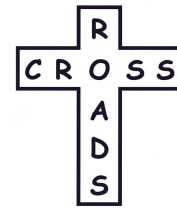


**ST JOHN'S CHURCH,
NEVILLE'S CROSS**

June 2010

THE CHURCH

at the



www.sjnx.org.uk

To contact us please use the links on the main pages of our website.

SERVICES THIS MONTH

*Holy Communion 7pm Thursdays
Morning Prayer Monday and Tuesday at 9.15am*

Sunday 6 June

- 8.45am Eucharist (Prayer Book)
- 10am Eucharist *with groups for children 0 - 14*
- 6pm Taste - Holy Communion in the round

Sunday 13 June ***Fair Trade stall***

- 8.45am Eucharist
- 10am Eucharist *with groups for children 0 - 14*
- 7.00pm Edge

Sunday 20 June ***Ecofest***

- 8.45am Eucharist (Prayer Book)
- 4.00pm Beer and Hymns (on the field if fine)

Sunday 27 June

- 8.45am Eucharist
- 10am All-Age Eucharist and Holy Baptism *with groups for 0 - 14s*
- 6.30pm Service with Prayers for Healing

ECO 2010

This year's Neville's Cross Eco Fest is taking place on Sunday 20th June between 11 am and 5pm in and around St John's Church. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate who we are as a church with the wider community while learning more about sustainable living. Keep the day free, come and be a part of it, bring your friends and neighbours!

We are looking for offers of help to deliver leaflets, bake, set up on the day, take a turn on the serving tea rota, run a stall for an hour. All offers will be gratefully received by Sarah or Margaret on ecofest@sjnx.org.uk

Barney writes:

This month will see our third annual EcoFestival take place in and around St John's: on Sunday 20th June. In a very short time, this has become a hugely popular event at which very many hundreds of people come to St John's to explore and raise awareness of 'eco' matters and issues of justice. The event depends on members of the congregation giving their time to help; please do all that you can to be actively involved (see above, and look out for requests for help) in what is our principal opportunity to engage with large numbers of people in our local community. There are also ways you can help in the run-up to the event – for instance by delivering flyers to local houses, or by displaying flyers or posters in local places – wherever they will best be seen. And please remember to keep the event and its co-ordinators in your prayers.

Also, please note that there will be no 10 o'clock service on the day of the Festival. Communion will be celebrated at 8.45 as normal; the Festival begins at 11, and runs throughout the day, concluding with Beer & Hymns.

I feel there is a particular importance in this event this year, to emphasise the powerful evidence of the reality of climate change, and the need for us to act now for the sake of the future. Following the email debacle at the University of East Anglia, and in the midst of economic troubles, we need to remember that the huge majority of climate scientists warn that climate change presents a clear and present danger to the future of our planet, and that action must be taken now for the sake of future generations.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer School - Since last month's sheet the Summer School has been replaced by a day event on Tuesday 13th July at St John's College. For more information look at www.dur.ac.uk/wsconline or phone Penny Bissell on 334 3850.

Acting Youth Pastor - Susanne Bendoraitis is now on maternity leave. Helen Tibbles has been appointed as acting Youth Pastor/Co-ordinator to cover until the end of July. She can be contacted on lol@sjnx.org.uk Susanne expects to return to work in September. There will be no-one in post in August.

St Margaret's Medieval Fair Saturday 5th June, 10 – 5pm. The 850th anniversary celebrations continue as the Church and churchyard are transformed into a medieval village, with re-enactments, falconry, medieval food and wine, blacksmith, calligraphy and a pageant by St Margaret's School. Admission is free, any donations will go to the 'St Margaret's Well (Tanzania)' Appeal.

Taste - Sunday 6th - come for a light tea at 6pm and stay on for Holy Communion in the round, led by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes.

St John's Worship Committee is holding an open meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 9th - please contact Barney if you want to know more.

Writing and choosing songs for worship - a Music and Worship Foundation Day in York on Saturday 12th. It's not too late to book for either or both of the workshops.

- **Writing songs for worship (10am - 1pm):** Writing your own Christian songs, thinking about it or know someone else who is? Kieran Metcalfe of RESOUNDWorship.org and Simon Bray will bring practical tips on theology in songs, putting together lyrics, melody and chords as well as giving an opportunity to share songs for group critique.
- **Choosing songs for worship (2 - 5 pm):** Ever struggle with choosing the right mix of songs, or know a minister or worship leader who does? Simon and Kieran will help with tips on assessing and choosing a repertoire, putting together songs from a variety of sources for worship and finding new songs and hymns for worship.

The event is being held at York Baptist Church, just inside the city walls about 5 minutes from the railway station. For more information and a booking form, please see www.mwf.org.uk/writingchoosingsongs.html

Mothers' Union - all welcome. The next meeting is at 1.45pm on Monday 14th when Janice Hardman (Deanery MU Leader) will talk about the MU.

Book Group - Everyone is welcome, whether you have read the book or not, it's a great opportunity to meet informally! Meetings always start at 8pm and finish by 9.30pm. Next meeting - Monday 12th July at 7 Dickens Wynd - The Gambler, Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Frances Barclay writes:

Dear all,

So sorry for the delay! I hope no-one was too worried! So much has happened since March that I feel this could be fairly epic, but hopefully most of it will be entertaining - I've certainly had an awesome couple of months!

April started with a lovely long weekend for Easter, which gave us from the 1st to the 5th to visit our friends in Luderitz. The journey was fairly eventful, beginning with a lift in the back of a police van (quite an experience for Ellie's two friends who were heading back to Windhoek to catch their plane home!), and including a 5 hour wait in the scorching heat by the side of the road. Eventually, we gave up and opted for the dreaded combi - probably the first and last time I'll ever be glad to be in one!

Fortunately the weekend more than made up for the journey - it was so lovely just to chill and be a lazy teenager again :) I did make one cultural outing to the near abandoned ex-diamond mine village, Kolmanskop, where I happened to meet two American missionary volunteers who took me to church on Sunday. It was such a cool experience - a tiny Anglican church in the middle of the location, where we said many of the same prayers which we say at home in Durham. It's amazing to realise that there are people praying the same things all over the world, and I was so glad

to be other Christians to celebrate Easter. Really, it was just a wonderfully joyful day :)

The next couple of weeks got quite busy as we prepared for the exam period, but eventually things began to wind down as we got nearer to the end of term. Exams seemed to go quite well, and it felt so good to have free time just to relax and see friends. I even got a couple of early birthday parties, since we wouldn't be in Aranos on the actual day. Term ended on the 23rd April, and so began our month of epic travels! It's really been amazing - I've been so excited to tell you all about it :)

We set off in the morning of the 23rd, and hitch-hiked our way to Cape Town. It was such an incredibly blessed journey - having only waited half an hour, we had a lift all the way with a lovely South African man who was playing Christian music (always a good sign!), and since we arrived in CT at 2.30 am, he took us home to his house where his wife had prepared a double bed! They even cooked us breakfast in the morning, and gave us a lift to Long Street Backpackers, where we stayed for the next night. It felt a little strange to be back in Cape Town again, but we had an awesome day checking out the Neighbour Goods food market :)

On Sunday 25th, we caught the 27 hour train to Joburg on our way to see our friends in Pretoria who got married in December. We got some amazing views from our little coupe, and we even had a decent night's sleep on the fold down beds. Our 3 hour wait in Joburg bus station wasn't particularly enjoyable, but having sheltered in Nando's, we eventually caught our bus to Pretoria. It was so lovely to see our friends again, and we spent a very chilled 36 hours looking at honeymoon photos and touring Pretoria in the rain.

From there, we stopped off for a night in Bloemfontein on our way into Lesotho, where we travelled for 9 days. What an incredible country! I hope I can get my photos up soon! The scenery was amazing, with mountains and valleys and waterfalls everywhere. The people were wonderfully friendly too - despite our lack of Sesotho and their limited English. We spent the first day and night in Maseru (the capital), sampling the local cuisine of braaied sweet corn and stocking up on supplies for our travels. To save on accommodation costs, we'd borrowed a tent, and we pitched up in a youth centre funded by my old school. Despite multiple layers and hot water bottles, this saw the first of several freezing nights! Most definitely the coldest I've been in 8 and a half months. Still, it was totally worth it to be able to afford the rest of the holiday!

From Maseru we caught a minibus taxi (combi :() to a village further south called Malealea, where a really excellent lodge has been set up to bring tourists (and funding) to the area. It was such a beautiful place, and all of the 'cultural activities' were led by the locals. Every night the village band and choir came to sing! We spent an awesome weekend hiking and pony trekking and soaking up the scenery, then moved on to the village of Semonkong on Monday 3rd. Unfortunately this involved what was quite probably the worst journey of my life - a 6 hour epic in a RIDICULOUSLY overcrowded bus which was so old we had to get off to get it up some of the hills. Just when I'd began to lose hope of ever arriving, we finally turned the last corner, and fortunately it proved itself to be definitely worth the effort! The lodge was in a beautiful location, on the banks of a river surrounded by green mountains, and after a highly trying day, we rewarded ourselves with an amazing 3

course meal :) After another day of hiking and exploring, we set off back to Maseru for another night before beginning our 2 day journey North-East to Sani Pass, the border with South Africa in the Drakensburg Mountains. This turned out to be more exciting than expected! Having missed the bus by 15 minutes, our taxi driver decided he could catch up, so off we sped for an hour or so until we came to a police road block. After a brief conversation with the police man, our driver drove on and we assumed everything was cool until the same policeman pulled up behind us at the next road block and dragged the driver from our car. Needless to say, we were pretty confused (our Sesotho never progressed much beyond Hello and Thank you...), and having given a statement (!) we found ourselves waiting at the side of the road. Fortunately, the policeman found us a lift with a local government official to his office in Leribe, where his driver then took over and continued to Butha-Butha. Somehow, the bus then appeared 10 minutes later! Of course, it was crowded and slow, but we arrived at our destination (Mokhotlong) eventually - and at a seriously reduced price! Having spent the night in a farmers' training centre (where we had actual beds for a change!) we took an early combi to Sani Top, where we were to stay in a lodge boasting the highest pub in Africa. Although we did attempt to pitch our tent in the ridiculously wind-swept field, we eventually resorted to setting up camp in the backpackers' kitchen, and in fact, the very friendly couple sharing the backpackers' lodge with us offered us the living room sofas instead - complete with open fire :) The views down into the Drakensburg were just incredible, and we spent a wonderful 24 hours admiring them from the comfort of the very comfortable pub and sampling its fine cuisine :)

On Saturday 8th, we said a fond farewell to Lesotho and made the treacherous journey down the infamous Sani Pass - fortunately we were only grounded once! The next two nights were then spent at the bottom of the Pass, in the really lovely Sani Lodge, where we sampled homemade ice-cream and hiked with some fellow travellers. We even found a South African version of monopoly which entertained us for several hours!

On Monday 10th, we caught a lift with another Sani Lodger to Durban, our final destination, where we stayed until Saturday 15th. After some fairly rural experiences, it was a lot of fun to be in a big city, and we spent an awesome few days exploring the Botanical Gardens, visiting museums, sampling cafes and 'catching some waves' in the amazingly warm Indian Ocean under the glorious blue skies. Despite the last minute World Cup construction work, Durban is really a beautiful city, and we even got a 360 degree panoramic view from the top of the new football stadium. It was a lot of fun to meet up with a friend we'd made at the wedding in December, and I definitely had an unforgettable birthday spent picnicing on the beach and perfecting my surf :)

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th were then spent on an epic 43 hour bus journey, first from Durban to Cape Town and then from Cape Town to Keetmanshoop (Namibia). After such an incredible 3 weeks, it was definitely sad to see the end of our travels, but we've spent this week recovering with our friends in Luderitz before heading back to work next week. It's been so nice just to lounge and sleep and catch up - really a perfect end to what has been an unbelievably blessed holiday :) Thank you so much for all your prayers! I couldn't have asked for a happier or safer 4 weeks.

Really, it's hard to believe the holiday is over already, and the idea of going back to work feels a little daunting. Still, I know there are so many things to look forward to in this last term, and I hope to make the most of our last 3 months. Can you believe there are only 3 months left?! The year has truly flown by - but it always does when you're having fun :)

I hope this finds you all well, and I look forward to hearing about your last few weeks.

With much love and many prayers,

Frances xxx

The summer news-sheet will be published on Sunday 27 June 2010

Green Tip for June

Come to the **Ecofest** on 20th and resolve to take lasting action on at least one thing that you see or hear.