

Parish Magazine Editor

Backwell needs someone to step forward and take on this important role in the village. John Brain would like to stand down as editor and a new editor is required. Many have expressed the hope that the editor is someone closely linked to St Andrew's. Please pray for someone suitable to fill this role. For further information please speak to Simon Hill.

BIBLE BOOK CLUB (BBC)

Next meeting will be on Thursday 27th November, when we will look at the Gospel of John. It will be at 2.00pm at the home of Gillian Hubbard - Portland, Moor Lane. (first house on the left on the corner with Station Rd). All welcome, just try and read John in advance. If you are unable to come you might still like to read through John's Gospel.

St Andrew's Day Service

Our annual village celebration will be on Monday November 30th at 7.30pm. Please come along to this service, which will celebrate what goes on in the village and give thanks for our local community. The service will be followed by refreshments.

Westcott Farm October 9th to 11th.

Nineteen young people from St Andrew's headed off to Devon for the weekend. Here are some of their comments:

I really enjoyed the weekend, it was really good fun.

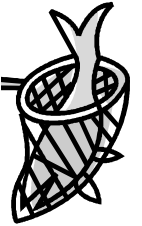
We had lots of fun over the weekend! I liked that we had a quiet time for thinking, discussing and contemplating and then in contrast—lots of fun activities (even the washing up)!

I loved the trampolines!

Lush tuck shop!

It was really good that we could all get together and do lots of different stuff - more than we could do in an evening or on a day trip.

The Net November & December 2009



From Backwell to Tanzania

Below, Martin and Jane Canning answer some questions about the next stage of their Christian journey, which takes them to Tanzania.

Where?

Dodoma, in the centre of Tanzania, East Africa. Dodoma is the political capital of Tanzania.

When?

The placement starts with a week's training in Selly Oak in January 2010, then to Arusha in the north of Tanzania for a month's language course, moving to Dodoma to start work in February.

Why?

As thanks for the many blessings God has showered on us, and with a desire to share whatever may be useful from what we have learned and experienced.

With whom?

The invitation to Dodoma came from the Anglican Church of Tanzania. USPG supervises the placement and funding so we will be Mission Companions with USPG - Anglicans in World Mission. What we will be doing doesn't fall within the "traditional" view of what missionaries do – so read on.

What will Jane be doing?

I will be lecturing in St John's University; this is a new institution, only two years old, and it was founded by the Anglican Church of Tanzania (ACT). I expect to be lecturing in Physiology to Nurses and in Education to trainee teachers. (see <http://www.sjut.ac.tz/about.php>)

What will Martin be doing?

I will be working at the Provincial Office of ACT, initially looking at their five year plan and then helping develop methods of income generation. This role is clearly rather more open ended than Jane's, but it was my experience in marketing that first brought us to the attention of the Archbishop of Tanzania.

How long for?

We have volunteered for two years (but will be back for a short time in May 2010 for our daughter's wedding).

What can St Andrew's do to support you?

We need your emotional, spiritual and financial support. There has already been fantastic evidence of emotional support, and we want to thank everyone who has shown such enthusiasm and encouragement for this venture. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and include in those prayers the request for financial support, as USPG does not yet have the funds for this project. Then on our return (we will be back!) hear about our experiences and what we have learned of Tanzania.

How will it be known what is happening?

There will be more information about the project and a chance to ask questions at the curry night on Friday 13th November. Part of the arrangement with USPG is that we will produce a newsletter every 3 months. Go to <http://www.uspg.org.uk/> or ring 020 7378 5678 to request a copy of this. Modern communications are such that there is likely to be e-mail correspondence between Dodoma and Backwell more frequently than that.

How long have you been planning this?

This is not a sudden decision. Jane would say that she has wanted to do something like this for 40 years. Ten to five years ago, it seemed like a pipe dream, but the application process started as Jane was finishing her M.Ed and has started and stalled several times over the last eighteen months. However, it was well worth waiting that time for a project that feels so right.

Whilst Martin and Jane are away they will appreciate our support in all

sorts of ways. Their service overseas as mission companions also leaves a number of gaps here, some of which are listed below. If you can help with any of these (or know someone who might be) please have a word with Simon or one of the churchwardens.

Church Cleaning Rota

Locking church one day each week

Setting up for one 8.00am service a month

Setting up for one 10.15am service a month

Traidcraft Stall at St Andrews. (Traidcraft Backwell is looked after)

Reading from the Bible at services

Leading fortnightly discussion for 15+ group

St Andrew's representative on Area Youth Management Committee.

Brief bits of news from...

Backwell PCC met on September 16th. Jerry King was formally approved as a Foundation Governor for the Junior School. Purchase of some staging that can be used in church was agreed. It was reported that the Chancellor of the Diocese had agreed that some of the restrictions that exist on the use of Church House, from the time it was built, could be lifted. PCC will look at introducing an appropriate policy for hire of Church House by groups and individuals.

Chelvey PCC met on September 7th. Heating engineers have been consulted about the heating and further investigations will be made. A solution to the problem is not going to be cheap. The Diocesan Rural Advisor will be coming to the next PCC.

Deanery Synod met on September 24th. Rev Dr Jonathan Pye spoke on Medical Ethics. New clergy were welcomed to the Deanery (Rev Jolyon Trickey (Holy Trinity Nailsea) & Rev Andrew Bryant (Portishead))

Diocesan Synod met on 24th October. The 2010 budget was approved, providing for net expenditure of £11,697,226 and a common fund increase of 5%, resulting in an operating deficit of £800,000 to be drawn from reserves. A motion was passed calling on dioceses, churches, church schools and church members (1) to take steps to reduce consumption of energy derived from fossil fuels (2) to purchase their electricity from any supplier which provides a green tariff and which undertakes to invest heavily in the production of energy from renewable resources and (3) to invest in renewable energy resources.