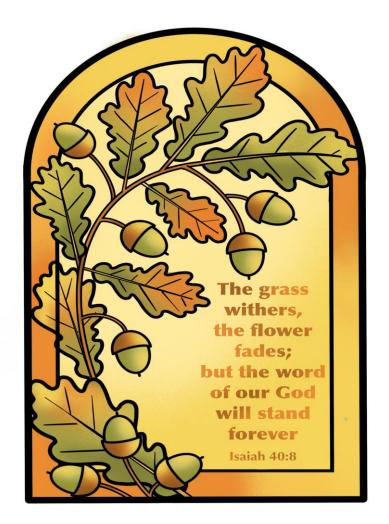
St Mary's Church, Pulborough Autumn Newsletter 2025



Church News and a little more...

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Ms Susan Scholefield

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QR Code for Donations to St Mary's



FRIENDS OF PULBOROUGH PARISH CHURCH

Dear Friends

It has been a while since we put together an update on the overall status of the work of the Friends of Pulborough Parish Church, so lets take the opportunity to look back over the last twelve months and look forward to what the next twelve may bring.

Let me begin by re-stating the twin aims of the Friends because it is so important that everything that happens is firmly rooted in these principles. These are of course:

- To raise funds for the upkeep and restoration of the fabric of the historic building of St Mary's Church
- To foster community relations by placing the building of the church at the centre of Pulborough life

The aim of fostering community relations has a been a keen influence on the range and diversity of fund-raising events that have been held since The Friends was re-constituted a few short years ago. Through dance, song, art and tales of travel and adventure we have tried to reach across the community and this has resulted in over 500 different people attending our events so far.

There are details of each of the fund raising events to be found on The Friends website, but the last twelve months alone has seen an evening of Salsa dancing organised by the ever nimble James Raynard; a Come and Sing workshop in which the Mozart Requiem was rehearsed and performed during one very enjoyable day under the expert direction of Peter Allwood; and a fascinating talk by the conservationist Roger Morgan-Grenville based on his book "Across a Waking Land". In November this year The Friends and The High Sheriff of West Sussex are hosting an evening at Champs Hill with the Governor of HMP Ford, Mark Drury, in conversation with our own Chris Williams in a session entitled: "Prison: Exploring the Potential for Prison to Transform Damaged Lives".

Planning for events in 2026 is well advanced with the usual aim of appealing to a broad spectrum of interests. In particular we are looking forward to a repeat of the very popular Barn Dance at Sullington Tithe Barn in May – keep an eye on the website for more details – it would be great to see you there!

As well as raising valuable funds, the events have served as a mechanism to socialise the work of The Friends and to highlight the very pressing need to fund essential repairs and other conservation activities relating to numerous elements of the church building. A combination of membership subscriptions, event ticket sales and some very generous individual donors have led us to a very healthy starting point on our fundraising journey.



And this has allowed us to make some visible progress this year by replacing the weathervane at the top of the tower, as well as refurbishing the tower clock. In the meantime, work has continued to assess the full extent of stonework and other repairs and this will inform the next set of more significant conservation activities, all with the intention of ensuring the building of St Mary's Church will remain an asset to the community for centuries to come!

If you would like to become a member of The Friends, or make a donation of any kind, please visit the <u>website</u> or come to the church itself where you will find membership forms and other information on the work of The Friends.

Friends of Pulborough Parish Church

Website: www.friendsofpulboroughparishchurch.org

The aim of the FPPC is to raise funds for the fabric of one of the most iconic buildings in Pulborough.

The Chairman is Chris Williams: email pulboroughwilliams@btinternet.com

QR Code for The Friends of Pulborough Parish Church



The High Sheriff of West Sussex and the Friends of Pulborough Parish Church invite you to an event at Champs Hill:

PRISON: EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR PRISON TO TRANSFORM DAMAGED LIVES



A conversation with Mark Drury, Governor of HMP Ford, Chris Williams, retired prison governor, and those currently working in the Criminal Justice System

Friday 21st November

6.45pm Drinks on arrival 7.30pm Start of talk £25 per ticket, to include wine









Tickets available from friendsofpulboroughparishchurch.org

WHERE THERE IS NO PEACE

They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14)

I wonder what peace felt like in 1945, after 9th May or 16th August? These, of course, were the days after Victory in Europe Day and then Victory in Japan Day. Once the parties and hangovers were cleared up, life would go on as before, for many months to come: with shortages, rationing, men overseas, houses bombed and people on the move. On the continent and in the Far East it was much worse.

What does it feel like now? Yes, we have had 'peace' of sorts in most of Europe between the major continental powers for decades, which is an achievement, but there is no peace in Ukraine, the Middle East or Sudan. If anything, the world is now looking to be a more dangerous place.

This verse from the prophet Jeremiah was the theme of a sermon recently. The preacher talked about peace making, peace keeping and a lasting peace, which are not the same and require different skills. In and after the Second World War peace making meant winning the war and defeating evil. Peace keeping was occupying the defeated lands until they could establish communities built on democracy and justice. (The preacher was born exactly nine months after either VE or VJ Day, so he was a 'child of peace'!)

What about a *lasting peace*? Many world leaders say, "Peace, Peace" but they mean only *peace on their terms* and do not care about anything else.

As Christians we should:

Pray for the *peace makers*: the women and men in the forces Pray for *peace keepers*: the experts helping to build new societies Pray for *lasting peace*: the willingness of world leaders and politicians to act for the greater good.

CHURCH BAT AND MOTH EVENINGS – SUMMER 2025

Six evening sessions took place between May and August 2025 which were very well attended. In total, over 200 people from far and wide enjoyed the talk and spectacle of watching the Soprano Pipistrelles emerge from under the eaves of the church. Sue Cooper did an amazing job in catching and identifying the moths and then passing the specimens around to all present for a close up view of these fantastic creatures which inhabit the churchyard.

A total of £318.03 was raised through donations and the proceeds have been divided between a) Sussex Moths Group b) the local group of Sussex Wildlife Trust (which was kind enough to loan the bat detectors) and c) St, Mary's church. It is planned to schedule more Bat and Moth evenings in 2026 as there is so much interest. My thanks go to Andy Heath for providing the sound system, Sue Cooper for being such an enthusiastic moth-er, Father Paul and church wardens for permission to host the evenings and last but not least to the bats for their amazing acrobatic performances!

Christine Lindsay



To make you smile...

Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

COMPLAINTS, HOW TO MAKE THEM AFFECTIVE

I cried unto the Lord with my voice;... I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before Him my trouble. (Psalm 142:1,2 KJV)

Perhaps it is a British thing, but we do not like to complain, do we? But the psalmist was not British, so he did not mind complaining – even to God, we are told. Nowadays, most large organisations, especially public bodies, *want* us to complain if something is wrong, because good service standards are important. They have well designed complaints systems and independent ombudsmen to oversee it all.

The first thing is to try to resolve an issue informally. If this has not worked, use the proper procedure. You can probably find how to on the company's website.

Be precise about what you are complaining about. Be clear – use account numbers, references and dates. Put in the names of persons involved, if you know them. Do not leave it too long because most procedures have deadlines.

Keep it short, simple and to the point. Ask a friend to look at it first, to make sure they understand what you are complaining about. Be firm but polite and business-like – you are more likely to be listened to. It may be helpful to use numbered points, in date order. Keep a note of dates. Be reasonable. It may be an apology will suffice, but do not be fobbed off.

Think about what outcome you want. Is it an apology? If so, get a genuine apology. If you are told "we are sorry you felt let down" that is not an apology; "We let you down" is. Perhaps you want the organisation to change their ways so something bad does not happen to other people.

And another thing: if you get a good service from someone, tell the company. It might make their day

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK (FSW) Autumn 2025

FSW support approx. 818 families each year with 13597 individuals supported last year with 1048 food deliveries made.

Our Storrington Deanery practitioner Michelle Stokes supports our local families across the deanery and this can be up to 23 at one time.

Since April this year the FSW Storrington Deanery Committee (we have representatives from each of the deanery churches) has raised £7552.56

This has been through open gardens, cream teas, drinks and canapes evenings, raffles, sponsored walks, collections at services, and ploughman's lunches. Several events are planned across our churches in the coming months including a stall at our Church Fete in October and a concert at Steyning.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of members of our congregation, friends and the local community who sponsored a group of twelve us to do the annual FSW walk. This year we decided to walk around our local area and this was organised by Michael Pioli . We raised an amazing £1595 plus gift aid.

I am delighted to say that all the churches in Pulborough give generously to our food bank which supports local families. Thank you to everyone at St Mary's who continually give to FSW either through monthly donations, the food bank or supporting events like our recent FSW sponsored walk.

For more details pleases speak to Alyson Heath 873795





The August walkers

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK (FSW) CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Please remember FSW when you go shopping during the next few weeks. Any of the following will be very gratefully received and can be left in the Church hamper or at the Village Market on Saturday 13th December from 9am to 12noon and can be left at the St. Mary's Church stall.

Food bank shopping list

Christmas tins of chocolates,
Christmas tins of biscuits
Gravy granules, Cranberry sauce/mint sauce, Stuffing
Christmas Puddings/mince pies
Tinned vegetables (sweetcorn, peas, carrots)
Tinned fruit/custard/rice pudding
Tinned meat (ham/corned beef)
Crackers/savoury snacks, squash/cordials

Should you wish to donate to our festive foodbank, please be mindful of the best before dates. **Thank you so much for your support, it is so appreciated!!**

EWA (EDUCATION WEST AFRICA)

This has been a very busy year for this small charity. We continue to have excellent links with the Diocese of Bo and Freetown. I am delighted to say that Vicki Smith has joined EWA as a trustee and that Susie Hindman will be joining our committee in September. Special thanks to Holly Hindman who is also helping us develop our IT skills and get our name and the work we do out to a wider audience and to Emma Simpson who supports us with our website. You can now follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Please do visit our website which gives regular updates to all the work we have been doing.

www.educationwestafrica.org.uk

email eudcationwestafrica1@gmail.com

https://www.facebook.com/Education-West-Africa-

106233437866899 (or just type in Education West Africa)!

Instagram: educationwestafrica

So, what have been we been up to?

Since our visit last year, we have helped rebuild or refurb several schools.

SLC Sembehun Kortuwabu, Pre and primary school in Kenema and Karlu, the well project in Kenema, SLC school Gbonjema, SLC Primary School Kangahun, SLC Damballa Road, SLC Bopani. St Philips Freetown (Furniture and Painting), St Edwards pre-school Kent Freetown, as you know I have many, many photos if you would like to see the before and after results of the work carried out.

Through our website three schools in the UK have requested a link school in Sierra Leone and we have been able to link them to schools in Bo and Freetown. One school has sent money for text books for Holy Trinity Makeni in Freetown.

Current News

Our own school St Mary's continues to have strong links with SLC Kenema.

This term the children of Sierra Leone Class at St Mary's have completed a sponsored walk around the school field. They collectively walked 100km in an hour- 4km each and raised £369. Vicki Smith successfully ran the Robin Hood half marathon for EWA in September and raised over £1000.

Our next projects are supporting two schools in the Bo Diocese, Kenema SLC St James compound, refurbishing the 12 classrooms the cost is £4,525. We are also awaiting a stem funding bid which we will hear about in October which will go towards supporting the refurbishment of St Mathais Primary School in Lunsar, Freetown Diocese.

Thank you all for your on-going support for the schools in Sierra Leone every £1 raised goes so far.

Alyson Heath



If you understand it...

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 9th November, 2025 10.00am THE PARISH REQUIEM EUCHARIST (please note earlier time)

10. 55am SPECIAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE PARISH

ARMISTICE DAY-TUESDAY 11th November

This year there will be a Service for Armistice Day at Pulborough Memorial Garden by the Lower Street car park. The service starts at 10. 45am and will be led by Churches Together in Pulborough

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

TOWER FLAG FLYING IN NOVEMBER

On Saturday 1st November we shall be flying the St. Georges flag to mark "The Feast of all Saints".

On Sunday 2nd November we shall be flying the St. Georges flag to mark "The Feast of all Souls".

On Sunday 9th November we shall be flying the Union flag to mark "Remembrance Sunday".

On Tuesday 11th November we shall be flying the Union flag to mark "Armistice Day".

On Friday 14th November we shall be flying the Union flag to mark "His Majesty the King's Birthday"

On Sunday 23rd November we shall be flying the St. Georges flag to mark "Christ The King".

Simon Banks - Flag master

THE BEST TIME TO PLAN YOUR FUNERAL IS.....NOW

November is when we remember the dead (All Saints and Remembrance). But what about your own funeral? It will happen sometime, whether soon or years in the future. Some preparation by you now will save your loved ones a lot of uncertainty later. So, this month, why not spend some time thinking about what you want for your own funeral?

Most funerals in England are Christian, though the officially recorded number of Church of England funerals tends to be limited to those which are conducted by parish clergy and Readers. The minister at others may be retired, or a hospital or military Chaplain. A few funeral events are led by nominees of the British Humanist Association or the National Secular Society. A growing number are conducted by civil celebrants, who tend to devise a format concentrating on the story of the person who has died, with God as an afterthought, though Christian prayers or texts from other religions may be incorporated.

Parishioners may not realise that they have the right to the services of the Rector/Vicar even if they don't go to church. They also have the right to be interred in the churchyard if it is open for burials. The trend in funerals at the moment is to make them a celebration of the life of the deceased person. Although your wish – and that of your family – may be to make your funeral a joyful occasion, it does no one any good to suppress grief. A Christian service should make room for sadness as well as gratitude. It is also an act of worship, in which reverence should be paid to God, the source and goal of life. His judgment, generosity and mercy and the Christian hope in resurrection through Jesus Christ should be central.

A sensitive funeral service will also help mourners to contemplate the most fundamental issues of our existence. The Christian hope can be an unexpected encouragement, not least when people claim to have little faith of their own. You can talk all this over with your priest in confidence. You don't have to be terminally ill to do so! He or she knows you are precious to God and will be able to explain all the options and share some ideas.

Now for some practical considerations:

First of all, if you are an organ donor, where can your consent form be found? (Find out more from https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Do tell your Executor and next of kin where your Will is kept. Details of your funeral wishes can be kept with it or in a more accessible place. It is useful to maintain a list of family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances and former colleagues who should be notified of your death and the funeral arrangement.

IT'S YOUR FUNERAL - Check List

Who is your Executor?

Which funeral director?

Cremation or burial?

If cremation, what do you want done with your ashes?

If burial, where?

Will it require re-opening an existing grave?

Do you want a headstone? Note: churchyard memorials must respect diocesan regulations.

Funeral Service: in church or crematorium, or both?

What sort of coffin? Wood, or an eco-friendly one (eg cardboard, bamboo, wicker)?

Do you want flowers, or donations to a (named) charity, or both? Who should conduct the service?

Do you want someone else to give a tribute?

Would you like some of your favourite music played before and after the service?

What hymns and readings do you want?

Wake/reception: any suggestions for the place and type?

Is there anyone who needs to know that you have forgiven them?

Do you owe an apology to anyone?

What happens to you after death?

Whether your body is buried or cremated, the remains degenerate and go back into the earth. That's where they belong, for our bodies are composed of the earth's elements. Your dead body expressed the real 'you' during your lifetime.

But once it has done its job, that is not the finish! When Christians say, "I believe in... the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting", it means that we await the new destiny which God has opened for us, with a transformed body apposite for its new environment.

Some claim that the human soul is immortal, but that is not a Christian belief. We do not become disembodied spirits floating around the ether, but will be refashioned as recognisable human beings. This will be as momentous an event as the emergence of the human race from its primitive beginnings.

St Paul faced hard questioning on the subject. If you have a look at the whole of 1 Corinthians 15 you will see how he couples our bodily resurrection with the Resurrection of Christ. Resurrection was central to the apostles' preaching and teaching: try to find a sermon in the New Testament which ignores it! The Christian faith would be valueless without it, for Christ demands that we live our lives sacrificially – some will be martyred as a consequence – with our hope beyond the horizon.

All this is much more than a collection of statements of faith. They could seem arid to a dying person. It is an invitation to take a conscious decision to trust Jesus the Christ. Our life before and beyond the grave belongs to Christ. He is the pioneer who charted the course through death; He accompanies us on our journey; He is our advocate at the Last Judgment; He is worshipped in heaven, and He alone is the Saviour who bore the brunt of human sin and gave His life to overcome its consequences. Trust him!

PULBOROUGH GARDEN SOCIETY

This local Garden Society meet on a monthly basis during the year. There are speakers, a Spring and Autumn show, visits to local gardens. Meetings are held in the Rother Hall at Pulborough Village Hall.

The October meeting is on **Tuesday 28th October at 7.30pm** when the subject will be 'The Modern Kitchen Garden' with Barry Newman.

For more details of the friendly Society do contact **Sue Bulloch on 017098 879749**



AS YOU TIDY YOUR GARDEN THIS WINTER

Gardens are preparing to go to sleep, but next Spring will soon be here. So why not consider some changes now:

- ~ Install a water butt now, to store up the winter rain for the Spring.
- ~ Reduce the hard standing in your garden. Instead, let rain soak into the soil, rather than go down a drain.
- ~ Plant something tall to create shade in your garden next year the soil will remain wetter.
- ~ Put in more plants the more you have, the more protection they give the ground. Try to use native species, as your local wildlife depends on them.
- ~ Consider adding a pond it will be a great boost to your local wildlife!

SEND YOUR LOVE WITH THESE FLOWERS

A flower used by Victorians when they wanted to send a 'hidden message' of love is making a big comeback.

It is the aster. It's popularity in bouquets has quadrupled in two years. Sales at Tesco alone have soared by nearly 350 per cent. And no wonder: asters are vivid, fast-growing British flowers with a good vase life. They come in blue, purple, pink, dark pink, red and white – all with a bright yellow centre. They originally came from Japan and are related to dahlias and chrysanthemums.

The Victorians believed that asters symbolised love, patience, wisdom, elegance and grace. That made asters a sure winner for bearing discreet messages of affection. More than five million were grown in the UK this year, so there must be a lot of love about!

COME AND SING FOR PLEASURE

We meet at Pulborough Village Hall in the Meadows Room overlooking the Pulborough Brooks, singing songs from the decades. It is not a choir, no audition needed, just a joy of singing. Michael Pioli leads the afternoon with his usual engaging humour. We have an interval for tea, coffee and biscuits. £4 per session So if you are free from 2-3.30pm on Tuesday 4th November, Tuesday 25th November or Tuesday 16th December do join us No need to book, just come along.

Date for your diary...Festive Musical Treat on Friday 12th December

We will be raising funds for Education West Africa and for our ancient parish church here in Pulborough. Following the success of last year's event we will be having a special musical evening of festive songs, carols and readings. Delicious nibbles and a festive raffle. More information from **Ann Kaiser 01798 872819 or Michael Pioli 01798 368342**

THE PULBOROUGH SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Pulborough Society will be their Social Evening on Thursday 20th November at 7pm in Pulborough Village Hall.

The evening starts with a talk on "Sussex Winelands Development" by Peter Gladwin of Nutbourne Vineyards



Plus....**A Tutored Wine Tasting** for all followed by social drinks and nibbles and a raffle. The event is free to members. Open to Non-members at a cost of £10

If Non-Members join the Society at the meeting for £12 they also get membership for 2026

Bookings by email to rob@robaylott.co.uk

To make you smile...

Where there's smoke...

At our church, it was common for the minister to invite the children to the front of the church and have a small lesson before beginning the sermon. He would often bring in a household item, and then relate it to a teaching from the Bible.

One morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector. My young son immediately raised his hand. "It means Daddy's cooking dinner.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

It was:

125 years ago, on 22nd November 1900 that Arthur Sullivan, British composer, died. Best known for his collaborations with the dramatist W S Gilbert on operas including H.M.S. Pinafore and The Pirate of Penzance. He also wrote the hymn Onward, Christian Soldiers.

90 years ago, on 6th November 1935 that Britain's Hawker Hurricane fighter plane made its first flight. It played a major role in WWII, especially during the Battle of Britain.

80 years ago, on 16th November 1945 that UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, was founded.

75 years ago, on 2nd November 1950 that George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright and literary critic, died. Best known for Pygmalion. Winner of the 1925 Nobel Prize in Literature, and co-founder of the London School of Economics.

65 years ago, on 2nd November 1960 that a British jury cleared Penguin Books of obscenity for publishing D.H. Lawrence's novel Lady Chatterley's Lover. This is often considered the beginning of the permissive society in Britain.

Also 65 years ago, on 8th November 1960, that John F Kennedy was elected as the 35th President of the USA.

60 years ago, on 9th November 1965 that the death penalty was abolished in the UK

40 years ago, on 15th November 1985 that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed by the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish President Garret Fitzgerald. It gave the Irish government a consultative role in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

25 years ago, on 9th November 2000 that Eric Morley, TV host, died. Known for establishing the ballroom dancing competition Come Dancing (1949 – 98). It was succeeded by a celebrity version, Strictly Come Dancing, in 2004.

20 years ago, on 30th November 2005 that John Sentamu became Archbishop of York (until 2020). He was the first black archbishop in the Church of England.

COMMUNITY LUNCH AND SOCIAL CLUB

If you would like to meet new people and make new friends or catch up with local chums over a delicious meal, then please come and join us at Pulborough Village Hall, for a light lunch and enjoyable social activities, weekly on a Wednesday.

Lunch comprises hearty homemade soup, fresh bread roll, butter & cheese, and a choice of delicious homemade puddings, followed by tea and coffee. We like to celebrate special occasions and have a full meal at Christmas and Easter and another couple throughout the year. Prior to lunch, we regularly have board games, musical entertainment, and gentle exercises, and have crafting, local interest talks, indoor active games and even line dancing on our new agenda.

WHEN: Every Wednesday, 11am (for coffee and pre-lunch games/activities). Lunch served at 12.30. We finish by 2pm **WHERE**: Pulborough Village Hall, overlooking the panoramic

Pulborough Brooks

COST: £6.00 (includes all activities & lunch)

CONTACT: Pippa Reid 07465 255541 pippa@pdcca.org.uk

PUDDING MAKERS WANTED!

Do you enjoy making puddings or desserts? If so please consider joining the Lunch Club Pudding Rota. With growing numbers at the Lunch Club we supply 40 puddings each week. Pudding makers can make puddings for 10 or 20 and the duty comes around twice in 12 weeks. For more details please contact **Ann Kaiser on 01798 872819 or email ann.kaiser@live.co.uk**

All Angels?

To make you smile...

The slightly harassed minister stood on the railway station platform with a number of lively Sunday School children, while the two Sunday School teachers went off to buy tickets. A porter came up to him and asked: "Excuse me, are you St Michael and all the Angels?"