

AUTUMN NEWS

As the summer very slowly made its way out during September and August, the activities at St. Edward's picked up to their normal pace as groups returned from their summer breaks.

During September we heard about how to live as a close family we needed to be reconciled and at peace with each other, on Holy Cross Day we learnt of the great sacrifice that God made, through Jesus, to be reconciled to us. The conundrum of paying the same wage to those who worked all day or 1 hour made us think of how generous God's love is to us, and if we were paid 'what is fair' what would we deserve? And lastly we were asked if we really walked the talk or just talked about it!!

With the first Sunday in September came our monthly prayer and praise service. This is completely different to the regular Mass service with its routine, but meaningful, regimented structure. There is time to worship, time to contemplate, time to pray, a chance to take your problems for healing and the powerful Benediction to finish.

At the end of September, on the same day as our Coffee Stop & Produce sale, we joined with the Anglo Catholic Charismatic Celebration group to pray for the future of the annual event at Walsingham. The vigil of prayer once again finished with Benediction.

Busy, busy October came and the leaves finally looked like they thought autumn was coming.

The first week we celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving and the children in Kidz Zone presented us with a short story showing just how many words can be found in HARVEST, and then a song for us to learn and join in. The gifts we brought on this day went to the Chichester Diocesan Family Support Work for their work with disadvantaged families. One of our younger members did a sponsored abseil down Peacehaven Heights to raise money for them also.

On this evening we gathered, with many others, at The Point Church in St. Paul's Catholic College for a Deanery confirmation service at which On, Jo and Nadine were confirmed by Bishop Mark and gave moving testimonials too.

We celebrated our Patronal Festival on Sunday 13th. This has become our annual Gift Day, when we consider giving a one off gift to the church for various larger projects. There was a vigil of prayer on the Saturday which finished with Benediction once again, and about 50 of us gathered in the hall after the Mass for a Parish Lunch of scrumptious Cottage Pie, followed by a number of delicious desserts organised by the Social Team... This was a

During these 2 months we have had highs and lows: we celebrated with Lizz as she reached her 30th birthday, and Pat and Doug on their 65th anniversary. The Wives Group (founded as St. Edward's Young Wives) also celebrated their 45th anniversary with a tea party.

A new Home Group started looking at the Saints Alive course which makes 4 groups currently investigating their pilgrimage path.

On the down side, we said Goodbye to 2 of our elder members. Joy and John have both been battling ill health for a while and are finally at peace with their Lord.

Whilst Father Denis took a well earned break sailing on the high seas, we were ably looked after by Father Clay Knowles. His second week he talked about LOVE, and I came away with an image of myself pickling in a great jar of God's love for me! What a comforting thought. The Reverend Peter O'Connell, curate at Henfield was with us for the last week when we celebrated All Saints Day, with thought of saints past, present and in the making.

Winter now seems well on its way, but there is always a warm welcome to be found in the church.