

Welcome

Welcome to the annual report of the Church of The Good Shepherd. 2007 was a very good year to arrive here in the parish - it was the year we celebrated our 50 year anniversary, we did this with food, wine, music and worship! In this report we let you know some of the activities that we have been involved in and what we are looking forward to in 2008. Not all of OUR life is represented here, there are many other things which go on, often unnoticed, but nonetheless make a huge contribution to the ongoing witness and worship of the parish. From collecting people to come along to the church to cleaning and preparing for services, these activities are done by a small band of dedicated volunteers - for which I am very grateful.

I do hope you enjoy reading the report, and together we can give thanks to God for all that he is doing in this parish. But as you read it do remember that church is not a 'spectator sport'. We are all called to participate in the life of the church. If there is anything you would like to be involved in, just let us know, the names of the co-ordinators of the tasks are in the front of the newsletter, or speak to one of the ministry team.

David Maher



Children's Groups

Our energetic and intrepid group of young people meet every Sunday during term time in the Church Hall. We have a core of thirteen young people and a small pool of leaders.

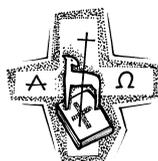
As the basis for our worship we use *Roots for Children & Young People*. This is a joint churches project and follows the Revised Common Lectionary. This means that there is often a good link between what we are looking at and what is covered in the main service (although I think what we do involves considerably more pritt stick, felt tip and blu-tac). We very much enjoy telling the congregation about what we have been up to and, although it can be a little nerve racking for the leaders, we thank David for this opportunity!

Currently, although we focus most of our effort on people of Primary School age, we are looking at extending what we do for older and younger age groups.

2007/2008 has been a good year of steady growth and learning and we are thankful and delighted to welcome David and his family to the Good Shepherd and to see David participate in our sessions. We would also like to thank Heather Murgatroyd for the many years of hard work and patience she has invested as a leader. She has decided to step down from being a leader this year.

Thanks to all the leaders and helpers for their support and hard work and to the young people for their enthusiasm, fun and patience.

Alison and John Phillips



Christian Aid

Christian Aid tackles poverty through 600 overseas partner organisations, working in 50 countries; these are local groups who know the culture and the politics, and who know best how to effect change. Christian Aid also speaks out on behalf of the poor, challenging governments, companies and international institutions to be more accountable. For example, the Make Poverty History campaign of 2005 saw the G8 promise to cancel the debts of 18 of the world's poorest countries, double global aid to US\$50 billion a year and let poor countries choose their own economic policies.

Last year, at Church of The Good Shepherd, over £1300 was raised during Christian Aid Week to support work amongst, and speaking out on behalf of, the world's poorest communities.

Door-to-door collecting usually accounts for around £950 of the money we raise; this is a remarkable sum to be raised by a group of around 15 loyal collectors, spending a few hours distributing envelopes, and then collecting them a few days later. Some who live in the parish collect on their own street and say it is a great way to get to know the neighbours. Possibly as a result of the great adverts on the TV, and elsewhere,

showing the importance of Christian Aid's work, many people seem to really appreciate the opportunity to make a donation. However, speaking from experience, FA cup final afternoon is not the best time to go out!

Also during Christian Aid week, we hold some fund-raising events at church, which aim to be fun as well. Last year, we had a bread and soup lunch, after church on Sunday, and Terri Barringer and Colin Forbes told us about their work as librarian, and hydrologist. We also had a film night (with fair-trade drinks, of course) and, as it was the 50th anniversary, watched a film from 1957, *Funny Face*.

This year, Christian Aid week will be on 11th-17th May. Simon and I will soon be planning this year's events; hopefully the Kid's Krazy Kar Klean will be back by popular demand if we can find the right hose attachment (it's a good way of cleaning the kids as well). If you have any ideas or suggestions, please speak to us. The lists will go out in April if you feel like signing up for collecting. It would be great to get some more volunteers.

Clare and Simon Redfern



Church Hall

The role of the Church Hall is also of considerable importance to the community and hosts the activities of many and varied groups. Some of these are directly sponsored by the Church, such as the Over 60s, the Mothers and Toddlers, Cub Scouts and Beavers, Brownies and Rainbows; others are related to community activities involving special interests, such as the Over 50s Tai Chi and Keep fit classes, the British Legion and the TGWU Retired Members' Association.

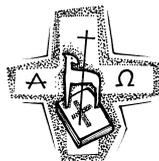
We host regular meetings of the local Alzheimers Support Group, other Retired Members Associations, a thriving Photography Club, a monthly Art Class and, of course, the Church Lunch Club every month.

After Communion on Sunday mornings, the congregation can enjoy coffee and biscuits in the hall and it's even available for hire for children's parties at weekends (if there's one free!)

The list of Church Hall users is long and can be found in the regular Newsletter and on the Church Hall notice board, so if there is a particular activity that captures your attention, please contact the appropriate person on the list.

If there's an activity that you think should be pursued and you can't see it, why not find some like-minded friends and get together? After all, that's what Out Reach is for!

Ruby Leyshon



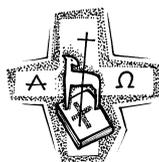
Flowers

Flowers for the Church of The Good Shepherd are arranged every week of the year except during Lent and Advent. Therefore a very small group of people take on the task for forty-two weeks of the year. None of us has had any training in flower arranging but we do our best to the glory of God and to provide a welcoming and cheerful environment to our Church.

We do not have any Church Funds for the flowers, but rely on donations throughout the year. The flowers are arranged by two people every week on either Friday or Saturday – whenever is convenient.

If, after having read this, you feel you could assist in any way – for example with a donation, in helping to arrange flowers, or even clearing up afterwards – please speak to Iris or Jeanne. The job can be done equally by a man or a woman!

Iris Brown



Fund Raising events

To help support the church financially we have a variety of fundraising events. These consist of two Jumble Sales, a Plant and Book Stall, a Summer Fête and, to finish the year, a Christmas Fayre.

The Jumble Sales enable us to clear out our cupboards, grab a bargain and give the church funds a boost. The Plant and Book Stall has a similar effect. Our green fingered members of the congregation grow the plants, and our non green fingered sort out their libraries.

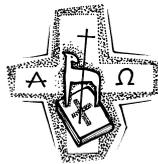
The Summer Fête has become a more low key event, with a few stalls but very delicious teas. In 2008, however, we have decided to forego this event and double our support to the Arbury Carnival.

The Christmas Fayre, which is the only event held actually in the church, is outstanding. I am always amazed at the quality and quantity of goods on display. These are provided by our dedicated band of workers, who quietly work at home for months.

All our events are well supported by our local community, for which we thank them. They love to come along, not only to see what we have to offer, but to have a chat and a laugh, and this makes the event a real social occasion as well.

To finish, I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for all their hard work over the years.

Doreen Pearson



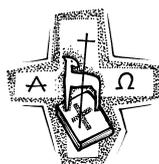
House Groups

Our House Group meets fortnightly (and weekly during Lent) at the home of John and Alison Phillips who are generous in their provision of comfortable chairs and good coffee. We are a mixed bunch with numbers now just into double figures.

The format of the evenings varies but includes a time of study and discussion and a time of prayer – sometimes formal Compline, sometimes

open prayer and occasionally we have communion together. In the past twelve months we have looked at different approaches to prayer, the life of King David and the Lent York course on the Lord's Prayer. For this we ran additional House Groups on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday morning. Our aim is to learn from God, His Word and each other. We also enjoy eating together, the answer to the question "What shall we do next?" is invariably "Let's have supper together".

Terri Barringer



Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meets on the first Sunday of each month and its smooth running is achieved by an excellent team effort. There is, in fact, an awful lot to do. Out front are those who lay tables, collect money (and bookings for next time), and just chat to people. That last item – chatting to people – is, I think, one of the most important things to happen. We all enjoy talking to friends and that is just what the Lunch Club is, an opportunity to enjoy an excellent meal, meet old friends and make new ones. *An excellent meal* brings me to those behind the scenes. Every month three people work away behind the scenes – Finsetta Cummings and Evelyn Dennington start planning before the day and their achievement is amazing. Monica Shipp joins them on the day and the three of them work away in the kitchen, producing a superb roast lunch for over 40 people, and leaving the kitchen absolutely spotless. Finsetta even grows a lot of the vegetables. No wonder they are so delicious! What do the rest of the helpers do apart from chatting with everyone as they arrive? They set the tables, collect the dinner money, hand round the food, pass round the coffee and tea, WASH UP and tidy the Hall at the end. WASH UP is in capital letters because there is so much of it, but with a good man/woman at the sink it's amazing how soon it's done.

How can you qualify to join this Lunch Club? You need to be a Senior Citizen and you need to live locally. ***What does the Lunch cost?*** £2.50 for an excellent roast dinner. There is the occasional party and each week there is a raffle with LOTS of prizes. At present there are some vacancies, so, if you are interested, contact John or Libby Lamont. You'll have a great time.

Ruth Banger

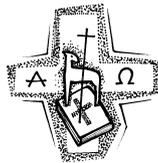


Ministry Team

The ministry team consists of David Maher, Vicar, John Polkinghorne, Honorary Assistant Curate, and Linda Dean, Reader. It is great to have the team to bring variety to the leading of services and preaching, which has been supplemented this year by having three excellent Ordinands in training. Paul and Rachel who were from Westcott were with us for a term each and Dave, our student from Ridley, continues his two year placement. We have very much valued their contributions to the life of the church, and they seem to be enjoying the learning experience!

As well as Sunday's there are the Occasional offices, parish visiting and on a monthly basis we take communion to four out of the five care homes in the parish. We regularly visit three primary schools, Arbury, Kings Hedges and Orchard Park, and have them come and visit us.

David Maher



Music at The Good Shepherd

Who is/are The Good Shepherd Choir? Anyone who can, and wants to, sing and enjoys doing so. Oh yes, and a sense of dedication: for we rehearse every week (except during August) and provide support for the congregation's singing on Sundays at 10 o'clock and at special services (we do understand that not everyone can come every single week, but we have an attendance register which we fill in *in advance* which copes with that!) Our choice of music is wide and ranges in the services from Plainsong to the contemporary jazzy rhythms of *Born for this*. In our concerts you might hear anything from madrigals to music from the Beatles. All of us are involved with other Church activities. Currently,

two of our members are on the PCC, two are Authorised Lay Ministers (and others are thinking of training next year) and yet others run various church activities. We are in the choir because we love music and our music is part of the worship we offer to God.

Apart from singing regularly at 10 o'clock we sing at special services throughout the year – on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day, Pentecost/Trinity Sunday, All Souls', and at the Advent and Christmas Carol Services. 2007 brought us a new vicar and the choir were delighted to sing at his induction service. What have we done which is extra to our central commitment to music for the services? We presented two concerts which raised money for different charities, alternating local and national good causes and providing an opportunity for choir members and those in the audience to sit and chat together in the Church over the excellent tea which always follows these concerts. We enjoy, together with The Good Shepherd Players, a Welsh Evening with appropriate music and words.

One occasion which needs mentioning is our 50th Anniversary weekend. Our normal choir was increased to approximately 30 by past members who had left us because they had moved to other parts of the country but had remained in touch. They all joined together to perform Joseph Horowitz' *Captain Noah and his floating zoo* and to support the congregation at the special Anniversary service on the following day.

We respond, wherever possible, to invitations from local organisations to provide entertainment – recently we have visited Havenfield and the St. Raphael Club and have taken part in the Cambridge Dance, Music and Culture Event at Arbury Community Centre which was organised by Cambridge City Council. We have sung carols by invitation in our local Budgens for the last few years and were invited by Cam Mind as one of four choirs which each presented an hour's programme of carols in Lion Yard.

We are always happy to welcome new members in all voices and at the moment are particularly looking for a bass. Do come and join us if you think this profile fits you. We particularly thank our congregation for the support they give the choir and the music of the church.

Dorothy Holliday



Parochial Church Council

It has been a busy year for the PCC, beginning during the interregnum, but we are fortunate at the Good Shepherd as we have many willing helpers who often work hard behind the scenes. The PCC has met six times during the year, and the Standing Committee twice. Various matters were discussed including the budget for the year, the outline calendar and the forthcoming quinquennial inspection. The PCC members were very pleased to welcome David as the new Vicar and hope he has found the Church business in good order. The PCC had an away day, organised by David, during which The Good Shepherd's future direction was considered. The website is now up and running, with details of worship and prayer as well as other services and events.

Fiona Blows



Pastoral Team

Pastoral care is a large and very important part of our work and ministry here at the Church of The Good Shepherd.

Faced with the prospect of an interregnum it became clear that we would need extra help with visiting and caring for the sick, the elderly and the bereaved in our Parish. Some members of the congregation recognised this need and offered their help; and so the Pastoral Team was formed with eight members and the Licensed Lay Minister as Pastoral Care Co-ordinator. After a period of preparation and training the team was commissioned by the Revd. Andrew McKearney in a Sunday Eucharist during August 2006 to work in the parish on behalf of the church.

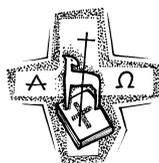
Members of the team visit those who are ill at home or in hospital, the elderly at home and those who live in one of the many residential homes in the parish. We also offer care and support for people who are bereaved.

The team meets regularly every four to six weeks for training purposes; and anything that is discussed is treated with total confidentiality. Some members of the team will be licensed as Chalice bearers and as such may be able to act as Eucharistic Ministers, being involved in taking Communion to people at home.

Further development of the work of the Pastoral team is being discussed which may lead to members also being involved in Baptism visiting and follow-up.

Caring for those in need is a way of living out our faith and following in the footsteps of Christ. We believe that through us he exercises his ministry of healing and we see Pastoral care as our particular part of the Healing Ministry of the church.

Linda Dean



Social Events: 2007/8 – a year to remember

In June 2007 the Choir gave an excellent Gilbert and Sullivan concert with proceeds going towards the Darfur and Chad Crisis Appeal. David's induction in September was a most memorable occasion. Both in the Church and after in the Hall the socialising over drinks was very good.

Undoubtedly the 50th Anniversary celebrations in October were the highlight of 2007/8. On Friday 19th the Anniversary was celebrated with a sit-down meal cleverly served by cheery servers. The Church lent itself well to the occasion and the candle lights and floral decorations created a most congenial atmosphere. The following day, Saturday, the Choir gave a concert in the Church which was followed by a delicious tea in the Hall. The weather on the Sunday was glorious, welcoming Bishop John who was with us to lead our celebrations. After the service the congregation gathered outside when Bishop John performed the re-dedication of The Good Shepherd Church. All of the celebrations have been captured on film by Stuart.

In February 2008 the Choir once again delighted us with a Valentine Concert, the theme of which was Love. The proceeds of this concert went to the British Heart Foundation. The Fish and Chip Supper on

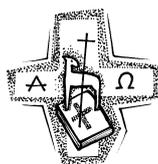
Shrove Tuesday was well attended and enjoyed by all and the Welsh Evening which followed soon after was a chance for a good old 'natter'.

We also enjoy a regular weekly social time over tea and coffee in the hall after the 10am service which is good time to catch up with each other and greet newcomers. Also once a month the 8am service is followed by a simple breakfast in the office. This year, on Easter day the members of the early congregation provided breakfast for both the Sunday morning congregations before the 10am service which was very popular!

For 2008/9 plans are in place for events to be held during the year including a stall at the Arbury Carnival in June.

We look forward to 2008/9. It will be difficult to match 2007/8 – we can only try!

Ruth Reid

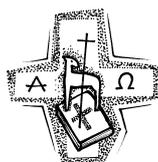


Toddler Group

Every Friday in The Good Shepherd Church Hall we run a toddler group from 9.30-11.30. This is a place any carer of children from birth to school age can come and have a chat and let their children play in a safe environment. We also provide tea coffee or hot chocolate for the adults, and drink and snacks for the children. We have a mix of people from parents to grandparents with a mix of childminders too. Every week we do a different craft activity which could be painting, sticking and glueing, playdo or something put on that week for a special occasion like Easter or Christmas. We also like to celebrate special occasions with a Christmas party and a short service or a special story. We put out other activities such as bricks, books, puzzles. Every week we like to put either the soft play area out which includes the soft building equipment - the trampoline and tunnel - or the imaginative play equipment which includes a kitchen, prams for the dollies and beds to put them in. There is also an area for the babies to play in with bouncy chairs and lots of rattles to keep them amused! At around 10.30 we have drink and snack which is juice or water and a biscuit. We also try to bring different fruit in from time to time. After this the children have another session of free play. At around

11.10 we then encourage the children to help us put the toys away so we can then get the big ride along toys out. The kids really love this and especially seem to love rolling the rugs away! We have a good mix of toys that are suitable for babies to pre-school age children. This session lasts for the rest of the time and then we pack away for home time! We run a friendly and hopefully enjoyable group and we welcome any new members at any time.

Clare Duell

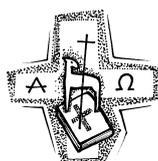


Worship and prayer

The times of the services on a Sunday remain at 8 am and 10 am. Morning Prayer is said at 9.30 am in the side chapel everyday except Wednesday when we have a Eucharist. We also meet each week in the vicarage on Tuesday evenings at 8pm for an hour of prayer for the parish.

The liturgy was changed for Advent and Lent to reflect the seasons and we introduced a foot washing service on Maundy Thursday and a meditation at the foot of the cross on Good Friday. The liturgy for the children's and parade services is also evolving as we seek to make these services even more accessible and welcoming. On Sunday evenings there continues to be a variety of services. The Healing Service is every other month and there are other occasional services which involve the choir on special occasions throughout the year. The style of these services is more reflective and creative and they are often put together by members of the healing team or the choir.

David Maher



Looking to the future...

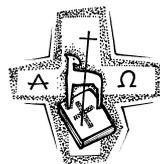
This year saw us celebrating 50 years and looking forward to the next 50! At the beginning of 2008 the PCC have started considering how we are to reach out to the community and the vision and the mission of the church here in Arbury. We are developing a Mission Action Plan, to which we will invite contributions from the congregation, which will give us focus and a goal to work towards. The services will continue to evolve and we will build on the variety of worship we have, particularly developing the healing services. We are hoping to develop our relationship with the household at Nicholas Ferrar's house in Little Gidding, joining in their procession in the summer and having a quiet day in November. We are also this year celebrating 25 years of our friendship with the church in Etterbeck with a Barbecue at the vicarage in May, where we will again be able to look back and consider the future.

Activities to look forward to are: Hope 2008, which begins with a combined service for all those in North Cambridge, on 4th May 2008. During the summer there will be opportunities to join in the 'thousand hours of kindness' project which Hope is planning for our community. We are also welcoming the Summer Blast team who will be based at the church for a week in the summer. They are here to get involved with our community and with us, praying in the church for the whole week (24 hours, 7 days) and joining in worship – more details to follow. In the Autumn we have been chosen as one of the churches in the Ely diocese to pilot 'Back to Church Sunday', a national initiative which will help us invite our friends and neighbours along to church.

In 2008 we hope to continue to celebrate the love that God has given us, have fun together in and outside church, learn more about what it means to be disciples, carry one another's burdens and to share the Good News that we have been given.

Ephesians 3:17-23

David Maher



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