

Every Sunday in church we all proclaim 'Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again'. I suppose that all of us would have something to say about the first two assertions, but what about the third? I suspect that we might find that more difficult. The Second Coming is not something that you often hear talked or preached about to-day, but the expectation of it is something that is there in the New Testament. The earliest Christian writing that we have is Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. In it he tells his readers that 'The Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven' (4:16). It might be possible for people in the first century to hope that one day they would see the heavens open and Jesus coming on the clouds, but is that possible for us to-day, when we know that we inhabit a small planet circling an ordinary star in a universe where there are trillions of other stars? To ask the question that way is, however, to miss the point.

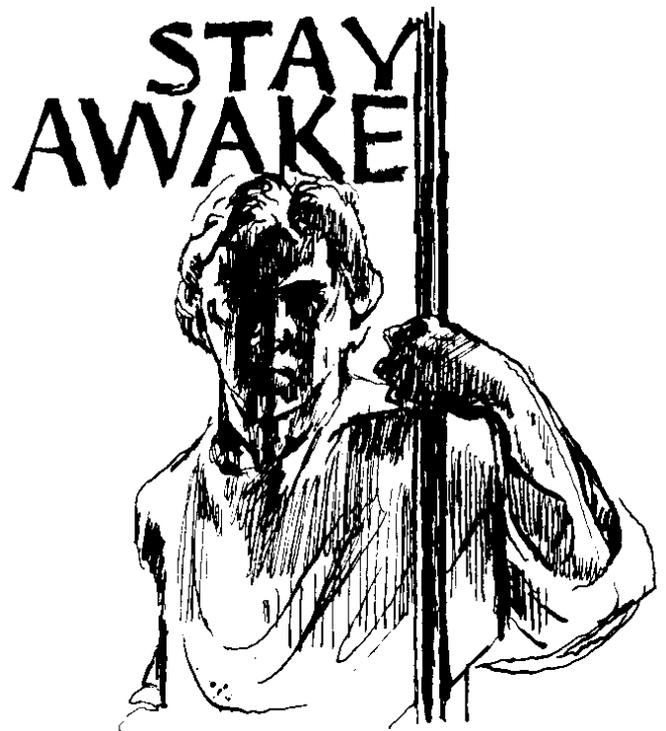
The Second Coming is a great symbolic truth. To get the point, think of another great symbolic event, the Ascension. We know that this was not Jesus setting out on some strange space journey, but it was a way of telling the disciples that the risen Christ had taken the seat of authority and power at the right hand of the Father (another symbolic statement - these matters are so deep they have to be conveyed in pictures). Matthew does not give the story of the Ascension, but when at the end of his gospel the risen Christ says 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me', exactly the same truth is being conveyed. Jesus is indeed Lord, but that Lordship is not yet fully manifested. As the Epistle to

the Hebrews says, 'We do not yet see everything in subjection to him' (2:8). That day will come in God's good time, when the fullness of creation's purpose will then be completed. Every time we pray 'Your kingdom come', we are looking forward to the Second Coming, whose nature is beyond our power to imagine. Our three-fold proclamation in the course of the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving is the statement of our hope and conviction that Jesus is indeed Lord.

John Polkinghorne

An Advent prayer from an ancient Roman prayer book:

We ask you, O Lord our God, to make us watchful and alert as we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. When he comes and knocks, may he not find us sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in his praises.



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Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Henry Disney	359396
Social Events Co-ordinator	Evelyn Walker	364067
Sound System	John Lamont	565559

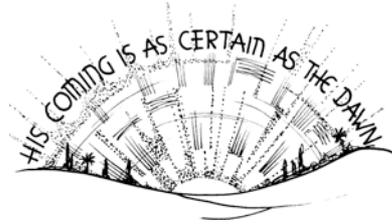
READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Sundays and holy days

- 1 SHOEBOX SUNDAY
Revelation 21: 1-6
John 11: 32-44
- 8 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Ephesians 4
A right lifestyle and the gifts of God so that the body of Christ may be built up
Mark 1: 14-20
- 15 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
Ephesians 5
Marriage as an example of Christ and the Church
Mark 10: 35-45
- 22 CHRIST THE KING
Ephesians 6
Know your enemy: wear the whole armour of God so that you may be ready to proclaim the Gospel
John 18: 33-37
- 29 ADVENT SUNDAY
1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Luke 21: 25-36

Wednesdays

- 4 Romans 13: 8-10
Luke 14: 25-33
- 11 Titus 3: 1-7
Luke 17: 7-10
- 18 Revelation 4: 1 - end
Luke 19: 11-28
- 25 Daniel 5: 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
Luke 21: 12-19



REGULAR SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

- Sundays 8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
(first Sunday in the month is an All-Age service)
- 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 NOVEMBER

- Sunday November 1** All Age service for Shoebox Sunday at 10am. This is also a Parade Service.
- Sunday November 1** All Souls service of Remembrance and tea at 3.30pm
- Sunday November 29** Advent evening service at 4pm

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

- Sunday November 1** at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall.
- Sunday November 1** at 8pm Social Evening in the Carlton Arms
- Sunday November 8** at 3pm showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* in the Church Hall followed by a Bring & Share tea at 4.30pm
- Saturday November 21** 2-4pm Christmas Market.
- Saturday November 28** Choir and Players Advent Party at the Collinsons at 7.30pm

MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

- Monday November 16** PCC meets at 7.30pm at the Vicarage.

**How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful unchangeable Friend!
His love is as great as His power,
And knows neither measure nor end!**

**'Tis Jesus the First and the Last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home,
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.**

Audrey Disney gave me the following cutting and it really made me smile (I hope you smile too!) But then I thought how great it is that our God is not like the God in Audrey's article and I remembered the hymn I have quoted above (I sang it as a child - more years than I care to remember!).

Unfortunately we have all learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of modern life, but what would it be like if God decided to install voice mail?

Imagine praying and hearing this: "Thank you for calling my father's house. Please select one of the following options:

- Press 1 for requests;
- Press 2 for giving;
- Press 3 for complaints.

I am sorry all our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on line.

- If you would like to speak to God press 1
- For Jesus 2;
- For the Holy Spirit 3;
- If you would like King David to sing a Psalm while you are in hold, 4;
- To find out if a loved one has been assigned to heaven, 5; enter his or her National Insurance number followed by the hash key.
- For reservations at my Father's house please enter J-O-H-N followed by 3-1-6.
- For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computers show you have already prayed once today. Please ring up and try again to-morrow.

Taken from the September issue of the Friendship Association's Newsletter (an association of those with relatives in Australia, NZ, South Africa or Canada). It is written by Stuart Weaving, the president and founder, and is quoted with his permission.



May we recommend ...?

The trouble with librarians is that they will keep telling other people what they should read. This month, Terry recommends an angelic trilogy by Robert Harrison.

Oriel's Diary: an archangel's account of the life of Jesus

Oriel's Travels: an archangel's travels with St Paul

Oriel in the Desert: an archangel's account of the life of Moses

All published by Scripture Union.

Oriel is a very important angel. With his colleagues Michael (speciality: spiritual warfare), Gabriel (speciality: communications) and Raphael (speciality: music and worship), he forms Heaven's Senior Management Team. Oriel's speciality is logistics, he loves rotas and training schemes and he implements the Guardian Angel Scheme. Like all angels, he adores his Boss but is sometimes perplexed by Him and His puzzling partiality for human beings. In these three books, Oriel gives an account of three very special missions that the Boss entrusted to him. In *Oriel's Diary* (closely based on Luke's Gospel) he looks after the Boss's Son in his earthly life. In *Oriel's Travels*, he is given the care of St. Paul from the stoning of Stephen until the apostle's arrival in Rome. And in *Oriel in the Desert*, he guides Moses on the Exodus.

These three books are delightfully written, with many touches of humour. God gently teases his angels and can turn human foibles to his good purposes. So we see the angels struggling with donkey supply on the road to Bethlehem. Tensions between the parties in the run-up to the Council of Jerusalem are eased when two opponents discover a mutual passion for cart wheel engineering (in another age they would be train spotters). Moreover, Harrison, like C.S. Lewis, understands that "joy is the serious business of Heaven." and describes some good parties in Heaven.

There's some deep theology here too. Trilogy and Trinity. Each volume focuses on one person of the Trinity – Father, Son and the One whom Oriel usually calls "the Director". Although his touch is so light you almost miss what he is about, Robert Harrison does not avoid some old theological conundrums. Oriel agonises over the suffering of the Egyptians in facilitating the Exodus and puzzles over blood sacrifice. If you have ever wondered why Paul's writings are so different from the gospels or how the epistles came to be written or what was his "thorn in the flesh", there are some hints here. Oriel's description of the resurrection of the Son is perhaps the most moving passage in the whole trilogy and even makes sense of notoriously puzzling verses such as 1 Peter 3:19.

If you want a good read, some meditation on Scripture and some gentle humour rolled into one, these are books for you. Put them on your Christmas present list or ask Terry or Ruth if you want to borrow copies.

Terry Barringer

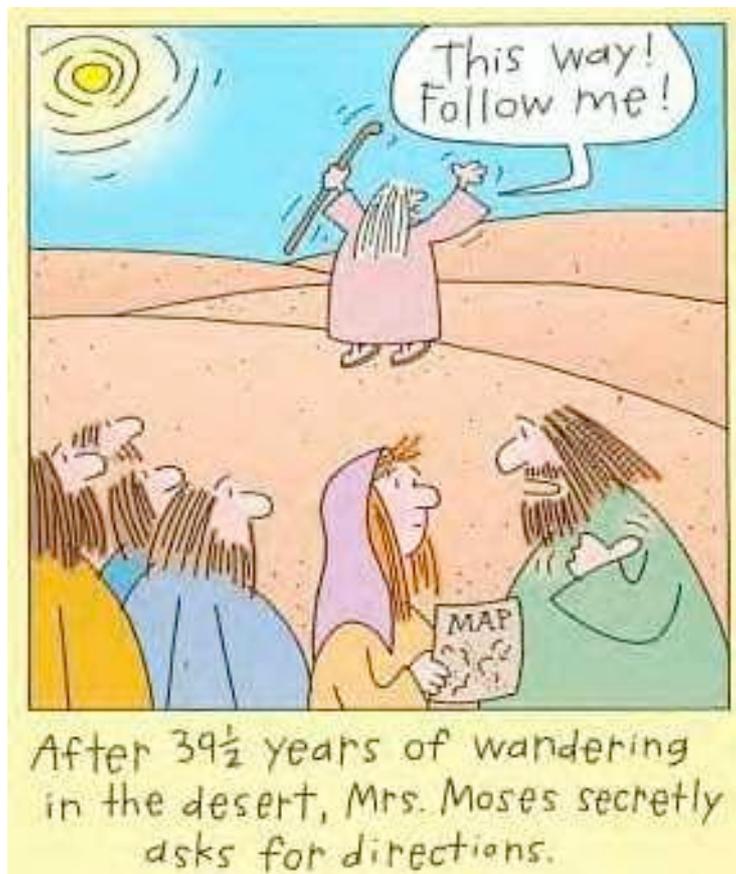
[I can thoroughly recommend these too. If anyone would like to buy copies, I am happy to get them for you - *Oriel's Diary* and *Oriel's Travels* each costs £5.99 and *Oriel in the Desert* costs £7.19. Just let me know.] *Ruth*



Old Age Benefits

It's true getting old has its benefits

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run into a burning building.
4. People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There's nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4 p.m.
9. You can live without sex (but not without glasses).
10. You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
11. You get into a heated argument about pension plans.
12. You have a party and the neighbours don't even realize it.
13. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
14. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
15. You sing along with the elevator music.
16. Your eyes won't get much worse.
17. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
18. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the National Weather Service.
19. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
20. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.



(Thanks to Tom Ambrose for the cartoon!)

A Wonderful Cathedral Service

As some of you will remember, I was interviewed by Anthony on September 20th during the morning service regarding my training to become an Authorised Lay Minister. I tried to give you a flavour of what I had been up to during the last year and some of my hopes for the future. I was so pleased that during that service we sang the hymn 'Brother, sister, let me serve you' which was a hymn that had been much in my mind throughout the course and verses of which had often featured in my journal of personal reflections over the year.

On the evening of the same day came the commissioning service which would give me permission to serve as a social awareness minister in the ministry team of our church under Dave's authority. Fortunately, we didn't have to process in as there wasn't time to rehearse, owing to a baptism service beforehand. I don't think any of us minded at all! I had a wonderful seat right at the front and it was good to sit between the other prospective social awareness minister, Wayne, and our group leader, Fiona.

Before the service started, after I had checked where the Good Shepherd party was in the cathedral, so I didn't have to wander about looking for them, I took time to reflect on God's love for us all and how he had gently led me to be in the cathedral on that day. I was very grateful to all who came to support me.

Bishop David put us all at our ease once the service started and was very jolly, throwing his mitre in the air! The music was lovely and the choir's singing during the time that Bishop David was giving us our certificates and our holding crosses was very moving.

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for me during the year – please keep on!! To quote my favourite hymn:

We are pilgrims on a journey
Fellow travellers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and share the load.

Liz Collinson



Liz is right, it was a wonderful service and those of us from The Good Shepherd who went had a great time. It was a privilege to go along and support Liz – and I remembered how she and others had come to the Cathedral to support us two years ago when we were authorised as Lay Ministers. It meant (and means) so much to know that we are supported by our own church members. This year those who were licensed in the first year of ALM (the year before us) had their authorisations renewed, so there was a great crowd of people there – new

ALMs, returning ALMs and all their friends and supporters. Next year (God willing) Dorothy, Ruth [Reid], Lilas and I will need to have our authorisations renewed – permission is given in three year chunks – and we would all want you to continue praying for all five of us and the work God has called us to do: Dorothy in music, Lilas and Ruth R. in pastoral care, Liz in social awareness and me in administration.

Liz mentioned the beautiful music during the presentation of certificates. You will be able to enjoy that music at The Good Shepherd as it is based on Ephesians 4 and it will be the choir anthem on November 8 (when we reach that chapter of Ephesians). It is a lovely Iona song entitled *One is the body*, appropriately reminding us that we are all called to be part of the body of Christ but that we all have different gifts and different jobs to do.

Ruth Banger



ALM programme

A new ALM programme will begin in September 2010. The programme offers training in seven specialist ministries – Administration; Children’s Ministry; Evangelism; Music Ministry; Pastoral Care; Worship Leading and Youth Ministry. These modules are set in a wider programme running on five Saturdays throughout the year. New publicity material and application forms will be available for January 2010.

For further information please contact –The Revd Christine Worsley – 01353 652733
christine.worsley@ely.anglican.org

There are five of us at The Good Shepherd who are Authorised Lay Ministers – Dorothy (Music), Lilas and Ruth [Reid] (Pastoral Care), Liz (Social Awareness) and Ruth [Banger] (Administration). If you are thinking this might be what God is calling you to do, have a word with any of us to see how the course works out in practical terms. Then, of course, discuss it with David.

All Good Gifts

On a lovely late September afternoon, with the first tints of autumn on the trees, the choir and other church members celebrated the season with a programme of words and music entitled *All Good Gifts*. The mood was established at the beginning with the choir leading the singing of *I give thanks* for which Tom had arranged new words which included giving thanks for ‘peas and beans/and new potatoes/apples and pears/melons and tomatoes.’ This theme was later taken up with musical items such as Rhodri’s rendering of *What a wonderful world* and Jinty singing Copland’s *Simple Gifts*, while Liz invited us to enjoy ‘cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green’ as well as a host of other vegetables. Ruth sang about the gift of other people in Joyce Grenfell’s *I’m going to see you today* and Gill reminded us that Donald Swann was not inseparable from Michael Flanders with his song *The fruit of the tree*.

A range of readings also celebrated the season. Henry read his own poem *Fresh Delights* in which he meditated on the changing appreciation of nature which comes with maturity, and Hal Summers’ poem *Leaves in the Yard* painted a delightful picture of autumn leaves playing hide and seek with each other. A diary entry from the Victorian country clergyman, Francis Kilvert, told how a report of the village harvest festival in the Hereford Times amusingly referred to the *widows* in the church being decorated with designs in moss and dazzling flowers!

It was interesting to hear *Teach me how to pray* which had been requested by Dave Wilson, who had heard it years ago. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to hear all of it, as some members of the choir would have had to sing two parts at once! William Mathias is always worth listening to, and his version of *The Lord’s Prayer* was no exception. We celebrated God’s goodness by singing the hymn *O God beyond all praising* and appropriately ended the afternoon with the choir singing *The Long Day Closes* after which, in the best Good Shepherd tradition, there was a scrumptious bring and share tea.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and thanks are due to everyone who contributed to the organization and performance of the programme and to the provision of the splendid refreshments afterwards. Special thanks to Dorothy who accompanied throughout and directed the choir. A retiring collection was held in aid of research into Alzheimer’s disease, specifically for the art class of the Ely and Cambridge branch of the Alzheimer’s Society as they meet in the Good Shepherd Hall each week. We raised £135 at the concert and a further £40 the following day at coffee.

Rex Collinson

[Rex was too modest to mention that we also thoroughly enjoyed his reading of one of his own poems, *Now is the time of gathering*]

Editor



So, what are the churches doing about climate change?

“Will the church become a foretaste of a new way of being in the world in which we become increasingly aware that loving our neighbour today involves a care for the Creation, and care for vulnerable communities of those least able to adapt to the economic and environmental changes that are occurring?”

(Richard Chartres, Bishop of London in a recent sermon at St. Paul's)

Last month's article from USPG about Pacific Islanders preparing to evacuate as sea-levels rise was a timely reminder that the consequences of global warming for many means loss of homes, livelihood and even life. In contrast, we in the developed world are threatened only by a rising tide of information, theories, predictions and advice about environmental issues that often can induce despair or disbelief rather than action and hope. Perhaps rather provocatively, the delegate in the article called on the churches in Britain and Ireland to tell developing countries what they are doing to tackle climate change. So I decided to look at what the churches and Christians are doing nationally, and see whether there would be any good news to report to those islanders, and any inspiration for ourselves.

There is certainly no shortage of information provided by faith organisations about evidence for climate change, theological reflections and practical advice on how we might 'go green'. Below, I've listed some of the best that are on the web, with their particular emphases.

One example is 'Greening the Spires', part of the Church of England's 'Shrinking the Footprint' campaign looking at how to achieve a 20% decrease in CO₂ emissions by using renewable energy projects. Detailed cost-benefit analyses have been drawn up by energy consultants for installing different kinds of renewable energy technology, using 30 churches from a variety of locations as case studies. It looks at how suitable, how effective, and how expensive each project would be, and what long-term savings would occur in terms of CO₂ emissions. This might be a valuable resource as we think about replacing the church boiler, for example.

But are any churches actually doing these things?

Well, there have been some spectacular initiatives. St. James, Piccadilly installed solar panels on their historic church roof in 2005; amazingly, having received two grants for this, it only cost £7,000 and reduces their electricity bills by £340 a year. They say "The reduction of 1.8 tons in CO₂ emissions per year, and our ability to use the system for educational purposes, are the bonus that makes it worth doing."

This kind of project should only be considered, however, after energy efficiency improvements, such as improved insulation, have been implemented because these can reduce CO₂ emissions with a much smaller investment. We have already started doing this at COGS as I'm sure, have most churches. We have had the church hall insulated and double-glazed and most of our lightbulbs are now low-energy ones.. We have also agreed in principle to change to a green electricity supplier, though in practice this is thwarted by red-tape.

It can be costly making changes, yet an interesting perspective that I read was to view the costs as part of overseas giving (as the effects of global warming due to carbon emissions

will most affect the poorest countries in tropical and arid regions). The same idea could be applied to the increased cost of buying Fairtrade goods.

What about some less expensive initiatives?

The Christian conservation group, A Rocha, has developed 'Eco-congregation', a programme for churches to help them take spiritual and practical steps to care for God's creation. It covers all areas of church life, some obvious like churchyard conservation, and maintaining the church building in a sustainable way, others less so like greening church spending, community mission and children's work. Churches who take part develop their own programme of action, appropriate to the congregation's interests, needs and those of the community in which they're based. It's about encouraging an outlook of celebration and care for the environment throughout all aspects of church life.

So far 145 churches in England and Wales have become 'Eco-congregations', however there are none in Cambridge, or even Ely diocese. Could we maybe lead the way locally?

Are Christians doing anything else?

A lot of people are praying! Christian environmental websites are gearing up for the Copenhagen summit, with calls to pray for world leaders "to commit to a fair climate change deal so that all God's creation can flourish" as Operation Noah's website puts it. Many churches joined in a climate day of prayer on October 4th. As we were celebrating harvest I'm sure we joined in too in our own way.

Prayer is also being combined with political lobbying. On Dec. 5th, there will be a "Wave" of blue-clothed people who will surround the Houses of Parliament; Christian environmental organisations like Operation Noah and A Rocha and relief agencies like Christian Aid, Tear Fund are encouraging Christians to go too, to show the church's commitment and to give the government a mandate for taking tough action in Copenhagen. "We need to tell Prime Minister Gordon Brown that now is the time for climate justice" says Christian Aid. Maybe if we can't get to this, we could still be a part of it as a church by signing Christian Aid's petition to Gordon Brown, which I can print out for us.

Encouragement and celebration

There is also a huge amount of encouragement and celebration going on. In an inspiring sermon on human responsibility and the environment, Archbishop Rowan Williams said "Our care for the world we inhabit is not simply a duty laid upon us but a dimension of life made whole" and talks about this being a creative engagement that brings us joy. God's first command in the garden of Eden was to be good stewards of the earth and it's our calling and our privilege too. Surely as Christians we have more reason than most to seek a lifestyle that cherishes the whole of creation and all people.

Those of us who are concerned about the environment, or want to find out more can encourage each other in this. As a community we have a lot of energy, ideas and enthusiasm that we could share. We could share vegetable seeds, develop a library of books about the environment for example, maybe give practical help with insulating our houses. The member of the congregation with solar panels sitting in his garage (can you guess who?) could be given some help getting them on his roof - and maybe he can report back on how they are working. I'm sure everybody has their own experience and talents that we can draw upon; as a community we have started making changes but I wonder if

there is a desire to do more. Speaking for myself, I don't feel I could tell one of those Pacific Islanders I have really given it my best effort yet and I know a little encouragement and sharing of the frustrations and successes involved would go a long way.

Weathering the storm

I was very encouraged by listening to Dame Ellen McArthur on Desert Island Discs recently. After her experiences sailing around the world single-handedly she came to a new appreciation of the need to live within the limits of the world's resources. She has now given up chasing world records for sailing and has made tackling climate change a priority. She said, "When faced with a storm at sea I always tried to see through to the other side, and I see this challenge no differently. I firmly believe that we can find the solutions — it will not be the first time that the human race has achieved the impossible through sheer necessity and determination."

We too can dare to believe that with God's grace, we can make a difference, not in a spirit of self-denial, but affirming a better way of living, playing our part in celebrating the goodness of creation and using all our gifts to care for it too.

I thought one way of reminding ourselves of the issues would be to watch '*An Inconvenient Truth*' the film that sets out the facts about global warming in an accessible way and won Al Gore a Nobel Prize. Liz Collinson, in her new role as social responsibility guru will be helping me in running a bring and share tea where we will show the film, have tea, then we could share our thoughts, even our scepticism. **We will be doing this on Sunday 8th November at 3pm in the church hall on a large screen.** If you want to just come for the tea, come along at 4.30pm and if you would like to borrow the DVD to watch at home beforehand, please ask me and I can lend it to you.

Websites mentioned

The John Ray Initiative <http://www.jri.org.uk/> good papers on environmental theology, biodiversity, GM crops etc.

The Faraday Institute <http://www.faraday-institute.org> look in multimedia section under 'environment'. Scientific, yet accessible talks on climate change by Sir John Houghton and others.

A Rocha www.arocha.org a brilliant website to explore with lifestyle tips, eco-congregation, links to carbon off-setting, and lots more.

Shrinking the footprint

<http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org/climchange.php>

If you would like a copy of the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon, please ask and I will make you one.

Clare Redfern



OSWALD'S LEGACY?

(November 22nd 1963)

When Kennedy was still alive
He seemed a breeze of fresh approach
To nation tired of those who served
Themselves instead of common good.
When gunman's bullet cut him down
The world was rocked by wave of
shock.
But since, we've learned his image
masked
A money hungry realm of spin,
Intrigue, and frequent sex with girls
Procured to ease his pain. We learned
How dad had coached him as the means
To live a youthful dream of own.
It's worse than Abraham when called
To sacrifice his son. In place
Of voice of God, a naked greed
For power enthralled them both until

Assassin's gun destroyed the mask:
But guaranteed the myth persists.
The superman that never was
Now lives in legend shorn of flaws.
But still, despite the Bay of Pigs,
His thirst for justice sprang from heart.
The cause of civil rights he grasped,
Despite he knew the dinosaurs
Would wish him overthrown or worse.
His death perhaps had eased the way
For Lyndon J. to push reforms:
That time allowed Obama's move
To Oval Office, crowning hopes
And wildest dreams of 'superman'.

Henry Disney



Prayer for Copenhagen

Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful. Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change. In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth. May we follow your leading in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made, and love.

We pray for world leaders to agree a new, just and radical treaty in Copenhagen that will protect our fragile world for future generations.

Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven. **Amen**

Oh dear!

From *Bristol Evening Post* earlier this year.

Outside Bristol Zoo is a car park with spaces for 150 cars and 8 coaches. It has been manned 7 days a week for 23 years by the same charming and very polite car park attendant with a ticket machine. The charges are £1 per car and £5 per coach.

On Monday 1st June he did not turn up for work. Bristol Zoo management phoned Bristol City Council to ask them to send a replacement parking attendant. The Council said “That car park is your responsibility”. The Zoo said “The attendant was employed by the City Council ... wasn’t he?” The Council said “What attendant?”

Gone missing from his home is a man who has been taking daily car park fees amounting to about £400 per day for the last 23 years!

Supplied by *Bill Elsey*



Christmas messages

If you have decided to take advantage of the offer of putting a free Christmas message in the Newsletter and then contributing the money you would have spent on cards to a charity of your choice, now is the time to get writing!

Send your Christmas messages to me by phone (01223 234409), by e-mail (ruthbanger51@gmail.com), or post (1 Henry Morris Road, Impington, Cambridge CB24 9YG), or leave it in my place in the choir stalls in church.

My money this year is going to Jimmy’s. If you want me to send your “Christmas card money” together with mine to Jimmy’s, I’m happy to do that. If you want to send it to another charity of your choice, that’s fine too. If you let me know your charity of choice I’ll publicise it in the Newsletter.

The important thing is that I get the messages in time! Any time from now on is fine but definitely by **November 15**.

Ruth Banger



I've been coming here on Sundays
(supplied by my Mum)

I've been coming here on Sundays for seventy year or so.
'Twas here that I was Christened and 'tis here I'll want to go.

Now I know you all gets vexed about changes in belief.
Well frills on top don't matter of you're comfy underneath.
I never lets it bother if I'm High or Low or what,
While I've got me Ten Commandments
I shan't go wrong a lot.

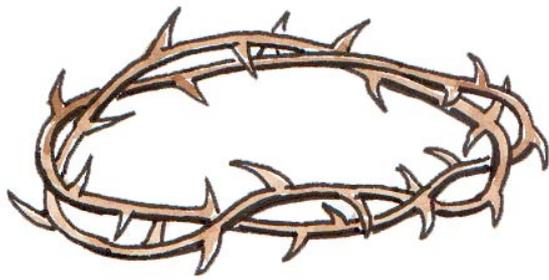
Now, I likes old-fashioned prayer book
And they like A.S.B.,
And they can have what pleases then,
And I'll read what suits me,
And half the hymns we sing these days
I've never heard before,
But I can stand and listen, and perhaps I'll learn some more.

All these guitars and instruments –
It's no more than they had
Afore they put the organ in,
When my Granddad was a lad,
And I don't suppose God'll worry
He wouldn't make a fuss,
As long as all the singing's meant for him and not for us.

We've had clergy coming straight from college,
Full of summat new,
From incense on the altar to posters in the pew.
And I lets 'em all get on with it, 'cos all these fashions pass,
And you'll still do the flowers, me dears,
And I'll still clean the brass.

I got this seat I always have, no draughts and nice and near,
So I can hear the organ and see the vicar clear,
And I tells God what's been happening,
And what a week I've had,
And I thanks Him for the good times,
And he helps me through the bad,
'Cos all that really matters, as far as I can see,
Is that I, down here, remembers Him,
And He remembers me.





O Divine Love, conceal yourself,
 leap over our suffering,
 make us obedient!
 Arouse and confuse us,
 shatter all our illusions and plans
 so that we lose our way
 and see neither path nor light
 until we have found you.
Jean-Pierre de Caussade

Kyrie

Because we cannot be clever and honest
 and are inventors of things more intricate
 than the snowflake – Lord, have mercy.
 Because we are full of pride
 in our humility, and because we believe
 in our disbelief – Lord, have mercy.
 Because we will protect ourselves
 from ourselves to the point
 of destroying ourselves – Lord, have mercy.
 And because on the slope to perfection,
 when we should be half-way up,
 we are half-way down – Lord, have mercy.

R.S. Thomas



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

September 13 Mya Louise Elizabeth Foreman
 Michelle Elizabeth Gates

October 11 James Ian Bordoni

Holy Matrimony

October 10 Joe Giorgio Bordoni and Caroline Anne Bordoni
 (née Sadler)

A Prayer for All Souls' Day

Be thou, triune God, in the midst of us as we give thanks for those who have gone from the sight of our earthly eyes. They, in thy nearer presence, still worship with us in the mystery of the new family in heaven and on earth... If it be thy holy will, tell them how much we love them, and how we miss them, and how we long for the day when we shall meet with them again... Strengthen us to go on in loving service of all thy children. Thus shall we have communion with thee, and, in thee, with our beloved ones. Thus shall we come to know within ourselves that there is no death and that only a veil divides, thin as gossamer.

George MacLeod **Listening for the heartbeat of God**

IN THE CHURCH HALL

THE MONDAY CLUB Monday 2.30 - 4pm	Eva Hutson	574070
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	The Manager	884031
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 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm	Alan Leader	563233
CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
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 phone 352151 (evenings)

**Submission date for
December Newsletter:
November 15
(Publication date November 29)**



Church Office 01223 312933

Church Hall bookings
(evenings) 01223 352151

Newsletter Ruth Banger 01223 234409 *OR*
ruthbanger51@gmail.com

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Here at the Good Shepherd we like to help you to celebrate and commemorate many of the milestones on the journey through life; these include weddings, anniversaries, funerals, and baptism services.

If you wish to find out more about these, the first step is to contact the Vicar, the Reverend David Maher. He will be able to tell you what is involved and arrange for a meeting with you if you then wish to take things further.

He can be contacted on 01223 351844

Church website: www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk

