



## Grapevine July 2010

So here we are in July, entering the second half of the year already. We have had a busy 6 months. Notwithstanding Lent, Holy Week and Easter, we have said our goodbyes to Don and Jo, work is still progressing on the church, and there are many weddings, baptisms and funerals. It has also been a busy time at Great Ashby Community Church. Over the past year we have been putting together a workable constitution for the church, so that we can continue with our mission on the estate, maintain our Anglican and Baptist traditions and become an independent church. We have written a new page in ecumenical circles. We decided not to become an LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership) because we felt that we wanted a looser, more flexible structure. We will have a membership who, as in the Baptist tradition, will discern God's will for the church within a meeting and by a vote.

It seems hard to believe that it was nearly 4 years ago that the church started meeting. We have grown from, on an average Sunday, 20ish adults and 6 children to what we have now – 45ish adults and, around 25 children. We will also have a membership of 40 people to start with. To be a member one needs to have been either baptised and confirmed, or to have had a believer's baptism as an adult. We will accept anyone from any denomination who has made a public declaration of faith. Those who wish may be noted as Anglican – more for keeping a track for the Diocese – and may join the electoral roll at St Nicholas'. Any child baptised in the church will be added to the Baptism Register at St Nicholas', and a confirmed adult will go in the Confirmation Register. It may sound a little complicated but we feel we have addressed all of these points in our constitution. We also have a bit of a 'chicken and egg' situation. To become member, having undergone an interview, a prospective member would be accepted by the current membership. When we first meet, who will accept those who are to be members? At the first

meeting, therefore, we will all be saying together our words of commitment. We will be having our first members' meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2010, and our celebrations on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2010. As we did four years ago, we have invited all at St Nicholas' to join us for that service, and there will be no All Age Worship that Sunday.

Phew!

Did you stay with me? So, why now, and why a constitution? Well, the Church feels that it is ready to manage its finances, and to stand on its own two feet. As it will be independent, as far as the Baptists are concerned, we need to have charitable status, and to do that we need a constitution and to appoint charity trustees. Myself and Sue Hardwidge, as ministers in the church, will automatically become trustees, as will our Secretary (Owen Smith) and our Treasurer (Toby Purnell). We will also have up to 6 others. These will be elected at our first meeting, and we anticipate those to be made up from those who have been leading the church up till now as a start. Oddly enough, because Sue has been employed by Bunyan Baptist Church, she now needs to be appointed by GACC. This will appear on our agenda for our first meeting. Our meetings will be open to anyone, but, obviously, only members will be able to vote. Also, as part of the discerning process is the discussion at meetings, there can be no postal/proxy votes.

As you can imagine, this is a big step for the church in Great Ashby, so your prayers would be appreciated and vital. We have set the church's foundations on prayer and the gospel and would hope that we will continue to be led and guided by the Holy Spirit. So please think of us on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and put the 3<sup>rd</sup> October in your diaries. We have much to celebrate.

Yours in Christ  
**Christine Hina**

Next Edition: August

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

## Events diary for July

1 <sup>st</sup>	1.30 pm	Trotts Hill School Visit
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00 pm	District Bell Ringing
4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	All Age Worship
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	LEAVEN outing to Waddesdon Manor
13 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting
18 <sup>th</sup>	Midday	Church Picnic and Games
	6.30 pm	GACC evening service

Baptisms	3.00 pm	4 <sup>h</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> July
Vestry Evenings	7.30 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Every Monday	10.00 am	Happy Hedgehogs
Every Tuesday	8.00 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Every Wednesday	9.15 am	Foster Bugs

**Stevenage Local History Society** will meet at the lych gate at 2.15 pm on Sunday 1 August for a tour around St Nicholas. June Pitcher will be giving a talk on the monuments and stained glass. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

*Harold and Jane were not a very religious couple but tried their best.*

*They only went to church once a year, and as they were leaving the church, the*

*be nice to see*

*year." "I*

*busy people,*

*keep the Ten*

*the minister*

*the Commandments." "Yes, we sure do" Harold said proudly, "Jane*

*keeps six of them and I keep the other four".*



*minister said, "Harold, it sure would you and Jane here more than once a know," replied Harold. "We're very leading active lives. But at least we Commandments." "That's great," said. "I'm glad to hear that you keep*

## From the Church Registers

### Baptisms in June

6 <sup>th</sup>	Chloe Gregory
	Riley Ingle
	Bradley O'Connell
13 <sup>th</sup>	Lewis Hancock
	Kayden Openshaw
27 <sup>th</sup>	Olivia Addy
	Ellie-May Harris
	Marni Tempony-Boon

### Weddings in June

12 <sup>th</sup>	Tania Prizeman and Ian Butler
	Leanne Bradbury and Andrew Nash
	Renewal of Vows – Carolyn and Tony Barber
26 <sup>th</sup>	Louise Douglas and Wayne Minett
	Lauren Cordingley and John Worrell

### Funerals in June

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Margaret Hall
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ian Aspinall
21 <sup>st</sup>	Cyril Chambers
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lilian Cooper

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