

The Prime Minister gave some interesting figures on education today. In the Greater London area, one half of the people cannot read, one half can't write and the other three quarters can't add up.

BBC announced that as a tribute to Selwyn Wedgley, Britain's leading understudy, it will be showing a session of everybody else's films.

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 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.
- ### Need pastoral help?
- * Phone 671381.
- ### Want a christening/confirmation/wedding?
- * Ring 671381 for information about preparation, including our Marriage Preparation Course.

CLERGY: Rector: Tony Higton 671381 tony@higton.info; **Assistants:** Neil McLeod 684064 neil_r_mcleod@yahoo.co.uk; David Tate 672474 davidtate@allsts.freemove.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 29 June 2008 – Trinity 5

Welcome to Neil McLeod

as our new full-time, curate

TODAY

8.00 am	Neil at Holy Communion (St Mary's)
10.00 am	Neil at Sunday at 10 (All Saints')
6.00 pm	Special Evening Service & Welcome (St Mary's)
7.00 pm	Welcome Buffet (South Wootton Village Hall)

Everyone Welcome!

[Will those providing food please bring it to the Hall at 5.00pm]

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Good! Now Neil has arrived, we can all sit back and relax a bit more. I could have two days off a week! After all, the church pays the clergy to do the work of the church and now the Woottons has four of them: two stipendiary and two non-stipendiary.

No, no, no, that's quite the wrong approach. For one thing, Neil is here primarily to do in-service training so that he will be a first-rate incumbent in another parish. We are privileged in the Woottons to be providing this training opportunity and, indirectly, to be benefitting another church (or other churches) in the future through his fully-trained ministry. After all, Christianity is about giving.

More important, the church is an every-member-team not an activity carried out by a small specialist team watched or slightly helped by a large group of supporters.

The New Testament says that God has given a small, multi-talented leadership which is to equip the whole church—every member—for “works of service.” So the clergy are meant to be like a management team who are there to enable every “employee” (i.e. member) to work well, or a team of trainers there to enable all the “players” (church members) to play well.

Churches which rely on their clergy to “do everything” will be limited, frustrated and declining. Obviously, quite a lot of members are active in the Woottons. I want to see more people joining them in lay ministry and to see those lay ministries grow and develop. So now we have a new member of the team to help us do that. It is demanding and time-consuming work.

Having said that, like me, Neil will be working hard to serve the people of our congregations and all the people in the Woottons. O dear, it seems I can't have two days off a week now Neil has come, after all!!

This Week (22nd to 28th June)

Thu	26th	7.30 pm	Half Acre	Housegroup 3
Sat	28th	9.30 am	Rectory	Hour of Prayer

NEXT SUNDAY (6th July)

Trinity 7

8.00 am	St Mary's	Said Eucharist
10.00 am	St Mary's	Mattins
10.00 am	SW Village Hall	Cafe Church
10.00 am	All Saints'	Sunday at 10: All Age Service
6.00 pm	All Saints	Eucharist & Hymns

TOPICS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER THIS WEEK

THE COMMITTED TO GROWTH PRAYER written by the Bishop of Norwich.

Eternal God, in your Son Jesus Christ you reveal your love for the world, and by the grace of the Holy Spirit you give us the strength to share his mission to this Diocese: help us to grow in proclaiming your good news, drawing others to know you, serving our communities, promoting justice and peace and sustaining the well-being of the life of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GIVE THANKS:

1. For God's blessings on our services last Sunday
2. For God's blessing on the N Wootton school children who visited All Saints last Tuesday
3. For Neil's ordination yesterday.

PRAY:

1. For Neil as he begins his ministry with us.
2. For all the clergy attending the Diocesan Clergy Conference in Hertfordshire from Monday –Thursday.
3. For us to be able to pay our full expenses as a Benefice.
4. For people finding the current economic situation particularly difficult.
5. For the unity of the Anglican Communion in the truth of God's Word, including over issues of sexuality.
6. For the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.
7. For peace with justice for all the people of Zimbabwe.

Church Meeting about the Diocesan "Committed to Growth" Initiative

**Wednesday July 16th at 7.00pm
In St Mary's**

Britain's children fare the worst

"In comparison with 25 European states, ... the UK scores poorly for the quality of children's relationships with their parents and peers, for child health, relative poverty and deprivation, for risky behaviour (cigarette smoking, drunkenness, the use of cannabis and inhalants, teenage pregnancy, underage and unsafe sexual intercourse) and for subjective well-being (children's own evaluation of how happy and healthy they are). Amongst the rich, western member states the UK ranked lowest."

"The UK leads Europe for the proportion of young people living in single parent or step families ... Between 1972 and 2004 the proportion of children in the UK living in single parent families more than tripled to 24%." These are quotations from the Good Childhood Report carried out by the Children's Society.

The report goes on to say: "Depression and anxiety have increased for both boys and girls aged 15-16 since the mid-1980s, as have what are called 'non-aggressive conduct problems' such as lying, stealing and disobedience Two-thirds of young people felt that their life had a sense of purpose 78% of young people agreed with the statement 'I find life really worth living'." Why is it that our children are more depressed, anxious, irresponsible, disobedient, dishonest and have poorer relationships with parents than other European countries? Why do a third of them have no sense of purpose and 12% (one in eight) not find life worth living?

The answer is complex and will include factors like the breakdown of marriage, the powerful influence of electronic media and the national obsession with over-protecting children. ("A 2002 survey by The Children's Society and the Children's Play Council showed that in some parts of the country children were prevented from riding bikes in parks, climbing trees or even, in one case, from making daisy chains as these activities were deemed too risky").

However, it is obvious to me that a lack of spirituality, of relationship with God through Christ, of caring Christian fellowship in our post-Christian society is a major factor. The report says: "The UK Government has identified five key outcomes for children – 'stay safe', 'be healthy', 'enjoy and achieve', 'achieve economic well-being' and 'make a positive contribution.'"

What a pity it couldn't have added "have faith." But British politicians don't do God and the nation's children suffer.

Tony Higton

However, it's good to keep a sense of humour: Remember the two Ronnies?

There was a fire at the main Inland Revenue Office in London today but it was put out before any serious good was done.

A cement mixer collided with a prison van on the Kingston bypass. Motorists are asked to look out for 16 hardened criminals.