

## REGISTERS

### Baptisms

19 November	Lucy Ann Legret	St.A
19 November	Nial O'Neill	St.A
19 November	Bradley Dixon-Smith	CC&SJ
19 November	William Henry Heselton	CC&SJ
3 December	Oliver Gabriel Pickard	St.A
3 December	Madeline Jane Pickard	St.A
10 December	Art O'Neill	St.A
10 December	Con O'Neill	St.A

### RIP Funerals

25 November	Juliette Celine Jenkins (96)	CC&SJ
6 December	Lilly Joiner (78)	St.A
6 December	Nora Dolling (77)	St.A
7 December	Annie Norah Lampard (86)	CC&SJ
13 December	Leslie Christopher Benson (59)	CC&SJ
15 December	Annie Giddings (98)	CC&SJ
18 December	Victor James Webb (86)	CC&SJ
5 January	Ian Arthur Rummey (70)	CC&SJ
12 January	Elizabeth Alice Page (91)	CC&SJ
17 January	John Alexander Christie Kinnear	CC&SJ

### Weddings

6 January John Leslie Bunnage and Susan Margaret Garside-Neville CC&SJ

## Contributions

Your contributions for *Unison* (typed if possible) should reach one of the Editors (below) by **Monday 5 February** for the **March April issue. (PLEASE NOTE): One page equals approx. 375 words, excluding art work).**

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 Southgate, Peterborough PE2 6GX (01733 230800)

## An au revoir - not adieu, from Fr Richard ...

If, as it is said, moving house is the second most disturbing and unsettling life event that most of us experience, then, as a celibate priest, I'm immensely thankful that the first can never ever apply to me! In my case, though, it isn't just a matter of moving house, but also moving 'jobs' as well as countries, and I'm beginning to wonder how divorce can possibly be worse than this! As I sit typing this Clergy Letter for the last time in a barely recognisable study of empty bookshelves, stripped of familiar pictures and ornaments and strewn with cardboard boxes into which, somehow, I must compress all my worldly goods (and after 6 1/2 years I am staggered how much there is), the thought does cross my mind: how could I have invited such upheaval?



Somewhere in the back of my mind is a quotation from Cardinal Newman about the need to change - it begins 'To live is to change ..' which might explain my departure from such an 'ideal' place to live and work as Radlett. 'Change is the essence of life and you must be willing to surrender what you are for what you could become'. I suppose I could have given in to that inertia which arises the longer you stay in one place, and to those paralysing fears about the unknown that all too often stifle fruitful change. But, then, that would be a recipe for complacency - for vegetating rather than living!

When I arrived in Radlett to take up my appointment as Parish Priest at St Anthony's, I came with much fear and trepidation, under obedience to my Bishop. If I had given into my fears and chosen not to come, I hate to think how much the poorer - as a person - I would be today! I am very aware how much I have grown both as priest and man because of my experiences here in Radlett, thanks not only to the parishioners of St Anthony's but also to those of the wider Ecumenical Parish. It is because of the challenges and responsibilities I faced here that I feel better able to take on the awesome new challenges of a much larger and more complex parish abroad. I don't think I could have entertained that possibility without my sojourn in Radlett. I hope that I, in some little way, have helped you in your journeys - in the linked quests for God and self-knowledge.

As I say *au revoir* at the beginning of this New Year, let me first of all thank all my friends in the Ecumenical Parish for your kindness, support, and encouragement over the years and for bringing such a wonderfully enriching dimension to my Christian life, and secondly, let me wish you and your loved ones every blessing for the New Year 2007.

Yours sincerely in Christ

*Richard de Lora*

## Father Richard's 6 ½ year Priestly Ministry at St Anthony's.

On Nov 9th I was asked to reflect on Fr Richard's time at St Anthony's. On Nov 10th the Memorial Mass for Pope Leo X I was struck by the appropriateness of the readings for such a project!

Looking back over the years certain highlights come to mind; I recall his account of a career in Banking which culminated in sufficient success to enable him to buy a nice house in Thames Ditton. The movers left him sitting alone in his property; he was struck by the emptiness of worldly possessions and the vocation to the Priesthood was rekindled.

There was the account of a vacation when he was swimming and his glasses, his only pair at the time, fell off into the sea. Unable to see and stranded he invoked the help of St Anthony. An 'Angel' appeared, scooped up his glasses from the murky sea bed and disappeared into the crowd never to be seen again!

Seminary life seemed a challenge for a late vocation and is taken one year at a time followed by a post in the East End; entered into with trepidation but proving to be a warm and friendly Parish.

Then on to Fulham where he soon became well loved and they were obviously sorry to lose him; contact with his former Parishes have however been maintained much to his credit.

And so to Radlett, where, once settled in, his influence is soon felt. 'Cafe' was well attended and very beneficial to the many who were pleased to get to know their Faith better as well as their fellow parishioners.

There was an enjoyable outing to Canterbury Cathedral. He must be one of few catholic Priests to have celebrated mass in the Crypt of the Cathedral since the reformation.

Moves were soon afoot to bring about the long awaited redevelopment. This was embarked upon with great diplomacy and tact and of course



The  
Diary

February  
(Cont'd)



2007

20 Tuesday

**Citizens' Advice Bureau**  
10 am - 1 pm Radlett Centre

**Radlett Flower Club** 2 pm. St. John's Hall  
"A hint of Spring" - Glenis Smith

21 Wednesday

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

22 Thursday

**Radlett Music Club** 8.15 pm. Radlett Centre  
Viola \ piano duo (See page 11)

24 Saturday

**Book Sale** 10am - 3pm United Free Church  
Details from Shirley Herbert (0208 953 2999)

### Anniversary

Congratulations to Joan Bailey who celebrated her 90th birthday early in January.



### Signs near a church

"Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!"

"Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!"

"Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons - come and hear one!"

"God so loved the world that He did not send a committee."

"Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church."



# The Diary

## February



## 2007

- 1 Thursday **Holy Communion at Phillimore Court**  
11 am Residents' lounge.
  
- 4 Sunday **Hymn singing at Phillimore Court**  
3 pm. Residents' Lounge. All welcome.
  
- 6 Tuesday **Citizens' Advice Bureau**  
10 am - 1 pm Radlett Centre
  
- 8 Thursday **Council of Christians and Jews**  
8 pm. Radlett & Bushey Reform Synagogue  
Bible Study (See page 7)
  
- 13 Tuesday **Radlett Art Society** 12 noon - 1 p.m.. Lecture by  
Colin Bailey:- "The Genius of Vermeer" (See page 11)
  
- Aldenham W.I.** 7.30 pm. Memorial Hall  
Letchmore Heath.  
'Mongolia' - talk by Dr Bernard and Mrs Aylett.
  
- 17 Saturday **Quiet Morning at the Niland Centre**  
9.30 for 10 am - 12.30 followed by lunch (See page 6)
  
- 18 Sunday **Hymn singing at Phillimore Court**  
3 pm. Residents' Lounge. All welcome.

with help from many quarters. It is perhaps not common knowledge that on the day of the first fundraising dinner he received a message from the Cardinal to stop the whole project! It did however go ahead with a series of fund raising events which were very enjoyable not only for his own Parishioners but also for friends from the other Churches or none.

St Anthony was not left out with his feast day becoming an annual excuse for a jolly Bar B Q. Ecumenically, Fr Richard has worked tirelessly behind the scenes keeping up the Radlett covenant tradition, as well of course of following the directives of the Holy Father in the efforts towards unity. One noticeable sign was the generous loan of St John's Church for our Sunday morning Mass while St Anthony's was out of action.

'At Your Word Lord' was taken up by a relatively small number of people despite Fr Richard's strenuous efforts to promote it, but nevertheless was effective in bringing parishioners closer together. His great devotion to the Mass and all Catholic values are self evident. I recall the Bishop saying at his induction that Fr Richard would be preaching 'in season and out of season'. We have been fortunate to benefit from his preaching at every weekday Mass as well as Sundays even though it was due to some gruelling training in his early days! One comment he made was that having given up his nice home and garden in Thames Ditton he realised one day that here he was in Radlett with a rather nice Presbytery and garden! He thought he had given up everything to be a priest!

He is now leaving it all in a superior state than when he arrived and, somewhat like St Paul who was called over to Macedonia in a dream, he has been invited to Geneva to start all over again and to continue to preach the Gospel. Having put his hand to the plough he does not look back. Our loss is their gain and I know we all wish and pray that he will continue to be Blessed by the Lord.

*'A grateful Parishioner'*



We are delighted to welcome into Radlett Father John Elliott, who is the new Parish Priest at St. Anthony's Church.

## This Man of God



He came to us, this man, unknown,  
A few short years ago.  
He brought his faith, his love, his heart,  
His smile, his joy, his dream.

A shepherd cares for all his sheep,  
Safe folded or astray.  
He found the lost and called them home,  
His flock matured, and grew.

The new born lambs were welcomed in,  
With water and new life;  
Each child, a gift from God to us,  
Each, called by name, to Him.

To all, he was a valued friend,  
Quite special, quite unique.  
Gave help, gave comfort, loved and mourned,  
Gave strength, gave joy - himself.

To the old, the sick, the young, the child,  
He opened wide his arms.  
In death, bereavement, pain and loss,  
Gave hope - in healing care.

This man of God, of faith, of prayer,  
In friendship drew his fold.  
In laughter, warmth, humanity,  
Touched hearts, and held them close.

He leaves behind a flock enriched.  
New pastures beckon him.  
New souls, new friends, new challenges,  
New sheep, new lambs - new life.



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## YOUR PRAYER PAGE

### 'FRIENDSHIP'

There is a wonderful passage in St. John (Chapter 15, verses 9-15) where Jesus calls the disciples 'His friends'. And because you and I are His disciples today, we too should think of ourselves in the same way - as His friends.



If you and I are honest with ourselves, we know that we are unworthy, and also perhaps, a bit reluctant, to become His friends. We are happy to be called His follower, for we can do our following at a distance; but having Jesus as our friend may bring Him too close for comfort. His holiness will show up our impurity; His wholeness will make us realise our brokenness; and that may be too painful to bear. Whatever our feelings, however, it is Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who wants each of us as His friend. He takes the initiative: it is our privilege to respond.

As we grow in prayer, and share more deeply in Holy Communion with Jesus, and spend more time with an open Bible; and as we learn to recognise and listen to the Christ in each other; we receive from Him the grace we need to live as His friend in our indifferent and hostile world. Something of His character rubs off on us. We won't notice it ourselves, but others may realise we are a little kinder; more patient perhaps; less aggressive; more at peace in ourselves, even when life gets tough.

Of course there will be times when we slip and come a cropper: we wouldn't be human if we didn't, but the risen Christ is right there with us. In His love and friendship He picks us up, and dusts us down and sends us on our way rejoicing - provided, of course, that we have been humble and honest enough to say sorry and ask for His help. For Jesus to call us 'friend' is a stupendous and staggering privilege, but as we know, every privilege brings its own responsibility. As a friend of Jesus Christ, our responsibility is to share His friendship with those among whom we live and work. If we refuse to do this, and are content to keep His friendship to ourselves, it will wither and eventually die. But if we encourage and help others to experience His friendship for themselves, Christ's grace will overflow from our lives into theirs, and the life of our ecumenical parish and community will be enhanced and transformed by Christ Himself.

In our personal prayers this month, let us give thanks that Jesus calls us to be His friends. Pray also that we will learn to value His friendship above all others, and strive to share it with those who need it as much as we do! Amen.

*Christopher Newton.*

*(The Editors apologise for repeating last month's Prayer Page from the previous issue)*

**United Free Church  
Christmas Market**

raised £1,700.

**Many thanks to all who contributed towards this total.**



**The Royal British Legion  
Poppy Appeal**

The total collected in Aldenham and District  
in 2006 was £5,633.

**Thanks to all who supported the appeal so generously.**

**Alphabet**

Although things are not perfect  
Because of trial or pain  
Continue in thanksgiving  
Do not begin to blame  
Even when the times are hard  
Fierce winds are bound to blow  
God is forever able  
Hold on to what you know  
Imagine life without His love  
Joy would cease to be  
Keep thanking Him for all the things  
Love imparts to thee  
Move out of "Camp Complaining"  
No weapon that is known  
On earth can yield the power  
Praise can do alone  
Quit looking at the future  
Redeem the time at hand  
Start everyday with worship  
To "thank" is a command  
Until we see Him coming  
Victorious in the sky  
We'll run the race with gratitude  
Xalting God most high  
Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad,  
but...  
Zion waits in glory... where none are ever sad!



**Lent 2007**

8 pm Monday Evening Ecumenical Addresses  
**"People and Places of the Passion"**

Monday 26 February	Christ Church - William Hogg
Monday 5 March	St. John's Church - Cathy Watts
Monday 12 March	Aldenham Church - Robert Fletcher
Monday 19 March	St. Anthony's Church - John Elliott
Monday 26 March	Christ Church - Alan Callow

Refreshments served afterwards.

**Wednesday Mornings at Christ Church**

10.30 am Holy Communion and Address

Starting ASH WEDNESDAY, 21 February  
through to WEDNESDAY, 4 April, in HOLY WEEK

Refreshments served afterwards.

**Five House Groups** will be studying the Diocese of St. Albans course called "God's Story in Action". If anyone is interested in joining a group for Lent, Chris Davis (856611) will be delighted to hear from you.

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

'United under God's Tent'

prepared by the Women of Paraguay

**United Free Church**

Friday, 2 March 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

**Speaker:- Reverend Sue Keegan von Allmen**

(Both Men and Women welcome)

**A morning of reflection  
in preparation for Lent**

On Saturday, 17 February, Canon David Winter is coming to the Niland Centre, Bushey to lead us, in a reflective way, as a preparation for Lent. Canon David is a well known and much admired author and broadcaster - this will therefore be an opportunity not to be missed!

Coffee and tea will be available from 9.30 am before the start of the first session at 10 am prompt. The morning will conclude at 12.30 pm and will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch. The cost of the morning will be £5 per person.

If you would like to book a place, or require any additional information, please contact Chris Davis (R 856611) or the Christ Church office.

**Christian Aid**

**Christian Aid Quiz Evening**

10 February 2007 at 7.30 p.m.  
Christ Church Hall

Tickets £10  
Home Cooked Supper



**RADLETT ART SOCIETY**

PRESENTS A LECTURE BY

**COLIN BAILEY**

ON

**THE GENIUS OF  
VERMEER**

One of the greatest 17th Century Dutch painters,  
Vermeer surpasses all others in his  
portrayal of domestic interiors.

AT

**THE RADLETT CENTRE**

on Tuesday February 13th. 2007

12 noon for 1.00 p.m

Admission free to all

Refreshments will be available from 12 noon  
in the café area



**Radlett Music Club**

**Sarah-Jane Bradley - viola  
Jonathan Ayerst- piano**

Thursday 22 February 2007, 8.15 p.m. at the Radlett Centre

**Dvorák** - *Waldesruhe*

**Schumann** - *Märchenbilder, Op. 113*

**Elgar** - *Chanson de Nuit No. 1, Op. 15*

**Glinka** - *Sonata in D minor*

**Brahms** - *Sonata No. 2 in E, Op. 120*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE AT CHRIST CHURCH 21st CENTURY CELEBRATION**

As a parishioner of St Anthony's, I felt this year the inclination to attend the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (or celebration as I like to say) at Christ Church. It was something very special. What I call a 21st century Christmas Celebration. It was rather emotional because I was sitting next to a very nice couple with two children. Just before the celebration started we were able to introduce ourselves and found out that we were of different faiths, and just before the celebration started, listening to the choir voices singing carols, we managed to whisper that the day before, we were lighting the last candle of Chanuka at home.

What a privilege to happen to be here in Radlett. It is thanks to the hard silent work of the Radlett Ecumenical Christian Council that we are able to enjoy a celebration that can give peace and enjoyment to all religions. What is more, the ceremony embraced today's technology and modern life with youth and wisdom, but above all soul and feelings.

I felt much more than welcome. I felt at GOD'S HOME. I felt the love and dedication of a wonderful team resulting in a fantastic achievement, extraordinarily presented. It proved that working as a team "even outside a football pitch", can do wonders when it is done with all the love your Team put into the Christ Church Christmas Eve Candlelight celebration.

Thank you so much for the spiritual "management" led by Reverend William Hogg and for his wise leadership. I hope this achievement will keep our spirits high until next Christmas.  
God Bless you all.

*Conchita Pereira Silver*

### **The Ecumenical Carol Service**

in Christ Church on 18 December 2006

**raised £540 for charity.**

This was divided equally between two charities, The Peace Hospice, Watford, and Keech Cottage Children's Hospice, Luton

## **ANNUAL RETREAT**

The 2007 Retreat will be held over the weekend of the 8th to the 10th June at Offa House, Offchurch, near Leamington Spa. The conductor will be the Venerable Trevor Jones, Archdeacon of Hertford, whose theme will be

### **'The Wellsprings of Joy'**

The cost of the weekend will be approximately £100 per person. I would be pleased to speak with anybody who has not previously made a Retreat and would like to know what is involved.

*Bob Ogden (856039)*



## **Council of Christians and Jews**

Thursday, 8 February at 8 pm.  
Radlett and Bushey Reform Synagogue

### **Bible Study Evening**

Led by: Revd William Hogg and Rabbi Paul Freedman



## **BOOK SALE**

A sale will be held in Radlett United Free Church on  
Saturday February 24th from 10 am to 3 pm.

Thousands of good quality second hand books for sale.

## St Albans Centre for Christian Studies

### 'In a day' Introductions

People today lead very busy lives, so, alongside our certificate course, we're also trying to meet the needs of people who want to know more about theology and think through their faith, but who have very limited time. This term we have one 'in a day' Christian ethics: a session to introduce comprehensive introduction, covering all the ground in outline and pointing the way to further reading or further study when the diary allows!



### Christian Ethics in a day

How have Christians approached the big questions of morality? How might we tackle the issues of the day? How can we use the Bible? A mixture of theory and discussion. Not telling you what to think, but inviting you to consider how you decide what to do.

Tutor: Canon Iain Lane, St Albans Cathedral

Date & time: Saturday 10th February 2007  
10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Venue: The Chapter House Crypt

Cost: £10 (including morning coffee)

### Biblical Fictions: Novels retelling Bible stories

From the beginning of the novel in the first half of the eighteenth century to the present time, British novelists have often retold Bible stories. This course re-examines some classic novels and introduces some recently published texts, all of which have biblical origins in common. What motivates novelists to do this? What effect does it have on the biblical narratives? How does it enrich our appreciation of the biblical texts?

This three session short course aims to open up our understanding of these issues. No prior knowledge of the novels will be assumed and no essential reading will be required.

Tutor: Revd Dave Dickinson,  
Director, St Albans Centre for Christian Studies

Venue: The Chapter House, St Albans Cathedral

Date & time: Tuesdays 6th, 13th and 20th March 2007 at 8.00 pm

Cost: £18 (concessions £15)

## THE PLATT SUBSIDIARY FOUNDATION PLATT AWARDS 2007

Are you under 25?

Do you live in Radlett or Aldenham?

Are you planning an expedition or project in Summer 2007?

The Platt Subsidiary Foundation offers one or more Awards, which may be competed for each year and are intended to support young people embarking on challenging and enterprising activities away from home, in this country or abroad.

Applicants must show that they have sufficient drive and initiative to be planning an expedition or project in which they will face a variety of physical or intellectual challenges. Projects, which include helping people in other communities, will be more favourably considered. The Award winner may be part of a team or working on their own, but the Award will always be granted in support of an individual and not as a contribution to general funds.

In 2006 seven Awards were made, totalling £4,200. Three winners were joining school groups going on World Challenge expeditions to Vietnam, Guatemala and Ecuador respectively. Two other winners went on a joint medical elective to Vanuatu to study malaria and to join an outreach medical team focussing on maternal and paediatric health. Another winner, studying languages, spent a year at a Mexican university and utilised his music skills in a primary school and in the local community. The last winner used part of her Gap year to undertake a four-month placement with a mission team in Bolivia and then travelled home through various other Latin American countries. All the candidates exhibited considerable commitment and imagination and had worked very hard to raise the necessary funds.

Any young person wishing to compete for an Award should apply in writing to:

The Secretary  
The Platt Subsidiary Foundation, 57A Loom Lane  
Radlett, Herts WD7 8NX

Completed Application Forms, countersigned by a parent or guardian, must reach the Secretary by 31 March 2007. Unfortunately, late applications cannot be considered. Interviews will be conducted in April, and the Governors' decisions will be announced by the middle of May 2007.