,727		1,001	
Gas, electricity, etc	2,542		3,655	
Insurance	1,471		1,469	
Other	800		61	
	19,984		15,256	
Major maintenance & repair items:				
Office window	1,794			
Bedroom, Bthroom, walkway	5,025			
Church camera	905			
Ensuite Renovation			4,005	
Major Variations - Courtyard Project				
Prior Associates			1,020	
Major Variations - Priests Salary / Expenses				
Salaries & Supply Priests			2,502	
Car Expenses			1,651	
Housekeeping			573	
			4,726	
Major Variations - Administration Administration				
Staff Salaries & Wages			927	
Newsletters / Post / Stationery			1,013	
Diocese Administration			1,568	
Advertising New Secretary			619	
			4,127	
Notes:				
Solar Panel rebate for 2015 shown seperately in accounts				
Budget 2016 = General Increase 1% Except for Courtyard Project				
Ransom Grant £4.7k received for Courtyard Project included in Restricted Receipts				

Questions following Paul's presentation:

Q The Alive in Faith surplus, is that going towards funding the Courtyard?

A: it has not been factored into the accounts, that's been done separately. The first pledges will arrive in September. It is expected to be £90,000, over 5 years. That will help.

Papworth Church may be sold, and the proceeds may be shared between the Diocese and us.

The last Quinquennial Review took place in 2011, and provided 3 reports about the state of each of the buildings, which lead to lots of activity for maintenance. There will be another QQR survey in June this year, so there may be more maintenance needed that has not yet been discovered.

La Salette Missionaries in the Ukraine – Fr Waldemar Smialek

Fr Waldemar was a pastor in the Ukraine during 2014. In line with the Pope's call for help, this is to help us to be more aware. La Salette have a mission over there, with 5 parishes. The part of the west of Ukraine where he was stationed is the poorer part of the country, but is 1,000km away from the part now affected by war.

The majority of the people there speak Polish, as this was part of Poland, before the 2nd World War. There was a great deal of suffering and hardship. The temperature varies between minus 20 and plus 40 Celcius. The roads are in a terrible state. The people are very friendly, and are delighted to have a Priest, who is very well taken care of by their parishioners.

The Ukraine got independence in 1992. The majority of the population is Greek mostly Byzantine Christians, with services which last 3 hours, with the congregation standing and singing throughout. The Catholic population is about 10%, and Catholic Churches are 100 miles apart.

Fr Karol's report

- Of the pledges raised by Alive in Faith, £90,000 will be given to the parish over 5 years; the first money will be arriving in September, and can be claimed to pay for our Courtyard project.
- Papworth Church is on the way to being sold, and we believe we will receive a percentage of the money.
- There have been lots of marriage preparations. Fr Karol is pleased about this. There will be some mixed marriages, in which the other spouse is being encouraged to become Catholic. Of the 3 marriages currently happening, 2 spouses may join the RCIA programme.
- Parish Mission will take place, as an exchange with Fr Pdraig from Poringland Parish. It will be a time of abundant preaching about basic aspects of our faith, and will take place in the evenings.
- World Youth Day will be in July and Bishop Alan has asked Fr Karol to organise and accompany the 85 people from the diocese, including 5 young people from our parish. They need to raise £1,500 to top up the full amount of the pilgrimage.

- The Polish community are presenting a challenge. They need support. Relatives of those living in the UK come to visit from Poland, sometimes for months or years, and they would like to be able to participate in Church life. Otherwise, they have to go to Peterborough or Huntingdon for a Polish Mass.
- There is no prospect of having an assistant parish priest this year. Peterborough has first priority.
- As part of the Year of Mercy, the Pastoral service of the confessional is being held on Saturday mornings as well as in the afternoon. Fr Karol thinks that this is a good thing, and people are coming.
- Quarante Ore [40 Hours] was held at the start of March this year. It will be done again in October; it is part of the Diocesan initiative for the Year of Mercy. Fr Karol was pleased to see how many came to take part.
- We will try to mark The Feast of the Sacred Heart, our patron saint, by having some kind of social event. There will be gifts of appreciation given to all who are involved as volunteers in the parish.
- With regards to financial issues, nothing is currently being done about the fabric of the presbytery. The QQR survey in June might show up some issues that need to be addressed. Some of the furniture and furnishings are very old, e.g. new furniture is desirable in Fr Karol's room which currently only has one wardrobe.
- Fr Karol would like to create a 2nd floor in the parish Hall, to make a better use of the ceiling space – these are plans for the very far future.
- Fr Karol is looking for a housekeeper: someone to do his washing and ironing once a fortnight. Cooking is not required. This post will be properly assessed, advertised and remunerated, and the cost is allowed by the diocese.
- Fr Karol outlined changes within the Order of Our Lady of La Salette Missionaries. There are currently 11 members, and this may soon become 12. The Order does not currently have a formal structure, or constitution. Fr Karol is trying to create religious houses, with a minimum of 3 religious per house, e.g. Peterborough and St Ives together.

Other business

There was no OTHER BUSINESS raised.

MASS TIMES**Sunday Mass**

Saturday (Vigil Mass) – 5.00 pm

Sunday – 8.00 am, 11.00 am

Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday – 10.00 am

Thursday – 8.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation – 10.00 am and 8.00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday – 4.15 to 4.45 pm

MORNING PRAYER

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday – 9.40 am; Thursday 8.10 am

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday – 10.30 am to 11.00 am

First Friday of the month – 9.30 to 10.00 am

DEVOTION TO OUR LADY OF SALETTE

Third Monday after the Mass

PARISH OFFICE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9 am – 1 pm

*Twinned with the Parish of Our Lady Mother of Sorrows, Aboud, Palestine
Served by Missionaries of Our Lady of Salette*

Telephone: 01480 462192

Reg. Charity number: 278742

Co-op Share number: 272608

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Website: www.sacredheart-stives.org.uk



**The Mother of God
is weeping
for you since
19th September 1846**



+
St Ives

