

Church of The Good Shepherd Newsletter

February 2008

10p where sold

Easter comes very early this year (23 March), with the result that we seem to be travelling pell mell through the Church's year. Christmas is only just over and already Lent looms ahead. Its forty days reflect the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing himself for his public ministry and clarifying his Father's will.

If you've ever been in a desert you will know that it is a place with a special feel to it. There is something of clear simplicity about the desert landscape which encourages a reflective openness about the realities of life. The flat horizon and open skies of the fens have a little bit of that character too, but I don't suppose most of us will spend time this Lent in an externally desert place. However, if we wish, we can find an internal equivalent to which to retreat as part of our keeping of Lent. It can be found by introducing some periods of silence into our lives.

Most of our living is pretty noisy and restless. The media bombard us with images and even if, like me, you live on your own you may often keep up an internal conversation with yourself about what is happening and what you have to do. All that is a necessary part of life, but it is also good to find some place of stillness amid the busyness – just to sit, relaxed but attentive, upright and not sprawling, our minds cleared of distracting thoughts. That's easier to say than do, and most of us will need to have some non-distractive point of attention if we are not to find we soon drift off into yet more self-centred concerns and anxieties. A good way in which to attain this concentrated stillness is to turn over in your mind, again and again, a verse of scripture, allowing it to sink into your soul. Ancient monks called this *lectio divina*, divine reading, not rushing on to the end of the chapter but pausing to absorb some single deep truth. Verses like 'The God who said "Let light shine out of darkness"', has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus

Christ' (2 Corinthians 4: 6) or 'Perfect love casts out fear' (1 John 4: 18) have great spiritual power. You might like to try this kind of meditation as part of your keeping of Lent.

John Polkinghorne



Psalm 6

Lord, in thine anger do not reprehend me,
Nor in thy hot displeasure me correct,
Pity, me, Lord, for I am much deject,
Am very weak and faint; heal and amend me,
For all my bones, that even with anguish ache,
Are troubled, yea, my soul is troubled sore.
And thou, O Lord, how long? Turn, Lord, restore
My soul, O save me for thy goodness sake,
For in death no remembrance is of thee;
Who in the grave can celebrate thy praise?
Wearied I am with sighing out my days,
Nightly my couch I make a kind of sea;
My bed I water with my tears; mine eye
Through grief consumed, is waxen old and dark
I' the midst of all mine enemies that mark.
Depart, all ye that work iniquity,
Depart from me, for the voice of my weeping
The Lord hath heard; the Lord hath heard my prayer;
My supplication with acceptance fair
The Lord will own, and have me in his keeping,
Mine enemies shall all be blank and dashed
With much confusion; then grow red with shame;
They shall return in haste the way they came
And in a moment shall be quite abashed.

John Milton

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Honorary Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Reader	Linda Dean	328658
Churchwarden	Iris Brown	565956
Churchwarden	Henry Disney	359396
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	351844
PCC Vice Chairman	Henry Disney	359396
PCC Secretary	Fiona Blows	329822
PCC Treasurer	Coral Hatley	313619
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	354300
Altar Linen	Finsetta Cummings	352757
Amnesty International	Audrey Disney	359396
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Bass	363156
Book of Remembrance	Monica Shipp	353734
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	357622
Chantry Book	Tom Shipp	353734
Child Protection Co-ordinator	Ruth Banger	234409
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Children's Work	John & Alison Phillips	502969
Christian Aid	Simon & Clare Redfern	740513
Church Cleaners	Monica Shipp	353734
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Church Heating	Horace Giles	359001
Coffee Makers	Irene Langley	367964
Coffee & Rolls	Fiona Blows	329822
Director of Music	Dorothy Holliday	234409
Events Co-ordinator	Doreen Pearson	564885
Flower Arrangers	Iris Brown	565956
Flower Arrangers	Jeanne Elsey	357622
Friends of Etterbeek	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559
Good Shepherd Players	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Good Shepherd Players	Ruth Banger	234409
Health & Safety Officer	Peter Covill	729573
Historic Churches Cycle Ride	Ros Lund	565303
House Group	Terri Barringer	424584
Insurance Secretary	Joe Fletcher	351107
Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Ann Callear	357694
Lesson Readers	Lilas Davison	354300
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Banger	234409
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	Rhodri James	357607
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	John Phillips	502969
North Cambridge Council of Churches	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	Linda Dean	328658
Planned Giving Secretary	Lilas Davison	354300
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Tom Shipp	353734
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney	359396
Sacristans	Ian & Else Catchpole	474540
Servers	Bill Elsey	357622
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Iris Brown	565956
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Henry Disney	359396
Sound System	John Lamont	565559



READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Sundays and holy days

- 3 CANDLEMAS
Hebrews 2: 14-18
Luke 2: 22-40
- 10 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4: 1-11
- 17 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
John 3: 1-17
- 24 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Exodus 17: 1-7
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-42

Wednesdays

- 6 Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4: 1-11
- 13 Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
John 3: 1-17
- 20 Romans 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-42
- 27 Colossians 3: 12-17
Luke 2: 33-35



REGULAR SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

- Sundays 8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
- Mondays 9.30am Morning Prayer
- Tuesdays 9.30am Morning Prayer
- Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion
- Thursdays 9.30am Morning Prayer
- Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayer

SPECIAL SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Sunday February 3 Parade Service at 10am.
This will take the form of a Christingle service

Ash Wednesday February 6. Communion Services at 9.30am and 7.45pm

Lent Courses (starting 11-13 February):

Monday at Alison and John's (40 Roseford Road) at 7.45pm

Tuesday at Dave and Rachel's (50 Alexwood Road) 7.45pm

Wednesday at church 10am

Sunday February 17 at 10am, Service of Healing and the Laying on of Hands with Prayer

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Sunday February 3 12 noon, Sunday Lunch Club in Church Hall.

Shrove Tuesday, February 5, Fish and Chip Supper in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. Bring your own knife and fork. Tickets available from Shirley Doubleday, Ruth Reid and Ruth Banger at £4 each. Children of school age go free but must have a ticket.

Saturday February 16 Concert and tea at 4pm (details on page 10 of Newsletter)

Saturday February 23 PCC Away Day

A CHRISTMAS REVIEW

At the PCC meeting on January 14 you may have noticed that one of the items on the agenda was a review of what we did at Christmas – yes, it's that sort of a Christmas review. Foremost among what we enjoyed was the singing of the familiar carols. There are so many memories bound up in carols – from singing them as children onwards. We enjoyed the richness of the Advent Liturgy, the participation of the children in the play for the Crib Service, the beautiful Midnight Service and Pass the Parcel on Christmas morning. We reviewed the difficulties of coping with several different sheets of paper and a candle (we'll do better with that for next year!). But all in all there was an appreciation that our services had got to the heart of what Christmas is really about and we rejoiced at the number of visitors we had to our services. We plan to do better advertising next year and you may well be asked to drop leaflets advertising the services through the doors of your neighbours. The next few pages all deal with aspects of The Good Shepherd Christmas 2007.

CAROL SINGING

Yes, I know carol singing seems a long time ago now, but this is the first opportunity we have had to report on it. And yes, I know it is nearly Lent. In fact it feels a bit like my visit to WH Smith on King's Cross Station immediately after Christmas. They had their first Easter eggs on sale while the Christmas decorations were still up!

On December 8 almost all our choir members plus Tim (who very generously returned to sing bass with us) sang carols for an hour in Lion Yard in aid of *CamMind*. Four different choirs each sang for an hour that morning, we had a great time and together we raised £405.07 for a very worthwhile cause.

Those of the choir who were fit sang carols at the street celebrations in Akeman Street on December 13. We would be the first to admit this was not our finest hour – our number of singers was depleted through illness and fewer people from the surrounding streets had turned up than had been expected, so everything fizzled out rather early. It's good to be doing things in our local area, so let's hope for better next year!

Finally we sang carols in our local Budgens on December 15. This was not solely a choir effort, it was a church effort, and we all sang familiar carols with great enjoyment. Many thanks to Geoff Leyshon who wielded the collecting bucket – we raised £67.16 in aid of *CLIC Sargent*, specifically in aid of Milton Children's Hospice.

Of course we sang a lot more carols over the Christmas period at Church and were really heartened by the numbers who supported the Carol Service. At this service we raised £114.55 for the Angel Tree Project to help provide some Christmas presents for children whose parents were in prison.

Singing carols at Christmas is an expression of our joy at Christ's birth – the collections made are really totally irrelevant, but I thought you would like to know what sums we raised and for what charities we raised them. We regularly sing in our local area at Christmas, perhaps you might consider coming to sing with us next year?

Ruth Banger



The Crib Service – a lamb and some donkeys gather.



The Crib Service – now we have stars, angels, Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus as well. And Linda telling the story!

A CHRISTMAS CARD WITH A DIFFERENCE

For Christmas 2007 we decided we would not send Christmas cards to our friends at The Good Shepherd but would instead contribute to *Farm Africa*. Having not had the healthiest of years, it was a relief to know we had that number of cards less to deal with, but, much more importantly, we felt we would be contributing the whole of the cost of the cards to a very worthwhile cause – when you buy Charity Christmas Cards it is often only a very small percentage of the purchase price that actually goes to the nominated Charity.

We decided that goats would be an excellent way of helping some of Africa's poorest farmers, so that is what we contributed. How do goats help? Goat manure fertilises the crops. When the goat gives birth, her milk will feed her kids – and the family's hungry children. Excess milk is sold to buy books or medicines. And the goats themselves can be sold in times of real emergency. This represents a real step forward out of poverty.

We are now the proud possessors of a small plastic goat (to remind us of what we gave!) and are determined to continue to do this in future. We know some of you love sending Christmas cards, but there will be a reminder of other ways of celebrating Christmas in our Newsletter in plenty of time this year. Some of you have said that, by the time the message appeared about putting an announcement in the Newsletter, you had already bought your Christmas cards for 2007. There will be a reminder in the September Newsletter in 2008, so no excuses there!

Do think about whether contributing to a charity like this is a way you could make a donation in future. It is painless to you and does such a lot of good.

Dorothy Holliday & Ruth Banger

EMMANUEL

Perhaps our awesome Earth's unique
In terms of size and distance from
Its sun and happenstance of moon
Whose width and locus mean it gifts
The tides allowing life to form
And radiate. If not alone
It's rare indeed within the vast
Expanse of boundless space beyond
Our Milky Way. Our sun endures
While many die. Despite these facts
We're profligate in using up
The precious gifts that had evolved
Before our species came upon
The diverse scene. With larger brain
We can adapt to every clime
And contemplate our place in scheme
Of things. We even ask the aim
Of life! Perhaps it's true we're called
By God to let His priceless grace
Imbue our inner selves with love
Divine. It's thus each mortal self
Acquires a soul that will survive
Beyond demise of fleeting flesh.
Is this the simple gospel Christ
Proclaimed in place of petty rules
Designed to curry favour from
A wrathful, vengeful, 'Lord of Hosts'?
This creed sustains the faithful folk
Who seek to usher in the peace
And justice feeding all our dreams.

Henry Disney

TO THE SOURCE OF THE NILE AND BACK

The Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, Gordon Brown, the leaders of the 53 Commonwealth countries, Terry Waite, several thousand officials, journalists and Civil Society delegates all went to Uganda in November – and so did I. We were all there for CHOGM. This rather unattractive acronym, which suggests to some a bad case of indigestion, stands for Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Every two years, the Commonwealth Heads of Government (the HOGs) meet in a different Commonwealth country (last time Malta, next time Trinidad) to get to know one another and discuss matters of Commonwealth and global concern. Other gatherings are held in association with this – a Youth Forum, a Commonwealth Business Forum, the Commonwealth People’s Forum for Civil Society and NGOs and a range of cultural events. For the host country, it is a unique opportunity to showcase its attractions to the world. I was fortunate enough to be sponsored by *The Round Table: the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, with my colleague Amelia from the University of Kent (and Rochester Cathedral Choir) to cover the events. We were fortunate enough to stay in a Ugandan home, rather than in one of the official hotels.

Visitors to Kampala in November were greeted by ubiquitous “Are you ready for CHOGM?” posters, featuring the striking crested crane logo. These were varied by posters reminding the locals that there were “1.6 billion eyes on Uganda” and others featuring a beaming, beautiful Ugandan athlete, an Olympic medallist, proclaiming “I’m ready for CHOGM”. You can learn a lot about a country from posters. Also

notable were posters for the upcoming Kampala marathon and the “Say no to sugar-daddies” campaign (a reminder of Uganda’s ongoing and effective campaign to reduce HIV/AIDS infection rates). Kampala was ready for CHOGM – although only just. I arrived on the 17th a few days before the royals and the “HOGS” and road repair, planting and painting was still proceeding at a pace which was both hasty and yet leisurely. Rumours circulated of cold showers and hot flushing loos in some of the official hotels.

This was NOT a holiday. I spent my time promoting the journal, observing the business of CHOGM, monitoring the local media and making fruitful contacts with Ugandan journalists, academics and civil society. I participated in a seminar at Makerere University Business School on the Commonwealth, globalisation and governance where I was asked to speak on faith and values and the Commonwealth’s respect and understanding agenda. Meanwhile CHOGM discussed climate change, development and trade, criteria for membership (you may be surprised to learn that a number of countries including Rwanda have a strong interest in joining the organisation), an important report *Civil Paths to Peace*, from a commission headed by Nobel Laureate and former master of Trinity, Amartya Sen and elected a new Commonwealth Secretary-General – Kamallesh Sharma, currently India’s High Commissioner in London. Sadly but inevitably, Pakistan was suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth. Zimbabwe was not on the official agenda but was in everybody’s minds and the subject of some vociferous fringe meetings. *The Round Table* hosted a dinner for distinguished guests, where Terry

Waite spoke movingly about his own experience of the Commonwealth and Uganda and the need for **all** Commonwealth countries to fight corruption. Also memorable was the special performance of Mozart's Requiem in Namirembe Cathedral with the cathedral choir, the Kampala Music School and a special festival choir made up from CHOGM delegates.

Not a holiday but there was time to see something of Uganda outside the official conference venues. My host, an orthopaedic surgeon – one of only four in the whole of Uganda – and his wife are active Rotarians and took me to their local Rotary Club where I heard about the impressive and appropriate village development and disaster relief projects they sponsored – an experience which has transformed my previously rather cynical review of Rotary Clubs. I visited the source of the Nile at Jinja and the stunningly beautiful Bujagali Falls where the Nile

breaks into a series of White Water rapids. Here the brave go white-water rafting but I meditated on the biblical phrase “His voice [was] as the sound of many waters”.

Another high spot was the opportunity to join in Sunday worship in Namirembe Cathedral – at once very Anglican and very African, with sound and screen technology better than those of most English cathedrals and a very full and friendly congregation. Some of my academic work has been concerned with the early missionaries in Uganda and with the East African Revival so to be in worshipping in a spot that had great significance to them in an obviously lively and loving Christian community was a taste of the Communion of the Saints.

For more reports and pictures from CHOGM see <http://www.chogm2007.ug/>

Terry Barringer



I would like to thank everyone at The Good Shepherd for their prayers and support during my absence. It is much appreciated and hopefully it won't be long before I am back in the fold
Maureen Carter

GOLDEN COMPASS

Many of you will have seen a lot of publicity recently for the new film of the first book of Philip Pullman's *Dark Materials* trilogy. I have not yet seen the film but I have read the books. They were warmly recommended to me but, although I thoroughly enjoy some forms of fantasy, these left me cold! As you will see below, Liz has seen the film, but Michael feels we should not do so. I feel that how we approach such films is an important issue for us as Christians to consider thoughtfully and with love for one another and for the children in our care. Do you have views? To be continued in our next ...

Editor

SHOULD WE SEE IT?

A new film has been released recently in the cinema for children called *The Golden Compass*. While following in the genre of *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter*, it is a film intended to make children stop believing in God. The film originates from a trilogy series of books by an atheist. The aim of his books is to kill God in children's minds. By releasing what appears to be a relatively harmless film, the author hopes to entice children to buy his books which are not harmless, but poisonous.

Please look at the following website: www.snopes.com/politics/religion/compass.asp

Michael Lovell

THE GOLDEN COMPASS – SO WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT THEN?

Boxing Day saw the Collinson family at the cinema (or as I still call it “the pictures”). One of our party had seen the film before and said it was “quite watchable”. As he seemed quite happy to see it again, we sallied forth. I had

read the book and also heard it on the radio quite a while ago but couldn't really remember much about it.

The film begins with some beautiful shots of Oxford – as far as Rex was concerned, that was about all it had going for it! The young lady who played the main character, Lyra, was very good. The younger characters all had a ‘daemon’ – an animal which was an embodiment of their character – which could change shape until their person became an adult. I loved the daemons. In fact I liked them so much that I tried to persuade my cat to be one when I got home, but to no avail. He implied he wasn't “bovvered”! Well, that's cats for you!

I found the plot difficult to follow. Lyra seemed to be trying to catch the Gobblers who in turn were kidnapping children. Why they were doing this wasn't really made clear except that they seemed to be taking away the children's ability to think for themselves. On her travels there were encounters with polar bears. Lyra then met someone who said she was her mother.

I'm ashamed to say I can't really remember what happened in the end. I think I had fallen asleep, but don't judge the film by that – I fell asleep in *Lord of the Rings*, too!

A few days later I overheard two young ladies discussing the film. They both were of the opinion that it wasn't nearly as good as the book and that it didn't make it at all clear what was going on. Another friend of mine really enjoyed the film and is now reading the two sequels. I think my best bet will be to read the whole trilogy, where I imagine all will be made clear! Meanwhile, I'm still working on the cat!

Liz Collinson

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Mansel Way, Cambridge

All you need is love



Saturday 16th February at 4.00 p.m.

Tea and cake will be served after the concert and there will be a retiring collection in aid of *British Heart Foundation*. Come and join the Choir and enjoy yourself.

IN THE CHURCH HALL

THE MONDAY CLUB Monday 2.30 - 4pm	Maureen Carter	369996
THE GOOD SHEPHERD CUBS Monday 6.30 - 8pm	Charles Brown	07720 441123
LINE DANCING Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45am	Mrs B Wright	426517
KEEP FIT 50+ GROUP Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm	Mrs V Ford	870711
THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
CARERS & SUFFERERS OF DEMENTIA Wednesday 10 – 12 noon	Jo Hughes	0776 6058767
THE 18th & 25th GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
THE CAMERA CLUB Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm	C.N. Hall	350516
GUILDHALL RETIRED MEMBERS CLUB 2 nd Wednesday of the month 2 - 4pm	Yvonne Wisbey	523549
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 3 rd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm March to November	Mary Glasscock	155 Minerva Way CB4 2TZ
T G W U 4 th Wednesday of the month 2 – 4pm	John Drake	244030
CAMBRIDGE INSTRUMENTS PENSION FELLOWSHIP 3 rd Thursday of the month 10am - noon	Mr Richard Luff	424027
THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS Thursday 6.15 - 7.15pm	Alan Leader	563233
CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Linda Dean	328658
TAI CHI Friday 2 – 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 1 st Sunday of the month noon – 1.30pm	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559

TO BOOK THE CHURCH HALL

Please ring 352151
(evenings)