

When Zoë was five years she came home from school and said to me, 'Someone said something really horrible in the prayers in school today.' 'Really' I replied 'What was that?' 'They said thank you God that Jesus died on Good Friday – that's not very nice is it? Thanking God that someone died, why would you do that, dad?' Resisting the urge to send her to her mum, I carefully explained what Good Friday was all about and why we call it 'good'. She listened and then responded 'Well, I don't think anyone dying is ever good' and then dashed off to climb a tree.

We all experience loss, grief and failure in different measures at different times of our lives, and Zoë is right, it never seems good.

But it is what we do with that experience, the way that we choose to face it - or not - that determines if any good can come of it. That determines who we become. Do we face it, or run away, do we wallow and see no point of recovery?

For those of us who know the Easter story to be true, in any and every situation there is hope, there is grace, and there can be gratitude. If it were not true, we may as well close the church.

Good Friday is our opportunity to sit with loss, and to consider its effects on us. We read again the story of that terrible day and we place ourselves in the shoes of the disciples, for whom it had all gone horribly wrong. This wasn't what they had planned, things weren't meant to end like this, with their beloved teacher and friend hanging on a cross, dying the death of a criminal. This wasn't what they thought they were getting into. Their hopes are dashed, their friendships

with each other are crumbling, there is betrayal, death, pain, darkness and the most terrible loss.

We know the end of the story – we know what awaits us on Easter Sunday morning, and the temptation to go straight there is overwhelming.

But how much greater is our joy, how much deeper is our gratitude, how much stronger and more resilient is our faith in the risen Christ, when we have first faced the bleakness and despair, the pain and loss, of the cross. We can survive the darkness, because we know there is light and life just around the corner. We need to stay here in the darkness, because it is here that we learn that is in fact God who is in control of all things, not us.

The good news of Easter – the good news even of Good Friday, is that though we cannot always prevent loss and failure from being a part of our lives, there is a source of constant hope, of grace, of light and of love in the midst of it all. Jesus' death on the cross is the supreme act of the God who loves us, who longs us to walk with him, in his strength and his power, day by day – whether it is a day of pain or of joy. Jesus death is not the end – it is only the beginning.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*David Maher*



## *PARISH DIRECTORY*

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Curate	Rev. Anthony Lees-Smith	425338
Honorary Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Reader	Linda Dean	328658
Churchwarden	Henry Disney	359396
Churchwarden	Terry Barringer	424584
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	351844
PCC Vice Chairman	Henry Disney	359396
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	234409
PCC Treasurer	Ginni Carroll	01954 212993
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	354300
Administrator	Ruth Banger	234409
Altar Linen	Finsetta Cummings	352757
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Bass	363156
Book of Remembrance	Horace Giles	359001
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	357622
Chantry Book		
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	Ruth Banger	234409
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Church Heating	Horace Giles	359001
Coffee Makers	Gill Ambrose	858994
Coffee & Rolls	Fiona Blows	329822
Director of Music	Dorothy Holliday	234409
Flower Arrangers	Iris Brown	565956
Flower Arrangers	Jeanne Elsey	357622
Friends of Etterbeek	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Eva Hutson	574070
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Evelyn Walker	364067
Good Shepherd Players	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Good Shepherd Players	Ruth Banger	234409
House Group	Terry Barringer	424584
Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Ann Callar	357694
Lesson Readers	Lilas Davison	354300
Monday Club	Eva Hutson	574070
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
North Cambridge Council of Churches	Michael Lovell	328521
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
Sacristan	Harry Rose	01954 211553
Servers	Bill Elsey	357622
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Terry Barringer	424584
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Henry Disney	359396
Social Events Co-ordinator	Evelyn Walker	364067
Sound System	John Lamont	565559

## READINGS FOR APRIL

### Sundays and holy days

- 4 EASTER DAY  
Acts 10: 34-43  
Luke 24: 1-12
- 11 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Acts 5: 27-32  
John 20: 19-31
- 18 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Acts 9: 1-6  
John 21: 1-19
- 25 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Acts 9: 36-43  
John 10: 22-30

### Wednesdays

- 14 Acts 5: 17-26  
John 3: 16-21
- 21 Acts 8: 1-8  
John 6: 35-40
- 28 Acts 12: 24 – 13: 5  
John 12: 44 - end



## MEETINGS IN APRIL

- Monday April 12** Standing Committee meets at the Vicarage at 9.30am
- Sunday April 18** Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church at 11.15am



## REGULAR SERVICES IN APRIL

- 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

## CHURCH CLOSURE

The Church will be closed between April 5 and April 10 (inclusive)

## SPECIAL SERVICES IN APRIL

- Maundy Thursday (April 1)** at 7.30pm Holy Communion
- Good Friday (April 2)** at 11am at the Community Centre Joint Service of Witness in Arbury
- Good Friday (April 2)** at 1.30pm *The Passion with Mark*. A service of meditation and hymns
- Easter Day (April 4)** at 6am Easter vigil

## EVENTS IN APRIL

- Sunday April 4** 8.30 – 9.45 Big breakfast in Church. All welcome.
- Sunday April 4** at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall.
- Saturday April 10** at 4pm in Church 60/80 Party (see page 17)
- Sunday April 25** at 8pm Social Evening in the Carlton Arms

## Seven Words

Beneath the Cross, hear  
love's last costly first words  
of a new language.

First Word: Father, forgive them for they don't know what they're doing  
Saviour or victim?

He answers this question with  
self-emptying love.

Second Word: Today you will be with me in Paradise  
Promise of heaven  
to the most improbable,  
perhaps even me?

Third Word: Woman, behold your son  
A reciprocal  
handing-over, inviting  
intimate embrace.

Fourth Word: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Abandoned, are we  
victims or survivors of  
a divine silence?

Fifth Word: I am thirsty  
Gasping for water,  
becoming a wellspring to  
quench the soul's desert.

Sixth Word: It is finished  
What is accomplished  
by a young life extinguished?  
Can this mend the world?

Seventh Word: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit  
A letting go turns  
bystander to follower,  
victim to victor.

Epilogue  
Darkened skies eclipse:  
a crucified world longing  
for an Eastering.

Chris Chivers *Good Friday haiku*



## **‘The Age of Stupid’**

On 31<sup>st</sup> January, a group of us gathered in the church to watch a film, “The Age of Stupid” about a world devastated by global warming. What we didn’t realize was that a film critic was there too, and he kindly wrote us this review:

After watching this film about global warming, a few things sprang to mind, which I am sure others felt too. First was the gripping way the DVD was made. Second the idiotic way I had done things which I now regret, things like leaving the lights on all the time. Third, the unfortunate reality of what could happen if we do not act now. This film is truly powerful in many ways. One reason is that it looks back from the year 2055 from the point of view of a man who has one important question: Why didn’t we try harder to stop global warming when we had the chance?

It looks at events that have happened in recent years, like Hurricane Katrina (hitting New Orleans) and unusual floods that have taken place in Britain. Some of the most disturbing things that were shown in the video and were talked about were the wars over oil, although it was calming to know that some people are hoping to balance out the amount of it between countries and then reduce severely how much we use. Another thing that makes it stand out as a good film is how it makes us look through other people’s eyes at so many sad and stupid ways of life and this made us think hard.

When the film had finished most of us sat down and talked about what had been shown, but then we heard the tea had been made in the church office. A few minutes of talking and eating cake in groups was allowed then we all joined one circle and had a serious discussion. All of the people there agreed on one thing: to do something about it.

The film had shown us that there are problems though in convincing people about this. In one case a very eco-friendly man was wishing to build wind turbines on a field in Bedfordshire, which was very understandable. Even with the evidence he gave, the locals said “NO” because they thought it would ruin their view. They won the vote 10-1. We talked about fixing solar panels onto the roof of the church building to provide electricity. The big challenge to this was packed under a question, could 13 people convince a whole church that this is the right thing to do?

Another negative thing was put into this film. An Indian man believed that his purpose was to help others and that way he built a plane company. People in general need to prove to him that taking plane journeys will ruin your carbon footprint and actually do the opposite to helping others. We can do something about it - everyone can.

*Written by professional movie critic Richard Redfern*





### **St David's Day 2010**

When I was asked if I could write a small piece to cover the event this year, I have to admit that the muse had definitely left me in the lurch. How can anyone compose an account that sounds fresh and entertaining to cover such an occasion? After all, it's been running now for 17 years and following the same tried and tested formula with hardly any changes. Then I found myself thinking, "It's become a tradition and I'm part of it!" That's a humbling thought when you get right down to it. It means that, although Ruby and I have been making, like many of the others, the annual pilgrimage to the Collinsons' home for several years now, this celebration of St David's Day will still be occurring long after we've all gone. In fact it's been celebrated for hundreds of years before any of us were born and will continue long into the future and our little get-together is one of many all over the world.

We have to realise that, in the here and now, we are just a small link in the chain of time that marches on and on into the future.

OK, serious bit over – we had a great time as usual. This time we had to sing the [Welsh] National Anthem three times to make sure the late arrivals couldn't say they'd been left out. One or two of the regulars were noticeable by their absence due to ill-health and were missed, especially Jeanette, who I can imagine in a shawl and a stove-pipe hat (Think about it, she's a natural Welsh lady). We did have the company of Hazel and Wendy, representing the Management and they seemed somewhat bewildered by the goings-on at first. They soon got into the swing of things, though, and I think they were particularly appreciative of the part of the programme that said "Supper". I'm sure they both went back to David and Anthony saying that it was a really boring evening, but someone has to go, so we'll do it again next year! All too soon we had finished with a rousing rendition of "Cwm Rhondda" and dispersed into the night, with a chorus of "Nos Da" vowing to return for Number 18 next year.

*Geoff Leyshon*



## The Mayonnaise Jar

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough; remember the mayonnaise jar and two cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and started to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured it into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - God, family, children, health, friends, and favourite passions. Things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the things that matter like your job, house, and car. The sand is everything else -- The small stuff.' 'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.'

**So...**

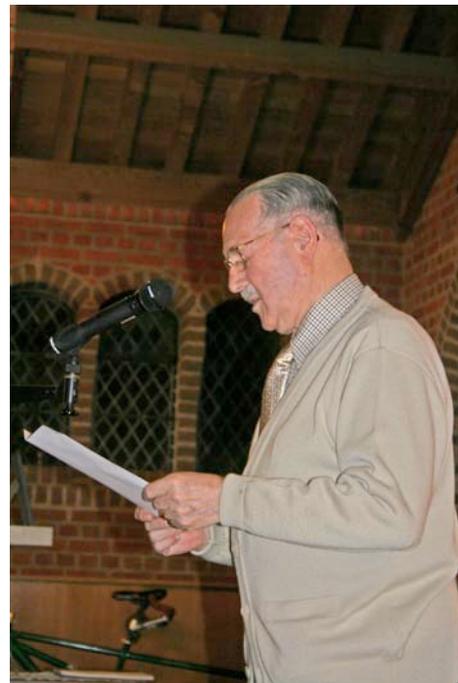
'Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the dripping tap.

Take care of the golf balls first -- the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked'. 'It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

*Thanks to Bill Elsey for this*







Many thanks to Tom Ambrose for these excellent pictures from our Shrove Tuesday Fish and Chip Supper

**“We thank you, Lord, with joyful lips, for our Shrove Tuesday fish and chips!”**

What a great time we had in church on Shrove Tuesday! It was amazing to see the church so full! The meal itself was as delicious as usual and all the better for being eaten in such congenial company.

After the meal came the entertainment. As it was so close to St Valentine’s Day, the theme was ‘love’. The items were very varied, including a beautiful Gaelic folk song sung by Jinty, a Welsh lullaby, an account of the effects of “Love Potion Number Nine”, the trials of being in love with the weather lady, the true tokens of love - a set of tadpoles and a plastic My Little Pony on a key ring - and the difficulties of “shall I phone him or wait for him to phone me?”

Also we were reminded by Rhodri to be content with what we have and then there was Ruth’s knotty problem of how to persuade a physician to be interested in you and not just your ailments! Tom, complete with tandem, persuaded us all to join in with “Daisy, Daisy” and we were reminded of the fickleness of feline love. Of course, the highlight of the evening was Dave and Anthony’s rendition of “I’d do anything for you” – although it wasn’t quite clear who had finally agreed to get the drinks in!

Many thanks to all who helped with the evening in any way. It was such a happy occasion. May there be many more!

*Liz Collinson*

This article was passed to me by Harold Lambert who had found it in the *Stornaway Gazette* of February 4 this year. He had found it interesting and thought provoking and thought others would do so too. It is reproduced with the kind permission of the author, the Revd. Dr. Iain Campbell.

### **Marriage Matters**

I have been reflecting on the similarities between Captain John Terry of England, and King Solomon of Israel. Not that I ever expected to mention these two names in one sentence, but last Saturday's newspaper changed that. There is a good deal happening in the world at the moment, between earthquakes in Haiti, wars in Afghanistan and a public enquiry into Iraq. Yet last Saturday's Daily Mail ran with the front cover headline: 'England Captain's Affair with Team Mate's Girlfriend'.

I am no sportsman, and no reader of newspaper sports pages. But I am intrigued that the single most important thing the country needed to know about as last week drew to a close was that, following a court ruling, John Terry, captain of the England football team, husband of a childhood sweetheart and father of three-year old twins, has had an affair with the girlfriend of one of his fellow players.

Leaving aside the history of philandering and seediness that is apparently part of Mr. Terry's personal story, I am interested in the reason why our society still finds this behaviour worthy of a front page headline. Does our nation have a moral conscience after all?

There has been a dramatic shift in public morality over the last two generations. The seeds sown in the wild sixties, when traditional family life and relationships were challenged, then jettisoned, have borne fruit, and we have accepted a raft of alternative lifestyles. Single parenthood no longer shocks; gay marriage is openly encouraged and legitimized, divorce is now a cause for celebration.

Yet amid all of this, we have a residual feeling that when two people marry, there should be fidelity and self-control. We still believe, deep down somewhere, that marriage takes a relationship to a new dimension, modifying and controlling it, so that within a bond formalized by vows and promises, love will grow.

In the case of John Terry, the shock factor is not merely in the public knowledge of his adulterous affair, but in the fact that he violated a relationship within the team. There is an old boys' network everywhere; it would have been bad enough had he cheated on Mrs. Terry, but to have done it within the sacred circle of trust among team members is apparently a double sin.

In spite of the sleaze of the story, I found myself strangely encouraged that such a tale still has the power to shock. We have been deluded into thinking that personal morality has no bearing on public life, that personal behaviour is an entirely private matter, and that it has no detrimental effect on public office or service.

Yet on this occasion, Mr Terry's right to retain the captaincy of the England squad is being questioned, with accusations that he has besmirched his team, disgraced his country and crossed a line. His commitment to his wife and his commitment to the team have been publicly violated, and the nation, apparently, is up in arms.

I read this article as I was preparing a Sunday sermon on the closing years of Solomon's reign. One of the best kings Israel ever had, Solomon's had been a productive and peaceful reign. But in his senior years he threw all caution to the wind, and became a serial

philanderer himself. According to the biblical record, he had affairs and marriages with one thousand women. It puts the England captain's immorality in the shade.

For Solomon, the consequences of his private behaviour were huge. The peace and stability of his kingdom were lost, and its unity was threatened. God, who had been good to him, was not to be mocked by him. He allowed enemies to threaten his borders, and promised that the united kingdom would be fragmented after his death.

All actions have consequences. If the Bible teaches anything, it teaches that there is no such thing as a small sin. In a fit of passion, of course, it is not easy to see the end from the beginning; but, like so many others before and after, Solomon discovered that it is far easier to rule a kingdom than to rule a heart. Just as it is easier to govern an international football squad than to keep lust at bay.

None of us of course can throw the first stone. The seeds of such destructive behaviour are in all of us, and our choices are not always good ones. We do not start from a position of absolute neutrality – as any parent of infants knows, it is not necessary to teach children to do the wrong thing.

And our public persona hides a multitude of such blemishes. How many of the tabloid writers who have

made a story out of this latest indignity are hiding their own personal scandals? Which of us does not have a skeleton of some sort in a closet somewhere?

Yet I keep coming back to the question of why, when we have tolerated so much variety of private behaviour in our society, the news of such adultery and such behaviour still has the power to shock? The answer does not lie in our national morality, which has long been demolished, but in our own personal make up. It belongs to our psyche that we instinctively know that some things are right and some things are wrong. That is not something society implanted in us, or some relic from our Victorian past, or some leftover of our Scottish Calvinism. That is something deeply human, a vestige of the Creator's imprint in our constitution. One thing evolution cannot explain is conscience.

When the behaviour of others shocks us to this extent, it is because we were created to be righteous. Righteous, not self-righteous. We all have our own sins of which to repent. We cannot pride ourselves that we have not done what others have done. But we can deal with the blemishes of our character, have God deal with them, and live for his glory. I suspect that Solomon, for all his serial adultery, found forgiveness with God. I hope John Terry does so too.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### Service of Thanksgiving

February 17  
Shepherd

Dorothy Mary Chapman at the Church of The Good

### How to save some money

First and second-class stamps will rise by 2p to 41p and 32p respectively on 6 April 2010. What you can do.... stock up on stamps now as they are inflation-proofed if they have just '1st' or '2nd' on them. Why not stock up for Christmas while you're at it?

## **An Easter thought**

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? I never noticed this....

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple out ran Peter and got there first. He stopped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely!

Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table.

The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm finished."

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because the folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back!" AND SO HE SHALL



*Thanks to Bill Elsey for this*

### **Corrie Yarrow – yet more!**

I was interested to read the article under "For all thy saints, O Lord" about Corrie Yarrow and her surviving relatives. The name leapt off the page for me as it is so unusual, and the reference to the family being from Dover seems to make it all the more likely that I know some members of the family. The reference to Corrie's musical aptitude also suggests the likelihood that she is related to Stephen Yarrow, who is Director of Music at Dover St Mary's and a leading local musician. I sang under his baton with the Pharos Ensemble, and we worked together on a number of projects. He is also the proprietor of a sheet music business called Forwoods Music. There is a little more about him at [www.forwoods.co.uk](http://www.forwoods.co.uk)

(This was sent to Dave M. by Stephen Bowring (Vicar of St. George's). Fact is quite definitely stranger than fiction, isn't it?)



### **The love of God comes close**

To recollect his presence is, from the first, light and peace. He comes not in reproach, not in rebuke for our constant absence and betrayal, but in joy that we are with him. I often think of the moment when he appeared in the upper room to the astonished disciples, huddled together in despair, the doors locked for fear, nothing in the past but the knowledge of their own failure, nothing in the future but the loss of him, like waking from a dream into a deserted world.

Suddenly he is with them, and his first words are not, "Where were you when I needed you? You have let me down!" His first words are "Shalom [that peace which enfolds heaven and earth and brings everything and everyone back into their right place] be with you." They can recognise that it is he and that the wounds are healed, and he has passed through death itself. His love is final after all.

Simon Barrington Ward *The Jesus Prayer*

## For Your Amusement



By the time Ted arrived at the football game, the first quarter was almost over. "Why are you so late?" his friend asked.

"I had to toss a coin to decide between going to church and coming to the game."

"How long could that have taken you?"

"Well, I had to toss it 14 times."

There was once an aspiring veterinarian who put himself through veterinary school working nights as a taxidermist.

Upon graduation, he decided he could combine his two vocations to better serve the needs of his patients and their owners, while doubling his practice and, therefore, his income.

He opened his own offices with a sign on the door saying, "Dr. Jones, Veterinary Medicine and Taxidermy -- Either way, you get your dog back!"

An artist asked the gallery owner if there had been any interest in his paintings on display at that time.

"I have good news and bad news," the owner replied. "The good news is that a gentleman inquired about your work and wondered if it would appreciate in value after your death."

"When I told him it would, he bought all 15 of your paintings."

"That's wonderful!" the artist exclaimed. "What's the bad news?"

"The guy was your doctor."

### **Is this something YOU could do?**

It's great that our congregation embraces people of all ages from babies in arms to older people who no longer find it easy to get about. For all of us contact with other people is really important and the Sunday Lunch Club on the first Sunday of each month gives our older members and Senior Citizens who are not Church members a chance to meet friends, chat and have a meal in good company. Getting to church so that they can do that presents some of them with a problem.

Could you help to transport someone to and/or from the Lunch Club on occasions? We are hoping for enough volunteers so that you would not be committed every month – those of us who already help with serving the food and washing up at the Lunch Club only come about three times a year

This is NOT a general appeal for weekly transport (sadly, we don't have the resources for that), this is a once a month "Can we get all those who want to come to Sunday Lunch Club in the Church Hall and home again" appeal!

Do think about this and pray about it too. Can you do this? If not, do pray that we find some people who can do it. Christ called us to love each other and this is practical love in action towards our older members.

If you can help, see Linda Dean. You will also need a CRB form from Ruth Banger if you have not already been checked.



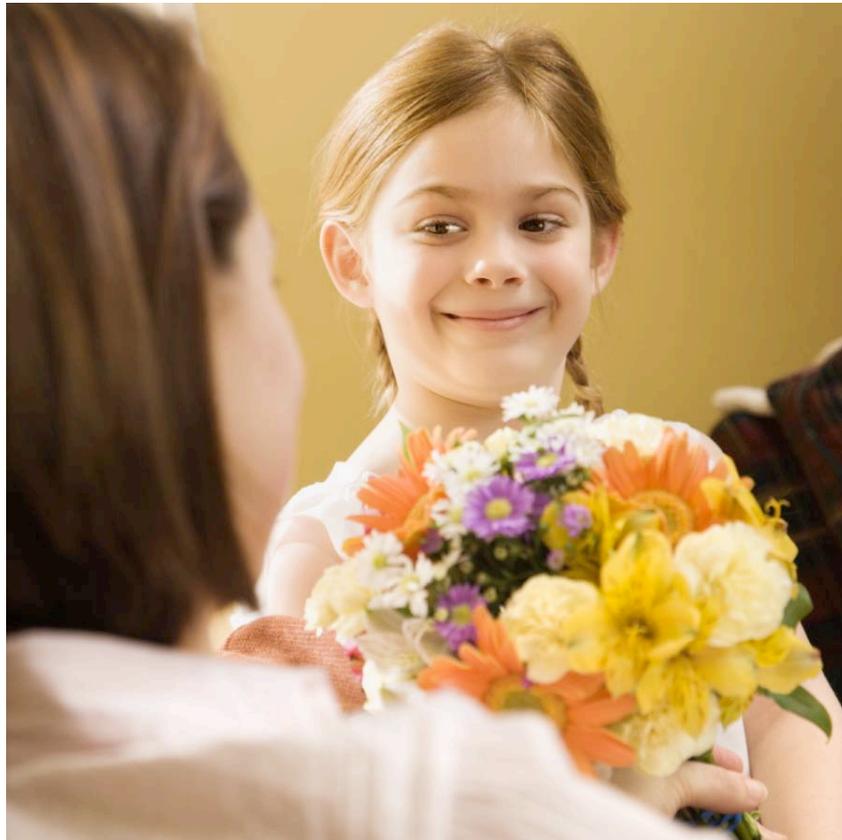
### **Jimmy's – an update**

Many of us are aware that Anne Callear who has been our faithful link with Jimmy's for a long time has been unwell recently. She is really sorry she has been unable to carry out her usual delivery duties but would like to record her gratitude to Tom Glover (a student who is currently with us). Tom has not only brought great comfort to Anne in his visits to her but has also temporarily taken over delivering our contributions to Jimmy's. This has been a great relief to Anne and a help to Jimmy's.

Anne would like us all to know how much Jimmy's staff value the contributions that come from the Good Shepherd. They arrive there with such regularity that they have come to rely on us for certain staples – what a compliment!

Anne hopes to be well enough to resume the deliveries to Jimmy's soon. If Jimmy's is a charity you have not previously considered supporting, what about making a small gift to them this Easter? There is a box for donations under the table in the south aisle.

*Ruth Banger*



### **Children's Work**

Do you feel called to children's work at the Good Shepherd?

Not sure? Well, here is a chance to test the water. During the summer term you are invited to come and join the fun over in the Church Hall on a Sunday morning. Our Sunday Club is growing fast and we need new leaders and helpers to join the team on a regular or occasional basis. If you think it might be for you, talk to John or Alison Phillips or one of the ministry team to arrange a taster session.

If you decide this is for you, you must be CRB checked – see Ruth Banger for a form.

## Thank God for Atheists?

Provoking gang of atheists  
Intent on preaching God is dead,  
Despite they only choose the facts  
To prop conclusions reached before  
The start, have gifted clearer view  
Of truths religions still retain.  
They've stripped away accreted trash  
Of past distortions, lack of sense  
When treating ancient texts that tell  
Us more about mistaken rules  
And strange beliefs derived from fears.  
Unless compassion shines from core  
We know a teaching's lost the plot.  
Unless compassion ousts our drives  
Derived from lowly beasts from which  
We came, we've failed to free  
ourselves  
From self regarding selfish ways.  
But why are anti God brigade  
So blind to source of fruits of grace,  
Derived from Holy Spirit's prompts,  
And knowledge God embraces all  
With love beyond the scope of men?  
Perhaps these sceptics' pruning knives  
Are welcomed by our Lord despite  
They still deny abundant signs  
That daily lives are changed when faith  
Transforms the way a person lives.  
If only reason's role, which they  
Commend, extended all the way  
To challenge dogma they espouse  
That God does not exist. But still  
His love embraces even them,  
As they will find when they have died.  
As they will find to their surprise!

*Henry Disney*

## Liz and Jeanette's 60/80 Party

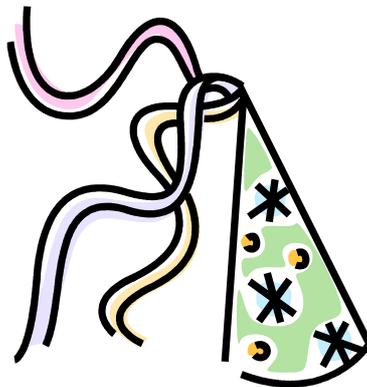
On Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm we  
are have a concert in church to  
celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup>  
birthdays respectively. Some of  
you may remember that we did  
this a decade ago! Where has  
the time gone?

Everyone is welcome! The  
concert will be fun and will last  
about an hour. After that there  
will be a "bring and share" tea, so  
if you could contribute some  
nibbles, that would be much  
appreciated.

It would be a lovely birthday  
present for us if we could raise  
some money for "Jessie's Fund"  
which is a charity providing music  
therapy for children. As you  
know, music is very close to our  
hearts! There will be a chance to  
contribute to this, if you wish.

We look forward to seeing you on  
April 10<sup>th</sup>!

*Liz Collinson and Jeanette Lee*



## **The problems of being deaf**

An article in last month's Newsletter on misheard lyrics questioned how the lyrics could have been misheard. Perhaps I can shed a little light on the problem.

In addition to the sound level, my difficulty is that the consonants have "disappeared" from words and hearing aids are not helpful with this aspect of deafness. The following are a few examples of my own "mishearings".

One wedding anniversary, over 20 years ago, Tom and I were lunching at a pub in Little Downham. Tom remarked, "There's an old Druid Palace in Little Downham". I looked at him incredulously, "What?" I asked. "Yes, the first bishops of Ely had their palace in Little Downham". The first bishops of Ely were Druids? Was Tom going mad I wondered. He looked at me uncomprehendingly, obviously he thought I was the one going mad. "I said an old RUINED palace, not a Druid palace."

On another occasion I was writing a shopping list and asked if there was anything he would like to add. "I'd like cider please." "Yes, anything else besides cider?" "I didn't say anything about cider, I said I'm tired of peas!"

I was having a conversation with a friend who was proudly telling me that his young granddaughter, a keen tennis player, had reached junior championship level for her county. I replied that one of my grandsons was enjoying learning to play tennis but was unlikely to ever attain junior championship class. My friend ceased speaking and after a momentary silence said "I'm not talking about tennis, I'm talking about chess. The arms of a little 8 year old girl aren't strong enough for that level of tennis."

Try saying the misheard words minus consonants and you will see how misunderstandings can occur.

Occasionally, however, deafness can become a joyous disability

One Friday morning about two or three years ago, it was the last day of a half term holiday, I was in the church when three little boys came in. Without preamble, the eldest of the three (he later told me he was nine) announced "We want to talk to God." Without more ado they trotted up to the chancel and leaning against the altar had their "talk to God". Having finished, they began to inspect the area behind the altar and finding there a convenient seat proceeded to make themselves at home, where I joined them.

After listening to their chatter for a short while I realised with increasing frustration that I could not follow their conversation. The high pitch of a child's voice makes understanding its speech particularly difficult. Feeling extremely annoyed with my inability to understand their questions (and it would have been useless to pretend that I could) I admitted that I was deaf.

There was a moment's pause, then the middle one of the two (I judged him to be about eight) looked at me very seriously and said "If you had a blind friend you could be her eyes and she could be your ears." It was a wonderful moment and I shall always treasure the memory of that Friday morning when three little boys entered the church, bringing such joy with them when they came to "talk to God".

*Monica Shipp*

[Thank you, Monica, for such a clear explanation of the problems of deafness – something most of us fail to understand]

## Where do pets come from?

A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?"

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you any more. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased.

And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal." And God said, "No problem. Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG.

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them. And they were comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well." And God said, "No problem! I will create for them a companion who will be with them forever and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.

*Thank you, Terry!*



# **HOLY WEEK 2010**

**at The Good Shepherd  
(near Budgens in Arbury Court)**

**Sunday March 28 (Palm Sunday) at 10am**  
Procession of palms and Holy Communion  
**and at 5pm**

Words and Music for Holy Week

**March 29 - March 31 at 9.30am**  
Holy Communion

**Thursday April 1 at 7.30pm**  
Maundy Thursday service of Holy  
Communion

**Friday April 2 (Good Friday) at 11am**  
Joint service of witness in Arbury  
(meet outside the Community Centre)  
**and at 1.30pm**  
Service of meditation for Good Friday

**Sunday April 4 (Easter Day)**  
**at 6am** Easter vigil  
**at 8am** said Holy Communion  
**8.30-9.45am** Shared breakfast  
**10am** All Age Easter Day Communion  
followed by Easter Egg hunt



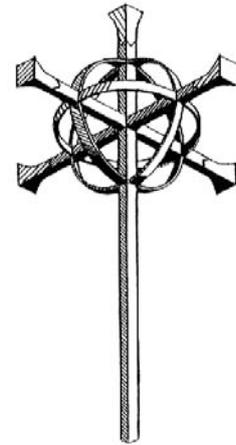
## IN THE CHURCH HALL

<b>THE MONDAY CLUB</b> Monday 2.30 - 4pm	Eva Hutson	574070
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD CUBS</b> Monday 6.30 - 8pm	Charles Brown	07720 441123
<b>LINE DANCING</b> Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45am	Mrs B Wright	426517
<b>KEEP FIT 50+ GROUP</b> Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm	Mrs V Ford	870711
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS</b> Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
<b>CARERS &amp; SUFFERERS OF DEMENTIA</b> Wednesday 10 – 12 noon	The Manager	884031
<b>THE 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES</b> Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
<b>THE CAMERA CLUB</b> Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm	C.N. Hall	350516
<b>GUILDHALL RETIRED MEMBERS CLUB</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2 - 4pm	Yvonne Wisbey	523549
<b>ROYAL BRITISH LEGION</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm March to November		
<b>T G W U</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month 2 – 4pm	John Drake	244030
<b>CAMBRIDGE INSTRUMENTS PENSION FELLOWSHIP</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 10am - noon	Mr Richard Luff	424027
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS</b> Thursday 6.15 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS</b> Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm	Alan Leader	563233
<b>CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB</b> Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
<b>TAI CHI</b> Friday 2 – 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
<b>THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month noon – 1.30pm	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559

**TO BOOK THE CHURCH HALL**

**Please phone 352151 (evenings)**

**Submission date for  
May Newsletter:  
April 11  
(Publication date April 25)**



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](http://www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk)

