

# NEWS

from High Street Church  
ISLEHAM

*"Building Lives Together"*



*Worshipping the Father  
Living as His family*

SUMMER 2013

## THE ARK PROJECT

**The new church building is progressing well.**

Part of the year the church team cut trunks into timber sections and make the joints and then time is spent on the site on Beck Road putting the sections together like a giant kit.

We are often asked how long it will take to finish. The answer is – we have no idea, we haven't done this before!

The church would like to thank all those who have supported the project from giving land, time, finance and equipment; we hope you are pleased with the results so far. We are!



For a bird's eye view, have a look at **YouTube**.  
Search for:  
**The Ark Project from the Sky**



## OPEN DAY

If you would like to know a bit more, we are having an Open Day on site on **Saturday 8th June** between 10.00am and 12.00 noon – you are welcome to visit the project.

## FREE TEA - NOW THAT IS GOOD NEWS!

**There are few things better than a cup of tea, even better when it's free.**

Shoppers and tourists in Ely have been astonished to find free tea and coffee being given away on the green next to Ely Cathedral. Martin Wells is from High Street Church and started T4free, "people can't believe it's free, they think there must be a catch." "Over the last few years the team have given away thousands of cups to the rich and poor and to people from around the world." "We are quite happy just to give the tea away but people always want to know why it's free. We say it's a reflection of God's love for you, you can't earn it but it's poured out, waiting for you."

The team at T4free provide listening ears, time to pray for people, a taste of God's love and yes, great tea! Now, is that one sugar or two?!



# JUST AN ORDINARY COUPLE?

**Five years ago, we were a 'normal' middle-aged, middle-income couple living in Soham!**

Our daughter was getting married and had found a good job. We were ready to wait for grandchildren to arrive and to work the last few years before retirement. But God had another plan for us! Martin and I came along to High Street Church because of our daughter's wedding. The warmth and love in the church was almost tangible, attracting me to find out more. I quickly found that a life following Jesus was something I had been looking for; it made sense to me, and gave purpose to my life. Martin attended my baptism reluctantly, feeling angry with the church for stealing his wife and daughter from him and dividing his family! The next evening, he asked me a lot of difficult questions about my new faith and why everything around him was changing. Late that night, things changed for Martin as well, although he thought of himself as a rational scientist he began to realise that Jesus was real and felt God's love surrounding him. He attended a course about Jesus called the Alpha Course and learnt more about why Jesus had died on the cross for him and then rose from the dead to give him the chance to have eternal life in heaven. Our new faith gave us both a new and exciting opportunity to work for God in Africa.

Now, we are living in a beautiful rural area of tropical rainforest, in Kenya, trying to improve our Swahili language skills. Ploughing by oxen, we grow maize, cassava, coconuts, mangoes, bananas, pineapples and cashew nuts. There is no electricity or running water – it is a bit like living in England in our great grandparent's time, with paraffin lamps and a pit latrine at the end of the garden. Our most used possessions are our yellow buckets and mosquito net!

Martin was involved in agricultural research so is able to put some of the theory into practice, crops have done really well and we have been able to help the local community. We employ a team of fatherless young men on the farm regularly and help them to support their younger siblings. We have open house a couple of times during the week where we pray and eat together. We are also involved in local churches where we work to give hope to the poorest of families.



**"Our new faith gave us both a new and exciting opportunity to work for God in Africa."**

Employment opportunities are few in our valley and families need cash for education and medicines. Too many people die from treatable illnesses like malaria and typhoid. With help from High Street Church, we have been able to provide medical treatment to around 750 people in need, provide mosquito nets, supply subsidised maize and help neighbours to plough with our cattle. Support from Isleham has helped pay the school fees of some local children and kept

them in education; it also provides assistance to other students with buying essentials like books and shoes.

God has answered our prayers in amazing ways, healing the sick and providing for peoples' needs. We believe God has so much for each of us, and a great family to be part of all around the world. Although life can be hard over here, we are so grateful for what God has done with this ordinary middle-aged couple!

## HANDS UP FOR A FUN DAY - 28TH AUGUST

**For children who will be in years 1-6 when they go back to school.**

**Where :** High Street Church, Isleham

**When :** 10.00am to 4.00pm

Refreshments and lunch provided.

Enjoy crafts, games, stories and much more...





## SECOND WEDNESDAY

Luncheon club meets on the second Wednesday of every month at High Street Church (except August when we go to the seaside instead!)

At 12.30pm, a hot lunch is served with plenty of time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones too. Most folk go home at about 2.00pm but we're always happy to serve another cup of tea if anyone wants one.

Mrs Jean Bird, who has been with us each month for over 20 years says one of her favourite meals is "Hurrell's Sausages" while Mr David Aves likes "anything made out of chocolate!"

About 60 of us sit down to eat and about 10 folk can remember the lunch being cooked and hosted by the late Mrs Marjorie Rae. Kathryn Kyte took over the reins in 1998 and is quick to mention that "if it wasn't for the fantastic team of volunteers who cook and serve and wash up each month, we'd be having Marmite sandwiches!"

If you are interested in eating with us (no Marmite we promise!), please ring the Church Office on **01638 780985** to book a place.



## HIDDEN TREASURE

We can travel miles to see amazing sights and when we get there it's covered in scaffolding or it's raining.

It's so true that very often there is undiscovered treasure under our noses so we have put together a few interesting places... tick off the ones you've visited.

### ☐ Chippenham Fen

An alternative to Wicken Fen, free and with water buffalo as well!

### ☐ Fordham Nature Reserve

Like walking through primeval swamp – see fish in one of the clearest streams in East Anglia!

### ☐ Cavenham Heath

Great combination of woods and open heathland and the River Lark.



These local place names have been jumbled up – can you work out which is which?

hoardfm

omash

hppmachine

watermenk

# NOT SO SCARY CHURCH!

Coming along to church can be a scary business, particularly if you haven't been much before.

What will I say, what should I wear, I won't know what to do? These are real issues for people who don't want to look silly and just want to blend in and see what it's all about.

You are welcome to come along at any time, but just to make it easier; we have put on a few open house Sunday mornings. These are designed for people who are just looking! Don't worry there will be lots of people there so you can blend in if you want.

They are the **first Sunday of the month** over the summer so that's June, July, August and September. There will be some singing (you can just listen if you want) and then a short talk. We have tried to look at some themes you might find interesting and have settled on.

## 2nd June

Does God heal today?

## 7th July

There has to be more to life than 9 to 5?

## 4th August

The bible, a dusty old book or...?

## 1st September

What's all the fuss about Jesus?



## OH, BY THE WAY

Wear what you like, come along about 10.30am – High Street Church, Isleham.

**You are always welcome!**

# SENIOR HOLIDAY CLUB



**Due to last year's success, Senior Holiday Club will be taking place again this year!**

Around 50 of us, men and women met together for 3 days of fun and activity – and it was good.

We had lots of choices of things to do... silk painting, darts, cookery, flower arranging, snooker, rambling and photography to name but a few, as well as lots of time to chat, enjoy lunch, watch a film or have a snooze! The only complaint was that folk wanted to do everything so it was hard to choose!

The dates for this year are:

**Tuesday 20th August to**

**Thursday 22nd August**, and you can book for one day or all three.

**Watch out for details which will be available in the village soon.**