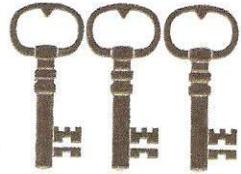


# THE THREE PARISHES MAGAZINE



NEWS & VIEWS OF THE STEVENAGE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES OF:  
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, ST JOSEPH'S AND ST HILDA'S



*Newly Completed St Joseph's Church, Bedwell Circa 1957*

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## **St Joseph's -Building for the Future**

*Fr Michael*

The First Edition of this Magazine highlighted Transfiguration Parish as it began its CENTENARY YEAR. Again we all congratulate them. There is much to celebrate in the past hundred years of the Catholic Community in the centre of Old Town.

In this second edition we focus on St Joseph's Parish, and look forward. We look to the next hundred years, we look to building for the future on the foundations so generously provided by previous generations. We look to enlarging the Church to accommodate growing numbers and to providing for the first time in the history of Catholic Stevenage a purpose-built Parish Hall.

The need for a larger Church is evident on normal weekends but particularly at Christmas, Easter, First Holy Communion Masses, Confirmations, large Family Weddings, large Funerals and other occasions when the community gathers in great numbers.

A New Parish Hall is envisaged to sit alongside the Church with a seating capacity of over 300 and a permanent stage. The opportunities for both catechetical and social functions should greatly enhance the Parish and not only will St Joseph's benefit but so will all of the three combined Stevenage Parishes.

As a focus for action and unity between the three I am very confident that future generations will be grateful to us for taking this bold step and providing at least one Parish Hall for the Catholics of Stevenage.

Funding all of this is something to which I have given much thought over the last year with the expert help and experience of the Diocesan Properties Department. They are currently working on completing their assessments and plans which will be put before the Parish in the summer. The preliminary plans have been presented to the Parish during the GROWING IN FAITH Campaign and there has been a strong positive response. Due to the great generosity of the late Gerald Kelly, we have a Building Fund with £520,000, a wonderful basis for the project. The Growing in Faith Campaign has given us well over £30,000 to add to this. We will be looking at other ways to complete the financing of the project when we have a clearer idea of the overall cost, hopefully by June this year.

The realisation of these plans will mean disruption to the comfortable running of the Parish. There will inevitably be much heartache, but I believe it will be worth the effort given for a brighter future to the largest and most central of the three combined Stevenage Parishes.

St Joseph's has the opportunity to take the lead and show the way. It has a vibrant growing Community which can face up to this challenge to develop, and we could not ask for a better Patron Saint of the Parish to give us courage and show us the way. So I ask that you join with Fr Vincent and me in prayer to St Joseph and place all our hopes and all our plans into his fatherly care and guidance.

### **From the Editorial and Production Group**

The first edition of the 'Three Parishes Magazine' was well received in each parish and we hope to be able to continue publishing at about quarterly intervals. We are very grateful indeed for Fr Michael's support and encouragement in this new venture.

One disappointment to us, however, was the very small response to the children's competitions. Do you know why? Please tell us and we will change things if needed.

Experience shows that it can become increasingly difficult to maintain regular production of a magazine if the supply of new articles dries up. For this reason, we are very grateful to those who have already sent us written material. If we were not able to include all of them this time, they will be in the next issue. Unfortunately, some articles were too lengthy and will need some 'pruning'. We know that nobody likes their contribution to be cut and we should have made it clear earlier that an article should normally be no longer than about 500 words in length.

There must be many of you who could write something of interest to fellow parishioners e.g. some aspect of your Catholic life (past or present), a favourite recipe, a short story, your news and views on parish activities. If you are uncertain about your ability to write an article, let us know and we can probably help. We can be contacted through your parish secretary. And finally, if you feel you would like to join our editing and production group and get involved in producing the magazine, please let us know through the Parish Secretaries

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### **Pope Francis addressing a meeting of engaged couples (16 Feb 2014)**

*“The perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife, and lets not talk about the perfect mother-in-law! A healthy family life requires frequent use of three phrases: “May I? ; Thank you, and I'm sorry”! and never, never end the day without making peace”*

## **Fr Vincent Dike: Priest at St Joseph's Bedwell**

Fr Vincent was born in 1970 in the Igbo region of Eastern Nigeria. He was the first of six children, three boys and three girls, in a devout Catholic family. His father was a businessman and his mother ran a fashion enterprise, travelling widely, including occasionally to London to buy clothes for the business. There were regular house devotions to the Sacred Heart with daily rosary. As a very young boy, Fr Vincent became an altar server often rising very early to serve the 5.30am mass. Both his parents were very active in the parish and their piety and devotion had a strong influence on his vocation.

At the age of eleven, Fr Vincent joined over 200 other young boys at St Mary's junior seminary in the Orlu Diocese, Nigeria. There he passed his GCSE exams. At 18, he continued his training for the priesthood at St Joseph's major seminary at Ikot Ekpene where he received lectures from Irish priests. While at the seminary, he obtained a BA in Theology and BA in Philosophy. He was ordained in August 1996 and served initially as an assistant priest in St Mary's Parish, Umuaka. Subsequently, he was appointed parish priest of St Paul's parish in Umuaka, Nigeria.

In 2007, his Bishop asked Fr Vincent to move to the UK to study at St Mary's University College, London from where he graduated with an MA in Pastoral Theology. His Bishop, being aware of the need for a diocesan lawyer, then decided that Fr Vincent should go on to study law at the London Law School. He was awarded a law degree (LLB) in March 2014. Currently, Fr Vincent plans to take a one-year course at law school to qualify as a solicitor specialising in Family Law. Ultimately, his Bishop will decide how best to use his legal knowledge when he returns to Nigeria. The legal system in Nigeria is largely based on English Law.

Meanwhile, Fr Vincent is able still to serve us as the resident priest at St Joseph's. When he first came to Stevenage, after the noise of London, he found it too quiet here and actually couldn't sleep! Now he cherishes it, finding it provides the "perfect atmosphere" for prayer. He also finds Stevenage has a great spirit of 'community and bonding' among its people. He remains a staunch Chelsea fan and, in the little spare time he has, enjoys classical music, reading, TV sport, and golf!

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***Profound joy of the heart is like a magnet that indicates the path of life – Mother Teresa***

## **Our First Communion Preparation Classes**

**St Hilda's** First Holy Communion group has 4 catechists, Philip, Maureen, Patricia and Maria with help from Jo, Dawn and Esther who correct the children's homework. We start in Sept/Oct each year meeting once a month. This year we have 27 communicants. We use the '*Alive with His Life*' programme which follows the pattern of the Church's year, is scripture based, and is closely tied to the life experience of the children. The children are working hard, preparing to meet Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist in June. In our lessons we never forget that Jesus was also a child like them who played and learned about God. On their Communion day, we will be so proud of their achievements and know they are fully prepared to meet their best friend ever, Jesus Christ.

Fortnightly at **St Joseph's** Church on a Saturday, 49 very lively and excited children between the ages of 7 and 11 years are preparing to receive God's loving forgiveness in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Jesus' Body and Blood in Holy Communion for the first time. We also prepare children who are not at Catholic schools also those who are not baptised for Baptism, 1 child will be baptised at Easter. We are blessed with 9 very enthusiast catechists and 4 teenagers who share the children between them. We work with the 'I Belong' book and they use this book along with the parents support at home. In the sessions we have lots of activities from friendship bracelets to decorating the church at Christmas and Easter. They lead the family Mass at Christmas with their telling of the Nativity story.

At the **Church of the Transfiguration**, 24 children are currently preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The children have been attending classes on Saturday mornings every other week since October 2013. The classes are run by a team of catechists; Siobhan, Sinéad, Kath, Maria, Teresa and Sarah. We use the '*I Belong*' work books, which are very child friendly. The book follows the structure of the mass, bringing together the Old Testament and the New Testament to help the children understand how everything we do is based on the Word of God. In sharing our faith with the children and their parents we hope that they will grow in knowledge and love of God as they comprehend how much God loves them. In preparation for Easter the children will be blessed with the joyful experience God's loving forgiveness as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

*Please keep all the children and their families in your prayers as they make this very special journey.*

## **The Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary**      *Sister Mary Catherine*

In the mid 1970s Bishop Butler invited the sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary to be a presence in Stevenage. In response to the Bishops request a small group of seven sisters came from St Francis' College, Letchworth to take up residence in the Old Town at No 3 Hitchin Road. The house was simply named "The Convent". Most members of the Community were already working in Stevenage commuting daily, and teaching at either St Angela's Comprehensive - now the John Henry Newman school or at St. John Southworth Infant and Junior schools. Two other Sisters, trained nurses, worked at the Lister Hospital and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital. It made good sense to be more closely located in the area of ministry.

St. John Southworth Infant and Junior schools were amalgamated in 1979 when Sr. Padraig, Headmistress of the Junior School, reached retirement. Sr Mary Catherine was appointed Head of the Junior Mixed and Infant school until she retired in August 1990.

Another landmark in the history of the St. John's Southworth School was reached when a second amalgamation took place, this time with the nearby Catholic School, Pope Pius XII in Raleigh Crescent. The newly formed school on the expansive St John Southworth site was renamed St. Vincent De Paul. The late Cardinal Hume suggested that this latter name reflected the connection with the sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary because St. Vincent is one of their patron saints along with St Bernard. This was accepted showing a very sensitive gesture on the part of the Cardinal as the Sisters were associated with the school from the very beginning in 1959.

When the St. Margaret Clitherow School was opened in January 1965, the then present Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Cole wished to have some Sisters on the staff, so Sr. Alban and Sr. Mary Catherine were duly appointed under the Headship of Mr Flannagan.

Over the years some Sisters residing at Hitchin Road worked at the Lister Hospital, either nursing or as a Chaplain. Currently these Sisters are now engaged in other ministries, for example "The Apostleship of the Sea" to name but one. Sisters returning from long years of service on the missions joined the Stevenage community and engaged in voluntary work in the area. In the early years the house was a venue for various groups to meet, for example, Parish Prayer/ Discussion/Social/Classes of children from St Angela's for a Day of Recollection. The C. of E. Ministers had Quiet Days on a regular basis for a number of years as well as occasional Deanery meetings. Currently, frequent 'get-togethers' and various business meetings take place. Since 1970, many people such as parishioners,

parents, pupils, teachers, patients, neighbours, friends, callers, and professional advisors have come into contact with the Sisters.

Obviously, the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is the central focus of 'The Convent'. It is a great privilege and a special blessing to have our Oratory. Prayer is paramount and successful activity centres from that source as the Sisters, even though less in numbers now, continue to remain faithful to their calling.

### **Society of St Vincent de Paul**

*Pat Farrell*

The Society of St Vincent de Paul, better known to us as the SVP has been honoured by the Prime Minister with this year's Big Society Award. The tremendous work they do in parishes all around the country has been justly recognised as an outstanding contribution to the community. Here in Stevenage our two Conferences led by Mark Cranny at Transfiguration and St Joseph's and Pat Farrell at St Hilda's do a tremendous amount of work with those in any kind of need. Their action is always discreet and most of it is behind the scenes. But as Parishes we rely heavily on the SVP and their service is invaluable. At a recent SVP gathering Pat Farrell explained that all SVP members are motivated by the realisation that they are very fortunate themselves and feel a need to demonstrate this by giving some of their time and effort to the community.

### **Knights of St Columba**

*Michael Polack*

The Knights of St Columba is a Catholic fraternal organisation and the largest of its kind in the UK. Founded in Glasgow in 1919, it is named in honour of St Columba, a Christian missionary from Ireland who helped to introduce Christianity to some people in the North. The organisation describes itself as being dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. There are more than 4300 members of the KSC in over 240 councils across the country. It features in England, Scotland and Wales. Membership is limited to practicing Catholic men aged 16 or older and promotes the social doctrine of the Catholic Church.

The KSC, which is non- political and essentially democratic, although it does not admit women, exists to support the mission of the Catholic Church and at the same time to work for "the spiritual and material good of its members and their families". The KSC is a member of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights. The local Council is Co 616/432 and meets on the first Tuesday of the months at St Joseph's Bedwell. For further information contact:- **Michael Polack (01438 325075)**

## **Who knocked up the Lancashire Knocker-up?**

*Kathryn Wallace*

Nowadays when we are woken from our slumber by the gentle beep of a digital alarm or by the staccato ring of a mechanical alarm clock or even the soft tones of children running around the house. Do you ever wonder how working folk were roused for years ago? Step forward the steadfast, reliable and steady Lancashire Knocker-up.

In Victorian Lancashire mill towns ,each neighbourhood a man armed with a long wooden pole ,would walk the streets in early hours ,tapping on first floor windows of mill workers' summoning them to work. My father's uncle, Albert Emery held the respected position of Knocker-up and became the last Knocker-up in Colne Lancashire. For a 1p a week from each customer, every morning, except Sunday he would waken the mills' work force.

Work in the mills was dirty, dusty and the weavers had to work in very poor light. The noise of the cotton looms was deafening and had to be experienced to be believed. To be late for work would result in a fine or even the sack. Weavers lived in tiny cottages owned by the mill, so dismissal would also mean homelessness and destitution... Ah happy days. Albert Emery trod the streets of Colne for well over twenty years but the decline of the cotton industry in Lancashire and the subsequent closure of the mills saw the end of the Knockers-up.

So it just leaves one question, who knocked up the Lancashire Knocker-up, why it was his wife of course!

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## **Easter**      *Kathy Dickenson*

*The true message of Easter*

*Is found in the cross.*

*Ignore any part of it*

*Manifests great loss*

*Rejoice for the resurrection*

*The Saviour is RISEN!*

*To those who BELIEVE*

*New life He has given*



## A Hymnist in Stevenage

Alan Bruce

If you attended St John Southworth (now St Vincent's) junior school in Bedwell in the early 1970s, you may remember a teacher named Miss White. Apart from her duties as a class teacher, she was also Head of Music at the school. You may also recall being in the school choir and singing some of the hymns she wrote while in Stevenage. That teacher was Estelle White, the celebrated hymnist who, in her time, wrote and published over 160 hymns! The Celebration Hymnal we use contains no less than 21 of her works. Among the most popular are: *O the love of my Lord is the essence*; *Christ is our King, Let the whole world rejoice*; *Walk with me, oh my Lord*, and, *I saw the grass, I saw the trees*. We also sometimes sing her version of the Our Father.

One of her hymns '*Autumn days*' is in our hymnal but is rarely heard sung in our parishes. However, it is very popular with children and is often sung in schools. It has a 'catchy' tune, and lyrics which depict contemporary occurrences such as '*jet planes re-fuelling in the sky*' and '*the smell of bacon as I fasten my shoe laces*'. Described as 'trite' by some critics, Estelle White defended such lines of as simply reflecting part of God's creation in today's world. As well as children, many adults really love that hymn. It was composed in Stevenage, so should we perhaps sing it here more often?

Born in Tyneside to a musical family, Estelle White joined the army at 17 and played in both a regimental band and a dance band which entertained troops in many countries. Later, she qualified as a physiotherapist and worked in Canada with children suffering from cerebral palsy. She subsequently converted to Roman Catholicism and entered the Carmelite order as a novice. After qualifying as a teacher of music and theology, she had to leave the Order owing to ill health. After the two years as a teacher in Stevenage, she returned to the North to teach in various catholic schools. She also wrote on women's issues for national newspapers and magazines. In retirement, she studied Hebrew and Greek obtaining an MA with distinction from Leeds University. Estelle White died in 2011 at the age of 85 leaving us all an outstanding and enduring legacy of inspiring modern hymns.

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**Who said this? “*I love tango, and I used to dance when I was young*”**

Answer on back page

## **On Coming to England**

*Joy Singzon*

Cold December wind brushed against my cheek as myself and my 2- year old daughter Hazel got off the eleven hour flight from Hong Kong. Joseph, my husband had left Manila three months earlier after accepting a job here and had found us a flat in the high street in Borehamwood.

I come from a strong Catholic background where a week without hearing mass seemed incomplete. The first thing on my 'to find' list was the nearest church. Joseph found St. Theresa's Church which was just a few minutes' walk from the flat. If there was one thing that would make me feel settled and at home, I thought the church would be it. Alas, the mass I thought I knew by heart seemed completely foreign. The Creed was not the same, the hymns were almost unheard of, and for such a big church, the congregation was just about a third of what it can accommodate and hardly any young families in attendance. And so for the first few years during mass, I had to content myself with Alleluia, Hosanna, and Amen.

The flat in Borehamwood was close to the shops and the library which Hazel and I often visited. It was a good way to spend the day while Joseph was at work. But the flat was situated above an Italian restaurant. Every night, just as we were in deep sleep, we would suddenly be woken up by the clanging of pots and pans, another end to the day of the restaurant, an unwelcome interruption to our sleep. After a few months, plans were revealed for Joseph's employer to move offices to Hatfield and so began our search for a home. His colleagues suggested Stevenage. We soon found a home and have been blessed with two more children.

It has been more than thirteen years since we came to England. Those years have been both a challenge and an opportunity. A challenge for a young family like ours brought up differently from how we will raise our children. Why my children are not allowed sleepovers, why I expect them to go to university, why I insist on calling their eldest sister 'Ate' and why I still speak to them in our language despite little hope of them ever speaking it fluently were just a few of the things I consciously considered. At the same time, opportunities came in the form of a good education and an experience of an entirely different culture and where our friends became an addition to my family.

I consider it a blessing coming to England. But there are some things I terribly miss like the Filipino delicacies, the warm people, the noisy streets of Manila, sunset on Manila Bay, Christmas with family and traditions which bind us to our faith.

## A Jubilee Mass at the Mecca

*Abacus*

Today, most of us know the Stevenage Mecca in Danestrete as a Bingo Hall. But in the 1960s and 70s, it was the Stevenage *'Locarno'*, a dance hall with a resident band and a revolving stage. It was a regular venue for visiting 'pop' stars. The *Rolling Stones*, *Stevie Wonder*, *Jerry Lee Lewis*, *Tina Turner*, *The Who* and many other famous groups came to Stevenage to perform at the Locarno.

But on one Thursday evening in October 1973, the Locarno hosted a rather different event. A Mass was celebrated on the stage by Cardinal John Heenan, and concelebrated by Bishop Christopher Butler and ten other priests! And more than five hundred Catholics from Stevenage and surrounding areas formed the congregation on the dance floor! (see photo) So how did this come about? The year 1975 was designated by the Vatican as a 'Holy Year' (these occur only every 25 years) and each Diocese and Deanery was asked by the Hierarchy to organise a *Jubilee Mass* in advance to prepare for it.

The Dean of North Herts, Canon George Davey, thought that the Locarno played such an important part in the lives of Stevenage people, as a "*popular gathering place*" that it was the ideal setting. Cardinal Heenan agreed. Stevenage was, in fact, the first town in Britain to celebrate the Holy Year Jubilee. In his homily, Cardinal Heenan congratulated the town on giving a lead to the rest of the country. Bishop Butler spoke of the need for the caring community to spread the faith to others. "*It was the people's job to promote Christian Unity*" he said. The Cardinal thoroughly endorsed this objective.

In an interview with the *Stevenage Gazette*, the Locarno Manager, Mr Jack Jarvis, said he was "*delighted with the event*". When Canon Davey had approached him about holding the Mass at the dance hall, his immediate reaction was "*Well, it's something the Mecca organisation hasn't done before, why not?*" Were you there?



## **Volunteering in Lourdes**

*Bernadette Herbert*

This year will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes and will be led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols from 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July. It is 156 years since Our Lady first appeared to the young girl Bernadette Soubirous at the Massabielle cave on the banks of the river Gave - the area now known as the Grotto. Since then, it has become a place recognised worldwide for healing and pilgrimage for all nationalities as a holy and spiritual place.

This year will be my seventh pilgrimage to Lourdes and my fourth as a volunteer nurse. My role brings a different perspective to the Lourdes experience. One sees how the sick, disabled and frail are given the upmost priority and the focus of everyone's attention. They come first which is not necessarily their experience in their everyday lives. In Lourdes, people in wheelchairs do not stick out in a crowd, they are the crowd!

The healing that takes place in Lourdes can be seen everyday in the faces of the pilgrims. It isn't just about the physical healing which occurs but the spiritual and psychological healing experienced by those who go to the sanctuary, take part in masses or processions, go to the baths or sit quietly and pray. My favourite time to go to the grotto is late at night when I can sit quietly, say the rosary, reflect and hear the river flow past.

Volunteers are an important part of the pilgrimage. They enable the sick and less-able pilgrims to get the most out of Lourdes. For some of the very sick, it may be their only opportunity to have a holiday or to seek healing or solace. Volunteer helpers make it happen and, in return, they have enormous satisfaction at giving themselves for the benefit of others.

There are different volunteer helpers - doctors, nurses, lay helpers(18+), and youth volunteers (known as "Redcaps") who provide general assistance to pilgrims. For me, the Redcaps are the most inspirational because you really see the good that exists in young people. Some schools regularly send youth volunteer groups accompanied by their teachers.

The Chief Nurse for the pilgrimage is Veda Ryan, a St Joseph's parishioner. For more information about volunteering, please speak to Veda, myself or Carmen Kelly at St Joseph's.

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***Faith is like a bright ray of sun light. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God - St. Francis de Sale***

## **The Stevenage Community Food Bank**

*Maureen McKay*

The Stevenage Community Food Bank has been set up by a group of concerned residents to provide a safety net for the people of Stevenage and Knebworth who find themselves in sudden financial crisis. The Food Bank works with various agencies, which assess the persons' needs after which a voucher is issued so that they and their families are provided with nutritious non-perishable food. This food is distributed weekly for a 3 week period and picked up on a weekly basis. Since December 2012, over 430 Adults and 240 children have been provided with food. The Food Bank is not just for Benefit Claimants, we are seeing more low income families coming through the Food Bank having to make the decision to heat or eat. Some people have had a change in circumstances such as redundancy or illness and find they need help. People sometimes find it difficult to ask for help and if anyone knows of families or someone living on their own who finds it difficult to put food on the table we would ask you to encourage them to talk to any of the agencies concerned or contact our website.

It is not just food we help with we try and make sure that people are getting help with their financial problems as well. We are aware that some people could easily become dependent which is why there is in the first instance a three week time limit but in exceptional circumstances we can extend this time. People from Stevenage and Knebworth have been very generous in both donating food and volunteering their time freely, organising the collection of food from various donations points and also help out with the distribution of the food. We would also like to thank The Stevenage Borough Councillors who helped to fund this through their Local Community Budgets and Stevenage Council for provided premises. If anyone wishes to help out can you please contact us on our website at

<http://stevenagecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/>

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***“I said to the gym instructor, can you teach me how to do the splits?” He said “How flexible are you?” I said “I can make Tuesdays!”***

## **Active Organisations and Societies in our three Parishes**

Here we list only the main organisations/societies, and the persons to contact for more information. Further details about each will be given in subsequent editions of the magazine.

### **CAFOD (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development)**

The Official Catholic Aid Agency operating wherever needed in the world.

- **Contact: Michael Downing 01438 213870**

### **Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)**

An international voluntary organisation of lay Christians whose objective is to alleviate poverty in the world.

- Bedwell & Old Town Combined Conference  
**Contact: Mark Cranny 01438 743207**
- Shephall Conference:  
**Contact: Pat Farrell 01438 721959**

### **The Knights of St Columba: Hitchin & Stevenage Council 616**

A fraternity of practicing Catholic men of 16 years or older dedicated to supporting the mission and social teaching of the Church.

- **Contact: Mike Polack 01438 352075**

### **The Ascent Group**

The group meets weekly at Transfiguration and has members from all three parishes. It aims to develop the spiritual life of men and women in their later years.

- **Contact: Colin Blagden 01438 216247**

### **SCIMP**

#### **(Stevenage Churches Inter-denominational Missionary Project)**

SCIMP members from various Christian churches in Stevenage work together to provide direct help to needy people in developing countries.

- **Contact: Cris Beale 01438 237117**

### **Food Bank**

All three parishes support the Community Food Bank organised by the Stevenage Borough Council to provide food for the hungry.

Website : [www.thestevenagecommunityfoodbank.com](http://www.thestevenagecommunityfoodbank.com)

*Easter Word Search*



**COMPETITION!!**

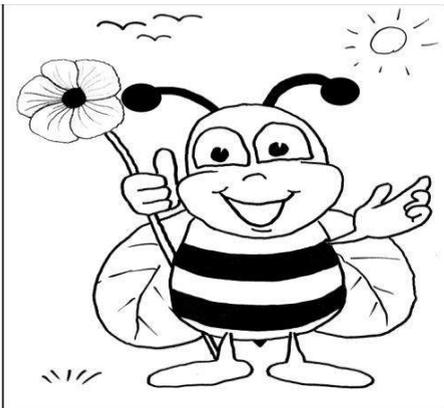
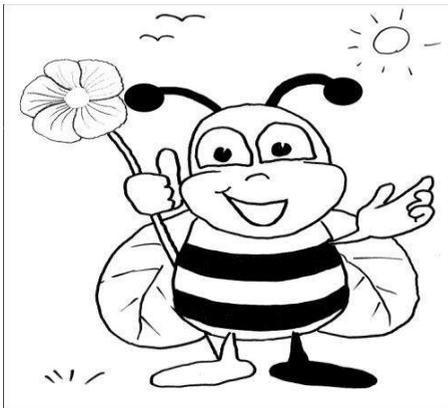
We are inviting all children to enter our Spring Time Competition. All you need to do is draw or paint a picture of what Spring Time means to you. There will be separate age categories; under 7, age 8 to 11 and age 12 to 15, there will be one winner per age category and all winners will receive a £10.00 gift voucher and have their picture displayed! Please give your picture to your Parish Secretary by **12<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**

***basket, bonnet, bunny, chicks, easter, egg, flower, spring***

*Did you hear about the robbers who fell in to the sea? They started a crime wave!*

*Doctor Doctor, can you help me out? Certainly, which way did you come in!*

***Spot the Differences!***



## Stevenage Parishes Information

### St Joseph's

**Fr Michael Doherty SDS** (Parish Priest)

**Fr Vincent Dike** (Priest in residence)

Sunday Mass: (Sat, 6pm), 10am, 12noon, 6pm

Weekday Mass: Mon, Thurs, Fri, 9.15am, Wed; 7.00pm

Holyday Mass: 9.15am

Confession: Sat. 10.00am, 5.30pm

Rosary/Benedicn Fri. 6.00pm

### St Hilda's

**Fr Michael Doherty SDS** Parish Priest (Resident)

Sunday Mass: (Sat 6.30pm), 9.30am (sung), 11.00am

Weekday Mass: Mon, Tues, Fri, Sat 9.30am; Thu 8.0pm

Holyday Mass: 9.30am; 8pm

Exposition: Thurs 7-8pm, Fri 10-11 am (with Benediction)

Confession: Sat. 10.00am, 6.00pm

### Transfiguration

**Fr Michael Doherty SDS** (Parish Priest)

**Fr Auson Kamugisha SDS** (Priest in residence)

Sunday Mass; (Sat 6.00pm), 11.00am

Weekday Mass: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.30am

Holyday Mass: 9.30am

Confession: Sat. 5.15pm

### Contact information

**St Joseph's:** Bedwell Crescent, SG1 1NJ Tel.01438 351243

**Email:** [stevenagebedwell@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stevenagebedwell@rcdow.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.rcdow.org.uk/stevenage](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/stevenage)

**St Hilda's:** 9 Breakspear, SG2 9SQ Tel.01438 352182

**Email:** [stevenageshephall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stevenageshephall@rcdow.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.rcdow.org.uk/stevenageshephall](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/stevenageshephall)

**Transfiguration:** 4 Basils Road, SG1 3PX Tel. 01438 226857

**Email:** [stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk)

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**Answer: Pope Francis**