

## Express Community

# Sister act! Sisters ordained into the Church of England

TWO sisters who have been studying for ordination at St John's College in Bramcote are to be ordained this month as Deacons in the Church of England, and special arrangements are being made so that family and friends can attend both events.

Rachel Rosborough and Ellie Clack were both due to be ordained on June 29 but, to enable the sisters to attend each other's ordination and at the request of family and friends, the women's Bishops agreed that Rachel be ordained at Gloucester Cathedral on June 29, whilst Ellie's ordination took place on June 30 in the church where she will serve her curacy, St Mark's Church,

Leamington Spa.

The sisters will now serve a three to four year training post under an experienced parish priest, but their lives before choosing to train for ministry were very different. Rachel (32), married with children aged six and nine, had worked in local government whilst 27-year-old Ellie had served as a pastoral worker at a church in Redhill, Surrey.

The ordinands say their family and friends are right behind their vocation.

Ellie, who got married during her

time at college, said: "Our family has been very supportive. Although this is an unusual situation, they have always been interested in and encouraged our training. We are fortunate to both have close and old friends who have supported us throughout this journey. We've also made some fabulous friends at St John's, who know all too well what training involves. It has been brilliant to share this experience together."

Since the first women were ordained priests in the Church of England, the number of women being trained for ordination has been rising and, in 2006, for the first time in its history, more women

than men were ordained in the June ordinations.

Rachel, who will serve as a curate at Holy Apostle's in Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, said: "We are pleased that so many women are coming forward from all backgrounds to train for ministry in the Church of England. We welcome being part of a church that increasingly celebrates variety and breadth in ministry and are encouraged to have trained in an environment that encourages balance."

Both sisters are looking forward to putting their St John's training into practice.

They continued: "We feel pleased to have the opportunity to be involved in ministering to and learning from the people we will meet in the communities to which we now belong. Being involved in pastoral or teaching ministry is a privilege and a challenge. For us, this clearly has an element of the 'unknown' because we are only at the beginning of being ministers! However, we trust that God will continue to be with us and guide us as we take the next step."

## A good run for the money

EVERY pupil capable of running round and round the playground at John Clifford Primary School did so recently, with the aim of completing seven laps and raising sponsorship money towards the school garden.

Seven laps of the playground is the equivalent of one mile, quite a distance for smaller legs to travel, but the pupils of each year group took it all in their stride as they took their place in the day's running order.

This is the third year that John Clifford School has taken part in the Great Tesco School Run,

using the day to raise money for school funds and other charities.

Head teacher Simon Thompson said: "We like to encourage an interest in sport and healthy living here at John Clifford, and we like everyone to feel included, so I'm very pleased to see that lots of Mums and Dads have come along to support their youngsters."

As well as raising money for the school garden, a donation will be made to the Nottingham-based charity, Framework.

## Garden trail a growing success

*by the Editor*

AFTER weather forecasters had been promising rain all week with ne'er a drop falling, the Saturday scheduled for the Beeston and Chilwell Garden Trail arrived with a steady and constant downpour. Predictably, this continued throughout the day.

Nevertheless, it takes more than a few centimetres of rain to dampen the spirits of dedicated gardeners ("the gardens need it"), and a stream of folk still went out and enjoyed the Trail, which took place over the weekend of June 21 and 22. Sunday dawned bright and clear though, so some of those who did decide to take cover on Saturday attempted to bustle around the entire trail on Sunday – not easy.

Each year, a group of 12 local gardeners – owners of picturesque gardens that would grace the packaging of any lawn seed box – get together and arrange the special weekend event to raise money for charity. The gardens are all highly individual, the personalities of the owners clearly reflected in the style of planting: manicured lawns with precision-cut edges, child-friendly havens, wonderful floral wildernesses – and those with a preference for home grown fruit and vegetables.

During the Garden Trail, many of the owners add extras that, as well as raising more money for charity, give the whole weekend that indefinable quality of, literally,

being 'in an English country garden' – tea on the lawn, plants for sale, and even live music. A treasure hunt ran through the gardens.

Organiser Elaine Liquorish said: "It seems hard to believe with all the bad weather of the weekend, but thanks to everyone who helped us beat our terrific total of last year. Ticket sales reached £928 and sales of other items at gardens raised well over £1000. Our total for this year is £2243. Last year, it was £2154."

Winners of the Treasure Hunt were Peter and Eunice Rice of Beeston.