

March 2011

20p

It's 9am and I've already written on my Wall, been poked and given a chocolate cake, had a sheep and a pillow thrown at me, grown apples on my farm, 'superbadgered' my MP about global poverty, found out which of the Mr Men I am (Mr Small apparently!), and played a quick game of Scrabble – all in five minutes on Facebook!

Maybe you are into facebooking, blogging or twittering. Or maybe you haven't a clue what I'm talking about! Facebook, and social networking sites like it, have exploded across the Internet in recent years. They present an easy way to keep in touch with old friends and make new ones through common interests. There is even a Church of the Good Shepherd page now on Facebook (just log on and search for the 'Church of the Good Shepherd, Arbury').

But I can't help wondering if the increased interest in virtual friendships and cyberspace communities comes at a price. While providing a chance to completely re-invent yourself should you wish, this kind of social networking can also become a much easier option than getting to know the real-life person living next door. With a click of the mouse I can 'ignore' a friend request from someone on Facebook, but the neighbour banging on the door asking for help won't go away so easily.

As a church this term we have been reading the Letter of James and I think James would say that giving someone a virtual chocolate cake on Facebook is a pretty poor substitute for feeding the hungry, the kind of works James wants to see as the fruit of real faith. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews also recognizes the need for physical

connections and real human contact if we are to live out this life of good works. He urges us not to give up meeting together in person. There is surely a danger with virtual networking that people could become even more isolated from each other in the real world, immersed instead in superficial status comments and tedious twittering about what they had for breakfast.

March sees the beginning of Lent, a time of preparation and self-examination, a time to take up Bishop David's challenge to read the Bible. Maybe we'll even be following the bishop's blog on Facebook! But it's also an opportunity to remember that we need to keep on meeting in the flesh to offer one another encouragement, comfort and support. As we become increasingly immersed in networking with our virtual neighbours, we must never lose sight of our real neighbours who may be in real need.

Yours in Christ,

Anthony

Heavenly Father,
look in love on all our friends and neighbours, whether real or virtual.
Keep them safe from harm,
deepen our friendship with them
and may we grow in love of you,
our Saviour and our Friend. **Amen.**
Adapted from a prayer by Michael Botting.



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Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Rhodri James	357607
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READINGS FOR MARCH

Sundays and holy days

- 6 SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
2 Peter 1: 16 - end
Luke 2: 22-40
- 13 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7
Matthew 4: 1-11
- 20 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Genesis 12: 1-4a
John 3: 1-17
- 27 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Exodus 17: 1-7
John 4: 5-42

Wednesdays

- 2 James 4: 13 - end
Mark 10: 32-45
- 9 Isaiah 58: 1-12
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
- 16 Jonah 3
Luke 11: 29-32
- 23 Jeremiah 18: 18-20
Matthew 20: 17-28
- 30 Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9
Matthew 5: 17-19

MEETINGS IN MARCH

Monday March 14.PCC meets at the Vicarage at 7.30pm.



REGULAR SERVICES IN MARCH

- Sundays 8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
(first Sunday in the month is an All-Age service and we are joined by those who attend the Community Church in Orchard Park)
- Mondays 9.15am Morning Prayer
- Tuesdays 9.15am Morning Prayer
- Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion
- Thursdays 9.15am Morning Prayer
- Fridays 9.15am Morning Prayer
(for arrangements during Lent see page 10)

Family Worship at Orchard Park will be on March 13 and 20 at 4pm in the Orchard Park Community Centre on Central Avenue. Light refreshments. All welcome. For further details see the weekly bulletin. On March 27 there will be a Bring and Share Meal.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN MARCH

Wednesday March 9 (Ash Wednesday)
There will be a service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes at 9.30am and 7.00pm.

Wednesdays March 16, 23 and 30 (and April 6 and 20) Compline at 7pm (see page 16)

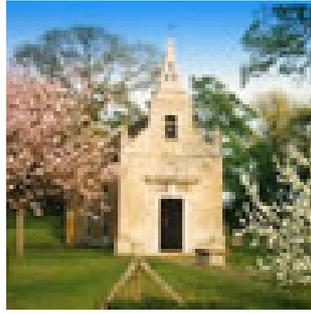
EVENTS IN MARCH

Sunday March 6 at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall.

Tuesday March 8 7.15 for 7.30pm Fish & Chip Supper in Church

Saturday March 19 10.30 – 12.00 Jumble Sale in Church Hall

Sunday March 27 Social evening at a local pub 8-10pm



Away Day at Little Gidding, 29th January

The Poster offered QUIET AND SPACE amid snowdrops and blue skies at Little Gidding. I felt in need of both so, along with Clare and Henry, I joined some 14 people from half a dozen different churches gathered at Little Gidding on a cold January Saturday.

The theme was ‘Befriending Silence’. The day began with a talk from Paul Skirrow who told us something of the history of Nicholas Ferrar, Little Gidding and its communities. This is a place which resonates with prayer. He went on to introduce some ideas about encountering God in silence and stillness. This was not about “me-time” but about opening ourselves up to be known and examined by God. This could be scary but God delights in us.

Our leader, Rosey Feuell, then led us in two scriptural meditations – Isaiah 35 and Mark 6: 31-52. We were then free to sit or walk to feed upon these passages and respond to them as we wished in words or by creating pictures, before sharing the Eucharist in the beautiful (if icy) little church. The day ended with copious supplies of tea and cake.

Little Gidding is a very special place (see www.ferrarhouse.co.uk). I can easily convince myself that I am far too busy to take time away/out but this day away convinced me again that it’s necessary for my spiritual health and that if I put aside my own agendas and let God in, He is waiting with blessings. As the day went on, I sensed Him gently easing some of the knots I entangle myself in.

A Meditation on Mark 6: 31-52

The Disciples had been so close to the love and power of Jesus in action and yet we read that they did not understand and that their hearts were hardened. I didn’t find it hard to identify with them.

A confused, rather cross disciple tries to make sense of it all

It wasn’t one of his better ideas. “Let’s go across the lake”, he said, “And chill out for a bit”. All very well – but these things require a bit of planning and if you’d don’t want every Tom, Dick and Harry bothering you, you should be a bit more careful about your plans. Don’t tell everyone on Facebook that you are going away. Of course it was a disaster. A whole rabble came out after us. So much for giving the team a proper debriefing and some personal affirmation. I can tell you that after that last work trip, I really wanted some of that. Not a chance!

Those wretched people just wouldn’t leave us alone. You’d think they would want to go away and eat. Well, I did. We’d left in such a muddle that no-one remembered to pack a proper picnic. Not even emergency rations. I wanted a good meal and then a

good sleep in a proper bed. Hadn't had a decent night's sleep in ages. I opted out. Just didn't want to hear what he had to say anymore. Some of the others finally caught his eye and told him it was time to wind up. What do you think he said: "Whip up a quick bring and share supper for everyone." What did I say about no proper planning? These things don't just happen.

I was still fuming when someone dug me in the ribs and offered me a fish roll. Boy did that taste good! Where did that come from? And then another! And then I lost count. Hadn't felt so full since my sister's wedding do. Someone passed round a basket for the leftovers and I dropped the last half roll into it.

Then someone dug me in the ribs and said, "He says we've got to take the boat and row back over." "What about him?" "He's staying here to pray." Well, I can tell you I was in no state to row a boat after that meal. Especially in that wind. And I still wanted that good night's sleep. It was really hard work, I can tell you. We really could have done with him in the boat. For all that God-talk and apparent other-worldliness, he's good with a pair of oars.

Your mind pays strange tricks when you are sleep deprived **and** you have indigestion. I could have sworn I saw **him** walking on the water. What's going on? Will someone please tell me what's going on?....

Lord, let not my heart be hardened.

Terry Barringer



The Good Shepherd & Little Gidding

Our Church of The Good Shepherd has always had a close connection with Little Gidding. When our parish was first carved out of St. Luke's parish as houses were built and the area around the church began to be developed, we were initially called the Church of St. Nicholas Ferrar. Nicholas Ferrar and his family formed the first Anglican community at Little Gidding in 1625 after the religious changes of the English Reformation. King Charles I visited in 1642, and sought refuge there in 1646. There is a copy of a portrait of Nicholas Ferrar on the wall of our church near where Rhodri sits in the choir and there is a statue of him (Nicholas Ferrar, that is) in the Chapel.

We have a second connection with Little Gidding. The poet [T.S. Eliot](#) visited in 1936, and was moved to reflect upon the Church and its history in the last of his Four Quartets, *Little Gidding*. If you look on the glass doors of our chapel (or on the piece of framed calligraphy beside the chapel door) you will see a quotation from that poem.

We have had in the past many Quiet Days at Little Gidding. It is lovely to see this connection re-established.

Editor

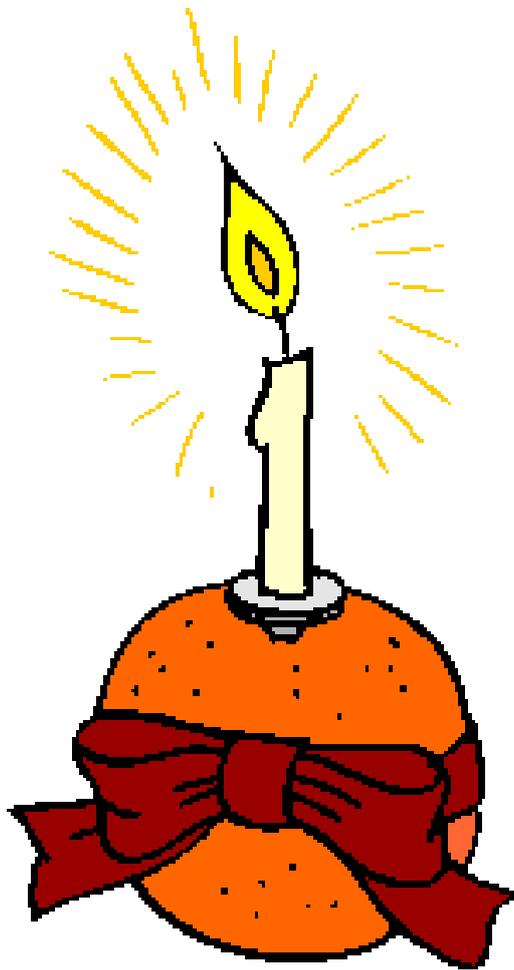
Christingle Appeal 2011

Following the Christingle Service on the 6th February, which was very well attended, I'm glad to be able to report that a grand total of £346.48 was collected for the Children's Society. Despite having 120 Christingle money boxes this year, we still didn't have enough to go around!

Many thanks to David, who tirelessly promoted the event at all the carol concert/services held locally before Christmas and to Budgens, who as part of their continuing community support programme, generously donated the oranges. Last, but not least, my thanks to all who gave so generously to the appeal. The money will be used to relieve the plight of runaway, homeless children all over the UK, helping to bring some love and warmth into their lives.

In the next few months, don't forget to keep putting your loose change into your Children's Society boxes; there will be another Box Opening in early June.

Ruby Leyshon



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

February 6

Florence Maude Elif Cilicia Postgate

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January 2011

The Service at Orchard Park

Orchard Park Community Church recently invited the churches of North Cambridge to pray with them for the unity of the Christian Church around the world. This year we were particularly thinking about the church in the Holy Land, and the materials for our worship were prepared by the churches in the Holy Land.

We received a very warm welcome when we arrived, and many people from the different churches came together to pray. The event opened with a cafe style welcome, where everyone greeted each other and sat down at tables to introduce themselves. The leaders of the worship led us into prayer, and we joyfully listened to a greeting from the Holy Land - "From all Christians in Jerusalem to the faithful of North Cambridge, in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace!"

The churches in the Holy Land had tried to really inspire us by the material they had prepared to show that nothing mattered more to them than being together and holding all things in common, despite the differences between them, despite the sufferings they endured. We were lucky to have two Christians among us who had travelled to the Holy Land and shared with us their experience, not just of visiting the holy places but also meeting local Christians. Their names were Paul & Audrey Edwards who belong to St Laurence Church. What they said truly brought the people in the Holy Land close to our thoughts.

Finally, we were able to show how we held all things in common and wanted to be together. We showed this by bringing pieces of a jigsaw which we had prepared in our own churches. I brought the piece from the Church of the Good Shepherd. Once the pieces were together, we were able to see the different ministries which our churches offered in North Cambridge. We saw how we are reaching out to people in North Cambridge, and how important it is that we stay together as Christians.

It was a really inspiring occasion and we met lots of new people.

Michael Lovell





Morning Prayer

It is 9.15 am.

The candles are lit in the Chapel and there is a deep sense of peace as Morning Prayer begins.

This happens on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at the Church of the Good Shepherd and it is a time when we pray for the world, for the Church, for the Community, for those in special need, and for the day ahead.

The names on the Intercessions list and also those in the book at the back of church are offered to God, and you can be sure that if you ask for prayer for someone you are concerned about, or if there is someone who has asked for our prayers for themselves, they will be prayed for every day during the week.

The order of Service for Morning Prayer is in the Common Worship book of Daily Prayer; it includes set prayers, a Psalm, a reading and prayers of intercession, and the service lasts for 20-30 minutes.

I have found this time to be of great value, it is a lovely way to start the day because we can carry that sense of peace and calm with us through the day to strengthen us for whatever we have to do. So if you feel at some time that you would like to come along it would be lovely to have you with us.

Morning Prayer

In the Chapel

9.15 am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday



N.B. Because as a Church we are supporting Bishop David's Bible Challenge we shall not be celebrating Morning Prayer during Lent (i.e. from Thursday March 10 until after Easter). For our Lent arrangements see page 10

Our Good Shepherd News

I am sorry to write that we shall have to increase the price of *Good Shepherd News* as from May. I hope you will agree that the Good Shepherd News is good value for money and keeps us all in touch with what is going on in our church. Paper costs have risen sharply as has the copy charge per sheet through the photocopier and last year we made a loss. The PCC decided at its last meeting to raise the price per issue to 30p.

Could I urge you to take out an annual subscription? There would be the (small) financial incentive that an annual sub. would only be £3.50! With the best will in the world we frequently do not have change with us when we take our copy of *GS News* and many people have told me they feel guilty that they have not put money in the slot in the wall as they have taken their copy. Free yourself from guilt and pay £3.50 to Margaret Handley or me and have a hassle free copy for an entire year.

This is advance notice so that those who deliver *GS News* (and many thanks to those who do so faithfully month after month) have time to tell the bad news of the price increase to those to whom they deliver copies.

Ruth Banger

Bishop David's Lent Bible Challenge

How long is it since you read right through the Bible? Have you ever done so? If you are interested in following Bishop David's challenge and/or would like a copy of the leaflet which gives the suggested daily readings plus a short summary of each book in the Bible, sign the list on the table in Church. I will print you a copy of the booklet. There is a sample of the booklet on the table. Even if you cannot manage all the many books per day prescribed in Bishop David's challenge, surely making an effort just to read more of the Bible during Lent (and after!) is a great thing to do. We shall be supporting the Challenge as a Church and opening the Church every morning (9.15 – 12 noon) in Lent. The Bible will be open on the lectern in Church and you can come and read the day's chapters aloud or silently – or you can read them on your own wherever you are. The important thing is that you read the Bible and read it concentrating on what you read – the quality of your reading is more important than the quantity. I'm going to try to do it – something positive for Lent!



The Wellie Boots

(Anyone who has ever dressed a child will recognise this one!)

Did you hear about the Pre-School teacher who was helping one of the children put on his Wellie boots?

He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little Wellies still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second Wellie on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, "Miss, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the Wellies off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the "Wellie's" back on, this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my Wellies."

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, 'Why didn't you say so?' like she wanted to.

Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting Wellies off his little feet. No sooner had they gotten the Wellies off when he said, "They're my brother's Wellies, my mom made me wear them". Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the Wellies on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your gloves?" He said, "I stuffed them in the toes of my Wellies".

She will be eligible for parole in three years!



For your amusement

Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.

Experience is that thing you have just after you need it.

Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shovelling the drive before it has stopped snowing.

My pastor friend put sanitary, hot-air hand dryers in the rest rooms at his church and after two weeks, took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine, but when he went in there he saw a scribbled sign that read, "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."

A man is skydiving, enjoying his free-fall, when he realizes that he has reached the altitude where he must open his parachute. So he pulls on the rip cord, but nothing happens.

"No problem," he says to himself, "I still have my emergency chute." So he pulls the rip cord on his emergency parachute, and once again, nothing happens. Now the man begins to panic.

"What am I going to do?" he thinks, "I'm a goner..."

Just then he sees a man flying up from the earth toward him. He can't figure out where this man is coming from, or what he's doing, but he thinks to himself, "Maybe he can help me. If he can't, then I'm done for."

When the man gets close enough to him, the skydiver cups his hands and shouts down, "Hey, do you know anything about parachutes?"

The other man replies, "No! Do you know anything about gas stoves?"

Smith climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God.

Looking up, he asks the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A minute."

Smith asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A penny."

Smith asks, "Lord, can I have a penny?"

The Lord replies, "In a minute."

"So I was in my car, and I was driving along, and my boss rang up and he said 'You've been promoted.' And I swerved.

"And then he rang up a second time and said, 'You've been promoted again.' And I swerved again.

"He rang up a third time and said 'You're actually the new managing director.' And I went into a tree.

"So a policeman came up and asked, 'What happened to you?' And I said 'I careered off the road.'"

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student stated that he had prayed for the assistance of God.

The professor carefully studied the answer page and then said, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday March 4th - 2.30 at St. Andrew's Church Chesterton

This year the Women's World Day of Prayer service has been put together by the women of Chile - not a country we hear about very often, except a few years ago with General Pinochet and the 'disappearances' and last year, of course, with the brilliant rescue of the miners. It's a country of huge differences in climate, geology, natural history and peoples - a few of whom still speak to each other in their ancient languages.

To think of all the women of the world having a special day of prayer is a very powerful thought. I think it's a pity that it isn't for praying women of all faiths, but perhaps that is something we should be working towards. Chesterton Parish Church is a wonderful old building, which also has beautiful modern embroideries hanging from the lectern and surrounding the altar, and a colourful space for young children. The link with The Good Shepherd through the former director of music is obvious from the shiny 'baby grand'!

Everyone welcome!

Audrey Disney



Speaking up for the deaf

As a fellow sufferer, I wish to thank Pat Givan for the article in January *Good Shepherd News*. One feels so isolated – on the fringe – being unable to hear and join in general conversation, not being aware of what is happening around one.

As deafness is an invisible affliction, one is not aware usually of other sufferers.

Will Pat's article make a difference? Let's hope so.

Dorothy Gardner

Is there anything more we can do to help those who find it difficult to hear what is going on? We have a loop system and that is in regular use. Any other suggestions?

**'CAN THESE BONES LIVE?' -
READING THE BIBLE TODAY
Modern Church Annual Conference:
12 - 15 July 2011**

at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts.

Will I find the conference relevant?

Yes. 2011 is the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, or 'Authorised Version'. Modern Church believes that knowing how to read the Bible is just as important as knowing what is in it. So we have designed our 2011 annual conference to focus upon how Christians in the present are to be imaginative, faithful readers of the scriptures.

We will face up to the embarrassment many parts of the Bible continue to cause us. We will avoid nostalgia for a past era of Christendom. We will not make exaggerated claims for the Bible or allow literalist readings of it to impair our understanding and harm our souls. Instead we will seek new ways of engaging with the Bible and letting it engage with us.

Whom will I hear and what will they be saying?

The Revd. Prof. John Barton is Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at the University of Oxford. He will speak on *The New Atheism: Reflections of a Biblical Scholar*. Answers to the 'new atheism' have come mainly from philosophers and scientists rather than from a humanities perspective, but there is also a possible response from modern biblical study.

Dr. Susannah Cornwall is Honorary Research Fellow in Theology at the University of Exeter. Her new book, *Sex and Uncertainty in the Body of Christ* (Equinox) is published in December 2010. She will share her experiences of how communal, close, and contextual readings can lead to personal and social transformation, especially for people at the margins of society.

The Revd. Dr. Maggi Dawn is Chaplain and Fellow in Theology at Robinson College, Cambridge. She is the author of *The Writing on the Wall: High Art, Popular Culture and the Bible* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2010). She will demonstrate how our literature, art, music, and poetry are built on Christian concepts and biblical references.

Prof. Gerard Loughlin is Professor of Theology and Religion at the University of Durham. Gerard will lead a session on the Bible and film. He will show us how the Bible and 'cinematic texts' can interact together, so that our reading and our watching may mutually inform each other.

Dr. Alison Milbank teaches Theology in the University of Nottingham where she specializes in all aspects of religion and culture, from vampires to Dante. Alison will show us how our reading of the Bible and of literary texts can interact together, so that our readings of each may mutually inform each other. Her well known book, *Chesterton and Tolkien as Theologians* (T&T Clark) was re-printed in 2009.

Dr. Francesca Stavrakopoulou is Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Bible at the University of Exeter. Her most recent book is *Land of Our Fathers: The Roles of Ancestor Veneration in Biblical Land Claims* (T&T Clark, 2010). Early in 2011 Francesca will present the BBC TV documentary series *The Bible's Buried Secrets*. She will present a session, illustrated with excerpts from her series, entitled *God's ex-Wife*.

Prof. Christopher Rowland is Dean Ireland's Professor of the Exegesis of Holy Scripture at the University of Oxford. The latest of his many books is *Blake and the Bible* (Yale University Press, 2011). By considering a range of Blake's paintings and engravings on all parts of the Bible, Chris will help us to understand the enduring value of Blake's biblical hermeneutics and allow Blake's images to stir our imaginations.

Prof. Adrian Thatcher is Visiting Professor in Theology at the University of Exeter. He is author of *The Savage Text: the uses and abuses of the Bible* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2008). Adrian is Chair of the conference and will give a keynote address.

How will I learn at the conference?

Built into some of the sessions will be time for viewing pictures, watching film, studying TV programme clips, doing contextual Bible reading together, analyzing short pieces of literary texts, and doing some theological reflection in small groups, in a cafeteria-style conference setting. Other sessions will be more conventional lectures with opportunities for questions.

Further information from the conference secretary:

Tel: 0161 633 3132 or Email: conference@modernchurch.org.uk

Or see the website: www.modernchurch.org.uk

Modern Church was formerly known as the Modern Churchpeople's Union

Compline in Lent

On Wednesdays in Lent (March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 and 20) at 7pm we shall be celebrating Compline with a difference. For those of you to whom Compline is a new idea it is a service of Night Prayer and is the final church service of the day in the [Christian](#) tradition. The English word *Compline* is derived from a [Latin](#) word signifying the completion of the working day. Compline tends to be a contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace and it ends quietly with prayers that we will be watched over during the coming night.

As part of my ALM Music course, I have to suggest the music for a service. When I discussed this with David he cunningly came up with the idea that I devised music not just for one service but for all the Lent services of Compline. Cheeky!

We intend to follow the following service plan. We shall start at 7pm by listening to a piece of recorded music; the music will be very different week by week but my hope is that it will set the mood for the rest of our worship together. Then we shall have a series of talks on different aspects of prayer (see list below). This will be followed by a hymn and then we shall say the service of Compline together. Do come and join us and may we all learn more about prayer in our time together. David is intending that the services will be recorded and you will be able to access them through our website if you cannot be with us.

DATE	PREACHER	SUBJECT
16 March	Linda	How to pray
23 March	John	Lectio divina
30 March	Anthony	Jesus prayer
6 April	John	Ignatian prayer
13 April	NO SERVICE	
20 April	Dave, Anthony, Linda	Prayer stations

Thanks from Jimmy's

Many thanks to all the kind people who have continued to support Jimmy's while I have been unable to attend church.

When I returned, the donations were spilling out into the aisle. So I asked Jackie, the housekeeper, if she could arrange a collection. When she arrived with their van, both she and the driver were thrilled to see so much and Jackie gave me a huge hug of thanks, which must be shared with all you generous people.

Please keep it up if you possibly can, perhaps popping an item for Jimmy's in your shopping basket each week during Lent.

Ann Callear

P.S. Try to glance at February's *Jottings from Jimmy's*, it's on the table. Inside are interesting statistics regarding the age and sex of their guests during the years the night shelter has been operating.

So what is ALM then?

With the reduction in the numbers of clergy and with those who remain taking on more parishes, the help of lay volunteers in the church has become increasingly important. The Ely Diocese recognises this importance by providing training both to Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and, in more specialised areas of ministry, to Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs). There are now about 180 ALMs in the Ely Diocese supporting the clergy and their local church.

*The **Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM)** one year programme offers training in nine specialist ministries – Administration, Children’s Ministry, Evangelism, Lay Pioneer Ministry (fresh expressions), Music Ministry, Pastoral Care, Social Awareness, Worship Leading and Youth Ministry.*

These specialist modules are set in a wider programme running on five Saturdays throughout the year, which aim to help the formation and development of Local Ministry Teams and the faith and discipleship of individual students.

The above is a quotation from the Ely Diocesan website. What does it actually mean to us at The Good Shepherd? First of all there are four of us who were authorised as Lay Ministers nearly four years ago now (Lilas Davison and Ruth Reid in Pastoral Care, Dorothy Holliday in Music and I was authorised in Administration). We were in the second group of candidates in the Diocese for the ALM. Poor David! Our authorisation service at the Cathedral was in the month he arrived as we had done our training in the interregnum – he must have wondered what he was being landed with. We were all very touched that, new as he was, he made an effort and came to our authorisation service. It made it very special. Once authorised to work in your parish under the authority and guidance of your Vicar you work in your specialist area and the authorisation to do so lasts for four years. So the four of us come up for re-consideration later this year!

18 months ago Liz Collinson was also authorised as a Lay Minister and her specialism is Social Awareness. It was great to go to Liz’s authorisation service and to see not only Liz and her fellow students from that year being authorised but also those from the first ever group of ALMs coming back to be re-authorised. It was such a joyous occasion.

In Authorised Lay Ministry you are empowered to work in your specialist area within your parish. It is an authorisation only recognised within our Diocese, so if you move elsewhere it is not transferable. Linda Dean is an LLM. LLM stands for Licensed Lay Minister. This is a nationally recognised training and, subject to the approval of the relevant Bishop and another incumbent, would be transferable elsewhere.

So nearly four years ago I was authorised as an ALM in Administration. Why am I now working towards authorisation in Music? First, and most importantly, I am not trying to compete with Dorothy – I couldn’t even if I wanted to! But a few years ago Dorothy was unwell and in hospital and now has rather less energy than she used to have. I thought I might be in a better position to help her (and my fellow church members) if I went on this course. Secondly I love music. It has been central to my life for longer than I can remember. We all of us have something by which we define ourselves – that something for me is music. Please don’t think I don’t enjoy the

administration I do for the church, I do. There is an enormous satisfaction in working behind the scenes to make things run smoothly. The function of good administration is that you don't even notice it. It is a compliment that it is taken for granted and that everyone can concentrate on the worship – after all, that is why we are there. But music is alive and, so far as I am concerned, speaks straight to the heart.

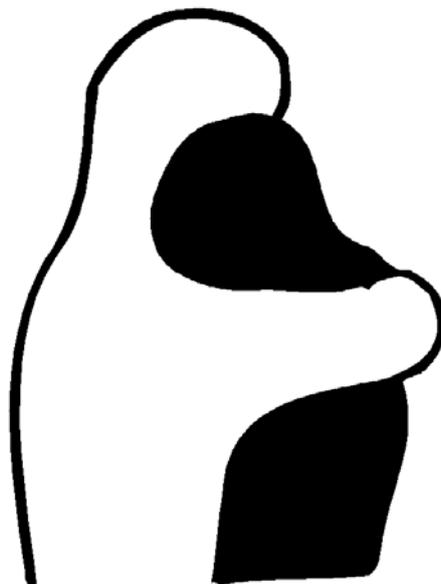
So what do I do on this course? There are general modules which are really concerned with team building skills and developing our own spirituality. Anthony came with me to the first general module and we had great fun assigning members of the church to various personality groups. The serious point behind the fun was that, if you realise the way in which people you work with approach a particular problem, you can work with them more successfully. And after all, we are all trying to work together to further God's work here.

The music modules have been enormous fun and have really stretched my music listening. There are about 9 of us music ALMs and we are so very different! What is great is how we can learn from each other. We communicate by e-mail between sessions and are sympathetic to each other's widely differing tastes. I have heard worship songs I have loved (and others I never wish to hear again!). I have made one member of the group re-think one contemporary song which I think has a great deal to recommend it and he had previously dismissed (no, I'm not telling you which it is!).

We have two main tasks which we have to do – a special project and devising the music for a service. If you have a look on page 16 you will see what my service is. If you can, do come to the services of Compline in Lent. I am confident we shall learn a great deal about prayer week by week and you may even hear (and join in) some music you like. I will write about my project another time – it is to search out a new setting for the Communion Service. Yes, I know we all love the Gloria we now sing, but a little variety is a good thing. More later!

Do pray for all your ALMs – Lilas, Ruth [Reid], Dorothy, Liz and me and for Linda, your LLM. We need your prayers as we try to help in the work of our church.

Ruth Banger



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	Anthony Tyler	01954 719315
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		
T G W U 4 th Wednesday of the month 2 - 4pm	Evelyn Hunnyball	364293
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
April Newsletter:
March 13
(Publication date March 27)**



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Church Hall bookings
(evenings) 01223 352151

Newsletter Ruth Banger 07764 613862
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

