

# August News 2007

**The Rector writes:** I'd like to thank everyone who has responded to our request for feedback on the changes to worship. Some have been by letter to the Worship Committee and some via Lynette's Congregational Study Questionnaire. On the whole they have been balanced and constructive and we will analyse them properly at the next meeting of the Worship Committee in September. We will let you know the outcome in due course. Once again, many thanks for your help.

**What is a Rural Dean?** Following my appointment, some of you have been asking what a Rural Dean is. So here's what it says in the licensing service:

"A Rural Dean is to be among God's people as one who serves. He is to guide the Chapter, building them up in fellowship. He is to care for all the clergy and lay ministers and their families, and to watch over the needs of parishes when their priest is sick or the benefice is vacant. He shares the chairing of the Deanery Synod, helping the members to work together for God's kingdom both within the deanery and beyond."

The Salisbury Deanery includes: St Thomas's, St Paul's, St Martin's & Laverstock, St Mark's, Harnam All Saints' & St George, St Francis & Stratford Sub-Castle, Bemerton & Bemerton Heath, Wilton including Netherhampton & Fugglestone. The Cathedral clergy and clergy working at Church House are also honorary members of the Deanery Chapter.

**Do you order goods or services for St Thomas's?** If so, our treasurer would please like you to fill in a purchase order form for each purchase and pass it to her (through the office or her pigeon hole in the vestry). Then she will know who authorised the expenditure, whether it is invoiced at the right amount and whether to pay it. No form will mean delay in paying invoices. The forms are available either from the parish office, from the vestry (treasurer's slot), or from Judith Norwood or Julie Scott. (Thank you very much to Judith Norwood for producing this).

**Summer opening in the Parish Office:** The office will be closed until Tues 28<sup>th</sup> August. While the office is closed, the usual recorded announcement will tell you who is on duty in an emergency.

**Sunday School:** There is no Sunday School during August. We hope to start again on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. In the meantime there will be plenty of books, sheets and colouring pencils in the children's corner. Help yourselves! *Thank you to all the leaders and helpers for all their work this year – new faces are always welcome – drop Kate a line in the parish office and she will put you in touch...*

**The Rector's blog is offline at the moment,** because it became apparent that less suitable material could be accessed via the same site. News will appear here when it returns.

**Salisbury Diocese Mothers' Union is running a holiday for needy families.** A group of 85 people will be going to Shanklin from 18th - 25th August and of the 50 children this year many are young babies and toddlers. They are looking to BORROW (or have given) the following, high chairs, travel cots, car seats and double buggies. If you have these items and would be prepared to lend them, please contact Bridget Trump on 01722 - 322555, or Sue Gallagher on 01722 - 332619. They would be happy to collect items and they will all be marked and returned to the correct owners!

**Opportunities for learning:** We have literature from Sarum College and from the Diocese, all available at the back of church. Sarum College will be sending leaflets monthly, so keep an eye out for anything of interest. The Diocese is launching its Learning for Discipleship series. There is a poster at the back of church, and leaflets are also available.

**Mayor's Appeal for Sarum Children's Ward:** There will be a Car Boot Sale at Wilton House on August 27th to raise funds for this appeal. If you have anything saleable, please contact John Todman tel: 414013 or Mary Parker tel: 335879. Collection can be arranged and any help on the day would be welcomed!

**THE GREAT CYCLE RIDE AND STRIDE:** Sally Vaughan will be at the back of the church after the 10.15 service on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August and will try to encourage everyone to sponsor the St T's team for this event which takes place on 8th September. Please do sign up and encourage our team to do their very best for the Historic Churches Trust and our own parish, both of which will benefit from the money raised.

### **Dates for your diary:**

1. **This year's Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October. After the 10.15 service there will be a lunch in St Thomas's House, organised by the Eco-congregation team. Further details to follow nearer the time.**

2. **If you are a cyclist or a walker:** On **Sat 8th Sept**, the Wilts Historic Churches' Trust will be organising the **Annual Great Cycle Ride** - which this year is entitled the **Sponsored Ride and Stride**. Details of how to enter and/or sponsor our team are on the notice board at the back of the church. Please speak to Sally Vaughan if you have any questions (tel: 337865).

**Salisbury & District Talking Newspaper** Owing to the death of its secretary, the talking newspaper is looking for a replacement – it is not an onerous task, with annually up to six committee meetings in addition to the AGM. If you can help, please contact Peter Vokes on Salisbury 327893

**also . . . . .** Can you spare 30 - 45 minutes on a Thursday afternoon during the months of March, May, August and November? It's for a good cause - the distribution of the 'talking' Salisbury Journal. Interested? Contact Gordon Kynaston: 01722 412770.

**Hillcote**, which provides respite care for children with learning disabilities, is holding a Summer Fete on 19<sup>th</sup> August, from 2pm until 5pm. All the usual attractions, plus a fancy dress competition *for all ages!* Hillcote is at 22 Manor Road, opposite the driving test centre.