

## Notes

1. The only Churches at present in communion with the Church of England are other Anglican Churches and certain foreign Churches.
2. Membership of the electoral roll is also open to members in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity where those members are also prepared to declare themselves to be members of the Church of England.
3. Every six years a new roll is prepared and those on the previous roll are informed so that they can re-apply. If you are not resident in the parish but were on the roll as a habitual worshipper and have been prevented by sickness or absence or other essential reason from worshipping for the past six months, you may write "would" before "have habitually attended" on the form and add "but was prevented from doing so because ..." and then state the reason.
4. If you have any problems over this form, please approach the clergy or lay people responsible for the parish, who will be pleased to help you.
5. In this form 'parish' means an ecclesiastical parish.

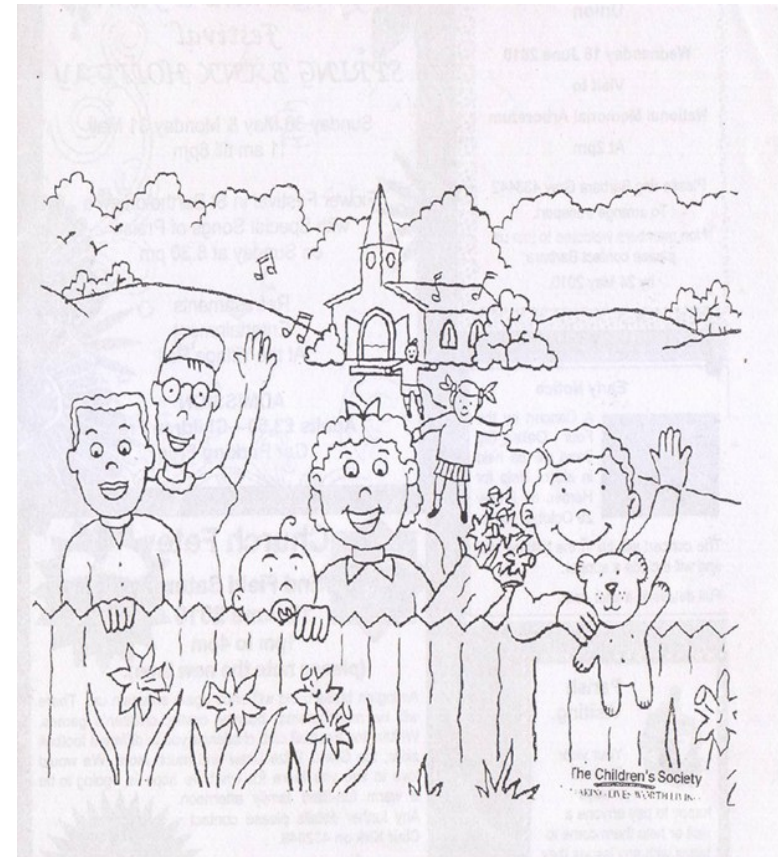
- The information collected on this form will be retained by your parish's Electoral Roll Officer. Information other than name and postal address falls beyond the scope of the Church Electoral Roll.
- The Church Electoral Roll is your parish's record of those qualified to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to vote in elections to the parochial church council (PCC) and the deanery synod.
- Any person entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting may also raise any question of parochial or general church interest.
- If you enrol on the Church Electoral Roll you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help to ensure that the PCC, your deanery synod, the Lichfield Diocesan Synod and the General Synod are fully representative of the Church's members.
- Anyone wishing to stand for election to the parochial church council or deanery synod must have had his or her name entered on the Church Electoral Roll for not less than six months prior to the election (except in the case of those under the age of eighteen). He or she must also be at least sixteen years of age and an 'actual communicant' as defined in rule 54(1) of the Church Representation Rules.

## Synodical government:

- gives an opportunity for partnership and collaboration between bishops, clergy and laity in the life of the Church;
- enables church people at every level to be in touch with the Church as a whole and to play their part in decision-making;
- ensures that the laity have their place in every aspect of church life.

# WEEFORD NEWS.

March 2013



St Mary's Church, Weeford.

Mothering Sunday Service.

Sunday March 10th at 4pm

# St Mary's Church, Weeford.

**Vicar:** Reverend Fiona Haskett 01543 432233  
[fiona.haskett@btopenworld.com](mailto:fiona.haskett@btopenworld.com)

The Vicar's USUAL DAY OFF is a MONDAY.

**Churchwardens:** Angela Brookhouse 01543 411537  
Nigel Brough 01543 480157

**Treasurer:** Alison Deakin 01543 480862

**Weeford News Editor** Janice Eagles 01827 310287  
[janicee39@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janicee39@yahoo.co.uk)

Welcome to this edition of Weeford News.  
We publish 2/3 times a year, usually when there is something going on, and aim to deliver to every home in the Parish (and beyond!) whether or not you attend Church. We hope you care about our lovely Church remaining up and running for the community and feel able to support us. Just as we will always endeavor to do our best to support you if you should ever need us.

## **HELP!!!!**

Which Sunday is it and what time is the Service???

### **Church Services at St Mary's Church, WEEFORD.**

- 1st Sunday of the month 11.30am Holy Communion
- 2nd Sunday of the month 9.15am Holy Communion
- 3rd Sunday of the month 11.30am Holy Communion
- 4th Sunday of the month 9.15am Morning Prayer
- Any 5th Sunday of the month 11.30am Holy Communion

**Suggestion... cut this out and tape inside a kitchen cupboard!  
However just to keep you on your toes there are variations  
on special occasions!!  
E.g. Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christingle**

## APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH OF **ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WEEFORD**

Full Name .....

Full Address .....

.....

Post Code .....

I declare that

1 I am baptised and am aged 16 or over (or become 16\* on ..... )

2† A I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and am resident in the parish.

Or

B I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and, not being resident in the parish, I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Or

C I am a member in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also declare myself to be a member of the Church of England and I have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

I declare that the above answers are true and I apply for inclusion on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish.

Signed ..... Date .....

\* Those who become 16 during the next 12 months may complete the form, and become eligible to be entered on the roll on their sixteenth birthday.

† Tick one only of boxes A, B or C.

### Other activities for children

While on the subject of activities for children, please don't forget Pram Service & Crafty kids which take place every other Wednesday during term time from 10.30. at St Giles' Church. There are stories, and singing in church followed by craft activities and toys in the Church Hall from 11am. Free entry although a donation towards the cost of refreshments would be appreciated. Contact Megan Barr on 432605 for more details. Junior Church for children aged 3 to 11 years has also started again at St Giles, meet in the Church Hall at 9.30 on the fourth Sunday of each month for games, Bible stories and craft activities. Contact Fiona for more details.

### Weddings

Despite the recession St Mary's is still proving a popular place to be married, we currently have 14 couples preparing for their weddings with us this year and already have 7 booked in for next year. It is so good to welcome couples wanting to be married in the sight of God to our really pretty little church.

### Church Collection.

We are **very** grateful for any amount you all put on the collection plate, however we can **only claim the gift aid** of 25p for every £1 **if names address and postcode are filled in on the white envelopes!!** Even if you only put the minimum £2 (HMRC require) in, that is wonderful we only need 4 envelopes at £2 each and... we have another £2 !!!!

### Church Electoral Roll

Every six years a new roll is prepared and **those on the previous roll** need to re-apply. If you are not resident in the parish but were on the roll as a habitual worshipper and have been prevented by sickness or absence or other essential reason from worshipping for the past six months, you may write "would" before "have habitually attended" on the form and add "but was prevented from doing so because ..." and then state the reason. Please contact Electoral Roll Officer: Janice Eagles 01827 310287 or [janicee39@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janicee39@yahoo.co.uk) Please return forms ASAP either to Church, Or Mrs J.A. Eagles, Common Barn Farmhouse, Packington, Lichfield, WS14 9PX

### An Easter thought from the Vicar

With Easter upon us I am reminded of an incident that happened a couple of years ago. I was asked to take an R.E. lesson for a class of 7 & 8 year olds in a local primary school. During the lesson we looked at some of the symbolism connected to Easter and the hidden meanings behind Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs. I then asked the children to take a hard boiled egg each and use food colouring to decorate them with pictures of anything that they thought apt for the season.

The children obviously enjoyed doing this and worked hard, at the end of the lesson they all came forward to show everyone what they had done and to tell us the meaning. Obviously we had the cross but we also had grass and flowers for new growth, we had chickens and rabbits for new life, we had sunshine and blue skies for happiness and we had some quite intricate decorations to remind us of the beauty of Gods creation – every single egg showed a great deal of thought and had a definite spiritual meaning that was appropriate for the season.

Then Charlie (the class clown) came forward – instead of painting his egg with intricate pictures he had simply plastered thick dark blue colouring all over it, then, because he had finished before anyone else and was getting bored he had decided to use it as a football. You can imagine the result. What we were presented with was a dark and broken mass – very different from the offerings of his classmates. "So what's this telling us about Easter?" I asked – quick as a flash came the reply "It's Jesus bursting from his tomb".

I will never forget that incident – it taught me a lot – not least that I shouldn't take things at face value. It also sums up exactly what happened during that first Easter. God intervened in the history of the world by sending his son not simply to improve what was already here, but to shatter the hold that the old dark order of things, things governed by sin and death have on human kind. Then having shattered that hold, he showed us a new and much better way of life based on perfect love, peace, and self sacrifice and the n gave to those who follow this way the promise of everlasting life spent with him and the Father in heaven.

With every Blessing for a meaningful and joyful Easter.



## News from St Mary's Church, Weeford.

A brief update of what's been happening...

### Maintenance

We continue to enjoy the **fully functioning Heating system**... such a treat after several years of saying "this is the last winter you will freeze in Weeford Church!" Again we say "Thank you" to all whose generosity made it possible.

Now that the heating is working and all signs of dampness have gone from the building, we have also been able to get the interior walls painted – so we not only have a warm church but one that looks really bright and clean as well!

We have also engaged stonemason Philip Hamlett to carry out some repair works to the roof, the downpipes and guttering and also to the wall and steps that run down to church Hill, we are hopeful that he will be able to complete this work very soon.

Finally, as those of you had attend church will know, we still have to put up with a force nine gale blowing straight from Siberia coming underneath our doors, however we are hopeful that this too will soon be a thing of the past as we have asked D James Edwards to fit proper door brushes to all the offending doors.

### Fundraising

The **pub quiz** in December was a great success, with about 13 teams packed into the Holly Bush in Little Hay. Once again Fiona had compiled a creative set of questions and at half time it looked as if the home/pub team may win. Thanks to the generous prizes on offer from The Holly Bush the competitive spirit heightened! Many thanks go to The Holly Bush for their hospitality and generous prizes, Fiona for compiling the quiz and Bidy Brough for arranging it. Watch this space for the next one!

Following the success of last Autumns Bridge Drive we are planning to hold another, hopefully later this spring, while the Autumn Fair and Duck Race is now becoming an annual highlight in the diary, this year it will take place on Saturday 21 September. The "events team" are now discussing events for the year so if you have any suggestions please contact Angela (01543 411537) or Bidy (01543 480157)

### Services etc.

Those who gathered at St Mary's Barns for **Carol Singing in the courtyard** were rewarded with a warm welcome and hospitality of **mulled wine and** warm mince pies! This annual event is always popular and enjoyable, thank you to the organisers and Pam for playing the keyboard.

Our **Christingle Service** was, as always, popular, with 77 adults and children eager for their "Christingle Kits." The service was enhanced by the wonderful solo singing of the first verse of Away in a manger... Fiona asked if anyone would like to do it and 12year old Lauren Southall, (granddaughter of Valerie Lunson at Bourne House Cottage) was volunteered to sing by her younger sister Meganne! Lauren is a member of King Edwards High School for girls' choir. What an absolute treat it was for us all, thank you Lauren.

We have to thank Julian Coles of Whittington (Tamworth) Co-op for donating the oranges, Karen Fisher and her daughters, Amelia and Eleanor, for putting the kits together and Fiona for the lovely Service.

The collection taken for The Children's Society totalled £160.

Thanks also go to our Flower ladies for decorating the Church for Christmas and to Charlie Wylie for supplying and delivering our splendid Christmas tree.

St Mary's Church certainly looked wonderful for all who attended Christingle and our **Midnight Communion service**.

### Mothering Sunday

This service will be at **4pm on Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>** and we hope that this will be a really happy and joyful service in which we can all give thanks for our mothers; we really hope that you will be able to join us. There will be refreshments after the service.

The timing is to enable Fiona, as Vicar of 3 Churches, to be at each of their Services on this special day.

### Easter Service and Easter Lilies

Easter Sunday is on March 31<sup>st</sup> with our Service at 11.30am. If you wish to purchase an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, they will be placed by the Altar and the names will be read out at the Service. The cost is £3. Please contact Sue Chapman on 07708363880

### Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at St Giles' Church on Saturday 30 March at 2pm. This will be a free event to which all children of Primary School age will be very welcome.