

CLUB OASIS JAN 07

As we move into 2007 over the next few months, we are going to look at how we as individuals

fit into the mosaic of community and of Christian fellowship and hopefully come up with some answers to the age old question " **What is the Church?** " This month in the reading from Corinthians ch12, Paul talks about the Spiritual gifts. When we met here on Sunday, with the help of my grandfathers music



box we thought about the amazing skill in getting all the pieces in the right place to produce the tune and how, if a few of the pins were missing, we might not notice it, but the man



You need the Church Bob Gass Word For Today
'NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER...' HEBREWS 10:25

The Church is God's life-support system for individual Christians. Nobody expects a baby to grow on its own, and God never meant for us to grow and develop spiritually in isolation. Spiritual growth is a group project, which should be good news to you because that means you don't have to do it all by yourself. You need to be surrounded by spiritual fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters who can help you. The universal church is made up of believers everywhere, the local church is made up of believers somewhere. The writer in Hebrews states, 'Let's see how inventive we can be in Encouraging love and helping one another, not avoiding times Of worship and prayer together as some do..' (Hebrews10). Perhaps you say, 'But I don't need encouragement and I do not need help. Perhaps not today, but what about next week or next month? And what about all the people who need your help and encouragement. We are all to be part of some thing far bigger than any one of us. There is no mention in Paul's words of individual growth apart from the **church**. We only grow as we connect, relate, contribute, and receive one from another: and from God ;

See OASIS home Page to receive the Word for Today **EVERY DAY**

Also Click on www.ucb.co.uk to find out about Christian radio and tv

Club oasis hopes to link its friends through the wonders of modern technology !! Oasis meets on the **Second** Sunday of



Every Month At the home of Shirley and Peter Massey 1801 Chemin des Pailles **LOGUES** 0494 739337 www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis

who built it would. Because he was the designer and creator, he could see and hear that it was incomplete. And it is just the same with the church; God gives each one of us a gift that is needed to make the church function in full harmony. So often the most difficult thing is to recognise that within ourselves. Paul said, " **be an encourager;** " and help others to use and develop their gifts so that we may all grow together in love and fellowship, knowing that those gifts come from God. He wants us to use them for his Glory and to build His church in the name of Jesus.

PETER

News • TV • Community • Shopping • Helpdesk

God gives us the seeds and wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts!
 10 Jan 2007

Some thoughts from Robyn and Michael WEIGALL

ITS NOT THE GIFT, IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS !



What I enjoy most about shopping is finding that perfect gift for someone special. I love it when the recipient delights in my gift. If someone clearly does not appreciate the gift, I'm mortified! That's how God must feel when we neglect the gifts He has given us. He created us with natural abilities and strengths and then, on top of that, gave us spiritual gifts as well. You don't have to be a successful artist or a virtuoso violinist to be talented. Creativity is the tool God has given us to create something special out of the ordinary, even something as simple as turning a few eggs into a cordon bleu dish. Give thanks regularly for God's abundant gifts. Say thank you for that perfectly chilled glass of Provençal Rosé or a good laugh with your

friends. Say your thanks in the very moment when you are enjoying the gift. Some would have us believe they don't have any special talents or gifts or maybe they need encouragement to discover them. But God wants every believer to use the abilities he gives. Therefore each of us has the responsibility to seek out our God-given talents, and to help others do the same. To use them effectively, we must, first, understand that not everyone has the same gifts; secondly, strive through fellowship with others to learn what we do best; and, then thirdly and most importantly, dedicate our gifts not to our personal success but to God's service and to his Church.



THOUGH WE DO HAVE A PASTORAL MINISTRY CALLED ARK

we are surprised by the growth of the dog fellowship which last Sunday reached 8. We may need to appoint a Sunday (dog) school teacher/

warden in the coming months. Enquiries please to Oasis career opportunities :- Applicants named **Francis** given priority.

THE POWER OF USING GOD'S GIFTS

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen! In order merely to keep food on the table for this mob, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood.

Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of Albrecht Durer the Elder's children had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew full well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by laboring

They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg.

Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No ...no ...no ...no."

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look ... look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother ... for me it is too late."

More than 450 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, watercolors, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.



One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands."

CONNECT Please pray for a new prayer initiative starting in February in Lorgues

Next Oasis Feb 11th in Lorgues with the Rev Jack Heaslip who will be looking at the beatitudes ! IS YOUR GLASS HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY ?

Pass Club Oasis onto a friend

L'OASIS WATCH AND PRAY



“Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1

One of the most difficult things I find is the discipline of prayer, a time set aside in the bustle of the day to catch our breath and be quiet with God. I once heard someone say, “ throw your sock under bed before climbing in at night..... then you will have to get on your knees in the morning !”

On this page we will share a few thoughts and prayer concerns for others. **Please join in, and if there is a need you know of, please let us know if you wish others to pray.** Just send it to Oasis@themasseys.fr and we will add it to this page.

Also any prayer “gems” or reflections you stumble across and would like to share please let me have them.

LET US PRAY FOR



In this week of media frenzy over race issues on the television, an understanding and tolerance of others both christian and non christian.

Lord Hear Us

In the coming week of christian unity, an understanding of the many aspects of God as expressed through different denominations, and a hope and enthusiasm for unity through diversity knowing that God holds all truth and the Holy Spirit guides us to that truth.

Lord Hear Us

For the work of the church and all those who share in the responsibility of leading and sharing the Good News with those who have not heard or do not care.

Lord Hear Us

The yes people

Let truth and integrity hold hands;
let peace and justice embrace;
let joy and hope kiss;
let healing and renewal combine;
so that your children of a new century
may hear your "yes" to the earth
and rejoice in your "yes"
to our future.

Then may we become
your "yes" people, saying "yes" to peace
"yes" to compassion "yes" to neighbours
"yes" to wonder" yes" to jubilee
"yes" to the timeless way
you still show us in Jesus
your precious child
of every century. Amen

Please pray for

For Inez and Renée and their families,
recently bereaved.

For Yvonne, Jim and George battling
with cancer.

For Mim undergoing surgery soon.

For Kate and Justin as they start
married life together.

For Stuart and his Mother as she adjusts
to her new home.

For Priestly and Andrea in a nursing
home.

For Zdenka badly injured in an accident

For Fr Jeaneau who gone to the Lord

And For Rosie and George as they get
ready to move to Plan de la Tour

*Grant to all who seek you
the assurance of your presence, your power
and your peace.*

*Grant your healing grace to all who are sick,
that they may be made whole in body, mind
and spirit.*

*Grant to all who minister to the suffering
wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience.*

*Sustain and support the anxious and fearful
and lift up all who are brought low. AMEN*