

A NEW ALPHA COURSE

begins at the Rectory 7.00pm on Wednesday October 1st

(NOT September 24th as stated in Contact).

All are welcome but please invite your family, friends and neighbours who don't attend church (come with them if that will help).

New to our services?

- * WELCOME: We provide a variety of worship:
 - Traditional at 8am alternating St Mary's & All Saints.
 - Informal weekly worship at 10am at All Saints, N. Wootton.
 - Traditional weekly worship at 10am at St Mary's, S. Wootton.
 - Informal Café Church 1st & 3rd Sundays in S Wootton Village Hall.
- * After our 10am services you are warmly invited to stay for a cup of tea or coffee.
- * Take a free copy of "News & Views", or "Saints Alive" or "Contact" magazine from the porch to find out more about the church.
About Communion
- * We welcome to take Communion communicant members of all denominations.
- * *If you do not wish to take the bread and wine* you are welcome to come to the rail and receive a blessing. Simply keep your hands down.
- * *If you have an infection* you are invited to take Communion by intinction, namely to keep the wafer until the wine reaches you then to dip it in the wine before eating it, so taking the bread and wine together.
New to the Church of England?
- * Take a free copy of "Understanding the Church of England" from the porch.
Want a christening/confirmation/wedding?
- * Ring 671381 for information about preparation, including our Marriage Preparation Course.

Want to know more about the Faith?

- * Take a free copy of "What is a Christian Anyway?" from the porch.
- * Ask the service leader about the Alpha Course - an excellent introduction to the real meaning of Christianity.
- * Ask about joining a house group.
Need facilities for children?
- * We provide groups and other activities for children at All Saints (North Wootton) and in South Wootton Village Hall (opposite St Mary's).
Need prayer (including for healing)?
- * Ask the service leader.
- * Pin a request on the Prayer Board.
- * Phone the Rector to go on the Confidential Prayer Chain list.
Surfing the Net?
- * See churchinthewoottons.net - the church website, for a wide range of information and have your say on the Rector's Blog.
Deaf or Hard of Hearing?
- * Special service 2.30pm St Mary's 4th Sunday of the month.
Anxious, Confused, Miserable, Despairing. Need help?
- * Phone the Rectory 671381 or
- * Geoff Sturgeon (671050) for a visit at home or hospital or
- * Andrew Fielding (674304) - a retired medical doctor - for a confidential chat

CLERGY: Rector: Tony Higton 671381 tony@higton.info; Curate: Neil Mcleod 684064
ASSISTANTS: David Tate 672474 davidtate@allsts.freeserve.co.uk; Linda Ashby 672893 linda_ashby@tiscali.co.uk

READERS: Patricia Higton 671381; Tony Kendall 631539

ADMINISTRATOR: Patricia Higton 671381 patricia@churchinthewoottons.org

Parish website: www.churchinthewoottons.net;

Rector's Holy Land Conflict website: www.prayerforpeace.org.uk

The Church in the Woottons: One Church – Five Congregations

PEWS NEWS

Sunday 7th September 2008 – Trinity 16

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: AN AMAZING CHRISTIAN WORK IN IRAQ 1

Meet my friend, Andrew White, the vicar of St George of Mesopotamia in Baghdad. I've known Andrew for some years. He used to visit me regularly in Jerusalem. He is a larger than life character with amazing gifts and, by the grace of God, some almost unbelievable achievements.

After working in London parishes and then leading the reconciliation ministry at Coventry Cathedral, Andrew was Archbishop George Carey's official representative in the Middle East. He first went to Iraq in 1998 at the invitation of the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister. From the beginning he began meeting influential people including Ministers and Senior Religious leaders.

Steeped in Iraqi culture and history, Andrew has been working in Iraq since 1998 and is seen by many Iraqis to be the only Westerner in Iraq to be trusted. He has a huge network of contacts which he uses to make things happen that other Western intermediaries cannot.

When I returned to the UK Andrew invited me to be on the Advisory Council of his Fellowship for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME, a registered British charity) which meets in London from time to time. The Council is an interesting and influential body which includes Lord Carey (ex-Archbishop of Canterbury), Iraq's National Security Adviser, an Israeli Rabbi and MP and ex-minister, a prominent Muslim Palestinian woman, an ex-Ambassador to Israel, former Head British Head of Mission in Iraq, members of the House of Lords, etc. FRRME promotes reconciliation and provides relief in Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian Areas.

Andrew's dedication to the pursuit of peace is internationally recognised. Honours conferred on him include: the International Sternberg Prize, The International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCI) Prize for Sustained Intellectual Contribution to Jewish Christian Relations, The Three Faith's Forum Prize for Inter-Faith Relations (2003), the Tanenbaum Peacemaker in Action Prize (2005). In 2003 he was made a Grand Commander of the Order of Merit of the Knights Templar of Jerusalem Woolf Institute Peace Prize (2007) and he is a Companion of the Community of Cross and Nails from Coventry Cathedral for his work on reconciliation in Israel and Iraq

Andrew White looks after the twin congregations in St George's, Baghdad (a church which had been ransacked and ruined for decades until Andrew renovated it). There is an expatriate Sunday congregation and also a large Iraqi congregation which meets on Saturday (a Middle East custom). This congregation numbers over 1500 and, like Andrew, lives in extremely dangerous circumstances. Almost the whole church leadership has been slaughtered, as have many churchmembers. The church provides food, schooling and medical provision to the Iraqi congregation who otherwise would go without. We'll have the opportunity to help them in the Autumn.

Tony Higton

At Harvest through the cash collections we shall be able to support the work of St George's Baghdad in providing food, medicines and health care to traumatised Iraqis who would otherwise go without

This Week (7th to 13th September))

Mon	8th	7.30 pm	51 The Birches	Housegroup 1
Tues	9th	10.30 am	36 The Birches	Housegroup 2
Thurs	11th	10.30 am	51 The Birches	Friendship Coffee
		7.30 pm	Half Acre Nursery Lane	Housegroup 3
Fri	12th	7.30 pm	SW Village Hall	Quiz Night
Sat	13th	9.30 am	34 Castle Rising Rd	Hour of Prayer
		All Day	Norfolk Churches Trust	Sponsored Bike Ride

TOPICS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER THIS WEEK

GIVE THANKS:

- For God's blessings on:
 - our services last Sunday, including the Baptism.
 - the PCC last Tuesday.
- For the work of Canon Andrew White in Baghdad.

PRAY:

- For the Baptism of Logan Reeve at All Saints today.
- For churchmembers who are ill.
- For the Harvest *News & Views* soon to be distributed
- For us to be able to pay our full expenses as a Benefice.
- For the reconciliation work of Canon Andrew White in Iraq and the Holy Land.

Please note: the 9.30am-10.30am **SATURDAY PRAYER TIME** will be at **Neil's home**, Ambleside, 34 Castle Rising Road (opposite the Rectory and 4 houses to the right). *Please park at the Rectory.*

Autumn Housegroups - Urgent

The Monday evening, Tuesday morning and Thursday evening housegroups will reassemble for an autumn course in the week starting Monday 8 September. A study book price £3.99 will be available in advance. If you wish to join please tell Linda (672893), David (672474) or Tony (631539) quickly so that books can be ordered early next week.

ALL CHURCHMEMBERS ARE INVITED

to attend two special housegroup sessions led by the Rector on:

Developing the housegroups: how can they function more like mini-churches?

Mon Sep 22 7.30pm or Tue 23 10.30am or Thu 25 7.30pm

How can I share the Gospel with others: what do I say?

Mon Sep 22 7.30pm or Tue 23 10.30am or Thu 25 7.30pm

Mon: 51 The Birches, Tue: 36 The Birches, Thu: Half Acre (half way along the narrow part of Nursery Lane near, and on the same side, as All Saints)

WHY NOT START TO ATTEND A HOUSEGROUP?

NEXT SUNDAY (14th September)

Trinity 17

8.00 am	All Saints'	Said Eucharist (BCP)
10.00 am	St Mary's	Sung Eucharist
10.00 am	All Saints'	Sunday at 10: Morning Worship
12 noon	St Mary's	Baptism
12.45 pm	West Acre	Parish Amble

Norfolk Churches Trust

Sponsored Bike Ride

Saturday 13th September

Please see the current magazine or contact Geoff Sturgeon (671050) for more details.

TEARCRAFT OPEN DAY

A selection of gifts, cards etc. will be for sale and to order on **Tuesday 23 September** from 10am to 8pm
9 Hugh Close North Wootton

Friendship Coffee Morning

The monthly coffee morning for September will be hosted by Jeanne Fox at her home **51 The Birches on Thursday 11th September** starting at the usual time of 10.30 am.

For more details or help with transport please contact Geoff Sturgeon (671050).

Parish Amble

September's amble will be on **Sunday 14th** and will be a wander of approx 3 miles around West Acre. We will meet at 12.45pm

Full details in the current issue of Contact and/or map and info. from **David Tate 672474**.

Next Sunday at St Mary's Dr Andrew Fielding, a member of All Saints, will explain our new arrangements for pastoral care in the benefice alongside the valuable bereavement visiting organised by Geoff Sturgeon.

Quiz Night

SW Village Hall - Friday 12 September: 7.30 pm

Teams of up to six, tickets £2.50 per head available at the door on the night

Mission Without Borders

In mid September MWB sponsor's trip visits Romania. Visits will include a church, a community centre, children's homes, sponsored families and family to family projects. Each day we buy fruit, bon-bons, food items and schoolroom necessities. If anyone would like to send small light-weight items I will gladly hand them on. *Betty Ellis 674286*

Thank you to Volunteers

Many thanks to those who helped tidy up the Churchyard over the past few days. With a new carpet in the Young Church room upstairs and John Taylor giving the chancel tiles another makeover, it's been a good week!