

Jason Robinson retires

How does the end of Jason's international rugby career have any links with Harvest celebrations in Marcham? When asked to say what matters to him most Jason included 'reading the Bible' and to illustrate that Psalm 65 was featured in the paper.

All through our Harvest events Psalm 65 set the tone. That Psalm points us to God who provides our needs, is powerful and pardons and forgives. Great to know that such a real faith in God is the basis for living of a top rugby star.

Jason Robinson's story is available on loan from the Church library.

Start the month

Not only for the men ... everyone is welcome to a quiet, reflective Holy Communion service of traditional style on the first Sunday of each month at 8am at All Saints' Church.

6 November, 4 December, 8 (nb) January.

Sunshine in November

Do you go to church on holiday sometimes—if only for a change? Pamela Shirras is off to visit Costa del Silencio, in south Tenerife, one weekend this month to the Annual Meeting of the fairly new church where she is a Trustee.

Long term residents, Brits and others, as well as holidaymakers, appreciate Silencio Christian Fellowship as it seeks to meet their needs, often in very practical ways. This church has earned a reputation for caring for those in hospital, and their families, and for keeping in touch with those who visit local resorts every year.

If you would like to know about a church where you or friends go on holiday please get in touch with Pamela (see below).

Remember, remember the fifth of November

At the Men's Breakfast from 8 30am at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club on Saturday the fifth.... What possible relevance can events 400 years ago have for Britain in 2005? Men folk are invited to discover after a hearty feed.

Future dates: 3 December
7 January.

Michael and Jenny Kelsey

Just a year ago Michael and Jenny moved to Sweet Briar in Marcham from their first spell of retirement on the Suffolk coast, now to be nearer their families.

In January Michael hopes to celebrate his second silver wedding, having married Jenny 3 ½ years after the death of his first wife, Margaret.

The experience of working with the church in Nigeria was one of the things they shared in common when they married in 1981.

Michael and Margaret had worked among the Qua Iboe, a small young church, for seven years in the 1950s before returning to England. After this Michael was ordained.

Jenny was in eastern Nigeria in the '60s and '70s throughout the Biafra war when she was involved in the essential work of providing for the needs of those caught up in the conflict. Jenny was the 'link missionary' at St. John's Church, Blackheath, where she met Michael soon after he went there as Vicar in 1974.

When they retired in 1987 Michael's early interests were revived when he and Jenny made the study and photography of butterflies their hobby. One of the great outcomes, they say, of moving to Marcham is to be near to so many good sites for butterfly sightings and to live near Jim Asher, an expert in the butterfly world.

Keeping in touch

Not always so easy on a Sunday morning in a busy church, especially when the church is full for All Age Worship and at Christmas time.

What is so good about smaller numbers is that you are missed when you cannot come, and there is time for someone to be in touch and show they care.

Wednesday mornings, 10am at Duffield Place, is like that with a growing number attending Holy Communion each week. David Fraser and Michael Kelsey are there to give a lead each week.

Fellowship Groups are another way we keep in touch—five small groups, 6 to 10 members, meet weekly or fortnightly to share their faith, to read the Bible together and to pray for each other. Groups like this are what makes the church real to so many people. When you cannot make it you can be sure of prayer and lots of support.

Friday Club (5 30pm, now at church to cope with their numbers) and JAM Club (also Friday, 4pm at the Portacabin) do the same for children in the village and teenagers have their own Cell Group each Tuesday.

All Saints' Marcham with St. Luke's Garford

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