

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

PINNER PARISH REVIEW



July 2009

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Pinner Parish Review.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue which includes:

- Letter from the Vicarage
- Pinner Music Festival
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- An Encounter with Howard Lush
- Friends Events
- 2008 Lent Project update
- PAC 40th Anniversary Celebration

Copy date for the combined August/September issue is Wednesday 22 July and the publishing date will be Sunday 2 August. Please email contributions to: chittleborough@btinternet.com or the church office.

Joy

BAPTISMS

7 June

Vannessa Groom

Lucy Groom

BURIAL OF ASHES

13 June

Hugh Ernest Warren Harbour

LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

The sound of silence

Any trip on the train into central London will very quickly reveal one thing; that we live in a world where silence is rapidly becoming something of a premium, and where the seeking of sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of everyday life is also something to be sought.

Very close to where Sarah's mother lives in South Somerset there is a tiny hamlet called Sutton Bingham, close by a reservoir and tucked away at the end of a long and winding road, that gradually turns into a track and then a footpath leading up to the rusty and wonky gate, hanging loosely on its hinges. The church is tiny, and Norman in origin, built upon Saxon foundations and almost certainly situated on a place of pre-Christian pagan offering and worship.

There is a beauty in the place that defies description, and when we are in Somerset I often drive the few miles to the church and simply wander around its overgrown churchyard or sit in silence and gaze at the medieval wall paintings that dominate the minute Sanctuary. It is still an active church, with services being held every other Sunday, and it can't hold more than, at maximum, 30 people, but in 18 years of visiting that part of the world I have never met another person sitting in or walking around the site. The building is opened and shut by mysterious hands, the flowers change miraculously from week to week, and the smell of beeswax transports me back to places of my childhood. In short, the place is loved and cherished, but in other senses it is simply left alone to be what it was originally meant to be, nothing other than the House of God and the gate to Heaven.

It is in these moments and places of silence that we come, like Elijah, closest to finding God. We may draw our energy from the busyness of everyday life, or alternatively be enervated by its constant demands upon our very beings, but such immersion in speed, constant availability and instant communication can only serve to distract us as Christians from the wondrous beauty of silence.

At the recent Music Festival, and I said so at Evensong the following day, the best part of the whole of the finale, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* was when it ended, for there was the briefest of moments of silence before the applause began, in having just heard that God was not found in the whirlwind, earthquake or fire, but in the silence that followed, that absence of deliberate orchestral sound became the final coda to the entire work.

We are often afraid of silence as if it is something that will swallow us up or distract us from the things that we should otherwise be frantically doing. Actually, the reverse is the case, but it becomes only truly valid if we learn as disciples to use the silences of our lives and, if there are not enough, to so order our spiritual and prayer lives that we seek them out and create places of calm and quiet when we can truly listen for the still small voice of God. It may be that we gain our energy, dynamo-like, from the activity in our lives, but endless pedalling only makes us too tired to do any more for a while, and we need to balance our own spiritual well-being between activity and inactivity.

This summer most of us will be visiting places new. My plea is that we seek the relative quietness of the summer months, when numbers at church drop, diaries become (hopefully) less full and the pace of everyday life can seem to slacken a little, to seek the God who is found in the silence, and the places where we may find God.

Fr Paul

Matthew 11:28-30

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.*

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

PINNER MUSIC FESTIVAL



The 44th Pinner Music Festival ran from Tuesday, 2 June to Saturday, 6 June. It was staged in aid of 'for dementia', a charity which provides support for family carers through its Admiral Nurses.

For most of the concerts the musicians were positioned near the font and the seating was arranged around them, putting more people closer to the performers than usual.

The Festival got off to a good start with a concert by the Pinner Parish Church Musicians in a programme celebrating the anniversaries of the births of Mendelssohn and Purcell and the deaths of Chopin, Handel and Haydn. It began with Mendelssohn's *Hear my prayer* sung by the full choir, followed by two Mendelssohn pieces for organ played by Michael Turvey. The Junior Choir then performed anthems by Purcell and Dering. Next came three piano solos by Beethoven, Chopin and Arnold, brilliantly played by Charles Forth, a young member of the Choir. The first half finished with Handel's *Zadok the priest* (a change from the published programme) sung by the full choir. After the interval the full choir and a small orchestra led by Hilary Holloway performed works by Purcell and Haydn.

The second concert featured Duo Mandala, Alison Stephens on mandolin (she played the mandolin music in the soundtrack for *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*) and Lauren Scott on harp. Few composers have written specifically for mandolin and harp, and many pieces were special arrangements for the two instruments. They produce a pleasing distinctive sound resulting in a most enjoyable concert. Their programme included a harp solo (preceded by an interesting demonstration of the intricacies of the concert harp) and a solo on an older version of the mandolin.

The Thursday lunchtime concert started with a series of songs for counter tenor by David Gould accompanied on spinet by his father Tony, who also played two solos. This was followed by a quintet of local musicians playing Mozart's *Clarinet quintet in A major*. This was another excellent concert.

For the evening concert church members, Anton and Fiona Rich, brought a group of singers from the English National Opera and the Royal Opera House to present an evening of vocal music 'focusing on the lighter side of the repertoire'. A number of well known operatic arias were followed by some Gilbert and Sullivan. After the interval there were more numbers from operetta and musicals, *Christopher Robin is saying his prayers* sung by young James Rich, and a series of traditional songs. The concert finished with the whole company singing the Night Waltz from Sondheim's *A little night music*. It was a most entertaining evening.

On the Friday Chaconne Brass, an ensemble comprising two trumpets, horn, trombone and tuba played a programme of music for brass, ranging from the 17th to the 20th century. It included brass quintets by Holmboe and Arnold and ended in the jazz age with traditional New Orleans funeral music. It was a varied programme with amusing and interesting commentaries on the individual items and deserved a much larger audience than was present.

The Festival ended with an impressive performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* by the Pinner Festival Choir and Orchestra, led by Hilary Holloway and conducted by Michael Turvey, with guest soloists. It was a splendid climax to a very successful and enjoyable Festival.

Tony Waterfield

CHURCH BLOOMERS!



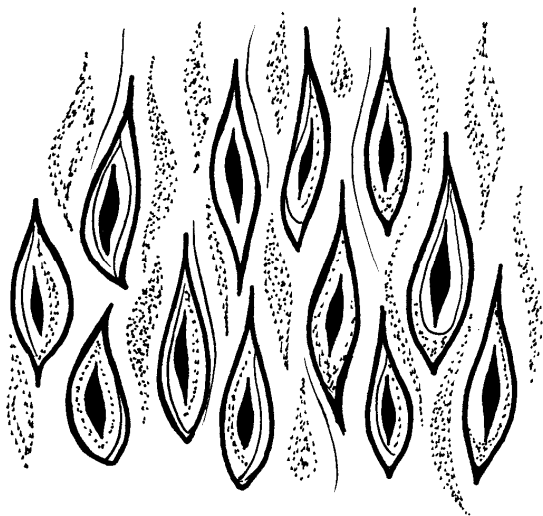
This evening at 7.00 pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir.
They need all the help they can get.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall.
Music will follow.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

21 June



Lord God, pour your Holy Spirit on all
who were confirmed in this parish.
Bless them in their calling, renew their hearts,
encourage their faith and stir in them the gifts of the Spirit,
that they may show your love to all your children. Amen.

Youth:

Annabel Brassey
Hannah Crawford
Holly Harkness
Holly Higgins
James Hopkins
James Huszczo
Amelia Murphy
James Murphy
Timothy Stokes

Adults:

Suzanne Burke
Emily Griggs*
Marilia Perrett*
Jill Tindall
Roger Watts

**Baptised during the service*

YOUTH PAGE



On Sunday 21 June 14 people were confirmed, 9 of which were children. During the last 7 weeks of preparation sessions we have talked about a range of topics including Creation, Prayer, Jesus, The Church, Holy Communion and The Bible. Our final session was called "Stand Up and Be Counted." During this session the children told me about being a Christian, being Confirmed and what both mean to them. Below are some of their thoughts.

How is being a Christian important to you?

- " Being a Christian teaches me to be a better person in life."
- " It helps me make the right decisions."
- " It helps me feel closer to God."
- " Being a Christian means I have one BIG family."
- " It teaches me how to treat others."

Why do you want to get confirmed and what does it mean to you?

- "Being confirmed means that I am telling everyone I want to be a Christian and I am getting closer to God."
- " I want to get confirmed because I want to know more and God."
- " It helps to remind me of what Jesus went through."
- " I want to get confirmed as it will help me follow Jesus' teachings."
- "Being confirmed means I am part of the church and part of God's family."

What have you learned over the Confirmation course?

- "I have learnt how to be a better Christian."
- " I understand Christianity more."
- " I have learned all about Jesus, the Bible, and that there are over 50 books in the Bible."
- " I have learned all about different ways of praying."

What has been your favourite session during the course and why?

"I enjoyed the session where we painted because it allowed me to express my thoughts"

"My favourite session was when we did painting because I like art yet I was also learning something about my faith."

" I enjoyed all of it!"

" I enjoyed the session about Creation and looking at all the things God has made."

" I enjoyed all of the confirmation classes especially our first session as we all go to know each other."

" I enjoyed learning different types of praying because I like learning about the 5 finger prayer and making prayer beads."

The whole group has been fantastic over the 7 weeks and I was so proud of how well they did on Sunday. The group is going to continue meeting on a regular basis so you may spot us in Starbucks in a few weeks!

Elise Allanson

EXIT-STAGE LEFT



You may not have noticed but there hasn't been much drama in the church hall lately. (And I'm not talking about mini-spats because someone forgot to drain the dishwasher). No, apart from the well-received Murder Mystery play at the Friends' Supper in March, Centre Stage has been struggling — and now no longer presents full-length plays in either our church hall or at the alternative venue, the

Methodist church hall. So, due to lack of manpower, the inevitable ageing and for a variety of other reasons it has been decided to call it a day and at our recent AGM it was agreed to wind up the society at the end of our current financial year.

The society's roots go back to the 1960s with the formation of the Pinner Church Drama Group (the Methodist Church Drama Group was formed about the same time). When our church hall was built the society's first Chairman was allowed to create a proper stage in the hall (with footlights and stage curtains). A merger of the church drama group with the Villagers (formerly Pinner Young Conservatives drama group) led to its metamorphosis into Stage Two and, with a later merger with the Methodist drama group, it became Centre Stage.

Over the years a considerable variety of musicals and plays have been presented - from "Lark Rise" and "Sweet Charity" to Chekhov, Priestley and Ayckbourn. At one time three productions a year were put on in our church hall - the footlights were disposed of and a (somewhat creaky) stage extension was assembled for each performance.

The society would like to thank all those who have supported us over the years; indeed from the congregation we have drawn not just our audiences but many actors and backstage staff.

The seeds thus sown have borne fruit in different ways. Emma Bowles, who began with us as a child actor, now plays the lead with large local musical societies and is a dance teacher. George Williams has now become a professional actor. Andrew Murray and John Hastie began their stage experience working on the lighting. Andrew is now in charge of the audio-visual department at the Museum of London; the theatre engineering company in which John is a partner has just been given a Queen's Award for Export. And of course one of our leading actors became Mayor of Hillingdon!

At the recent AGM, to acknowledge all their dedication and hard work over the years, eight members of the society (including Valerie Ridge) were presented with the National Dramatic & Operatic Society Commendation Award and Nick Ridge and I were given NODA medals to mark forty years each of continuing participation in amateur dramatics.

Margaret Birkinshaw

AN ENCOUNTER WITH ...

This month we encounter Howard Lush



How many years have you worshipped at St John's?

I was baptised here 28 years ago, and have attended regularly for at least 21 years, with the exception of the time I spent at Bristol University.

What changes have you noticed in the Parish over the years?

Quite a few! The choir has changed significantly - there used to be a 9.00 and

11.00 am choir, and the latter was all boy trebles. The liturgy has gone through a number of revisions and there have been four different incumbents while I have been here.

What are your earliest memories of the Parish?

I remember my mum taking me to church as a child. Also the Easter Monday ramble, and walking Eileen Ormandy's dog!

Do you go out to work or volunteer in any way? If so, what do you do?

I am Chief Technical Officer for a web design agency called Sotic. We build and maintain a number of high profile sports websites, mainly for rugby clubs and governing bodies.

Tell us about your family

My parents are divorced and both had previous and subsequent marriages so my family is quite complex! My mum was a member of this church for many years and my dad is an enthusiastic singer (which explains how I ended up in a church choir!). I have two half brothers, a half sister, and four nieces and nephews.

What is your favourite radio or TV programme?

'Lost' - I really enjoy it even though each episode seems to bring more questions than answers - one day it will all become clear!

Where was your best holiday and why was it the best?

I travelled to China and Hong Kong for the Olympics last year. Even though I had to work for some of the time it was great to be involved with such a major international sporting event and experience a very different culture first hand.

If you were stranded on a desert island, what

❖ **three pieces of music would you take with you?**
(we have provided a clockwork CD player!)

Coldplay - X&Y

Semplicemente - God Be In My Head

Taizé Community - Laudate Omnes Gentes

❖ **three luxury items would you take?**

Soap

Toothbrush/toothpaste (does that count as one?)

iPhone (with a 3G connection and unlimited battery life!)

Have you any hobbies and interests?

My main hobbies are amateur theatre (both acting and behind the scenes) and DJing (usually on board the HMS President which is moored on the Thames in central London). I also enjoy watching and playing sport - running, football, tennis and badminton.

What is your favourite Bible passage?

Matthew 5 v1-12 (The Beatitudes) - I believe that this passage sums up many of the core values in the Christian faith.

Have you a hero or heroine or is there some person whom you admire or respect? Tell us about the person

I very much respect Barack Obama for attempting to mend some of the mistakes made by his predecessors. It remains to be seen how successful he will be, but that he has taken on the challenge of beginning to seek world peace is an achievement in itself.

What is your motto for life?

Love your neighbour as yourself.

PARISH CHURCH HISTORY

15C Octagonal Baptism Font



At one time the font stood at the west end of the north aisle. It was moved in 1859 to a position near the west door, then in 1880 to the south door, and to its present position in 1958. The font has a moulded upper and lower edge and quatre-foiled panelled sides which enclose a foliage boss and is situated between the two windows in the north aisle. There are also flowered bosses on the lower moulding. The stem and moulded base are also octagonal. The early 20C wooden font cover and its counterpoise were given by a former vicar in memory of his wife.

Baptism Icon



In the north wall of the aisle behind the font is a doorway which was probably blocked up in 1880. In this blocked-up doorway is a baptism icon which was blessed in January 2006 and is a reminder to us of our own baptism and the vows we have made.

There are two replica church brasses on the wall. One represents a chrisom child (a child who died within one month of baptism) and was buried in a so-called chrisom cloth as a shroud. The second brass replica bears the inscription "Here underlyeth the bodye of Anne Bedingfeld, the daughter of Eustace Bedingfeld, gent, who dep'ted this lyfe ye xxiiiith of February 1580, and was buryed at the charge of Margery Draper, widow, late wife of John Draper, citizen, and bere brewer of London, her grandmother." It is considered that the two brasses relate to each other.

A RESPONSIVE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Father in Heaven,
**Remind us constantly that you are parent to all your children,
Whoever, or wherever they are or come from.**

Hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Establishing peace and justice, hope and life for all peoples.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Disturb us into awareness of the needs of others.

Forgive us our sins,
Our pride and our prejudices.

As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
**Especially keep our hearts and minds open
To see the good in others.**

Deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
Just and true,

The power,
Gentle and fair,

And the glory,
Shot through with the colours of love,

Are yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

From 'Shore to Shore', a new resource of liturgies, litanies and prayers from around the world. Published by USPG and SPCK.

BETWEEN FRIENDS

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 1 August

10.00 am to 12 noon



Bring and Buy Coffee Morning
in the church hall
Entrance 50p (includes coffee)

Saturday 8 August

Coach Trip to Gloucester



A coach trip is planned to Gloucester which will provide an opportunity,
not only to visit this historic, waterfront city,
but also to hear our choir sing evensong in the cathedral.
The coach will leave from the War Memorial, High Street, Pinner
at 9.30 am and return by 8.00 pm.
Price £15 (under 15 £10)

To book your ticket please phone Isabel Beddison 8866 3475

UPDATE ON 2008 LENT PROJECT

FROK: UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

For the last two or three years, Bannu has been, along with Khyber, the Tribal Area in which KK has made the most progress, opening around 30 schools. Sadly, a member of the KK staff was kidnapped there last autumn. After 3 months his release was negotiated by the tribal leaders on condition that the Bannu Regional Office was closed.

The Bannu office staff have now moved to the Karak Regional Office, from which they continue to support work in the Tribal Areas. However, two Women's Learning Centres in Bannu funded by the J A Clark Trust have had to close. The ambulance funded by Pinner Parish Church to provide health education and medical care in FATA, which had been planned to start operation in February, has also had to be moved and will now be serving the same number of villages in Karak as soon as the new arrangements are finalised.

Eileen Ormandy

(Extract from FROK Spring 2009 newsletter)

TECHNOLOGY!

Memory was something you lost with age
An application was for employment
A programme was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano
A web was a spider's home
A virus was the flu
A hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived



COMMON SENSE?



Going on holiday
whad'ya know
the usual question—
where shall we go?

Will it be Spain
with a half-built hotel,
or Florida sunshine,
mosquitoes as well?

Will it be Portugal,
potholes and all,
or Texas with tower-blocks
twenty miles tall?

A trip on the river—
the Nile or Zambezi,
with head, legs and belly
decidedly queasy?

Will it be Paris
awash with its cars,
will it be Mercury,
Venus or Mars?

Or will common-sense
tell us, No, let us spend
it somewhere between
John O'Groats and Land's End?

DIARY DATES

JULY	
1	10.00 am Holy Eucharist (Common Worship). Revd Ian Murray will mark 25 th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.
2	Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth
3	Feast of St Thomas
4	1.30 to 4.30 pm PAC Summer Fun Day at Pinner Memorial Park 7.30 pm Harrow Opera Concert in church (rehearsal 5.00 to 7.00 pm)
5	Trinity 4 Revd Lindsey Adam presiding and preaching at 9.00 and 11.00 am. July Review published 3.30 to 5.30 pm The Friends' Sunday teas
8	10.00 am Holy Eucharist (1662) 12 noon to 4.00 pm Reddiford School Leavers' Service 8.00 pm PCC Meeting
11	St Benedict Pinner Helping Hands Coffee Morning
12	Trinity 5 9.00 am Baptism Traidcraft Stall in the church hall 3.00 pm Soundscape Concert in church 3.30 to 5.30 pm The Friends' Sunday teas
14	7.15 to 7.45 pm PAC Praying Together at St John the Baptist
19	Trinity 6 Church ramble 3.30 to 5.30 pm The Friends' Sunday teas
20	Holiday Club Week begins in the church hall complex
22	Copy date for August Review
25	Feast of St James
26	Trinity 7 9.00 am Space Service 3.30 to 5.30 pm The Friends' Sunday teas
28	12.30 to 2.30 pm PAC Welcome Lunch at Love Lane Methodist Church

www.pinnerparishchurch.org.uk



INFORMATION
Christians in Pinner working together

40th Anniversary Celebration



A combined service was held on Pentecost Sunday, 31 May at Love Lane Methodist Church to celebrate Pinner churches working together for 40 years. A representative from each of the six churches spoke about the joint areas of involvement; Praying and Worshipping Together; Learning and Studying the Christian Faith; Children's and Youth Work; The Local Community; Global Concerns and Communications. The collection during the service raised £258 for the work of Christian Aid.

The restyled PAC website also went live that day. This was launched and demonstrated at the end of the service by Howard Lush, after he had finished rehearsing for Pinner Music Festival and everyone had enjoyed a piece of the celebration cake. Please take a look at the website — I am sure you will agree that it is a great improvement. If you feel we have left anything out, or you notice it is not up-to-date in any area, please either contact myself, or Howard.

*Joy Chittleborough
PAC Communications Rep*



INFORMATION
Christians in Pinner working together

Pinner Helping Hands Coffee Morning



10.00 am to 12 noon, Saturday 11 July
Love Lane Methodist Church

Praying Together



7.15 pm, Tuesday 14 July
St John the Baptist Church

Welcome Lunch



12.30 to 2.30 pm, Tuesday 28 July
Love Lane Methodist Church

Anyone on their own is welcome but please ask for an invitation so that we know the numbers to cater for.
Phone Elizabeth Catto 8868 8911, or Valerie Hastie 8428 5610

Honorary Secretary: Angela Achenbach 8863 1687

www.pinnerchurches.org.uk

PARISH STAFF

VICAR Revd Paul Hullyer	Pinner Vicarage, Church Lane, Pinner, HA5 3AA 8866 3869 <i>Email: paulhullyer.vicar@btinternet.com</i>
HON ASSISTANT PRIEST Revd Ian Murray	4 Mansard Close, Pinner, HA5 3FQ 8866 2984 <i>Email: bridgetandianmurray@btinternet.com</i>
READERS Susan Cooper	28 Headstone Lane, Harrow, HA2 6HG 8863 2094 Fax: 08700 516 752 <i>Email: scooper@hedstone.demon.co.uk</i>
Nicholas Ridge	44 Cannonbury Avenue, Pinner, HA5 1TS 8868 8103 <i>Email: n.ridge10@btinternet.com</i>
Ann Fuller	46 Chamberlain Way, Pinner, HA5 2AU 8868 6168 <i>Email: annfullercway@rosemaryann.plus.com</i>
YOUTH MINISTER Elise Allanson	11 Dawlish Drive, Pinner, HA5 5 LJ 8429 2417 <i>Email: youthminister@pinnerparishchurch.org.uk</i>
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Michael Turvey MBE, GLCM, ARCO	49 Albury Drive, Pinner, HA5 3RL 8866 7322 <i>Email: mturvey@talktalk.net</i>
Ass. DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Andrew West BA(Hons) FASC	<i>Email: andrwwst6@aol.com</i>
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR Janet Huszczo	9.00 am to 12 noon: Mon/Wed/Thurs/Friday 8866 2676 Fax: 8866 8194 <i>Email: pinnerparish@btconnect.com</i>

PARISH PEOPLE

BELL RINGING	Anne Payne	8866 2986
BEREAVEMENT VISITING CO-ORDINATOR	Bridget Murray	8866 2984
CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES	Michael Gregory Rebecca Poole	8868 1924 8428 7189
CHURCH HON TREASURER	Douglas Yates	8866 4971
CHURCH ASSISTANT TREASURER	Ian Trimmer	8428 2207
CHURCHWARDENS	Shane Godbolt David Poole	8866 9892 8428 7189
CHURCH WATCH	Morella Boon	8866 2120
FLOWERS	Maureen Wilson	8428 6085
FRIENDS OF PINNER PARISH CHURCH	Ron Haslam	8933 7911
GIFT AID	Morella Boon	8866 2120
HALL HIRING	Diana Bowles	8868 3264
HOUSE GROUPS	Ann Fuller	8868 6168
KIDZ KLUB	9.00 am Brenda Allanson	8429 2417
JUNIOR CHURCH	11.00 am Jill Townsend	8429 2261
KEEP IN TOUCH SCHEME	Paddy Haslam	8933 7911
LIBRARY	Margaret Birkinshaw	8866 4784
LIFTS TO CHURCH	Paddy Haslam	8933 7911
PAC REPRESENTATIVE	Wendy Myers	8428 6773
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL	Audrey Taylor	8868 9070
PINNER NIPPERS	Danielle Musto	07932 799056
PINNER HELPING HANDS	Caroline Wait	01895 675792
PINNER PARISH PRE-SCHOOL	Sue Smith	8868 0656
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