

# East Bristol Partnership Newsletter Autumn 2010

Wedding Celebration at St Michael The Archangel, Two Mile Hill

*Revd. John Goodridge*

It has been interesting to learn from so many people from all over Bristol and beyond that they were married at St Michael the Archangel, Two Mile Hill.

St Michael's was consecrated by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol on the 22 August 1848 and was built from stone actually quarried in the parish. The parish at this time was mainly rural consisting of 2000 acres stretching to the River Avon at Hanham. Of course, over time, it has become part of the urbanisation of Bristol.

However it is interesting to note that when you enter St Michael's, it is very much like entering a country parish church. St Michaels has served the local community for 162 years and will hopefully go on being there for the people for many years to come.

Although we are a small community, we are still active as the Parish Church for this particular area of Bristol and we also form part of the East Bristol Partnership of Churches. We have recently redecorated part of the church and sanctuary, which has greatly improved the ambiance of the building creating a sense of light.

It has been decided that we will hold a celebration service for all who have been married at St Michael's over the years. This will be held in the church on Sunday 10 October @ 4:00pm followed by refreshments. This act of celebration will be a chance to relive an important mile stone in the lives of so many

as they started their married life together. We sincerely hope that those whose partners have died will also be able to join with us and celebrate and give thanks for their years together. If you have any photographs of your wedding day, please bring them along.

In this time of greater secularisation and criticism of religious institutions, it is so important to remind people of the values of family life and the importance of marriage, which ultimately gives so much stability to children in very difficult times.

Of course our records do not tell us where people live now, so it is impossible for us to send out personal invitations hence this article. We sincerely hope that as many people as possible, no matter how long ago they were married, will join us in this celebration of Christian marriage.

#### **Jokes**

*From Revd. John Goodridge*

- A man was clearing out his garden shed and noticed he had quite a few Dusty Springfield albums, which were just gathering dust on a shelf. So he sold them on e-bay. The next day he went into his shed and thought to himself.....wait for it

..... **"I don't know what to do with my SHELF!"**

- A man went to the doctors and said, "I'm worried doctor, because I keep thinking I'm Tom Jones"

The Doctor replied, "That's not unusual"

- "The only exercise I seem to get these days is jumping to conclusions!!!"

## Messy Church Week at St. Aidan with St. George, August 2010

*Revd. Trev Denley*

We had the time of our lives. For a week, in conjunction with Summerhill Methodist church, our ecumenical partners, we hosted a Messy Church week during the school holidays. This was partly funded by the Partnership Mission fund.

This was an extension of the Messy Church we run each week at Air Balloon School.

Although advertised as an event for children the spin off had a good attendance by Mums, Dads, Nans and Granddads. It was interesting to watch them. Initially they would sit on the chairs around the outside of the hall watching the children getting truly messy and learning about God's gift to us, and then gradually they would join in, they would open up in conversation and share their experiences.

We covered a different theme each day, Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, the Flood and the Ark, Jacob and the Ladder, and Joseph and his Coat.

The children (of ALL ages) made papier mache worlds, Animals, a fabulous Ark, rainbows, full size self portraits, angels, ladders, technicolour coats and a LOT of mess. One highlight was the water pistol fight (to replicate the flood) on the scout field next to the church. After we finished we sang some songs and prayed and people stopped in the road to listen and smile! We averaged 21 children per day.

God was clearly at work not just among the children but also the adults, because it gave them an opportunity to share.

Where one parent had an issue another had experienced the same issue and was able to offer advice. Unknowingly and unwittingly they were sharing. It gave us an opportunity to share what as Christians we often take for granted, that God loves us all, with people who had never imagined that they

could be recipients of such unconditional love and to do it in a non intimidating place and manner.

I realise that this may sound a bit trite but the truth of the matter was that it was not the 'experts' doing the sharing it was the beneficiaries of that love. That is all of us!

I am constantly frustrated by the negative press that children and young people normally attract, Messy Church week for me continued to reinforce the fact that it is the young who have much to teach the more senior of us. Teamwork, having fun, mutual respect and an unbridled willingness to share what was good.

Roll on half term when we repeat the project for a couple of days.





## White Poppies

*Alison Wren, All Saints*

The white poppy made its first appearance on Armistice Day 1933, as an expression of concern that despite World War One being "the war to end wars", that it would soon be followed by another war. Hundreds of wars later, after the killing of more than 200 million people worldwide, the white poppy is a symbol of our grief for everyone harmed by war, and a commitment to work for peaceful resolution of conflict.

I personally always wear a red poppy as a mark of respect for soldiers killed and maimed, and a white poppy to state my belief that there must be a better way forward, and to remember all the other victims of war, All money donated goes to fund the educational work of the Peace Pledge Union ([www.whitepoppy.org](http://www.whitepoppy.org)).

If anyone wants to have a white poppy (donations welcome, but not necessary), you can call me at home on 0117-902-3770. I will leave a box of poppies at the back of All Saints, and will also try to be there at the end of the morning services for the two weeks before Armistice Day.

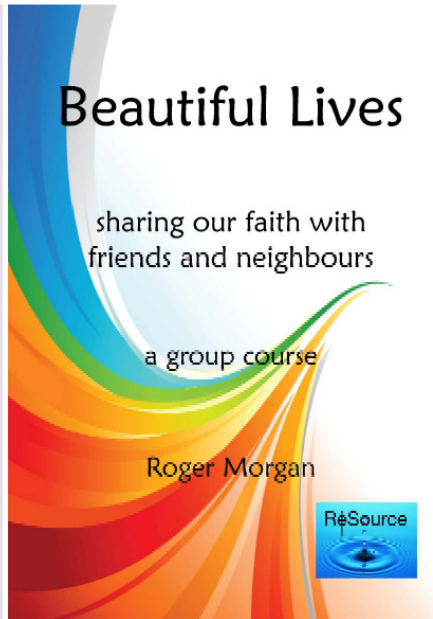
In peace,

Alison Wren

**"Evangelism made easy":**  
*Beautiful Lives* is a group course by Roger Morgan which helps church members develop the confidence to share their faith naturally and effectively with friends, family, colleagues and neighbours. All welcome! (Particularly those in a leadership position in church, or aspiring to such!)

Canon Roger Morgan is ReSource's mission specialist, and has had many years' experience in evangelism. He has published many volumes on this subject, and he also led the recent East Bristol Partnership Review.

[www.resource-arm.net](http://www.resource-arm.net)



**Wednesdays:**

- 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010
- 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010
- 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010
- 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011
- 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011
- 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011
- 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

7.30-9.30pm

St John's, Lodge Causeway,  
Fishponds, BS16 3QG

Please book in advance through the Partnership Office to secure your place - tel.: 0117 9586442, mobile: 07918 905655, email: [info@eastbristol.org.uk](mailto:info@eastbristol.org.uk), web: [www.eastbristol.org.uk](http://www.eastbristol.org.uk), Address: c/o St Mary's Church, Manor Road, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 2JB. (There will be a charge of £3.50 per person for course materials.)

# Susan's Last Service in the EBP



## + Farewell lunch



St Peter's Titchfield

# St John's

## Sunday 24th October 2010



10am for Service, 11.30am onwards for shared lunch in the hall - all welcome whether you can make the service or not. Come and join us for Revd. Susan Alliman's last Eucharist in the East Bristol Partnership before she moves on to her new post as Priest in Charge at St Peter's, Titchfield in Hampshire. Or come for the shared lunch in the hall, bring a dish, and wish Susan bon voyage and reminisce with her about her ministry in the Partnership.



St John's Church, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, BS16 3QG

# Ministering to the homeless

A talk by Jonathan Swithinbank from Crisis Centre Ministries  
[www.crisis-centre.org.uk](http://www.crisis-centre.org.uk)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>  
October

7.30-8.30pm

St Mary's Parish  
Rooms

Manor Road,  
Fishponds, BS16 2JB

Crisis Centre Ministries is a Christian charity based in St Paul's, Bristol. They were founded in 1984 by Derek Groves. Their vision is to bring God's grace and healing love to people with life-disrupting problems living on the streets, for example those with addiction or mental health issues, through providing material and spiritual support.

They provide meals, advice, and skills-training through their centre in St Paul's, and offer worship. They will soon be expanding to a new location in Easton.

## How to conduct God-centred PCC meetings

A seminar conducted by Martin Cavender, Director of ReSource in Wells



**Wednesday 27th October 2010**  
**7.30-9.30pm, St John's**  
Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, BS16 3QG

Do you sometimes wonder after PCC meetings "where was the Holy Spirit in all of that?" Well help is at hand in the form of Martin Cavender from ReSource. His tried and tested inspirational seminar is sure to breathe new life and direction into your PCC meetings, bringing your meetings back to a place of spirit-led decision making, and Christ-minded envisioning!

before becoming director of ReSource, Martin Cavender was the director of Springboard, the Archbishops' initiative for evangelism. A former ecclesiastical lawyer, Martin is a founder member of the Archbishops' College of Evangelists, and holds the Archbishop's Cross of St. Augustine, presented for services to the Anglican Communion. Martin is gifted in mission and with long experience of working across the traditions of the church. He is a deeply spiritual man with a great gift of encouragement, passionate about the gospel and committed to working alongside others of all ages and backgrounds.  
[www.resource-arm.net](http://www.resource-arm.net)

All PCC members strongly encouraged to attend! Others welcome too! For further information contact the East Bristol Partnership Office- tel: 0117 9586412, mobile: 07918 903635, email: [info@eastbristol.org.uk](mailto:info@eastbristol.org.uk), web: [www.eastbristol.org.uk](http://www.eastbristol.org.uk), Address: c/o St Mary's Church, Manor Road, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 2JB.



## A Half-Day Workshop Using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)

On Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2010, 09:30 - 13:30 @ St Barnabas' Warmley

The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is a 'down to earth' framework for looking at, describing and sorting personalities.

David Brain, an accredited MBTI Practitioner is running a half-day MBTI & Spirituality workshop in conjunction with St Barnabas', Warmley. This will enable you to discover your MBTI personality type and explore some of its impact on relationships with other people of faith, religious belief and styles of worship.

MBTI has been developed for over 30 years and is used widely in the Church of England. It is designed to promote constructive understanding of the differences between people, and may help you to:

- Discover more about yourself (your personality), where you're 'coming from' and how you express yourself;
- Understand why you prefer to do certain things in certain ways;
- See how others may see you;
- Value the differences between people;
- Improve understanding, communication & team work in your home, work and church life
- Reduce conflict

**COST: £30.00 per person to cover the cost of materials etc.**

**Like to book a place or find out more? Contact:**

David Brain (0117) 960 7391 / (07747) 060 492. Email: [braindavid@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:braindavid@blueyonder.co.uk)