

Where is Moldova?

A country in eastern Europe about which we know very little suddenly came into focus last month.

Graeme Innes, of Tubney, shared the experiences of his gap year in Chisinau, the capital city of Moldova, and the nearby town of Ialoveni at a series of meetings at All Saints' Church last month.

Moldova is a small landlocked republic between the Ukraine and Romania which used to be part of the Soviet Union. It is described as the poorest country in Europe due to internal political problems, lack of industry and trade, and economic dependence on Russia.

Graeme taught in No. 4 School in Taloveni and worked with a Christian charity, Agape, in Chisinau seeking to help desperately needy young people. Sheer poverty has led many young parents to find work overseas, often leaving their children behind at risk.

The story Graeme told caught the imagination of all who heard him, especially a group of Marcham teenagers with whom he had worked at the Holiday Club here. Hopes are that a group of young people (and adults) from Marcham will go to Moldova next summer to experience for themselves life there and to lead a Holiday Club for children in Chisinau. More details of this trip will be available early in the new year.

'Alpha' - on Tuesdays

'Alpha' is the name of a series of eight evenings, beginning with a meal, which give everyone who comes an opportunity to explore the Christian faith. Questions and discussion are welcomed. 'Alpha' in Marcham this autumn begins on Tuesday 4 October, with supper at 7 30pm at 1 All Saints Close. You don't need a personal invitation—all are welcome. More details from Pamela Shirras (391319).

Harvest Thanksgiving

This is a good time of the year to be together at church. Harvest will be celebrated at All Saints' Church in Marcham on Sunday 2 October. There will be All Age Worship at 10am—good for families and those of every age who enjoy coming—this year the Marcham Singers, from our village school, will be taking part. Church services of a quieter style will be held at 8am (Holy Communion) and 6pm (Evening Prayer).

On Saturday 1 October at 8 30am breakfasts for women (at Manor Farm) and for men (at the Sports, Scouts and Social Club) will start off the Harvest weekend. And the Harvest theme will spill over to the Marcham School assembly and the Village Café (at 12 noon) on the following Wednesday.

Harvest in Garford

Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated in Garford over the weekend of 22/23 October. There will be a Harvest Supper in the village hall on Saturday evening and worship for all at St. Luke's Church on Sunday at 10 30am.

Green Christians?

The lively series of Issues for Today which cause much great discussion continues on Sunday 16 October at 10 30am at All Saints' Church. Janey Cumber and Neil Rowe will be leading morning worship on the subject "Environment—should Christians be green?" with discussion and questions. Does this subject matter and is there a Christian angle to it?

School Holiday, 24—31 October

Yes, say the boys and girls at Marcham School—and all the school staff! The Village Café, JAM Club and Friday Club all take a break that week too.

A special RAF visitor—and a tea party

Eleanor Rance is the only woman chaplain in the RAF and serves at Benson; Eleanor will be our preacher at All Saints' on Sunday 30 October at our 10am service. And that afternoon we look forward to a repeat of last year's very popular Open Church Tea Party—please bring yourself and your neighbour. You will be pleasantly surprised who you'll meet.

One is now two

It is three years this month since Eddie and Pamela Shirras joined us in the parish and they are now celebrating Pamela's ordination at the end of September. Between them they hope to serve us for some years to come.

All Saints' Marcham with St. Luke's Garford

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