



# Grapevine

## June 2010

Like it or lump it, football will be dominating conversations and newspapers from the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month. Fabio Capello has made the decision that there is to be no official World Cup song that this year the team must focus on the game in hand. Will it work? Will we find ourselves once more defeated in the semi-finals? Does the fact that our last friendly with Japan was only won because of 2 own goals? Should I even mention the possibility that we might not win? Is it unpatriotic? Does it even matter where we come, so long as we're taking part in the 'beautiful game'? Or do you even care?

The World Cup season is heralded with flags on cars, the usual uproar, induced by a certain newspaper suggesting that we're not allowed to fly our flag (which, it must be stated, is absolute rubbish). Hymns such as 'Jerusalem' and 'I vow to thee my country' are being chosen for weddings and baptisms, and national fervour is mounting. I know of several schools that are planning to include in their day some of the important matches. We also have become more aware of the condition of South Africa – Winnie Mandela's story having been told, also. In the meantime the job of living is still going on. Bread continues to be baked and children continue to sit exams. Trains run and planes fly (well, most of the time). We still have important choices to make in the way we live and how we love, and, although our lives may be interrupted for a moment, we still have choices on how we deal with success or defeat.

These choices are the things that make us who we are, individually and corporately. As a country we have voted in those who we feel can best represent us in the decision making of our nation. We may feel that we've had less choice about a coalition, although politicians say in their rhetoric that 'the people have chosen'. But, as Christians, we have an extra element in our mix of important and seemingly minor choices. We can choose how we behave as a

church, how we treat each other, how we behave and cherish the children amongst our congregation. Although we may be cheering our team on, we are still not to take our eyes off Jesus. He must be the centre of our thoughts, aspirations and dreams. We must love one another as he first loved us (I'm afraid that means loving the referee as well). It also means that we need to be patient, even if we're not particularly interested in the game. There are 2 excellent prayers on the Church of England website (found by Jane Luff) that go:

*Lord of all the nations, who played the cosmos into being,  
guide, guard and protect all who work or play in the World Cup.  
May all find in this competition a source of celebration,  
an experience of common humanity and  
a growing attitude of generous sportsmanship to others.  
Amen.*

And for those who are simply not interested:

*Lord, as all around are gripped with World Cup fever,  
bless us with understanding,  
strengthen us with patience and  
grant us the gift of sympathy if needed.  
Amen.*

Our reading on the 30<sup>th</sup> May was Romans 5:1-5. Paul talks about suffering, about perseverance, about hope. We have a hope that will never disappoint. Although there is sometimes success on an earthly level – suppose we did win for a moment – this glory fades, and at the next defeat or set back we are back to square one, but our hope is everlasting. The victory is forever. Our hope is in our Lord, who is all and everything to us. At the end of the day he is our expectation, our leader, our king. He has chosen us, not because we are able and competent, but because, if we are willing to do his will he will give us everything we need to bring about *his* purposes.

I hope we win as a country, but I also rejoice that we have already won more than we could ever have hoped for.

**Christine**

Next Edition: July

Please send any copy to the Christine by 25<sup>th</sup> June.

## Events diary for June

2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.15 pm	Funeral of Margaret Hall
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Welcome Team Training
	2.15 pm	Wedding (Graveley)
7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Training for Safeguarding Children
11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Visiting Bell Ringers
12 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 / 2.15 / 3.30 pm	Weddings
	3.00 pm	LEAVEN Strawberry Tea
19 <sup>th</sup>	2.15 / 3.30 pm	Weddings
25 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Renewal of Vows
26 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 / 2.15 / 3.30 pm	Weddings
28 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Common Tenure Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Brownies visiting Church

Baptisms	3.00 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> June
Vestry Evenings	7.30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> June
Every Monday	10.00 am	Happy Hedgehogs
Every Tuesday	8.00 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Every Wednesday	9.15 am	Foster Bugs

Week of 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June Lych gate roof repairs

### Contacts:

Website: [www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](http://www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

### Churchwardens:

Paul Drakes	01438 211665
email:	<a href="mailto:paul.drakes@ntlworld.com">paul.drakes@ntlworld.com</a>
Liz Hare	01438 353754
email:	<a href="mailto:lizhare@ntlworld.com">lizhare@ntlworld.com</a>

### Associate Minister:

Revd Christine Hina	01438 236536
email:	<a href="mailto:c.hina@ntlworld.com">c.hina@ntlworld.com</a>

## From the Church Registers

### Baptisms in May

9 <sup>th</sup>	Lucy-May Helen Farmer
	Callum-John Glyn Gibson
	Rachael Valerie Taylor
	Zoe Lisa Underwood
16 <sup>th</sup>	Susannah Jane Metcalfe
	Gemma Lilian Kerby

### Weddings in May

1 <sup>st</sup>	Paul Melvyn Dennis and Jacqueline Ann Grint
8 <sup>th</sup>	Adam David Truman and Karena Jane Gosling
14 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Patrick Lane and Jayne Catherine Scott
29 <sup>th</sup>	Shane Andrew Rendell and Abbie Christine Moreland
	Joel Adam Kent and Gemma Louise Sinclair
	Richard John Briggs and Louise Sylvia Margaret Davies

### Funerals in May

18 <sup>th</sup>	Heidi Peacock
19 <sup>th</sup>	Iris Durham
24 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Belsham
26 <sup>th</sup>	Roy Cross
27 <sup>th</sup>	Melvyn Bedford

A man was coming out of church one day, and the vicar was standing at the door as he always was to shake hands. He grabbed the man by the hand and pulled him aside. The vicar said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The man replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Vicar."

The vicar questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

