

Is there a doctor in the house?

One of the things they warn you about when you gain your Doctor of Philosophy degree is being mistaken for a medic of some kind. You can see why: most people assume that if you have 'Dr' stuck in front of your name, even if it goes with 'The Rev'd' you must be qualified to cure all their aches and pains.

Well, I have been mistaken for a medic but I'm still waiting for that dramatic request from an air hostess to sort out some ailing patient at 35,000 feet.

But as an ordained priest I've been involved in the healing ministry for 30 or more years and that's because the church's role in healing goes back to Jesus himself.

It consists basically of two main elements: the laying on of hands and the anointing with the Oil of the Sick especially blessed in Holy Week and received by the local church community, you may remember, on Maundy Thursday.

This Ministry has been a feature of the life of this parish for many, many years. We used to offer the laying on of hands with anointing during the Sunday Eucharist about three times a year but lots of people felt it interrupted the 'flow' of the Eucharist so it now happens on a handful of occasions at a special Eucharist on Thursday evenings.

It isn't about miracles, although once or twice people have told me of inexplicable healings thereafter. The Sacrament of



Fr Stephen brewed some Westerham ale last month used it to raise funds at the combined Church Fete on Saturday 14 June

Healing is about enfolding the sufferer within the love of a God who always has our best interests at heart even if healing, as conventionally understood, is no longer possible.

Throughout the Bible anointing and touching are signs above all of God's love for his people. Sick people, whatever the nature of their illness, are welcome to partake of this sacrament and receive that assurance; and those of us not perhaps obviously unwell, but who are aware that perfection in body mind and spirit just isn't available in this world can do likewise.

Watch the pewsheet for forthcoming services.

Fr Stephen Mitchell



Youth Worker Anthony Shipwright (centre in red T-shirt) with the group of Edenbridge teenagers and the family for whom they helped to build a house in Mexico in 2013. Now they are planning a second project for 2015 and need your support.

Support the second Mexican wave

Last year a group of teenagers from Edenbridge and Four Elms went to Mexico to help a poverty-stricken family build their first secure home, the project being funded partly by donations from the Edenbridge Parish Church congregation.

It sounds like a holiday, but as Joshua Maynard, a server at the church, remarked: "I have an iPod, iPhone, Play station and a bed to sleep in with a roof over my head, but they have nothing."

The project, called ReBuild, was such a success that it is being repeated again in April 2015. Each participant needs to raise £1,300 to fund the travel and accommodation.

ReBuild, organised by Urban Saints UK & Amor Ministries in San Diego, California, since 1980, is designed to provide practical help to the local people in Mexico while creating cross-cultural understanding for the participants through direct exposure

to the Mexican culture. Although the trip will change the lives of many local people, the goal of this project is to encourage individuals to understand the reality of poverty through participation, and that you can make a difference in your own neighbourhoods.

Each family selected to be part of the ReBuild project will have saved enough funds to buy a small plot of land, which on average takes more than five years. The basic building will typically be an 11ft x 22ft two room house with concrete foundation and stucco finished exterior.

While sleeping in tents and using very basic amenities, the youngsters from the Edenbridge area will help other groups build the homes from scratch. The structure is a simple design, ensuring that an unskilled group of people with a few hand tools can complete the project in as little as five days.

If you want to help with a donation contact Vince Maynard by email at vincent.maynard@virginmedia.com for further details.



The Open Morning, held during the Edenbridge Festival on Monday 26 May to showcase Ss Peter & Paul's huge range of group activities, turned into an Open Afternoon as visitors arrived increasingly after lunch to be informed and enlightened, not to mention refreshed. Illustrated are the displays by the Bellringers and Acapella both of whom provided demonstrations of their skills. Pictures by Paul Goodwin.

Edenbridge Churches in Covenant: what is it?

Efforts to promote better links between the churches from different denominations in the Edenbridge area go back a long way. The ECC, formed in 1982, is a successor to the Edenbridge Association of Churches, formed in April 1970. Details of the Covenant made between the churches in 1982 are on our church website www.edenbridgeparishchurch.com.

The Churches involved are: St John's United Reform Church, Marsh Green; St Lawrence's Roman Catholic Church; the Eden Church; Holy Trinity, Crockham Hill; and St Peter & St Paul, Edenbridge.

Each church has ECC representatives on the ECC Council. Currently, Hilary Morgan and Anthony Shipwright are the representatives for St Peter & St Paul. For the current year (2013-14), St Peter & St Paul is also providing a secretary (Jill Wastell) and chairperson (Bernard Oldfield) for the ECC Council.

A wide range of activities are undertaken as an outworking of this covenant.

These include: the work of the Bridges Centre; Eden Christian Trust (Youth work); the God's Hands project helping those in significant need; supporting the Romanian Link (Charity).

Edenbridge Area Traidcraft – an involvement in promoting and supporting Fairtrade as part of Edenbridge being a Fairtrade Town; supporting the work

Last Chance Animal Rescue

www.lastchanceanimalrescue.co.uk

Hartfield Road

Edenbridge

Kent, TN8 5NH

Tel: 01732 865530

Fax: 01732 865838

Registered charity: 1002349

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of Julie Barry, Parish Nurse; and supporting Christian Aid.

In addition to these ongoing projects and activities, the following have taken place or are planned for the current year 2013-14:

- providing Carol Singing (even in the rain!) to cheer Christmas shoppers in Edenbridge;
- providing Christmas Lunch to people who would otherwise be alone;
- ECC Council meetings to report back and plan for future work regarding the various activities – all meetings are held at Bridges at 8 pm and everyone is welcome to attend: 22 January; 18 June; 17 September; 19 November (AGM);
- representation at the induction of the new priest, Rev'd Sue Diggory, at Holy Trinity Crockham Hill, (26 March) by Roman Catholic, United Reform, Baptist, and An-

glican clergy – as well as lay representatives from the ECC;

- ECC Lent 2014 Course – about 70 people from all five churches took part in a successful five week course in one of seven ecumenical Groups based on the York course Build on the Rock - Faith, doubt - and Jesus, which participants found worthwhile, enjoyable, and interesting; members of St Peter & St Paul made a considerable contribution to the organisation of the course, leadership of groups, and hosting groups in their homes;
- ECC services at 6.30 pm: 21 September at the Eden Church; and 23 November at St Lawrence's RC.

Bernard Oldfield

Web site updates

Want to ensure your group's item on the website is correct? Contact Richard Cain at ssppepcwebmaster@gmail.com

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Diary dates

Sunday June 29

Patronal Festival

Tuesday 8 July

ECT fundraising coffee morning at Crockham Hill Village Hall, 9am to 12noon.

Saturday 12 July

Tonbridge Commemoration of the First World War, at SsPP
Tonbridge, 6pm to 9pm.

Thursday 17 July

BBC Flog It! At Chiddingstone Castle, 9.30am to 4pm

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