

CURATES VISIT TO BUNGOMA

In the first half of October last Year the Reverend Karen Jongman, together with nine other Curates, accompanied the Bishop of Peterborough and his wife together with the Rural Dean, Clive Evans, and the Post Ordination Officer, Alan Baines, on a two week visit to our sister Diocese of Bungoma in Western Kenya.

After arriving in Nairobi and spending the morning visiting the Cathedral there, the party flew to Eldoret and then were driven for one-and-a-half hours to Bungoma. There they spent two nights and celebrated the Seventh Anniversary of the Diocese with Bishop Eliud of Bungoma.

The curates then divided-up into pairs in order to visit all the villages within the Diocese. Karen and her fellow curate went for the first week to Lwandanyi and stayed in the home of Rubin and Elemina. It was a typical local "tuckle house" made of blocks of baked mud and straw, with no electricity or running water.

Meals consisted of rice and ungali (maize meal and beans) with the occasional luxury of chicken. There were lots of bananas. The main drink was very sweet tea, combined with boiled milk.

Each morning the visitors were brought a big bowl of warm water to wash with. The hospitality and generosity of these relatively poor people was both



Photo of Kimilili school children

astonishing and humbling

Travelling in a battered old Fiat car over roads, which any English farm-track would disgrace, they visited five to eight churches and three to four schools each day. Everywhere they went they were welcomed by singing children, some of whom had waited patiently for hours. They were treated like royalty.

In the second week, Karen and her colleague moved to Kimilili and stayed in the "tuckle-house" of the headteacher of the local High School whilst they continued their visits to surrounding villages.

During their stay in Kimilili Karen officiated at a wedding; the couple having decided to get married only the evening before!

The foundation stone for the church at Kimilili was laid by Bishop Paul of Brixworth in 1998 and the church and school are supported by the Silverstone group of churches.

Karen described the trip as the experience of a lifetime.....

"We went there to give encouragement to the people of Bungoma Diocese - but it was they who encouraged and inspired us."

WANTED!

As editor of your "Newsletter" I need more information on matters related to the village in order to make the Newsletter as lively and interesting as possible. I welcome any comments, suggestions, correspondence and criticism. I would welcome information also of newcomers to the village with their interests and activities.

I am very grateful to the following villagers who distribute the monthly 295 copies - Ann Fowler, Pat Patrick, Patricia Pring, Ruth Giles, Les Bates, Sandra Addleton, Mavis Johnstone, Joan Tice, Karen Hastie and Rosemary Gee.

John Mott

PRESENTS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

OUR THANKS to all those who gave Christmas presents which were placed under the splendid Christmas Tree donated by Pat and Trevor Foss.

A letter from The Family Care Unit at Westwood House has been received expressing their gratitude for the presents and the appreciation of the parents and children staying at the unit over the Christmas period.

Thanks also go to all those children who made angels to decorate the tree.

The Carol Service was a great success again with special thanks to the organisers, the choir and Emily Mold for her solo.

Lent Lunches

THE FIRST LENT LUNCH will be held on Wednesday 3RD March at the home of Beryl Mott, 16 Church Gardens - from 1200am - 2.00pm.

Everyone in the village is welcome to join in these happy and social events.

A minimum donation of £2.50 per person is expected, half of which will go to the Bangladesh Toc-H.

Welcome back Anglia Water!

Once again Anglia Water have dug a large hole at the West Haddon Road corner and decorated it with traffic lights. This must be the sixth hole there in two years!

What would we do without them?

Obituary

Jean Barford

1919 - 2003

We wish to thank everyone in the village for all their cards and kind wishes at the sudden passing away of Jean on November 4th 2003. She was a lovely lady (nee Stafford) who was born in Ravensthorpe 84 years ago.

During World War II Jean served in the Royal Air Force, as did her husband Jim. They met, fell in love and were married in St Denys Church on the 25th August 1957. Jim was born and lived in East Haddon.

After their wedding they immediately set up home at No 1 Bettycroft Close and Jim continues to live there. Jean spent all her life in Ravensthorpe and really loved the village. Jean saw lots of people come and go in the village and we always loved to hear her stories and look at her old photos of what Ravensthorpe used to look like.

In her youth she worked in Northampton as a seamstress in a company making leatherwear fashions for both ladies and gents. Jean also was a member of the Ravensthorpe Playing Field Committee in its early days.

Jean will always be remembered for her sense of humour and was active right up to her death and riding her bicycle.

"Jean is greatly missed by her husband Jim, son Neil and his wife Jenny and their daughters Anna (aged 11) and Sophie (aged 9)."

MONEY MATTERS

- 1) St Denys has received £289.95 from the Inland Revenue for tax reclaimed up to 31ST March 2003 on Gift Aid donations. Please continue to use the Gift Aid envelopes whenever possible.
- 2) St Denys - as with all other churches in the diocese - pays a Parish Share to the diocese mainly as a contribution to the cost of providing our clergy. In 2003 this was £548 per month (£6,576 p.a.). In 2004 we are asked to pay £602 per month (£7,224 p.a.). St Denys insurance is rising from £62.77 per month in 2003 to £72.79 per month in 2004. (£873.48 p.a.)

PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

SINCE the AGM in November 2003, the Playing Field Committee has been revitalised by several new members.

Anyone wishing to contact the committee with respect to queries or suggestions, the members are as follows:-

Alan Worthington (Chair) tel 770957
Barry Langsford tel 771195
Wendy Bolland tel 771153
Eddie Cole tel 771129
Sally Edwards tel 770219
Jon Gibson tel 770184
Ken Hickman tel 770682
Tim Hogben tel 771119
Viv Jozsa tel 771076
Martin Wilkes tel 770975

New Lottery

INTEREST in the ODDS-100 has waned and the consensus at the AGM was that it is time for a "NEW IDEA."

Over the next two months we plan to launch a 200-CLUB LOTTERY; an annual £12 ticket will enter you into a monthly draw, half the proceeds will be going to prizes and half to Playing Fields funds.

MORE NEWS AND DETAILS IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

INTERESTED IN A YOUTH CLUB?

If you would be interested in such an idea - either as something that you would use, help with, or to attend an information evening provided by the National Association of Youth Clubs, please contact **Martin Wilkes** tel: 770975.

"TRAFFIC CALMING BY TANK TRAP!"



We'd like to mention the large pot-hole in Guilsborough Road, opposite Manor Farm, which the District Council seems to be unable to keep repaired!!!

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Applications for affordable housing in Ravensthorpe are available from the Clerk.
- Please note the Clerk has changed since 1ST January 2004. All future correspondence should be sent to:

Mrs L Peachy
 Clerk to Ravensthorpe Parish Council
 Hall Farm Lodge
 Guilsborough Road
 Ravensthorpe
 NN6 8EW
 Tel: 01604 770894

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE IS 21ST FEBRUARY

Contact Editor John Mott,
 16 Church Gardens
 Ravensthorpe Tel 770618
 or email: clive.jcapr@talk21.com

CHURCH SERVICES

ALTAR FLOWERS
AND BRASS ROTA

Sunday	1 ST February	11.00am	Family Service	Mrs Wendy Bates
Sunday	8 TH February	11.00am	Holy Communion	Mrs B Glossop
Sunday	15 TH February	8.00am	Holy Communion	
Sunday	22 ND February	11.00am	Holy Communion	
Wednesday 25TH February Ash Wednesday Start of Lent				
		10.00am	Holy Communion at Guilsborough	
		7.00pm	Holy Communion at Hollowell	
Sunday	29 TH February	11.00am	Holy Communion at Cold Ashby	
Sunday	7 TH March	11.00am	Holy Communion	