

June 2006

**Saint Cosmus and Saint Damian
in the Blean**



Saint Francis of Assisi, Tyler Hill

**GREETINGS FROM YOUR PARISH CHURCH
SUNDAY SERVICES**

Everyone is welcome to our services:

BLEAN – Parish Church

Sunday Services: Holy Communion (not second Sunday) 8.00am
Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 10.00am
Evensong (first Sunday) 6.15pm

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer 9.00am
Evening Prayer 5.30pm

TYLER HILL – St. Francis

Sunday Service: Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only) 8.30am

Website: www.bleanchurch.net

Email: theoffice@bleanparishchurch.wanadoo.co.uk

30p

*St. Cosmus &
& St. Damian
in the Blean*



*St. Francis
Tyler Hill*

June 2006

Dear Friends

Pentecost: Sunday 4 June is the feast of Pentecost when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first apostles in Jerusalem. In the Acts of the Apostles one of the powerful images of Pentecost is God sending the Holy Spirit as a mighty wind. Through the energy of that experience the apostles were empowered to preach the Gospel of Christ, the risen Lord, to all.

In the past year or so people in many regions of the world have suffered from terrifying hurricanes that destroy everything in their wake. Wind is basic to the earth and to creation. We are conscious of the effects of global warming upsetting the fine balance of trade winds at the equator, resulting in erratic and often violent weather patterns. In the second creation story in the Book of Genesis God formed man from the dust of the earth. He then breathed into him the breath of life, and the man became a living being. This becomes a truly awe-inspiring reality for those present at the birth of a child. Each of us comes into this world gasping for breath. God breathes into each child the breath of life. We breathe every moment of our life, until we literally draw our last breath and die. Breath is an everyday metaphor, “The off-bail felt the breath of it [the ball!]”, said Henry Blofeld earlier today when Andrew Flintoff nearly bowled the Sri Lankan batsman Dilshan.

In the Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament the words *ruah* and *pneuma* respectively are used for breathe, and also for wind and for spirit. Breath is more than the inhaling and exhaling of air. Our breath is a reminder that as human beings we are living beings; without breath we cannot function or express our humanity. In St Luke’s Gospel Jesus receives the Holy Spirit at his Baptism in the river Jordan, empowering him for his mission to be a herald of the Kingdom of God. St Luke tells us that when Jesus died on the cross he gave up his spirit with the words, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Luke goes on to say, “With these words he breathed his last.” So for Luke, the breath and the spirit of life in Jesus and the Holy Spirit are closely linked.

What connections can we make for today? ‘Spirituality’ is a buzz word for many young people today. It is about being happy; it is about being free from stress; it is about being free to make the choices *I* want to make about the whole range of alternative therapies to enable us to be happy. These seem a far cry from the

Spirituality of the New Testament rooted in the death of Jesus who was raised by God to new life on Easter Day.

It is good to know that the word 'spirituality' makes its way into the publicity of our NHS hospitals. For instance, in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital departments, as part of the East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust, there are notices giving contact details of the Chaplaincy teams entitled, *Your Spiritual Well-being*. "*Meeting your spiritual needs is just as important to us as your physical care. Because of this there are active chaplaincy teams working in all our hospitals. They are available to everyone – patients, visitors and staff – and are experienced in helping to meet the spiritual, pastoral and religious needs of people of all faiths and none.*" It is good to know that this Christian ministry is available in all our hospitals. The reality beneath the surface however is that Anglican and other Christian chaplains are fighting their corner for recognition and survival in the harsh environment of ever tighter budget constraints administered by modern secular hospital management many of whom see spiritual values as non-essential.

We will have read in the Diocesan *Outlook* Canon Julia Butterworth's regular articles entitled *Prayerways*. In her capacity as the Diocesan Spirituality Adviser Julia writes about different ways of praying and commends recent books that offer fresh approaches to praying and understanding praying. The leaflet produced by the Diocesan Spirituality Group describes spirituality as being at the heart of faith, and being about: deepening our understanding of the different ways of praying; growing in our life of prayer; learning more about Christ; building our relationships; travelling along the road; finding God in all things; and, becoming who we truly are.

At Pentecost we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles as the first Christians. Through our baptism we have all received the Holy Spirit, who breathes the breath of God with our spirit. When praying in words is difficult why not simply concentrate on your breathing. God gave you breath the moment you were born.

Then think of your Baptism when the Holy Spirit was given to you as a gift, the same Spirit that inspired Jesus. As you breathe, conscious of wanting to pray, so you pray.

May God bless you all.

David Hayes

PARISH REQUIEM

During the month of June, near the anniversary of their death, we will be remembering:-

Lilian Abbott, Harold Anderson, Henry Brown, Jessie Brown, Margaret Brown, Annie Maud Cottew, Edward Charles Coupland, Rita Davie, Richard Elwood, Nangi Fayrer, Christopher Figg, Geoffery Fisher, Winifred Ford, Harold Gardner, Kathleen Gisby, Frear Gough, Joy Holmes, Gwendolen Kennett, Mabel Laming, Edward Lindsay, Florence Loder, Sidney Mills, Betty Minter, John Newling, Beatrice Russell, James Russell, Molly Scott, Bill Shore, Amy Weatherall, Gladys Harriett Weller, Edward Charles Wilkinson, Rosemary Willcox, Mary Wooton Wood.

INTERCESSIONS

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| June 4th | Family Service |
| June 11 th | Sally Penfold |
| June 18 th | Hazel McCabe |
| June 25 th | Penny Whiting |

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT FOR APRIL

The MLT met on 18 April 2006 and discussed:

The reinforcing of the MLT in order for it to be effective until February 2008.

Dates for an MLT/PCC Away Day. Now agreed for **28 October 2006**

The planning of special services, particularly:

The Rogation Sunday walk from Tyler Hill to a service in Blean on 21 May 06.

Grahame's ordination by the Archbishop of Canterbury in St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean at 6pm on 1 July 2006

The issue of a leaflet to all households in the villages to advertise the widening of pastoral care to all in the villages.

The planning for a course relating to ethical issues to be conducted in the autumn.

The agreement that Mrs Sarah Andrews will give the 2006 SS Cosmus and Damian lecture at 7.30 on Wednesday 27 September 2006.

The arrangements for the formation of a Working Group to take forward the proposal for the possible formation of a "Friends" organisation.

The next meetings of the MLT will take place on Wed 31 May 06 and Tue 20 Jun 06.

Pastoral Care Group

During June, we shall be remembering in particular those living in St. John's Crescent, Summer Lane and The Green. We hope that you will join us in saying the following chosen prayer:

*God of love, in Jesus you entered the homes of all who were willing to receive You. We pray for all those who live in this Parish and especially those who live in St John's Crescent, Summer Lane and The Green. Pour your blessing into our homes and hearts that your peace and love may shine out to friends and neighbours. We ask this for Your Name's sake.
Amen.*

Thought for the month

The way of Christ has nothing to do with people seeking power by owning big cars, big houses, diamonds or beautiful clothes.
It has everything to do with seeking the power of love, peace and humility.

Fairtrade

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For more info call Hazel Price on: 01227 472358

Parish Quiet Day at West Malling Abbey Saturday 19th August

There will be a Parish Quiet Day at West Malling Abbey on Saturday 19th August. It will be a relaxed day in beautiful surroundings. The idea is not to take work or talk about parish matters, but to give ourselves the time and space to be open to God, to lay down our burdens in a place which is steeped in prayer, and to leave there refreshed and renewed.

There will be one or two short talks or reflections to help you on your way, but you don't have to do what is suggested. You could just sit quietly, reflect and pray. You might wander around the grounds or spend time in the old chapel or in the abbey Church. You might like to take a sketch book or a notepad to jot down things that 'come to you' during the day. The only essential book is a bible, but you could bring a book for spiritual reading if you so wished. We can join the sisters at their mid day office if we want to, but again this is optional.

The most important thing is to be there in a way that will open your heart and mind to God, and this is always best done in a silence.

If you feel a need to talk you can seek me out. I won't be far away! I will be there for you as a priest as well as a friend.

The quiet time will begin at 10.30am, but I suggest we arrive not later than 10.10, so that we can have coffee together before we begin. We will take packed lunches. Tea and coffee will be provided by the Guest sister at the Abbey.

There is no 'charge' by the Abbey for their hospitality and facilities, but I suggest that we each give a minimum donation of £10. You can give it to me on the day.

There is not a lot of room for parking, so when we know who is coming we'll try to arrange it so that we travel in as few cars as possible. When you sign your name please indicate whether you are a driver and could offer lifts to others.

If you are interested and would like to come to this day of refreshment, please sign the paper which will be at the back of the Church. The Abbey can comfortably accommodate 20 people, so it will be the first to sign up who will be able to come.

Eileen.

DIAL-A-RIDE BUS FOR HOSPITAL VISITS

A dedicated dial-a-ride bus service which takes patients to hospital appointments is to be expanded to cover Whitstable and Herne Bay as well as Canterbury. The service is open to anyone whose health renders them unable to use public transport, or those who live more than 500 metres from an existing transport route. The scheme is jointly funded by KCC and Canterbury City Council.

To receive an application form call 01227 862436.

Keys

We are updating the lists of keyholders. Could all those with any keys for the Church or Church Room please let Colin Routh (Tel. 464052, or email colinrouth@onetel.com) have details of what you hold.

...

Use of the church and the church room

Anyone wishing to use the Church or Church Room for any reason should seek the permission of the Churchwardens before arranging an event. This will ensure that there are no double bookings, but also that we comply with necessary insurance and health and safety requirements. Please contact the Church Office (763373) in the first instance.

The new Blean church website

The new Blean church website is currently being worked on and is viewable at www.bleanchurch.net. If anyone has any feedback to provide or ideas for items of future inclusion, please email Colin King at colin@seaking-sbs.co.uk.

Parochial Church Council Members Following APCM April 2006

Chairman

Revd. David Hayes
(Priest in Charge)

Church Warden & Vice Chairman

Mr Roger Vickerman

Church Warden & Representative On Deanery Synod

Mr Colin Routh

Representatives on Deanery Synod

Mrs Janet Bentley & Mr Ian Keay

Elected Members

Mrs Elizabeth Appleyard: Mrs Margaret Bircumshaw: Mr Colin Caverhill

Mr David Greenman: Mrs Hazel Price: Mrs Sally Penfold

Mr Michael Pethick (Secretary): Mr Peter Scales (Treasurer):

Mrs Penny Whiting

Ex Officio Members

Mr Eric Bate: Revd. Grahame Whittlesea

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FINANCIAL REPORT 2005

The main emphasis of the Church's financial affairs in 2005 has been the balance of fund raising to finance the provision of mains water and waste drainage on site, and which was completed in the year. This was therefore a year of planned spending while maintaining our commitments to the Deanery, upkeep of the church building and services, and donations to charities. In total, we spent some £13,000 net ~ £14,700 on the water project offset net income of £1,600 on general running.

Thus, net income of £1,782 on the General Fund increased the balance to £12,543; the Fabric Fund balance reduced by £205 to stand at £5,443; and the Junior Church Fund reduced by £43 to £871. The Discretionary Fund had no calls in the year and, with interest, stands at £3,124. The Churchyard Fund interest was used leaving the balance at £2,000.

| <u>Total Funds</u> | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| | £ |
| Receipts | 51,264 |
| Payments | <u>64,320</u> |
| Net payments | 13,056 |
| Bal at 1 Jan | <u>41,086</u> |
| Bal at 31 Dec | 28,030 |

For the Building Fund, grants received in 2005 from Bretts and KCC totalled £15,000 adding to the £12,000 raised in 2004. The total project cost ended up at around £33,000, and fund raising and donations were more than enough to meet the full cost ~ God provided to meet our needs. Fund raising continues ready for the next phase of our plans and the Fund ended the year with a balance of £4,049.

Looking at income and expenditure overall for the year, aside from the building project, levels were very similar year on year. Income from planned giving totalled £14,041, an increase of some £1,500 (12%) on last year last year. We are grateful to all those who give to the Church, especially for gift aided sums (30 donors) on which we recovered some £2,900 from the Inland Revenue, and to those (10) who gave on a regular basis. This remains a core source of regular income for the Church and one we should strive to maintain and increase as costs rise.

Fund raising

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| £ | |
| 353 | Canterbury Choristers |
| 1,111 | Wine & Wisdom |
| 18 | Strawberry Tea |
| 319 | Table Fairs |
| 160 | Parish Lunch |
| 260 | Cycle Ride |
| 822 | Flower Festival |
| 87 | Pre-School bazaar |
| 195 | Christmas Bazaar |
| 20 | Carol singing |
| <u>569</u> | Sales |
| 3,914 | |

Fund raising and social events continue to make a significant contribution to our work and raised a total of £3,345, plus £569 from the sale of cards and other special items made for sale ~ we spent £501 raising these funds.

Money raised by the Junior Church from their Christmas Bazaar was used to meet their annual commitment to support Action Aid.

The effort on fund raising in 2005 was less focused on the water project, and of the total raised, £833 was assigned to the Building Fund for that purpose.

On the expenditure side, grants and donations of £4,314 (14% of net available income) were much higher than last year due in part to special appeals and we have increased the commitment to donate to seven key charities a minimum of £200 each and to donate half of the proceeds from fund raising events, excluding the water project.

N.B. The figures shown in the table do not include sums raised from special appeals and envelope collections in the Parish during the year.

| <u>Grants and donations</u> | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| | £ |
| Poverty & Hope | 476 |
| RNLI | 215 |
| Tsunami Appeal | 730 |
| World Vision | 125 |
| Friends of Kent Churches | 155 |
| Action Aid | 238 |
| Key charities: | |
| Leprosy Mission | 220 |
| SPCK Worldwide | 200 |
| Children's Society | 298 |
| Pilgrims' Hospice | 557 |
| Scrine Foundation | 300 |
| USPG | 400 |
| CMS | 400 |
| | 2,646 |

The parish share of £13,816 (£12,694 in 2004), was paid in full to the Diocese by equal monthly instalments during the year. We continue to pay expenses to visiting clergy, to whom we remain extremely grateful for their time and support.

The parish share for 2006 has been set at £15,347, an increase of 11%, and the basis of allocation for future years is still under discussion. Proposals made in 2005 which would have increased Blean's share to support other parishes were resisted as they did not fairly reflect Blean's efforts to survive without a full-time priest by relying on the work of the Ministry Leadership Team and voluntary support. The suggestion of collaborative efforts between parishes to pool resources is being supported positively and discussions continue. In the meantime, the Deanery remains short of funds are there is likely to be pressure to increase the parish share.

Other special items of expenditure in 2005 include an extra loudspeaker, new hymn books, essential repairs at St. Francis and the memorial to HMS Blean.

2005 has been another successful if moderate year financially ~ we continue to make ends meet and to put a little aside. However, we will continue to struggle to raise funds as costs rise, it seems, with ease. Coming up this year is the quinquennial inspection ~ usually followed by a list of necessary repairs ~ and further projects to improve the heating and lighting, and to extend the Church Room.

Peter Scales
Treasurer

CANTERBURY REGALIA

It may not be generally realised that the institution of the Mayoralty of Canterbury stems from one of the first Charters issued at the beginning of the reign of Henry VI in 1448.

This confirmed the liberties and privileges granted earlier and records that ‘*Canterbury is one of the most ancient cities of the realm of England*’. The Charter gives the right to elect a single officer to be styled ‘The Mayor’, thus replacing the two Bailiffs who held rule over the City. Prior to this there were single governors variously known as ‘Portreeves’ – ‘Prefects’ – ‘Provosts’.

There are references to twin Bailiffs as far back as the beginning of the 1200’s, but Portreeves are recorded as far back as 780. This was when one, Aldhun, bought four ploughlands at Bishopbourne [then known as ‘Burnan’] from Egbert, King of Kent for 2000 shillings. Aldhun was ‘King’s Prefect in Canterbury’ – virtually the earliest known predecessor to the first Mayor in 1448.

The Anglo Saxon Chronicle records that, in 1011, there was the devastating siege of Canterbury by the Danes – Archbishop Alphege and Alfwold, the King’s Reeve, were both captured. Alphege was murdered at Greenwich and it seems likely that the Reeve suffered the same fate.

This preamble sets the scene for THE CITY COAT OF ARMS and the regalia belonging to the City. The full Coat of Arms of the City carries a golden crown above the Shield. King Canute was both a Dane and a Christian, greatly saddened by the deeds of his forebears, he had the body of Alphege brought back to Canterbury Cathedral for burial and, as a small recompense, his golden crown was given to hang on the Rood Screen. Sadly this was destroyed in the great fire of 1067.

Along with the City regalia, perhaps of greater importance, are the Charters given to the City over the centuries and this is why the ‘Golden Lion of England’ is at the top of the City Coat of Arms [on a scarlet background].



The three black birds are Cornish Choughs, who have red legs and red beaks and, in the language of Heraldry, - ‘leggets and becketts’ – thus the Arms ascribed [well after his lifetime] to ‘The Saint and Martyr Thomas Becket’.

At the end of the 1800’s, the City Council adopted the words ‘Ave, Mater, Anglia’ – ‘Hail, Mother of England’ – and this is now on a scroll at the bottom of the official Coat of Arms. The Mission of Augustine coming to Canterbury means that our lovely Cathedral is the ‘Mother Church of English Christianity’ – for ALL Christians in England of every denomination !!

The first Charter granted to Canterbury was in the reign of King Henry II and one of the witnesses was ‘T, Cancs’ – Thomas, Chancellor - Thomas Becket !!! In the reign of Henry III a charter was granted to elect Bailiffs instead of Reeves, and then came the Henry VI Charter which began the Mayorality. Later, in the 1400’s, Edward IV made the City a County Borough in its own right, separate from the County of Kent, concluding with the words ‘*For Ever*’ !!!

Minor Charters of internal regulations were granted in Tudor and Stuart times but, probably, the grandest one of all was that issued in the reign of King James I in 1608.

It has beautiful decorative designs around coats of arms and pictures of animals, birds and flowers. This granted permission for the City to acquire a sword which could be carried in procession before the Mayor, which still happens to-day.

Along with the Charters are the usual items of civil regalia, such as City maces, the Mayoral Chain, the Sheriff's Chain, the City's seals and the City's Silver plate.

But first, worthy of special mention, is the Burghmote Horn – a fine example of this unusual type of instrument – about a metre of curving brass, a bell mouth and a moulded mouthpiece. It is a reminder that the Burghmote was a judicial body, as far back as the 1200's, and the Horn was sounded around the City to announce the court sessions which were the predecessors of the present City Council. The Horn has played an indispensable part in the activities of the City Council over the centuries. To-day it rests in Tower House and is used to announce the new Lord Mayor at the annual Mayoral inauguration.

The most notable symbol of Royal authority was the Mace.

City Maces are mentioned as far back as 1313 but the present City Mace dates to the time of the restoration of King Charles II, when a silver gilt Mace, bearing Charles's initials was purchased for £62,10s.0d.

The City also has four Town Sergeants' Maces, dating to 1767, which were carried to show their authority when conducting cases in the City Court or delivering summonses and writs.

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriff both have chains of office with the full City Coat of Arms.

The City possesses some ancient Seals – metal matrices from which wax impressions could be made - amongst which is 'The Great Seal of the City of Canterbury' and the Seal of Office of the Baliffs, the Mayors of Canterbury, both thought to date to the 1300's.

Over the centuries among the many Mayors of Canterbury there were some who could only be described as 'colourful' characters and their activities make quite interesting reading!

Grenville Harmer

Blean Woods National Nature Reserve

Mid-April to mid-May 2006


The weather still can't quite make up its mind, and the butterflies seem none too sure, but the birds have certainly decided that spring is here, and are busy singing, incubating or feeding their chicks. The breeding bird survey work has not yet been completed or analysed, so I can't give precise numbers, but it looks as though nightingales are having a moderately good season, with perhaps 30 pairs, whereas song thrushes have all but vanished, with a meagre five pairs on 310ha (766 acres). Nuthatches remain extremely scarce, also with about five territories. When birds become scarcer, it is less likely that they will hear male rivals in song, and so, in turn, they are less likely to be prompted into a bout of retaliatory singing; thus all my

records of nuthatch this spring have been sightings, or of individuals uttering their indifferent calls, and not once have I heard the delightful trilling that they produce when they are more abundant. It also looks as though chiffchaffs are less common this year compared to their very close relative, the willow warbler. Twenty years ago the willow warbler vastly outnumbered the chiffchaff, but over the seasons the gap narrowed until, in 2004, the chiffchaff actually became the commoner of the two. The willow warbler reasserted its dominance last year, and the trend seems to be continuing this season. One other bird that deserves a mention here is the hawfinch; always a scarce breeder at Blean, this dumpy bird with a massive bill for cracking open hard seeds and nuts, last nested on the reserve in 2002, and is now scarcely ever recorded. So, there was cause for a modicum of optimism recently on hearing the explosive “tik” call of birds flying over in two widely separated parts of the wood – they may not actually be nesting, but at least there are still some hawfinches around.

Tasks continue to run well behind schedule this year, and tree planting was exceptionally late, the last sapling going into the ground on 12th May, with all the later trees having to be watered in. Rowan berries gathered last autumn have germinated extremely poorly in my nursery, so it was a relief to come across a mature rowan which I retained when the surrounding coppice was felled last summer; the floor beneath it was covered with literally thousands of tiny seedlings, many of which I have now potted up.

The unsightly electric fence on the heath has been replaced by permanent fencing, using chestnut posts from trees grown on the reserve, and a sturdy pen has been built in which to round up whatever animals may be grazing the heath.

Unfortunately, both dawn walks were blighted by rain this year, the first time this has happened, but the evening walks have been blessed with fine weather, and everyone has heard nightingales, and seen bats, woodcock and nightjars. There are still some more walks to come, so why not join us – at £2 per adult (£1 for children) they are an absolute bargain.

Michael Walter
RSPB Site Manager
Blean Woods National Nature Reserve
michael.walter@rspb.org.uk
 01227 455972

Events at Blean Woods in 2006

Sat 20th May **Evening Walk** 8pm at Blean Woods National Nature Reserve car park, Rough Common, near Canterbury, Kent (grid reference TR 122594). A two-hour guided walk through the wood to see bats and roding woodcock, to listen to nightjars and the last of the nightingales. £2 adults/£1

children. Advance booking not essential. Further details from Michael Walter Tel: 01227 455972

Fri 2nd June **Evening Walk** 8pm at Blean Woods National Nature Reserve car park, Rough Common, near Canterbury, Kent (grid reference TR 122594). A two-hour guided walk through the wood to see bats and roding woodcock, and to listen to nightjars. £2 adults/£1 children. Advance booking not essential. Further details from Michael Walter Tel: 01227 455972

Sat 10th June **Evening Walk** 8pm at Blean Woods National Nature Reserve car park, Rough Common, near Canterbury, Kent (grid reference TR 122594). A two-hour guided walk through the wood to see bats and roding woodcock, and to listen to nightjars, with a good chance of seeing glow worms. £2 adults/£1 children. Advance booking not essential. Further details from Michael Walter Tel: 01227 455972

Sun 25th June **Heath fritillary walk** 2.30pm at Blean Woods National Nature Reserve car park, Rough Common, near Canterbury, Kent (grid reference TR 122594). A two-hour guided walk through the wood to see Kent's rarest butterfly and learn about the management being carried out to encourage it. £2 adults/£1 children. Advance booking not essential. Further details from Michael Walter Tel: 01227 455972

BLEAN, HACKINGTON, TYLER HILL AMENITIES SOCIETY

We warmly invite you to the following events

Saturday 3rd June, 3 p.m. An orchid walk is planned at Jumping Down, Barham.

We plan to meet at the Down at 2.45pm approx. for the 3 o'clock start.

There is parking there

If you wish for a lift, or can offer one, please meet at the small car park by the phone kiosk in Tyler Hill, at 2.30.p.m., Contact Felicity, 471751, if you require a lift for this event.

Saturday 24th June approx 10.30am A visit to Belmont House, Faversham

a.m. We look at the gardens

lunch Bring your own picnic

p.m. We visit the house

If you are interested in either of these events and wish to know more, please contact Penny Reilly, 471760.

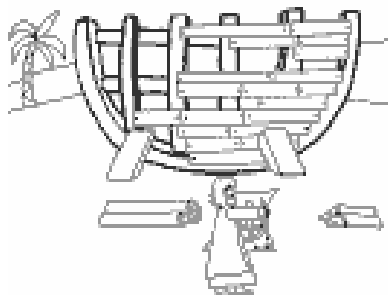
Noah's Ark

by Samantha Cross

Granddad was always building things, all sorts of weird things. Then one day he started building something big, *really* big. I heard him telling dad that God had told him to build an ark as there was going to be a great flood. I remembered it raining hard the year before, but we hadn't needed a boat then, why would we need one now?

Eventually, granddad finished building the ark and it was enormous. There was just one door, which was very big, and a window right at the very top. I ran all the way round, which took me several minutes.

'So what do you think?' my granddad asked me.



'It's amazing,' I replied. 'We could sail for years in it.'

'One year,' said granddad. 'One year then we shall land.'

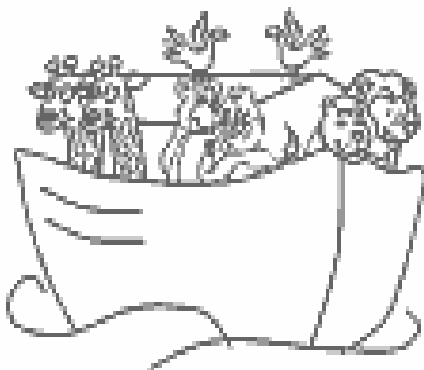
'Why is it so big?' I asked.

'Because of these.' Granddad looked past the ark to where lines of animals were heading towards us.

'Seven pairs of animals we need to work for us and one pair of everything else,' said granddad. 'God has brought them to us and we must take good care of them.'

It took us ages to load all the food on board, but at last it was done, and with all the animals, my grandparents, parents and aunts and uncles on board, we shut the door.

A few days later the rain started. I was looking out of the window at the top of the ark when a big fat raindrop landed on my head, then another and another. I quickly drew my head back in and shouted to everyone that the rain had started. They all came up to watch. I've never seen rain like it, either before or since. It rained so hard we couldn't even see the end of the ark. For forty days and nights it carried on just as hard and then we felt the ark pitch and tilt. We were floating. The rain had at last stopped, but the water showed no sign of subsiding.



The land had turned into a great sea, which was ours to sail on. And so we did for many months. My life was one long round of feeding and mucking out the animals. It was quite incredible to see them all together, hunters never chasing prey and even laying side by side. One day the ark gave a huge lurch and we stopped moving.

'Granddad, what's happened?' I called.

'I believe we have run aground,' he replied. He looked out of the window but was

unable to see anything.

'So that water is going down at last,' I cried.

'It would appear so. However, we need to be sure before we open the door. Fetch me a raven and we shall see.'

I ran down into the dark depths of the ark and found one of the large black birds. It hopped onto my arm and I took it up to granddad. He gently took the bird from me and launched it through the window. The raven took to the air and flew away. We waited for ages, but the bird didn't come back.

'Maybe a raven wasn't such a good choice,' I remarked. 'Its wings are very strong, it can fly along way.'

'Yes, you could be right,' said granddad. 'What would you suggest?'

I thought for a moment, then answered, 'a dove.'

So a dove it was that went out and came back, as it had found nowhere to nest.

A week later granddad sent out the dove again and this time it came back with a fresh olive leaf.

The next week the dove went again, and this time did not come back.

'The water has subsided,' said granddad. 'We shall open the door.'



We all gathered in the doorway, and as it opened we could see that the ark had come to rest at the top of mount Ararat. Spread below us, new green shoots were appearing and trees were in the first bright green flush of growth.

I watched as the animals left the ark, two by two, down the mountainside and spread out, going their separate ways to start a new life as I, and my family, were about to start ours.

Garden Party

Saturday, 17th June 2006

2.30 - 4.30pm

Hopebourne Garden, Harbledown

By kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Arthur Finn

Enjoy strawberry cream teas in the Marquee

Stalls include:

Produce, plants, china and glass, Tombola, cakes, children's activities and books.

Donations for the above stalls will be gratefully received

Please contact 01227 761700 for details or to arrange collection

Blean School

In the latest newsletter Headteacher, Mr Oliver, updated parents on the 70 responses received concerning the Breakfast Club letter. It is now hoped to move this forward with the earliest possible start date of Tuesday, June 6. Anyone interested in the Breakfast Club that has not already responded is asked to complete and return the slip at the end of the latest newsletter.

Miss Zoe Down is welcomed as the new Teaching Assistant/Midday Supervisor replacing Mrs Banville. Miss Down will work with the Reception children and in Rainbow Class. 103 applications were received for this post and Mr Oliver thanks everyone who took the time and trouble to apply.

Thanks also go to parents, friends and neighbours of the school who have sent in tokens. Currently the school is collecting the Active Kids, Computers for Schools, box tops for books and Stars for art and craft equipment. All donations will be gratefully received and can be sent into school or contact 01227 761700 to arrange collection. Some of the schemes are coming to an end soon, so please check your pockets and purses!!

Please note that all holidays booked and authorised up to Tuesday, 25th July will be honoured, but no holiday forms will be issued from Friday, 1st September.

Blean WI

The monthly meeting of the Blean WI was held on the 11th May when the president Mrs Audrey Swain welcomed members and visitors and gave apologies from Pat Dabson, Vera Harris, Mary Jones, Nora Scott and Nichols Sykes.

A birthday posy was presented to Audrey Swain.

This being a resolutions meeting the president put forward a proposition on 'renewable energy technology' and Carol Blackmore spoke on 'recognised participation in sport for a healthy population'. After a discussion it was unanimous that both proposals be carried. After the business members enjoyed a strawberry tea and a vote of thanks was given to the committee.

The monthly bloom results Penny Whiting 10, Mavis Bate 9, Elaine Finley 8, Eileen Higgs 7, Jean Smith and Janet Turney 6. The special competition result for home made sweets was won by Jean Smith with butterscotch fudge. The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th June when Ms Grace Goodman will speak on National Trust - Ightham Moat. The special competition will be handmade bookmark linked to the National Trust.

Diary for June 2006

| Date | Event | Time | |
|------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 4th | Pentecost | 08.00hrs 10.00hrs 18.15hrs | Holy Communion(said) All Age Eucharist Evensong |
| 11th | Trinity Sunday | 08.30hrs 10.00hrs | Holy Communion(said)[Tyler Hill] Parish Eucharist |
| 13th | | 19.30hrs | Service of healing |
| 18th | First Sunday after Trinity | 08.00hrs 10.00hrs | Holy Communion(said) Parish Eucharist |
| 25th | Second Sunday after Trinity | 08.00hrs 10.00hrs | Holy Communion(said) Parish Eucharist |
| | SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS IN JULY | | |
| 1st | | 18.00hrs | Grahame's ordination |
| 5th | | 19.30hrs | Deanery Synod meeting |

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Clergy:

The Rev. David Hayes. Priest in Charge
contact via Church Office.
The Rev. Grahame Whittlesea
contact via Church Office.

Churchwardens:

Colin Routh
31 Tile Kiln Hill, Blean.
Email: colinrouth@onetel.com
Phone: 01227 464052

Roger Vickerman
Peacock Cottage, 29a Tyler Hill Road, Blean.
Email: R.W.Vickerman@kent.ac.uk
Phone: 01227 471324

Ministry Leadership Team:

The team operates, mainly, via four working groups:
Education, Outreach/Mission, Pastoral Care and
Worship Planning. These headings appear against the
name of the leader of that particular group.

Membership: John Moss (*Education*), Colin Caverhill
(*Outreach/Mission*), Judy Keay (*Pastoral Care*), Eileen
Routh (*Worship Planning*) and Grahame Whittlesea.

Contact with any particular group can be made as follows:

Education, Outreach/Mission, Worship Planning:
via the Church Office.

Pastoral Care:
via the Church Office, except on Thursdays when
the contact number is 01227 471705.

Church Office:

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