

Dear Friends,

I find myself writing this not long after 'the longest day' and the sun is shining and the sky is a perfect blue. The summer months with long days are always delightful and at the moment the England football team are still in 'the World Cup'. That being said, we all know how that might have changed by the time you read this. In fairness though, recent performances have seen enthusiasm and strong team spirit which has resulted in a great start for England.

I would like to suggest that it is vitally important for the cohesion and strength of a community that its members work well as 'a team' whenever possible. I am always impressed by the number of voluntary organisations which run in our villages and how so many people give their time, energy and abilities for the benefit of us all.

In church recently, we heard a parable that Jesus told about how the tiny mustard seed, when planted in the ground, tended and nurtured grows into a huge shrub. On that occasion, Jesus was using the parable to explain how the Kingdom of God grows and flourishes. I would want to suggest, that this parable works equally well for relationships within communities. When people give their time and efforts, even in small ways, that commitment has a happy knack of creating good will which spreads and strengthens.

Recently, we celebrated the introduction of new facilities at the back of St. Peter's church and similarly, the reordering in St. Nicholas' church has created more space with potential for different sorts of gatherings and events. These reordering projects came to fruition as a result of great team work and I am so grateful to everyone who played their part.

Those of you who enjoy watching the football, I hope you enjoy the World Cup and should any event or activity advertised in the Hill & Valley even remotely catch your eye, why not join in and have a go. Who knows, it might grow into something great for you.

Blessings to you all.

Craig

Vicar's Diary Dates

6 th July	Friday Reflections	7.00pm	The School House Hurstbourne Priors
15th July	Baptism of Alice Colbeck Farewell to 'the Colbecks'	11.00am	St. Peter's
24 th July	Bible Study	11.00am	The Vicarage St. Mary Bourne
28 th August	Bible Study	11.00am	The Vicarage St. Mary Bourne
Thursdays	Home Group	3.30pm	4 Applegate St. Mary Bourne

There will be no Friday Reflections in August