

**We hope you will enjoy reading what went on in our church in 2011 – and enjoy looking at the cover pictures of us at worship and at play.**

**But that is all in the past! If you want to know what is happening at The Good Shepherd NOW and what is planned for the future, go to our webpage**

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

**and make sure you don't miss out.**

## Vicar's Report

Welcome to the annual report of the Church of the Good Shepherd. I would like to begin by thanking all those who help keep the work of the church going in whatever way. There are so many volunteers, some listed in the magazine, while others carry on doing the 'behind the scenes' work, all play an enormous part in continuing the mission of the church here in Arbury. Thank you so much for all that you have done, are doing and are going to do!! I am really grateful for your support and commitment. I am also really grateful for the support from the staff team. This consists of Anthony Lees-Smith (Assistant Curate), John Polkinghorne (Honorary Assistant Curate), Linda Dean (Reader), and Harry Rose (local retired priest). Terry Barringer, Rhodri James, Ruth Banger and Ginni Carroll have also been a brilliant (almost endless) source of patience, skill and wisdom as they serve on the standing committee, thank you again for all that you do in the church. Finally thank you to all the members of the PCC who have continued to be a really useful, supportive, challenging team as we seek to fulfill God's vision in this place.

It's been a busy year, as well as the usual full calendar we helped co-ordinate a community action day, hosted a mission team on behalf of Beyond Belief, started of a community choir for children, and a new housegroup for young mums. We've re-established the importance of praying for the parish beginning the month with a prayer meeting called 'First Call' as well as not forgetting that it's good to socialize, ending the month in the Carton Arms for 'Last Orders'. We've welcomed some more new faces and had to say goodbye to some faithful friends of the church who sadly have died. There has been some real joys and real sadness, and I know the love and support of the community continues to carry many and demonstrates God's love for us.

I do hope you enjoy reading the report, and together we can give thanks to God for all that he is doing in this parish. As you read it why not ask Him if there is anything he would like you to do in the church? If there is anything you would like to be involved in just let us know, the names of the coordinators of the tasks are in the front of the newsletter, or speak to one of the ministry team.

*David Maher*



## **Christian Aid 2011**

Last year we raised just under £850 from the street collection during Christian Aid week so many thanks for all who contributed their time, energy and money. It is unclear at this stage if Christian Aid collecting will go ahead in future from our church, as a new rep is still needed, so if anybody feels that this is something they would like to do, see Simon, Clare or Dave and we'll tell you more. It has been a very rewarding and enjoyable experience for Simon and me over the past 6 years; thanks for all your support.

*Clare and Simon Redfern (C. 740513)*



## **Church Flowers**

From January this year we have ceased to be responsible for the church flowers apart from managing the flower fund and organising the rota.

We are delighted that some members of the congregation are now on the new rota and there are nearly enough couples for a turn every two months, bearing in mind there are no flowers in Lent or Advent.

If anyone else would like to join us, please get in touch with Jeanne (C.357622) or with Iris (C.565956)

*Jeanne Elsey & Iris Brown*



## **Church Hall**

The hall has again been well used during 2011 and hosted many and varied activities each the week, from Puppy Training to Rainbows, not forgetting Line Dancing, Tai Chi and Toddler Groups. At present, there are still no spare time-slots to accommodate any further activities.

We are having problems finding a reliable cleaner, but hopefully this will be resolved shortly. The PCC have accepted a quotation for replacing the ceiling and work is scheduled to start in February 2012. Hopefully, when you read this, it will be available for some budding Michaelangelo to begin work!

*Ruby Leyshon*



## **Church Wardens' Report**

2011-12 has been a somewhat mixed year for the Church of the Good Shepherd, of shared joys and sorrows. We have welcomed new babies and new members into our common life but we mourn the deaths of too many faithful and well loved members of the congregation. Growth has been sustained in many areas of our church life: house groups and Lent talks, crèche and children's activities and teaching, church and community building on Orchard Park. Many of our pains are growing pains.

Practicalities of buildings and plant inevitably preoccupy us and progress in some areas has been frustratingly slow. However principles have been established with the PCC adoption of the energy audit and commitment to reducing our carbon footprint. The new hall ceiling is a source of satisfaction and we continue to work on the remodelling of the Office, the replacement of the boiler and a new sound system

A big thank you to everybody who gives their time and talents, prayers and money to contribute to the varied witness, service and activities of the Good Shepherd. Please don't think you are taken for granted. A special thank you to all our predecessors who are always graciously willing to give us their counsel and practical help.

We look forward to the ‘consultations’ in the Autumn which will give us an opportunity to take stock of where we are and how we want to move forward.

*Terry Barringer & Rhodri James*



## **Fund Raising**

Despite the continuing economic situation, we were far more successful in our fundraising efforts this year. Our Arbury Carnival stalls were well supported and we made lots of money on the cake stall because of the fantastic number of donations. This year’s Christmas Market was a great success and raised £200 more than last year. This great result is a tribute to the increased effort made by all of you, whatever role you play in the activities, be it helper, donor or customer. A big thank you to all!

*Ruby Leyshon*



## **Children and Young People at The Good Shepherd Godly Play**

Godly Play in the chapel has flourished for more than a year now and God has blessed us. In November Rebecca Nye from the Godly Play UK Trust ran a training day at the Good Shepherd. Among the sixteen or so participants were Hazel and Jane from the Good Shepherd, and our chapel and its materials proved to be an excellent demonstration of how a Godly Play space can be carved out of what is available in an ordinary, busy church. By the time you read this, there will also have been a full three-day course held in the church with participants from as far away as Zurich. One of the big challenges of keeping the programme going was the sheer energy required to move the furniture each Sunday morning. Those of us working with the children are hugely grateful to the people of the eight o’clock congregation for supporting us in this task, and moving the chairs each week

so that we can organise the room; and to the clergy for moving it back again on Monday mornings. Last, but not least, we should like to thank Colin Forbes who made us three perfect little oak books to replace those that were lost when our Books of the Bible shelves were in transit.

*Ginni Carroll and Gill Ambrose*

## **Good Shepherd Young People**

In the second half of this year we made one or two changes to the way our young people's groups are organised. Anthony now has the overall leadership and we have now more people involved in leading and helping with the weekly sessions in the hall. More helpers are still needed as we would like to balance the level of commitment to one or two sessions per term for everyone.

This year's journey included some theatrical explorations of the temptation of Jesus, the story of the Good Samaritan as well as the reading or the Epiphany poem modelled on "Going on a Bear Hunt". We enjoyed welcoming everyone into coffee as part of our study of Timothy. We had fun in our sessions looking at women in the bible which shadowed the sermon themes and the housegroup studies.

We have also run a communion course and had the joy of sharing a first communion with Paul, Julia, Thomas and Nathan.

We would also like to say thank you to Alison who, after many years of participation in children's groups, is now looking at other forms of service at the Good Shepherd.

*John Phillips*

## **Schools Work**

As a church we have regular contact with three primary schools in the parish. David is Chair of Governors at Arbury Primary School and also takes monthly assemblies at Kings Hedges Primary School. Anthony is a governor at Orchard Park Primary School and takes monthly assemblies there as well as running a Thinking Club. Many of the local primary schools visit the church during the year or David and Anthony go into school to assist with RE lessons. In the past year we have been less involved with The Manor School but we hope to resume regular assemblies in the near future.

*Anthony Lees-Smith*

## **Shout Aloud**

Shout Aloud is a new children's community choir based in Arbury. It is for all children aged 7-11 and includes children from many of the local primary schools. The choir rehearses every Tuesday during term-time and the children enjoy games and snacks as well as lots of singing. They have performed at a number of community events since they began last summer, including the Arbury Court Tree Lighting, Romsey Mill Winter Fair and Good Shepherd Advent service. Shout Aloud is a partner project with the Church Schools Trust, Romsey Mill and the Good Shepherd.

*Anthony Lees-Smith*

## **Toddler Group**

I run a toddler group on a Friday morning from 9.30-11.30. This group is for anyone who is caring for a child up to school age - be you a grandparent, a parent, a carer, or any other you are welcome to come and join us.

The Group is open term time. It is open to any age and we try to provide activities for all.

We provide lots of fun things for the children to do. Along with our toys including animals, bricks, books, cars, trains, and baby toys we also provide an art activity that can be anything from play-do, biscuit decorating to sticking and glue. We also try to cover all events of the year - Easter, Christmas but also things like Chinese New Year.

We provide tea and coffee for the carers but also drinks and biscuits for the children with a mix of fruit on and off during the year.

At around 11.00 we ask the children to help tidy up so we can get the ride along toys out - most children are very willing to help with this!!! We include a sing time session which the children really enjoy and they love to pick out their favourite songs!!

We also have a Christmas party and a few short services in the church to mark special occasions.

We are a fun group who love to see any new faces!!!

*Claire Duell*

## **Uniformed Organisations**

### **Beavers**

Last year we had 24-28 Beavers with a strong waiting list, the Colony currently has 16 Beavers, with 3 on the waiting list that are not old enough to join. Unfortunately we lost a very good Leader, leaving myself and an Assistant Leader. As there are only 2 of us 16 is a good number, and we still

had a full programme with a Sleepover every term and all the District Events. Looking forward hopefully the numbers will increase, but at the moment I don't want to build the Colony up until Leadership increases.

## **Cubs**

The Pack currently has 25 Cubs, 5 of whom are Moving On to Scouts very soon, I am expecting 2 Beavers to Move On in January, since last year I have been able to reduce the Pack size from 30 to the current level, my Assistant Leaders and I have found this much easier to manage especially in a room of this size. I am fortunate to have my Leadership Team of Martyn, CJ and David, I will, over the next few months be handing over some of the week to week maintenance and planning to them so as to assist them in their training. I have been appointing an older Cub as Senior Sixer and passing on a few duties on a Pack Night, this has been successful in finding a 'Little Leader' from within the Pack.

This Term we have been working towards the Creative Challenge, World Faith, and the Entertainers Badge, on the recent Night Hike there was also the opportunity to gain the Local Knowledge Award and add another Hike Away to their total. In October I took 10 of the older Cubs to St Ives for the Cubs County Challenge Day, activities included Compass Bearings, Fire Lighting and Cooking, Woodwork and Pioneering but to name a few, the day was made into an even longer adventure by travelling there and back on the Guided Bus, I plan to do this again next year.

Speaking of next year, I plan to use the Church Grounds a little more to play some Wide Games in the dark, we have spotlights available if needed, I also plan to use the dark to our advantage and get on with work towards the Astronomers Badge. As for Camps and sleepovers, I have received an invite from another Pack to join them on a Camp at Graffham Water, I am also looking at holding a Sleepover in an unusual location, wait and see.

## **Scouts**

We currently have 25 scouts in the troop, which is a good number and now seems to be the stable average for the troop membership size. This 25 is split into 5 patrols; Hawks, Lions, Wolves, Peewits and Bulldogs. A few of the scouts are due to move on to Explorer Scout Units very soon and we have good links with the 14<sup>th</sup> Cambridge where they run an Explorer Section. We have a steady feed of cubs moving up to the troop which replaces those that move on to Explorers.

We have 4 fully appointed leaders; Tom Boughton as SL with Asa French, Chris White and Hayley Fisher as ASLs. Jamie Seaward has been helping out as a Young Leaders for several terms and has now started the process of becoming an ASL with the troop now that he is old enough to do so.

CJ Finch has stopped helping at the troop but has continued to help at Cubs as a Sectional Assistant and Steve Mounsey has also ceased helping as an Occasional Helper due to work commitments. I, the other leaders and the scouts would like to thank CJ and Steve for their time helping out at the troop.

Events and camps the troop has taken part in over the last year have been:

- A night hike in March from Lode to 26th's HQ on Logan's Way. This was also a sleepover and was very well attended – approx half the troop participated in this.
- The troop entered a team of 3 into the district cooking competition in April and was overall winners. A very well done to them.
- In May Mepal County Scouts Challenge weekend was attended by 5 of the troop members. The team won no awards this year but did enjoy the weekend and all activities in which they competed. We hope to go again next year.
- Also in May 6 scouts attended the Survival Skills camp at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. The scouts (and leaders) all slept out in the open in hammocks, bivouacs or under shelters made from tarpaulins. The scouts learnt many survival skills such as how to collect water using plastic sheeting (carrier bags), how to use axes and saws, set a snare to catch rabbits and cook on open fires with no utensils other than their knives. All agreed this was a proper scouting skills experience. All in attendance had a very good camp.
- CamJam took place in August and was attended by 9 scouts. This was a large international camp over 7 nights held in Huntingdon, run by the Cambridgeshire County Scouts. There was a huge variety of activities organised both on and off site and the scouts that attended had an excellent experience.
- PLs and APLs camp saw the troop return to the Jarman Centre for a training weekend for the PLs and APLs in early October. The scouts were taught many different skills from Axe and Saw Training through to tent pitching and team building exercises.
- In mid October 6 scouts took part in the Peak Challenge hiking competition. This was a 2 day hike covering between 4 to 6

miles of rugged peak district terrain with activity/incident bases around the route. This was a good experience for all that took part.

The Troop along with the Pack and Colony has attended several Church Parades throughout this year as part of our sponsorship from the church. We've also taken part in Church fairs, the Arbury Carnival and the Orchard Park Family Fun Day. At all of these events we ran the pot-holing maze simulator as the activity along with a buzz wire.

Activities the troop has done this past year for our weekly meetings have been varied. Troop meetings have consisted of

- Scavenger Hunts
- Photo Presentations
- Wide Games, typically at Milton Country
- Cooking, including making Pancakes
- Scouts have assisted in preparing some of the games and equipment used for Arbury Carnival, Orchard Park Family Fun Day and Church Fairs.
- Axe & Saw training plus fire lighting skills.
- Air Rifles
- Pitch and Putt
- BBQ and Water Games (traditional for last night of summer term)
- Navigation Training, including map and compass skills and orienteering activities
- Survival Skills
- DIY
- Pioneering
- Silly Sports (Literal Olympics)
- Remembrance Based Evening in November

We are planning several camps for next year including Gilwell Winter Camp in the first weekend of January a week long summer camp. More camps will also take place and will be confirmed in due course. The troop plans to run activities at the Arbury Carnival, Orchard Park Family Fun Day and will also continue participate in church fairs and other such events.

## **Rainbows**

The Rainbow unit continues to go from strength to strength and is maintaining a very healthy 'waiting to join' list. We have welcomed two more adult leaders and so have a great staff of unpaid volunteers who are now running a fun-packed programme for the 15 members in the unit.

We have had a very busy year filled with lots of crafts and singing. We particularly enjoyed taking part in the Cambridgeshire East 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday challenge Badge. As part of this the girls had to learn about the different types of anniversaries celebrated throughout the world and in different cultures. We found out all about rainbows in other countries and the girls even polished some silver and made some party hats and decorations.

Rainbows also love their food. And so we've done lots of food themed evenings, icing biscuits, cakes, edible campfires and fruit kebabs.

We took part in the autumn and Summer fairs, with the hook a duck and candy crane being a big hit on the kiddie games stall.

More recently we joined the units together to celebrate our annual Thinking Day which was made more special being inside the church building. The girls all worked hard to make a giant world badge jigsaw on the floor. As well as designing a uniform of the future. We finished the evening with the enrolment of new members to both units, renewal of promises for all and of course the compulsory cakes that these events demand!

## **Brownies**

The Brownies also continue to be very popular and have a long list of not only rainbows but other girls waiting to join in the fun!..

The unit has had a busy year working on lots of different badges. In particular the girls enjoyed working on the Communicator badge where they had to email Fluffy Owl who was working in the USA for a few months. They also learned the phonetic alphabet and enjoyed sending and receiving messages in code.

There have also been several girls who have undertaken the Brownie Skills badge and learned more traditional skills such as sewing on a button, map reading, tying knots and correcting writing envelopes.

The girls are very excited for the upcoming pack holiday in June and looking forward to exploring the woods in Newmarket during some (hopefully) Sunny weather!

I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to David, Ruth and the others in the church who offers us a safe, dry meeting place in which we can safely deliver a fun packed programme to so many girls and young women in the community. Here's to many more years of fun, singing and games!!

*Dana Marsh - Snowy Owl*



## **House Groups**

Our house groups have again been well attended and much enjoyed.

During the summer term there were five Wednesday evening meetings which were held in church. The topics discussed were: science and religion, faith and the workplace, ageing, society and children in church. We enjoyed a time of discussion at the end of each evening's presentation and were encouraged to be joined by members of other local churches. It was good for all our groups to have the opportunity to meet as one for this series.

In the autumn term we turned our thoughts to women in the Bible – Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, Eve, Hannah and Ruth. A couple of groups threw in an extra one for good measure, Deborah and Esther! Certainly, in the group I attended, we again encountered God at his most radical! We expected to be focusing on faithful responses to God but we found ourselves encountering a God who turns things upside down!

As we reflected on the stories of God's encounters with these women, we were reminded of how C.S. Lewis describes Aslan, the lion who represents Jesus, in 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe':

*He doesn't like being tied down ...He'll often drop in ...He's wild, you know.  
Not like a tame lion.*

Yes, a God who transforms lives and turns expectations upside down. A wild lion indeed – and yet a faithful and loving one.

For the first part of the spring term we looked carefully at the structure and meaning of the Eucharist and by the time you read this we will have completed our series of Wednesday evening Compline services. At the time of writing, these have been very well attended. The speakers have been thoughtful and we have enjoyed the time of quiet reflection.

We hope that the house groups will continue to go from strength to strength, so that, as we get to know each other better, we can also find out more about God's purposes for us and our church here in Arbury.

*Liz Collinson*



## **Lunch Club**

Once again, no price rise this year! An excellent traditional Sunday Roast for £3.00!

Where else would you get such good value and friendship thrown in as well? A place where you can meet old friends and make new ones. A place where you can enjoy the cooking of one of the finest chefs around, in the form of Evelyn Dennington, who once again this year has been ably assisted by Finsetta Cummings and Pat Marsh. A place where there is no shortage of people willing to serve you. In fact, a team of 30 volunteers shared the job on a rota basis over the year, and they seemed to enjoy the Club as much as the members themselves.

Membership continues to be primarily for those in the church and the wider community who are on the other side of middle age, although exceptions are sometimes made, which help to enrich the experience of the group. It was sad when we had to say "goodbye" to some members during the year, but we did so with grateful hearts for their friendship and fellowship, and for their contribution to the Club. We were very pleased to welcome some new members as well, and our membership continues to hover around 40 people for lunch each month.

The Club meets in the Church Hall on the first Sunday of each month, and lunch is served at 12.30pm. We are always very happy to welcome new

members or helpers, so if you are interested in an introduction, please get in touch.

*John & Libby Lamont (01223) 565559*



## **Monday Club**

Goodness, how time flies – another year has passed already!

We have done all the usual things – we have had our hot cross buns, Easter eggs and strawberry tea, and our much enjoyed visit from the Arbury School choir. We have had several speakers: Mr. Steve Price from the Bobby Scheme, Mr Bob King who talked about Papworth Hospital (this was very interesting and we will try to get him to come again). Mr Geoff Leyshon gave us a talk and showed us pictures of a cruise he and his wife took to the Baltic. Towards the end of the year we had our Christmas Party.

But most of all the Monday Club is a place for the over 55s to meet up and have a chat over a cup of tea and a biscuit. We are open *most* Mondays from 2.15 to 4pm.

*Eva Hutson*



## **Music**

I have been immensely grateful for the love and support of choir members in the last few months since Dorothy, our Director of Music, died unexpectedly in early January. The Good Shepherd is very fortunate to have choir members who have many varied areas of musical expertise and they have all made an instant and willing contribution in different ways so that we can continue to produce music together for our services to the glory of God. Working together as we have been doing is such a joy.

During the year the choir has continued to lead the singing of the congregation at services and we also provide an anthem during Communion

at the 10am service. We have sung at special services throughout the year, presented two concerts which have raised money for different charities, had fun at the Welsh Evening, sung carols with the Sunday Lunch Club before their Christmas lunch and sung carols in Lion Yard for CamMind.

Our regular members provide us with four part harmony and we benefit from occasional visits from relatives and past members. One particularly happy occasion was when we sang together with members of the congregation and music group at Christmas. We hope to have more of these “one off” occasions, so, if you feel you cannot manage the weekly commitment of being in the choir but love to sing, do watch out for these in the future. Finally, we particularly thank our congregation for the support they give the choir and the music of the church.

*Ruth Banger*



## **Music Group**

This year the music group meet to rehearse and sing only on All Age Sundays. These now fall on the last Sunday of the month. Other adults have been able to join us with this new arrangement, thereby providing a stronger lead. One of our ordinands has also joined us with his guitar and voice, which are much appreciated. Repertoire is a mixture of contemporary and traditional and we continue to sing a pre-communion song. We enjoy making music to the glory of God and welcome others who might wish to join the music group.

*Wendy Lees-Smith*



## **North Cambridge Council of Churches**

The North Cambridge Council of Churches has had a busy year. Since the last annual report, Anthony Lees-Smith was elected Chair with Lynda Taylor as the new Vice-Chair. Relations between the different Christian groups in the area continue to be strong and it has been good to welcome members of City Life Church and the Church of the United Nations to meetings.

A number of special events have taken place which have involved all or some of the member churches. At Pentecost a celebration was held at the Arbury Community Centre hosted by the Arbury Community Church but involving many from across the churches. At Christmas and Easter clusters of churches north and south of the Milton Road have continued to celebrate together, as well as participating in the Chesterton Festival and Arbury Carnival.

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was observed in a different church each day with a joint celebration on the Sunday at Arbury Community Centre.

In September the churches in the Arbury area joined together in partnership with the local council in a Community Action Day which centred on the North Arbury Chapel and was a great success in enabling Christians from many different churches to make a real practical difference in their community.

In October four teams of teenagers were hosted across North Cambridge as part of the city's Beyond Belief mission. Holiday clubs, youth cafes, family activities and sports formed part of a busy week along with community action and 'hot chocolate evangelism'!

In March the North Cambridge Churches hosted a Good Childhood Conversation with the Children's Society, looking at ways to improve the lives of children and young people in our area. The NCCC has continued to support the "Its Your Move" Booklets distributed to the Manor and Chesterton Community Colleges.

It also continues to work with the county ecumenical officer as part of the Cambridge Inter-Church Contact Group (a contact group for local government and community organisations) which has led to a city-wide mapping exercise to let the local council know what community activities all our churches are engaged in.

Mary Simuyandi has continued to give us reports through the year on the Romsey Mill transitions project showing how valuable their work is in reaching out to young people in North Cambridge.

*Anthony Lees-Smith*



## **Nursing and Residential Care Homes**

We are fortunate to have a number of nursing and residential care homes in the parish. Over the past year our involvement with all of them has continued to grow.

Regular monthly communion services have been held at Harry Scott Court, Havenfield and Alexwood House. Buchan House have two monthly services, one communion and one which is more informal including hymns, prayers and a reading.

This is an important and much valued part of our ministry as a church and it has been encouraging to be invited by staff to take these services for people who might otherwise be unable to get to church. Many residents we see appreciate the familiar prayers and hymns as well as being able to receive communion.

David, Anthony and Linda all take services but it has been particularly good to be joined by other members of the congregation and students who are interested in this kind of ministry. The residents enjoy meeting them and having a good chat over a cup of tea. If you would like to come along and join in with any of these services, please speak to one of the ministry team.

*Ministry Team*



## **Orchard Park**

Any new project will go through a period of rapid change in its early days and the Church at Orchard Park has been no different.

Since the last report, the church has stopped meeting in the Community Centre and moved to the primary school on Ring Fort Road. The school hall provides a larger and more flexible space for worship and builds on the strong links already existing with the school. It has also meant we could move to a morning time which seems to suit more people.

The format of the services is similar however and we begin with refreshments at 11am followed by a time of worship. Then the children have their own separate activities while the adults engage in a Bible study together before we gather again for prayers and worship to finish. Numbers have varied but we average a regular gathering of around 20 or 30. We continue to gather together with the congregation at the Good Shepherd once a month for the 10am all age communion service.

The Tuesday prayer meeting has continued following the same programme as the other Good Shepherd housegroups where possible, and providing an opportunity for the leadership team to meet, plan and pray.

Big events continues to be well supported and the Holy Monday activity morning last Easter attracted 70 to 80 people and will be repeated in 2012. The multi-faith harvest celebration has now become an annual community event and again involved children from the school, as well as members of the Muslim and Buddhist community this year. It was also good to give our donations in person to Ursula from the Cambridge City Food Bank. At Christmas the Church was asked to take part in the first community tree lighting event and to run the Messy Christmas party on the day of the carol service. Both events were well attended. In the wider community we continue to have contact with a large number of Orchard Park residents through baptisms and weddings, through regular involvement at Orchard Park Primary School and through supporting the community development worker with community events. We have also been asked to be part of the Steering Group for this year's Summer Fiesta where we will be taking particular responsibility for some of the children's activities.

The Beyond Belief team based at Orchard Park in October were a great support and although the planned family activities were not very well attended, the team took the initiative and went out to the skate park with hot chocolate, biscuits and Bibles to give away. They built positive

relationships in a very short space of time and left us a legacy which we have tried to build on. Moving the Sunday service to 11am has freed up the afternoons so that we now have football on the Astroturf by the skate park. Up to 20 people have signed up although not all can come each week. While the football is going on, those of us who don't play have been kept busy continuing the hot chocolate ministry and chatting to those on the skate park, which attracts young people from a very wide area. This new outreach has already had a positive impact which has been commented on by members of the community.

The core team of Anthony, Kina and Nathan has continued to be boosted by ordinands. Particularly this year it has been a great blessing to have Paula with us from St John's College, Nottingham, Tom from Ridley Hall and Joel who is training to work in new and pioneering forms of church. All have brought their different gifts to offer and together with the significant contribution their families have made, they have been very much appreciated.

*Anthony Lees-Smith*



## **Parochial Church Council**

Such a lot has happened this year! The PCC and Standing Committee has each met in the Vicarage on alternate months in 2011 (except for December and August), and we would like to thank Dave and Hazel for allowing us to meet in the comfort of their home – and for the refreshments! We have now changed the pattern of Standing Committee meetings – so much is happening that we now meet monthly on a Sunday evening.

PCC Officers have remained unchanged this year and we are still working on the decisions reached in our Mission Action Plan, trying to effect the changes we have agreed on in a way that will benefit all the congregation and spend our money wisely in a time of rising costs.

We are delighted to see our church growing and it is a very unusual PCC meeting that does not have a list of names to approve as additions to the Electoral Roll. Sadly this year has also seen us lose some major contributors

to our church life together, as Linda has recorded in her Pastoral Report, and these are recorded by the PCC too.

Special thanks should go to Gill Ambrose, Lynn Clift and Linda Fiagbedzi who are coming to the end of their elected time on the PCC.

*Ruth Banger*



## **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral ministry is a vital part of the life of the Church of the Good Shepherd and it is a ministry that is exercised not only by the Leadership team but which also involves all members of the church as we recognise and respond to one another's needs. This has been particularly evident during the past year as unfortunately a significant number of people in our congregation have died, leaving the whole church feeling a deep sense of loss, but also able to offer love and support to bereaved families and friends.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Len Claydon, Ann Cannell, Margaret Moore, Michael Garner, Sid Reid, Horace Giles, Dorothy Holliday and Audrey Disney; but we give thanks for all they meant to us and for their faithfulness to God and to this church.

We continue to invite people seeking Baptism for their children or for themselves to the all-age service on the first Sunday in the month, and after the service they are assisted in filling in the appropriate forms. If at all possible, the person making the booking will be at the Baptism service to maintain a link with the family. The children are then invited back to church around the time of the anniversary of their Baptism for the first 4 years and presented with a card during the service. We hope this will enable people to feel welcomed and encourage them to keep in contact with the church.

It has become clear that there is a close link between pastoral care and the Healing ministry of the church, and so we are extending the work of our healing team to include meeting on a monthly basis to pray for people who are currently on our Intercessions list and those who have asked for prayer by means of the prayer board.

Being alongside people who are in any kind of need is a way of living out our faith and following in the footsteps of Christ. We believe that through each one of us he exercises his ministry of healing as we respond to those in need.

*Linda Dean*



## **Planned and Charitable Giving**

2011 was another unprecedented level of giving from the members of the Church of the Good Shepherd, with more being raised than in 2010. Each year a proportion of the Planned Giving income is set aside for donation to charity and in 2011 the charities supported were Alzheimer's Society, Smile Train, Rowan and the Besom in Cambridge. Each of these charities received £532. Special collections were held for the victims of the natural disasters in Japan and East Africa and the following charities were supported through fund raising events and collections:

Alzheimer's Society  
Cancer Care  
The Children's Society  
Christian Aid  
EACH

Marie Curie Cancer Care  
The Papworth Trust  
Royal School of Church Music  
St David's Foundation

Additionally there are the other charities supported by members of the Church but which do not pass through the Church's books.

Here is a selection from the thank yous we have received:

From Smile Train :

*"We're very honoured...that you stepped forward to help children you'll probably never meet. Please know that somewhere in the world these boys and girls have you in their thoughts every day for giving them...second chances at life."*

From Rowan :

*“...practical support from members of our local community is really appreciated by everyone and enables us to deliver the kind of personal service and rich experience our students deserve and need.”*

From EACH :

*“...thank you for your wonderful donation...”*

From St David’s Foundation Hospice Care :

*“...your support is extremely valuable to us as it enables us to provide care and support to over 2,800 patients and their families. Our nurses provide care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to help bring care home when it is needed most.”*

Planned Giving to the church totalled £48,035 in 2011. Planned Giving income covers 65% of the cost of the church’s activities and is essential to the continued life of the church within the parish.

To all those who gave so generously both to the specific causes supported by the church and to the Planned Giving scheme in the year – **THANK YOU !**

*Ginni Carroll*



## **Social Awareness**

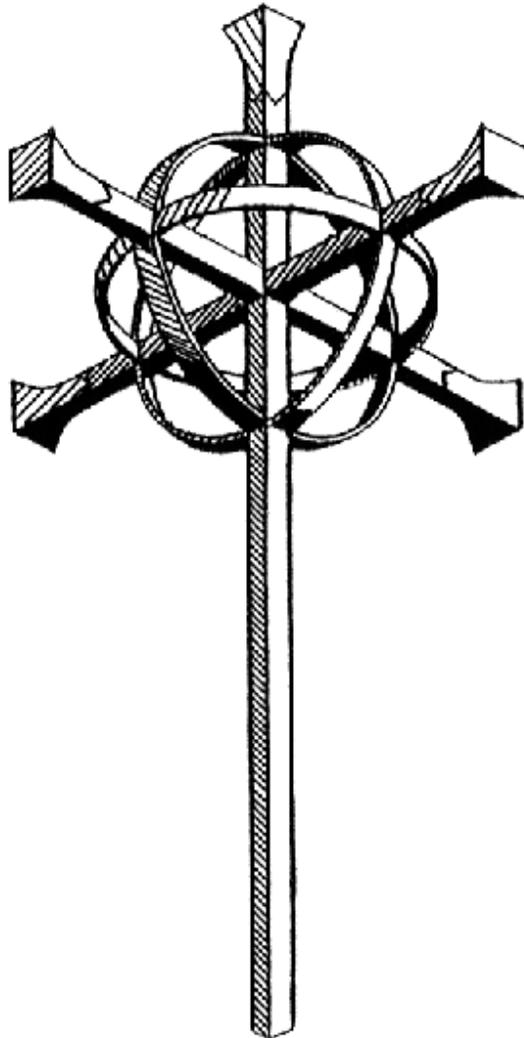
Despite our investigation of solar panels last year, they haven’t materialised. However, as a church we have thought seriously about our ‘eco’ commitment and, hopefully, other things are in hand!

Although we advertised for a family worker, there were no takers. Perhaps God has other plans. However, it has been a delight to welcome Emily, who has been working with our young people and also in the Manor Community College, as part of her GAP year.

I attended a very moving talk on the problem of human trafficking at Cambridge Community Church at the end of last year. Some of you will have read my article in the church magazine. I came away from the talk feeling very shocked – the main statistic that is fixed in my mind is that 99% of people being trafficked are never rescued. This is a problem that affects

all cities – yes, even Cambridge. If anyone would like to join me in praying for this situation and perhaps doing some fund raising please let me know.

*Liz Collinson*



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