



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Parish of St Peter & St Mary New Fishbourne and the Parish of St Mary the Virgin Apuldram

www.fishbournechurch.org.uk www.apuldramchurch.co.uk

The Revd Clive A. Ashley

Rector of Fishbourne and Priest in Charge of Apuldram

The Rectory, 31 Caspian Close, Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8AY

Rectory Tel: (01243) 783364 Email: cliveashley@btinternet.com

Church Office (01243) 784283 E-mail fishbournechurch@btinternet.com

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Dear Parishioners

Ever heard of Hymns & Pimms? No, I'm not surprised, it's a first! Come along to the Crown & Anchor, Dell Quay Sunday 26th July and to The Bull's Head on Sunday 23rd August both begin at 7pm (don't like Pimms, but you'll love the hymns).

Now, the Church in Fishbourne has re-launched a Wednesday morning group called 'Praise & Play' for Tiddlers. This is a friendly gathering for the under 5's and their parents, grandparents or carers. There will be a gathering (for want of a better word) every Wednesday morning, at 10.00am at St. Peter and St Mary's Church. The Rector or volunteer mums/helpers will take a short informal session (lasting approximately half an hour). This consists of ringing the church bell, lighting candles, listening to stories, singing with the guitar (or whatever is available) and a few prayers. May I emphasise at this point that any adult leading or running an activity run by the Church will have had a CRB enhanced disclosure checked. Older siblings are also very welcome to join us during any of the school holidays – the more the merrier!

Secondly, we've been really amazed by Marion Egerton, who has put years of time and love into running the LAZER group. However this group is coming to an end in the summer. We've also really appreciated Matthew and Su Leeming's leadership of the YOOF group which is also sadly coming to an end this summer. This does not indicate a mass abandoning of the children or the Church. All of us, including Marion, Matthew and Su, who have been engaged in Children's and Youth Ministry have taken time to review how things have changed and will be changing in the village and so that's why we're gearing up for something new in September. Fishbourne Church will be launching an evolving new initiative which I like to think of as "Fishbourne Youth Church". This is what might be called a new fresh expression of 'church' put together specifically with young people and children in mind. Hopefully it won't be dull or boring, but I guess its success will depend upon the young people that come! The group is for Year 7 young people and upwards in age, it will be called '**WEIRDFISH**' and what we used to call 'Junior Church' is going to be given a fresh start too with the name, '**FUNNYFISH**'. You can now see where '**TIDDLERS**' might come into the picture! We have no room at present for a Sunday morning Creche, which is why the Wednesday 'PRAISE&PLAY' is so important. Hopefully, if we ever have a new Church Hall built (this looks more likely now than ever before) we'll be able to get 'TIDDLERS' off the ground on a Sunday as well. (Further details from the Parish Church website in due course).

Thirdly, the Village Action Plan is steaming ahead with lots of great ideas and a grasp of reality. This is a timely initiative as the Diocese and the Ecumenical Alliance has advised the Churches to act in readiness for the effects of Swine Flu affecting every community in the coming autumn and winter. One suggestion proposed is to organize community support for individuals and families affected. The Parish Council and the Parish Church may be able to work together on organizing such a network. You may need help or be someone who could offer a helping hand. Crisis bring out the best and the worst in us. How will you respond?

Love and Best wishes to you all and have a super Summer

Clive