

Church of The Good Shepherd Newsletter

March 2008

10p where sold

In the Chapel of the Chelsea and Westminster hospital there is a 16th century painting of the Resurrection. In this painting the angels hold back the stone slab from the tomb as the victorious Risen Jesus rises and dances from the grave. Sleepy soldiers look both frightened and amazed. The painting contains all the elements you might expect in a picture of the Resurrection. But, if you look closely, you see in the dark right hand corner the unexpected figure of a dog. And the dog is the only figure in the painting who looks directly at the Risen Lord. The artist, Veronese, put the dog into the picture as a sign of faithfulness.

The account of the resurrection of Jesus in John's Gospel reveals that same faithfulness in the person of Mary Magdalene. In contrast to those male disciples of Jesus who had deserted him at the time of his arrest, Mary Magdalene is a sign, a symbol of faithfulness for all Christians.

However, it was not simply faithfulness that brought Mary to the tomb 'while it was still dark.' The fact is that no-one had loved Jesus so much as Mary Magdalene – her encounter with Jesus had transformed her life. The Gospel tells us of the way in which Mary ran for Peter and John – 'the other disciple whom Jesus loved'. Love is so important to the resurrection story. Those two disciples went away and left the ever-loving, ever-faithful Mary Magdalene in the garden. And it was her great love, her faithfulness that meant that she was the first to meet the Risen Jesus. "Mary," says that fond familiar voice.

Love and faithfulness kept Mary at the cross, love and faithfulness took Mary to the garden while it was still dark, and love and faithfulness kept her there when Peter and John had gone. It was

love and faithfulness that gave Mary her reward – that first sight of Rabboni, the Risen Master. "I have seen the Lord!" Mary's encounter with the Risen Jesus changed her more than she had ever been changed before – even by him. No longer is she sad, no longer does she look backwards into the tomb of death. Now Mary goes forward singing that song which millions of Christians have taken up for two thousand years: "I have seen the Lord!"

In her message, Mary sums up the very essence of our faith – for a Christian is, in essence, one who can say, "I have seen the Lord!" Yes, ours is a faith of love and the triumph of love – and the importance of being a Christian is, in the end, not knowing about Jesus, but knowing him. Not discussing Jesus, but meeting him – meeting the risen Rabboni in word and sacrament.

Once Mary had met the Risen Jesus she was off, like a shot to tell the others – because Jesus had told her to do that. Like Mary, our faith must never keep us in the garden, near the tombs of the past. No, like Mary, we are to go out in joyful Easter confidence. As we continue through Lent & Holy Week let us pray that our love and faithfulness will go on growing. Let us pray also that we will always have the confidence and courage to witness to Jesus as Mary Magdalene did. "I have seen the Lord" – let that be the song we sing – not only with our lips but by the way we live our lives.

David Maher



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 MARCH

Sundays and holy days

- 2 MOTHERING SUNDAY
Colossians 3: 12-17
Luke 2: 33-35
- 9 PASSION SUNDAY
Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Romans 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45
- 16 PALM SUNDAY
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Philippians 2: 5-11
Matthew 27: 11-54
- 23 EASTER DAY
Jeremiah 31: 1-6
Acts 10: 34-43
John 20: 1-18
- 30 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Exodus 14: 10 – end; 15: 20-21
Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
John 20: 19 - end

Wednesdays

- 5 Romans 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45
- 12 Philippians 2: 5-11
Matthew 27: 11-54
- 19 Acts 10: 34-43
John 20: 1-18
- 26 Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
John 20: 19 - end



REGULAR SERVICES IN MARCH

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 MARCH

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 approx.

Sunday March 2 Parade Service at 10am. This will take the form of a Mothering Sunday service

Sunday March 16 Palm Sunday evening service at 6pm. We hope to follow the Stations of the Cross using the modern musical *Born for This*.

Holy Week and Easter services – see separate page.

EVENTS IN MARCH

Sunday March 2 12 noon, Sunday Lunch Club in the Church Hall.

Saturday March 15 Jumble Sale in the Church Hall 10.30am – 12 noon

MEETINGS IN MARCH

PCC meets at 7.45pm on Monday 10th March

MUSTARD SEEDS AND FAMILY AFTERNOONS

The Mustard Seeds group has been running now at St Laurence's for 12 years and has provided many families with friendship and fellowship and children with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Faith and to make and keep other Christian friends of the same age. If you have children under the age of 5 and do not already come along, please do consider doing so. If you know of any Christian families who have children under 5, please pass on the invitation to come along. It runs in the Parish Room at St Laurence's on Mondays from 10am til 11.30, with playdoh, constructive toys, imaginative play, crafts, story telling, a shared snack, singing and prayers

There are also Family Afternoons at St Laurence's once every two months. These are an opportunity for local Christian families to get together for a chat, for fellowship and to give both parents and children a chance to meet old friends and make some new ones. We have a variety of games out, usually a craft activity and we each bring something to share for tea time. Family Afternoons in 2008 will be as follows:

15th March

17th May

5th July

20th September

15th November

They are all Saturdays and the afternoons run from 2 til 4pm in the Parish Room, at St Laurence's Church, Milton Road, just next door to the Library. All are very welcome.

[I will put reminders of these dates in the Newsletters as the year progresses.

Editor]

BRASS BAND AID

Last year (in May) Carina Lobley was involved in recording a charity CD with the most amazing choir and some stunning brass musicians. The recording is of *'The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace'* by Karl Jenkins. Carina warmly recommends it and writes: "I was involved by virtue of knowing someone organising the recording - the majority of the players have UK or worldwide reputations as brass players and consequently this is a very professional recording. The choir is also of top quality, including singers from the International Staff Songsters (Salvation Army) and The Exeter Festival Chorus (including, as I discovered at the Anniversary weekend in October, Pat and John Edwards)

So a bit about the charity we're raising money for, ***Brass Band Aid***. This charity was started 4 years ago (perhaps 5 now) by a 15 year old, Bryony Thompson. She was inspired by Live Aid and suggested starting a charity that brass bands could donate concert proceeds and CD sale profits to. Once a year they record a CD of fantastic brass music, with all the proceeds going to charity. This is the CD for 2007. Brass Band Aid then passes the money on to World Vision who are currently spending it on a school project in Ethiopia.

The CD costs £10 (excl p&p) and is available through the World of Brass website

(<http://www.worldofbrass.eu/acatalog/24878.html>) or by mail order using the form which Ruth Banger can provide. I believe all of this money will be going to the charity as the musicians' time was all donated".

PRAYING WITH HANDS



I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands
(Psalm 63: 4)

Here are some suggestions for prayer mnemonics using your hand. What is a mnemonic? It is a memory aid.

Thumb

Closest to your body when your hands are by your sides. Pray for those closest to you – your friends and family.

Index finger

Pray for those whom others might point at rudely, people who are left out or hurting.

Middle finger

Tallest finger. Pray for those who are in charge of countries, companies or schools.

Fourth finger

Weakest. Pray for those who are ill.

Little finger

Smallest. Pray for your self.

This is what the Lord says: "... See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands. (Isaiah 49: 8, 16)

Taken from *New Daylight* Bible reading notes.

FUNERAL

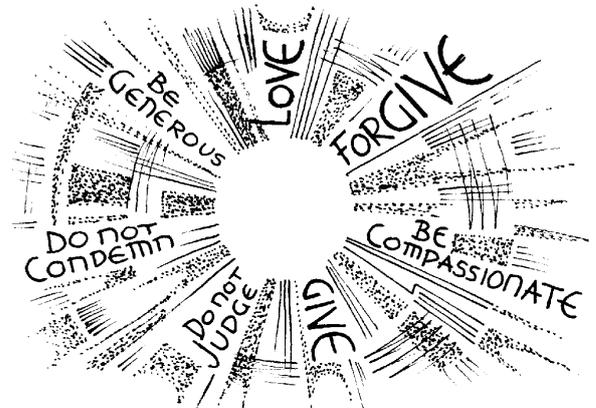
February 7 2008

Margaret Hincks at the Church of the Good Shepherd

JUMBLE SALE

There will be a Jumble Sale in the Church Hall on Saturday March 15 from 10.30am - 12 noon. Please bring jumble to Church in the mornings from March 10. Volunteers are needed at 9am on the day to set up the Hall. Strong young men with vim and vigour are specially needed to lift the tables.

Doreen Pearson



SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

It is great that we have a number of new people joining us at The Good Shepherd but it is easy to assume that everyone knows about regular events that just crop up on the Calendar. In case you don't know about The Sunday Lunch Club, here's a little introductory information.

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 with home grown vegetables. 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 (01223 565559). You'll have a great time.

What if you are thinking of offering your services as a helper? At present the rota is full (the helpers organise themselves into teams and everyone helps on just three occasions in the year), but Libby would be delighted to add names to a Waiting List! There is also the Emergency List – could you volunteer to step in at the last minute if a regular helper was ill or unavailable? If so, again it's Libby you should contact.

The Sunday Lunch Club is a marvellous achievement, a place where you can enjoy being able to meet up with friends for a lovely meal each month. If you know of someone who would enjoy coming on the first Sunday in the month, encourage them to contact Libby and John – remember the number is 01223 565559.

Ruth Banger



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Mansel Way, Arbury Road, Cambridge CB4 2ET

**We warmly invite you to our services at
Easter and throughout the year**

**Palm Sunday (March 16) Communion
Services at 8am and 10am, and a choral evening
service at 6pm**

**Maundy Thursday (March 20)
Communion Service at 7.45pm**

**Good Friday (March 21) Service of
meditation at 2pm**

Easter Eve (March 22) Service at 8pm

**Easter Day (March 23) Communion
Services at 8am and 10am. The 10am service is
for all ages and is followed by an Easter Egg
extravaganza**



BIBLE CAKE

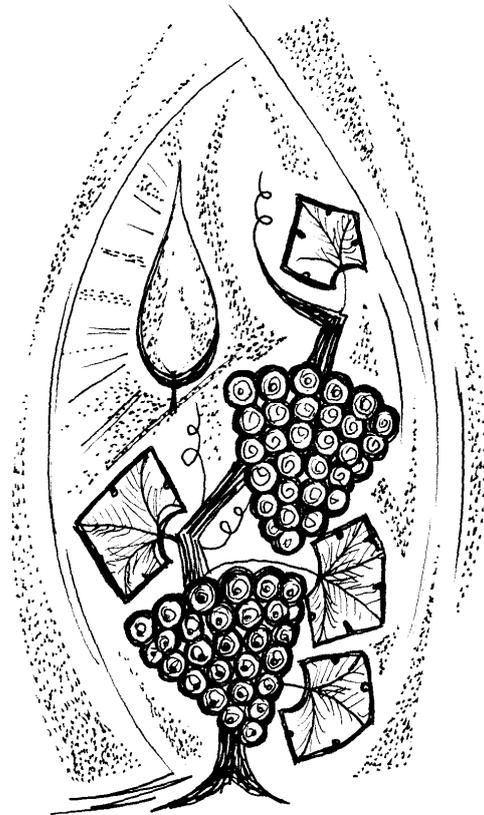
1 cup. Judges 5:25
2 cups. Jeremiah 6:20
6 of Isaiah 10:14
3 ½ cups. 1 Kings 4:22
½ tsp. Leviticus 2:13
2 tsp. 1 Corinthians 5:5
¼ tsp. each of 3 ... in 1 Kings 10:2
1 cup. Genesis 24:2
1 tbsp. Exodus 16:31
2 cups. each of 1 Samuel 25:18
1 cup. Genesis 43:2

When chatting to Evelyn Dennington recently, she reminded me of the Bible Cake recipe. I first met this when I was a child and remember having fun looking up the references. I found this version on the web and it clearly came from the USA, which explains why ingredients are measured in cups. It really does work – check the references and I'll include the full recipe next month.

A PRAYER FOR LENT

Do not smile and say
You are already with us.
Millions do not know you
And to us who do
What is the difference:
What is the point of your presence
If our lives do not alter?
Change our lives.
Shatter our complacency.
Make your word flesh of our flesh,
Blood of our blood
And our life's purpose.
Take away the quietness of a clear
conscience,
Press us uncomfortably,
For only thus
That other peace is made,
Your peace.

Helder Camara *The desert is fertile*



A report in *The Tablet* over the Christmas period confirmed that, although the US Bishops' Conference had initially defended *The Golden Compass*, reviewing it as "intelligent and well-crafted entertainment", that review had later been pulled from the conference website. The review's authors still suggest that "rather than banning the movie or books, parents might instead take the opportunity to talk through thorny philosophical issues with their teens". That is what we are attempting to do here.

Editor

GOLDEN COMPASS

I have seen the film and read the three books by Philip Pullman, the first of which is the basis of the film. I thought it had some striking scenes, but I agree with those who say it might be hard to follow if you had not read the much more extensive written account.

Pullman has taught English literature and is a devotee of John Milton. However he is an atheist who finds Satan the most interesting and attractive character in *Paradise Lost*. His trilogy is concerned with parallel worlds, similar in many ways to ours but with some striking differences. The latter include the daemons, externalised 'souls' who are animals attached to people and indicating their character. The young girl Lyra and her friends are caught up in a conflict that is going on with the dark powers of the Oblation Board. Pullman's atheism makes him portray these opponents as a kind of self-righteous and oppressive church (somewhat down played for commercial reasons in the film). In the final volume the aged and incompetent figure of God puts in an appearance before being dismissed from the scene.

As Christians we certainly not see things the way that Pullman does, but we do have to acknowledge that the Church has sometimes played an oppressive and destructive role (think of inquisitions and crusades) for which we must feel penitent, even if we also know that this is far from being the whole story (think of its contributions to art and the foundation of hospitals and schools). We worship the

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is totally different from the decadent deity that Pullman produces. It is a common strategy of contemporary atheism to attack the straw man of a corrupt and inadequate version of religion, something that Richard Dawkins does all the time. Personally I am glad to have seen the film and read the books and to face the issues of the dangers of the distortion of religion that they present, even if this is done with a biased emphasis. Children doing the same is a matter for parental judgement. It does not seem to have done my grandchildren any harm.

John Polkinghorne



WHICH WAY WITH THE GOLDEN COMPASS?

In a sense it is presumptuous of me to offer any thoughts about the issues raised by this film because I have to confess straight away that I haven't read Philip Pullman's trilogy, on the first book of which the film is based. I did, however, see the film on a family trip to the cinema just after Christmas, and I have to say that it didn't occur to me that it was trying to stop children believing in God. Perhaps I'm being rather obtuse, but I thought it would appeal to children – if at all – mainly at the level of a bit of intrigue and quite a lot of fighting, rather in the way that I enjoyed *Davy Crockett*, a Cowboy and Indian Film which was in cinemas back in my primary school days! To me as an adult, having sadly, no doubt, lost the ready ability to be immediately absorbed in fictional worlds which is one of the great treasures of childhood, I found *The Golden Compass* rather tedious. Apart from some atmospheric shots of Oxford, it seemed to me to be a rather flat reworking of the Tolkien/C S Lewis fantasy genre, with scant development of character. Interestingly I subsequently

heard a critic talking about it on the radio. Her reaction to it seemed to be much like mine, but she added that, in her opinion, it didn't do justice to the depth and mystery of the writing in the novel, which she obviously felt was considerably better than the film.

As to whether the books are 'poisonous', again I can't really comment, having not read them. But I would certainly oppose any attempt to ban children from reading them, and I would do so for two main reasons. The first is purely practical. As anyone who has worked with children will know, as soon as you tell them that they mustn't do or read something because it will be bad for them, you immediately make it infinitely more attractive. I was at secondary school in the early 1960s at the time of the *Lady Chatterley* trial in which Penguin books eventually won a high-profile court case which allowed them for the first time to publish a full and unexpurgated version of D H Lawrence's novel. There was immediately an explosion of sales of what was seen as a previously banned book. In those days we had to cover our text books with brown paper and write the title neatly on the front. It was remarkable how that summer across the school field at break and lunch times, little posses of pupils could be found avidly absorbed in brown-paper-covered copies of *The Approach to Latin*. Never since the days of Cicero had classical learning enjoyed such devotion! It was only on closer inspection that these apparently innocuous covers were found to conceal copies of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Enough said. If you label Philip Pullman's trilogy as poisonous, or try to ban children from reading it, you will, in my opinion, simply ensure that the books are read by almost every child who can read in the land!

The second reason for opposing what I suppose would really amount to a kind of Christian censorship of books and films is more theological. It seems to me that, at the heart of the Christian Gospel, is freedom. God loves us freely, and we are free to respond or not to his love. He doesn't shut down the things which oppose him and deny him. Instead his love

engages with them and triumphs in the face of them. You can see it, for example, in the Christmas stories. God doesn't shut down Herod or the threat and suffering associated with him. Rather the love of God in the Christchild triumphs despite him. Similarly in Jesus' encounters with the wily Pharisees, in his arrest by the temple guards in Gethsemane, indeed in the cross itself, the things which are out to challenge and deny God's work of redemption are not banned or removed. Instead, God's love engages with them and struggles with their darkness – and it is only as a result of that process that the victory is won. Without the cross there is no resurrection, and without engaging with all the complexity of life, including those things which seek to deny God and to undermine ourselves, we cannot know the breadth of God's love or be led by it to a mature and redeemed humanity.

Nearly four centuries ago the poet, John Milton, who had been a student at Christ's College here in Cambridge, wrestled with exactly this problem, and came down against censorship and on the side of freedom. This is all the more surprising given that he was a Puritan. "Give me the liberty to know, to utter and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties," he wrote in his *Areopagitica*. And, in another celebrated sentence: "I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and seeks her adversary, but slinks out of the race where that immortal garland is to be run for, not without dust and heat."

What Milton realised as a serious Christian was that virtue that is simply mothballed against all challenges is no virtue at all, and that a humanity which does not engage with the complexities and potential darkness in the world is not worthy of the name. To this day the *Areopagitica* remains one of the great defences of liberty and Christian maturity. To me its values chime with those which I believe I find in the Gospels. I believe that, as Christians, we should embrace those values, and seek to lead children towards them.

Rex Collinson

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)