

You are in Jerusalem, just before the Passover. The city is bursting at the seams, full of Jews who have come from all over the Mediterranean to be there to celebrate the Feast. It is always a tricky time for the authorities, for the crowds can be dangerously volatile. The Roman Governor has come up with a troop of soldiers from his palace in Caesarea so as to be close to the Temple, ready to suppress any dissent. This year Pontius Pilate is particularly wary because he knows that Jesus of Nazareth is expected to be in the Holy City. Jesus has been drawing the crowds with his charismatic preaching and acts of healing. Many Jews are hoping that he will prove to be the military Messiah that they long for to deliver them from the yoke of Roman rule. Yet there is a rumour that he is coming to town, not on a warlike stallion, but seated on a humble donkey. What is going to happen?

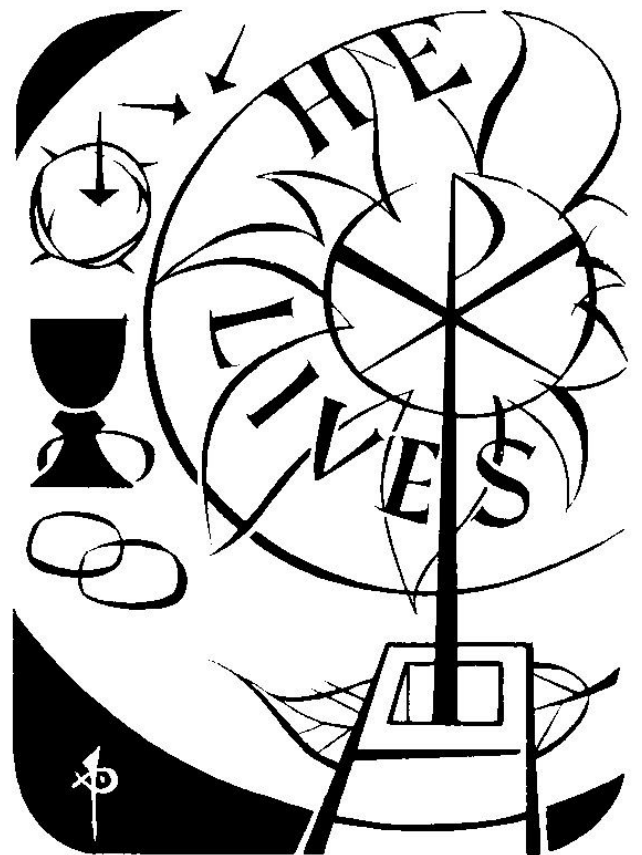
You do not know it, but actually you are at the beginning of the most important week in the whole history of the world. Jesus, of course, is not the victorious general the crowds are hoping for, a second David to defeat the Romans. He is something immeasurably greater, the Saviour of the world. On the dark and terrible Friday that will follow, he will give his life for the redemption of humanity. On the first day of the week that follows, he will rise from the dead to a life of endless glory, the conqueror of mortality and the source of eternal life. During the coming Holy Week we shall be able, through prayer and worship and meditative reflection, to share again in the truth and wonder of our salvation. At Passover time Jewish people recall and enter again into the great event by which God delivered their ancestors from slavery in Egypt.

They do not simply recall that saving act of God but they participate to-day in the hope and deliverance given to ancient Israel. In Holy Week and Easter we do not simply remember past events but we participate in the salvation that they brought to us. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the feast.* This we shall do again this April.

John Polkinghorne

A prayer for Palm Sunday

Lord God in majesty, true King of Heaven and Earth, it is in our hearts that you wish to reign. Help us to give ourselves to the one who entered Jerusalem on a donkey and received a crown of thorns; for he is seated with you in glory to the end of time.



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Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
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Servers	Bill Elsey	357622
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Terry Barringer	424584
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Rhodri James	357607
Social Events Co-ordinator	Bertha Wilson-Njenou	571948
Sound System	John Lamont	565559

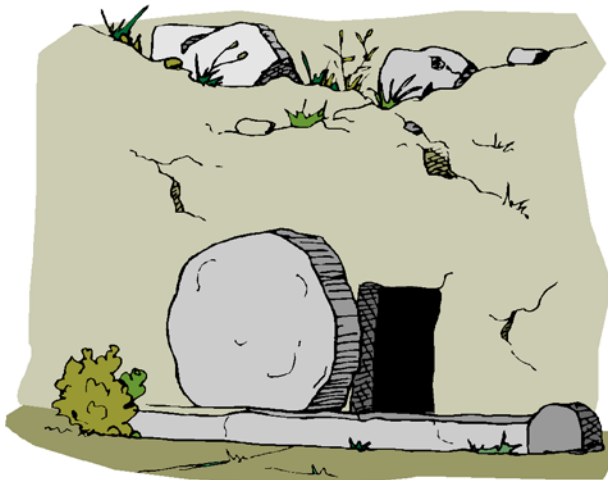
READINGS FOR APRIL

Sundays and holy days

- 3 MOTHERING SUNDAY
1 Samuel 1: 20-28
Luke 18: 15-17
- 10 PASSION SUNDAY
Ezekiel 37: 1-14
John 11: 1-45
- 17 PALM SUNDAY
Philippians 2: 5-11
Matthew 27: 11-54
- 21 MAUNDY THURSDAY
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26
John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
- 24 EASTER DAY
Acts 10: 34-43
John 20: 1-18

Wednesdays

- 6 Isaiah 49: 8-15
John 5: 17-30
- 13 Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28
John 8: 31-42
- 20 Isaiah 50: 4-9a
John 13: 21-32
- 27 NO SERVICE



REGULAR SERVICES IN APRIL

- 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 4)

Family Worship at Orchard Park will be on April 10 and 17 at 4pm in the Orchard Park Community Centre on Central Avenue. Light refreshments. All welcome. For further details see the weekly bulletin.

The Church will close after the 10am service on Easter Day and will re-open for the services on May 1. It will also be closed on May 2

SPECIAL SERVICES IN APRIL

- Wednesdays April 6 and 20 Compline** at 7pm (see page 4)
- Sunday April 17 (Palm Sunday)** *Words and music for Holy Week* at 5pm
- Maundy Thursday (April 21)** Holy Communion at 7.30pm
- Good Friday and Easter Day** for full list of services see page 4

EVENTS IN APRIL

- Sunday April 3** at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall.
No Social evening at a local pub this month

MEETINGS IN APRIL

- Sunday April 10.** Annual Parochial Church Meeting in church after 10am service.
- Monday 11 April** Standing Committee meets in the Vicarage at 9.30am



Compline

As those of you who have been to the first three Lent Complines know, we start at 7pm by listening to a piece of recorded music; the music is very different week by week but the hope is that it will set the mood for the rest of our worship together. Then we have a talk on some aspect of prayer (see list below). This is followed by a hymn and then we 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
6 April	John	Ignatian prayer
13 April	NO SERVICE	
20 April	Dave, Anthony, Linda	Prayer stations

Bishop David's Bible Challenge

We continue to support the Challenge as a Church and are 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.



HOLY WEEK 2011

at The Good Shepherd

Sunday April 17 (Palm Sunday) at 5pm
Words and Music for Holy Week

April 18 - 20 at 9.30am
Holy Communion

April 18 10-12 noon AT ORCHARD PARK
Holy Monday - an activity morning

Thursday April 21 at 7.30pm
Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion

Friday April 22 (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 24 (Easter Day)
at 5am **Easter vigil**
at 8am **said Holy Communion**
8.30-9.45am **Shared breakfast**
10am **All Age Easter Day Communion followed by**
Easter Egg hunt



Hilary Nex

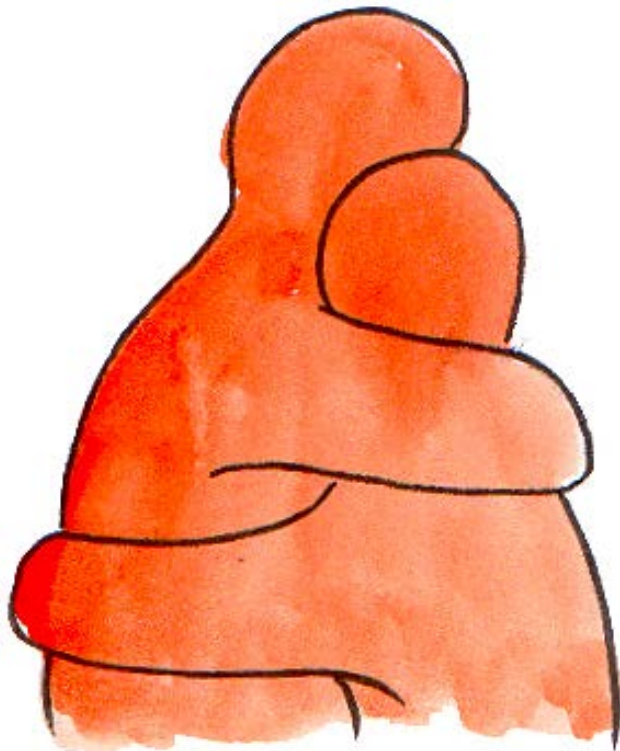
It was with great sadness that we learnt of Hilary's death from cancer on Christmas Day. Many of you will remember the Nex family: Chris, Frances, Andrew and Jenny, who were faithful members of our church choir for many years. It was lovely to see Chris, Frances, Jenny, Lance and Lucy visiting our church last month. Hilary was married to Andrew. Their little daughter, Becky, is two years old.

We attended Hilary's funeral on January 13th. It was held in Holy Trinity Church, Headington Quarry, Oxford – the church where C.S. Lewis worshipped for many years and where he is buried and in which there is a lovely 'Narnia' engraved window.

The church was packed and everyone sang the hymns with vigour, which was very uplifting. Hilary's friend gave a moving address about all that Hilary had done during her life, including her efforts to help the Deep Griha Society, an independent charitable organisation working to better the lives of people living in the slums of Pune, India. She told how she and Hilary were the first female students to be admitted to Braesnose College, Oxford, to read engineering and how Hilary, in her spirited way, re-wrote the engineering department's song so that it was more 'suitable' now that females were involved!

The vicar joined with us all in pondering how difficult it is when people die so young. He had been with her and Andrew when she died and said that Hilary had had a 'beautiful life and a beautiful death'. Hilary's daughter, Becky, lit a candle for her at the end of the service. Undoubtedly Hilary's spirit lives on in all her good works and enthusiasms. She was and is much loved by all who knew her.

Liz and Rex Collinson





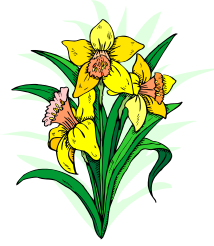
On Saturday 5th March, the Right Reverend and Very Tall Stephen David Conway was installed as the sixty-ninth Bishop of Ely in a packed cathedral. COGS was there in the persons of its clergy and representative laity. I can't answer for the clergy, but we laypeople had an excellent vantage point from the north aisle nave. The proceedings were a blend of legal formalities, worship and intercession, with a swirl of gold copes and episcopal and civic finery, some magnificent choral music from the choirs and some hearty congregational singing of familiar hymns. Occasionally the legalities left us in need of a *Dummies Guide to the CofE* (What exactly is a Metropolitan? A diocesan registrar? An oath of due obedience?). I found myself pondering the mysteries of the relationship between church, state and community and wondering what mixed messages were given out by the all the pomp and circumstance mingled with talk of servanthood. Yet it added up to a wonderful demonstration of the pilgrim church through space and time, rooted in and honouring the past, relevant and active in the present, looking to the future. It was lovely to see the involvement of children in the service – leading the Bishop to the cathedral and reading the lessons. All these threads were drawn together by Bishop Stephen in his short but deep sermon.

More reports, some splendid photographs and the Bishop's sermon can all be found on the diocesan website:

http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/news_items/installation-event-5Mar11.html

Terry Barringer





Welsh Evening

Welsh Evening? What's that for people who rarely cross Offa's Dyke, the border between England and Wales? It's a land of great singing, great hills, funny little railways, and an impossible language. Their national saint, David, is celebrated on March 1st, so this gives the occasion for a party. How astonishing! Their patron saint, unlike George and Andrew, actually came from the country and was Archbishop of Wales. There's lots to celebrate and everyone can join in.

The Welsh victory in the six nations rugby championship gave the day an auspicious start, and we arrived at Rex and Liz Collinson's house to find a wreath of daffodils on the front door, a whole line of Welsh flags complete with Welsh dragon, and a collection of Welsh themed decorations to put us in the mood. With a little something to loosen our tongues we were soon attempting the fearsome tongue-twister of the Welsh national anthem Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau (Land of my Fathers). However, our pronunciation proved that few of our forefathers were Welsh. We probably sounded as good as the Japanese flag wavers at the Last Night of the Proms trying to sing Lule Blitannia.

The undoubted highlight for many was the retelling of the sacred ancient history of Ivor the Engine, who gallantly kept the Welsh Dragons warm in his firebox. Welsh stories and songs followed, with some suitably timed items on food to whet the appetite for supper. A splendid Welsh-themed raffle provided great delight before we launched off into song again with Cosher Bailey had an engine.... To prove the Welsh have the best tunes our evening concluded with Ar Hyd Y Nos (All through the Night) and Cwm Rhondda (Guide me O thou Great Redeemer), which, following our earlier efforts, were sung lustily with full harmony, but in English.

Thank you to Rex and Liz for a delightful evening. We hope to return another time for more of the 24 episodes of Ivor the Engine! Come and join the fun!

Tom Ambrose



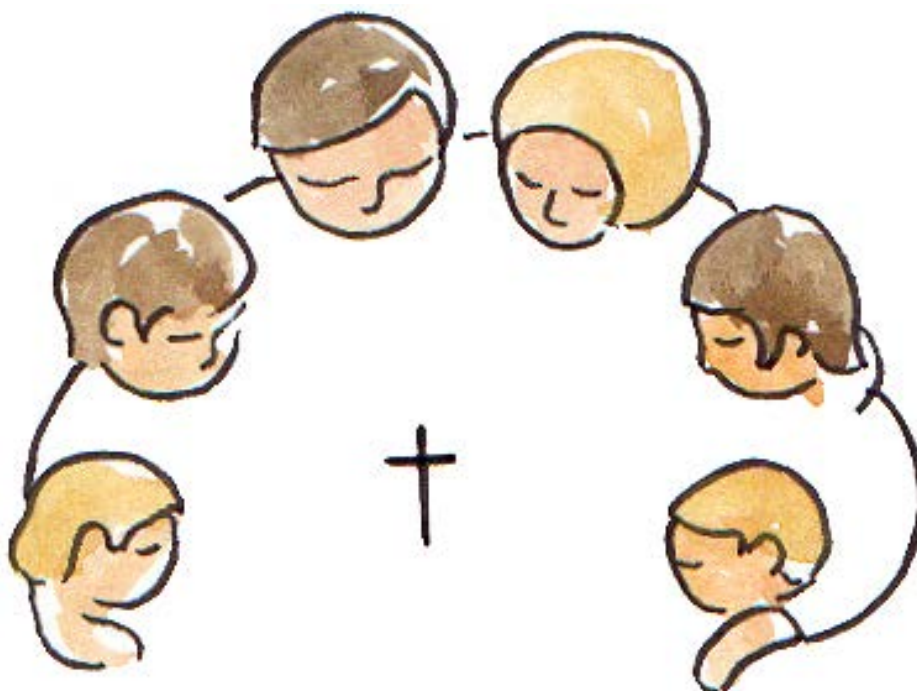
We ended our evening with the prayer on the next page. It's a great prayer even if it's not St. David's Day!

Pause for silence

Lord, teach us the silence of humility.
The silence of wisdom.
The silence of love.
The silence that speaks without words.
The silence of faith.
Lord, teach us to silence our own hearts and minds
that we may listen to the movement of the Holy Spirit within us
and feel your presence in the depths of our being.

In the steps of Christ
Brychan, Cledwyn, Teilo and David
showed us the way;
by their preaching they have
kindled the light of the Gospel
in our land.
Be our guardian and our light,
O holy fathers of Wales,
Pray for us.

We commend to you, O Lord,
our souls and bodies,
our minds and thoughts,
our prayers and our hopes,
our health and our work,
our life and our death;
our parents and brothers and sisters,
and our neighbours and friends
this day and always.



A Weekend with Saint Cuthman

In February, we paid our third visit to St Cuthman's retreat house in Sussex. Unfortunately, we just missed St Cuthman's feast day this time – it was lovely to be there for it last year! – but we had a restful couple of days. It rained a lot, but the house itself is so beautiful and welcoming with log fires, comfy sofas and a beautiful library, that it didn't matter. On our last morning, when the rain had eased, we were able to walk in the grounds and enjoy the reflections of the trees in the lake.

The short services held in the chapel in the morning and evening were peaceful and thoughtful. All the guests and staff were prayed for by name. It was lovely to see the snowdrops through the clear glass of the east window as we listened to music to aid our prayers and meditation. By the time we left we felt really rested and cared for and we can't wait for our next visit!

When we left, we headed off to visit Pat and John Edwards in Steyning. Many of you will remember them as staunch choir members of The Good Shepherd for many years. They have recently moved from Sidmouth to Steyning to be near their grandchildren. As you may imagine, they are really enjoying their new home.

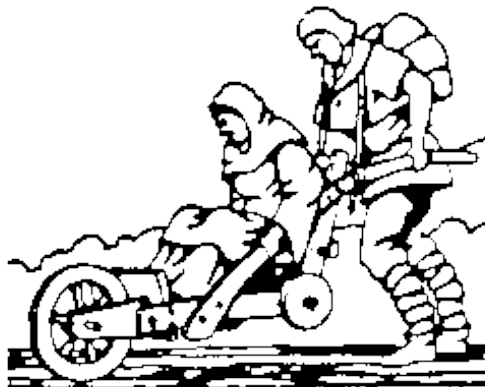
Pat and John sing in the choir of Steyning Parish Church which is dedicated to St Andrew and St Cuthman. Legend has it that St Cuthman was keen to build a church and set off with his mother in a wheelbarrow to find a suitable spot. (No wonder the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton referred to him as an 'oddball' on our previous visit!!) When the wheelbarrow gave up the ghost and his mother fell out, he took that as a sign that that was where he should build his church! It is a beautiful church and Pat and John are obviously very happy there.

So, one way and another, we had a St Cuthman's holiday!

A Prayer about St Cuthman

Lord God, you kept St Cuthman faithful to Christ's pattern of poverty and humility.
May his prayers help us to live in fidelity to our calling
and bring us to the perfection you have shown us in your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liz and Rex Collinson





Rex with Pat and John Edwards

For fun!

CHURCH GROWTH

Johnny's mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat. The cat was sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back To the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water. She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat's afraid of water!" Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."

PREACHERS

A man who hadn't attended church in years suddenly began attending faithfully on Sunday mornings instead of going fishing as was his normal habit. The pastor was highly gratified and at the end of service one morning told him, "How wonderful it makes me feel to see you at services with your good wife!" "Well, Preacher," said the fisherman, "Quite honestly, it's a matter of choice. I'd much rather hear your sermon than hers."

HEARING THE TRUTH

A man was telling his neighbour, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect!"

"Really?" answered the neighbour. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty..."

YUK!

A little girl was in church with her mother when she started feeling ill. "Mummy," she said, "can we leave now?"

"No," her mother replied.

"Well, I think I have to throw up!"

"Then go out the front door and around to the back of the church and throw up behind a bush."

After about 60 seconds the little girl returned to her seat.

"Did you throw up?" Mum asked.

"Yes."

"How could you have gone all the way to the back of the church and returned so quickly?"

"I didn't have to go out of the church, Mummy. They have a box next to the front door that says, 'For the Sick.'"

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

A smart man only believes half of what he hears. A wise man knows which half.

I told my family I never want to depend on a machine and fluids to keep me alive...that's when they took away my computer and coffee maker!

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Why is it called "after dark" when it's really after light?

This Life

Another month has passed away,
Another image on display
As page of calendar is turned.
The fleeting days of past are burned
To ash before the half of what
We'd wished to undertake is not
Complete. If road to hell is paved
With good intents then who is saved?
And yet unless our vision keeps
Our eyes on way ahead, the neaps
Of tides will make us fear the springs
Will not return again. But slings
And arrows only serve to steel
The will to carry on. The real
Delight is when our hopes for those
We love are crowned with joy. Then
prose
Becomes a song in verse, the sky
Is blue again, we're on a high.
But truth be told our faith's in life
Beyond the grave, beyond all strife.
We'll then encounter God at last
And find that all our pains are past.
We can't imagine such a state,
So live this life before too late!

Henry Disney

Plant and Book Sale

This year, the sale will take place on Saturday, May 21st, starting at 10.30 and finishing at 12.00. Now is the time to start putting aside some of the flowers and vegetable plants you are preparing for your garden for the Sale and potting up any shrubs or other plants that need thinning out for this summer. All those who attended the Gardeners' Workshop will know exactly what I mean. (see below) You will be able to show us the fruits of your labours. If you have any paperbacks that are just gathering dust, please bring those along too. We are always in need of newer stock, especially recent fiction by popular authors, which always sells well. See you all at the Sale,

Ruby



Plant Workshop

We had a new event this year and I certainly hope it will become an annual one. On Saturday February 19 about 20 of us gathered in the Hall to learn more about the mysteries of plants. It was an immensely practical time even though we missed some of our "gardening experts" on the day.

What did we learn?

- How to make leaf cuttings to propagate soft plants like African violets.
- How to make a propagator using cling film
- How to make free plant labels (Cut a margarine container lid into strips)
- How to use plastic bottles to form containers in the garden
- How to protect young plants (put the cardboard centre from a toilet roll round them)
- How to protect carrots from carrot fly (plant lavender or marigolds close by)
- How to keep the pigeons from eating your spinach (plant cabbages nearby – the pigeons prefer cabbage!)
- How to protect your plants from slugs (scattering coffee grounds was recommended)
- How to make cheap and effective Christmas decorations (spray the flower heads of alliums and hydrangeas)
- How to force rhubarb (cover it with a bucket)

- How to help keep the greenfly from roses (plant chives close by)

We had various money saving tips including making sure we saved seed in the Autumn – and labelled the seed!

It was clear a plant swap shop would be a really good idea for a future meeting. One participant was on the look out for herbs and another had some raspberry canes she had pruned out and which would take if planted out elsewhere. We missed a trick there! Still, there's always next time ...

It was a lovely relaxed and informative day. We are so fortunate to have so many well informed members of our congregation – horticulturally speaking!

Ruth Banger

Thank you for your prayers

This is a special thank you to all those who prayed for my Mum when she was unexpectedly taken into hospital recently. We had had a very bad experience with her local London hospital last year when Mum had emerged with appalling bruises and I had had to write a formal letter of complaint. So when she had a sudden fall in the night a few weeks ago and was taken to that same Hospital, you can imagine how worried I was.

I came to the Good Shepherd and mentioned to Terry that Mum had just been rushed into Hospital and she had her put straight on the prayer list. All through that day as I struggled to get Mum out of hospital I was really conscious of being supported and in my head was the verse *Underneath are the everlasting arms*. They certainly were that day. They discharged Mum that same day and I spoke to her when she got back to her Nursing Home. I told her that my friends at The Good Shepherd had been praying for her and she too was conscious of being supported. Her treatment in hospital had been exemplary.

I know Harry is writing about prayer in next month's letter and we will be having a series of talks on prayer at Compline, but you have to experience for yourself the immense uplift you feel when you know you are supported by the prayers of your friends. In our house group Rex and Liz sometimes talk of the prayer support they were conscious of when Rex was in hospital critically ill some years ago. I know on occasions Mum wonders why she is still here, but while you can pray for others you are fulfilling a vital role that only you can do. Look how we are all praying as I write this for Jeanne and Bill.

So never stop praying. You may not be able to get out much (like Mum) but that does not stop you praying for others – and that God will continue to make you a blessing.

Kathleen & Ruth Banger



Housegroup Reports

The verdict of the Wednesday Night group [Roseford Road] is “probably the best housegroup/sermon series yet”. We relished James’ practicality and plain speaking, even when it shook us out of any complacency we might have been harbouring. Especially, in the sessions on the power of the tongue and on healing we shared some very personal experiences and understandings. We enjoyed having ordinand Andy to take us through the material and particularly appreciated his leadership of our prayer time.

Terry Barringer

[Orchard Park group] These last few months we’ve been hopping across the Epistle (*Letter*) of James from one revelatory stepping stone of exploration to the next. This NT book of wisdom is certainly a fast flowing stream of challenges and exhortations (*encouragements*).

In many ways James is an antidote to the sentimentalism which we as Christians can sometimes fall into. From confrontational definitions of true faith calling on us to act, to fraternal urgings to perseverance and prayerful lives of humility: traversing this teaching has left each of us, to varying degrees, sodden from the spray crashing off the rocks in our lives, if not drenched in some cases.

Although thoroughly soaked in God’s Word, our times spent together during these cold evenings have not only been greatly enjoyable but wonderfully nurturing as well. With superb Sunday sermons delivered by The Good Shepherd’s ministry team this torrent has not only been a cleansing flow but also a faith sustaining one.

Nathan Dale

[Impington Wednesday night group] We have continued to enjoy meeting at Ruth and Dorothy’s house and have learnt a lot –mostly about each other! As a group we are all happy to voice our opinions and also happy, fortunately, to listen to the opinions of others!

Thanks to Tom, we have realised that what James says is consistent with what Paul says in Romans 2 e.g. Romans 2 v: “in passing judgement on another, you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same thing.” James 4 v 11: “Whoever speaks evil against another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.”

Things we thought about:

- We must be careful not to just be ‘hearers of the word’ but we must also be ‘doers of the word’ – what does this mean for our church?
- How easy it is to gossip! Is it ever ‘harmless’?
- Are we quick to judge people? Might they be judging us?
- Do we truly believe in the power of God to heal? What sort of healing might it be?

Needless to say, we didn’t have all the answers, but we all enjoyed our discussions, not to mention the cakes! We also enjoyed some diversions along the way – even venturing into the Apocrypha. Some of us had never heard of Bel and the Dragon but perhaps more of that another time!

Many thanks to Ruth and Dorothy for their hospitality!

Liz and Rex

P.S. We have really missed Harry – he keeps us gently on the rails! We very much hope that when the next set of Housegroups starts up in the Autumn Harry will be well enough to be with us

[Wednesday morning group] It was the first time that I had joined a house group and I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Certainly I hoped for interesting, stimulating, intelligent and thought provoking discussions and to learn a bit more about the Bible, and indeed I did get all these things but a lot more too! Here are a few of my thoughts, but space is limited and I hope my group will forgive me if they think I have left anything important out.

I prepared before the start by reading James all the way through. It was a daunting read and filled me with trepidation. What a challenge! I could never live up to all those rules and ideals. It reinforced my belief that the Christian path is a hard one to follow and James' language was so strong and forceful. However, we have to remember that it was written at the very beginning of the Christian Church and the ideas and writing were very much of that time and have to be put into context. Linking the sermon with the notes we were given was very helpful and the "swots" among us even took notes!

I enjoyed the exchange of ideas and lively discussions and different viewpoints of others. In particular I found it helpful to hear ideas other than my own of how we could work for God ("good works") both individually and as a church – real food for thought.

The subject of gossip led to a lively discussion and the general impression was that it was fine to be concerned and interested about others as long as you were not malicious. We strayed away from the point when we discussed neighbours and it got a little heated but Linda gently and skilfully brought us back to the main subject.

For me there were some questions not answered – for instance, why does God answer some prayers and not others? Does one person deserve to be healed and not another? God is "working his purpose out" but that is a hard one for me to accept.

I enjoyed the sessions very much and want to thank everyone who organised it and Linda for her guidance and help. The beginning and ending prayers were especially helpful and seemed to set me up for the day. I did get the stimulation I hoped for but I also got a warm feeling of belonging and kindness in our group, so thank you all too. And special thanks to Ruth and Sid for inviting us into their warm home!

The Christian life may be hard to follow but we are blessed in that we can follow it openly and without fear of persecution.

It was my first house group but I hope it will not be my last.

Joy Staley

I am sorry we have not been able to include comments from all the groups this time – I really have tried!

And what comes next?

We are planning something different for the summer. In the summer there are lots of other things going on and it makes a regular commitment every week rather more difficult for a number of people. So talks are being organised in church each Wednesday and, hopefully, you will be able to come on a week by week basis as you are able. The talks will be brief and will be followed by time for a cup of tea or coffee and an opportunity to discuss in small groups what was said in the talk. The dates for your diaries are:

June 8, 15, 22 and 29 and July 6. The initial talks will be by John Polkinghorne (2), Anthony, Linda and David. We plan to start at 7.00 and be finished by 8.30. More details next month.

We've even started initial planning for Autumn housegroups/sermon series and for something in Advent. That's scary planning!

Getting funny about old age

The old believe everything, the middle aged suspect everything; the young know everything.

Oscar Wilde

You know you're getting older when the candles cost more than the cake.

Bob Hope

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.

Abraham Lincoln

I was always taught to respect my elders and I've now reached the age when I don't have anybody to suspect.

George Burns

I will never be an old man. To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am.

Francis Bacon

Age may wrinkle the face, but lack of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

Danish proverb

The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.

Lucille Ball

I have now reached an age when, if someone tells me to wear socks, I don't have to.

Einstein

(The above was supplied by Sheila Munns)



Extendable Nursery Fireguard

Mary Holmes has an extendable nursery fireguard for which she no longer has any use. Its dimensions are:

Width 915mm – 1800mm

Depth 435 mm

Height 650 mm

If you think this would be useful to you, contact Mary (C. 312476). All she would ask is that, if you take it, you make a donation to church funds or to the Children's Hospice at Milton.

Shrove Tuesday Supper

When Henry and I arrived at the church and chained our bicycles to the bicycle stands, we thought we'd got the wrong night! No lights in the church hall? That's a bit odd! But the church was lit up? Perhaps the church wardens are moving chairs or something? What's happening? Then to go into the church with all the lights on, and see so many friendly people, white table cloths complete with bright apples and tomato sauce, etc, was to be stunned by the warm and happy atmosphere. A rich sharing for the prelude to Lent.

I expect the conversations on all the tables were interesting. There were eight of us on our table - two members of the Society of Antiquarians, one well on the way to joining, two perhaps approaching the middle years, and Olivia, Julia and Paul just beginning their journeys. Many past 'fish and chip suppers' were remembered, which hopefully introduced the newcomers to the tradition. Although remembered with immense pleasure, none, before, had actually taken place in the church or been quite so well attended. [Sorry, Audrey, we met in the church last year as we had too many for the Hall – Editor]

At our table, none of us had made any Lenten resolutions and although the Bishop encouraged us to join in the complete reading of the Bible, none of us had as yet decided to do so. Maybe other tables responded differently to the challenge. We were extremely fortunate to have such a smiling and easily approachable Bishop to join us all for the meal. Some of us knew at least which book some of the biblical references on the slips of paper came from, but certainly not all of them.

Apart from the gospels' promise of Easter, Colin noted this earthy snippet of social history! In the days before paid holidays were a legal entitlement, and Sundays were so tight and holy that no 'real work' could be done, the only days in the year when men could be off work were the major religious Feasts. Although Good Friday could be fairly early in the year, and although the temperature might be icy, and the rain might be pelting down, Good Friday was the only day possible to plant vital potatoes and it provided 'a sure and certain hope of resurrection'!

The entertainment after supper was just first class - huge variety, and so well produced, and obviously many members of the congregation have truly mistaken their real vocations! Young Erica almost tipped her chair over with laughter at her father's competitive challenges to David! Neither conceded an inch! Everything was so professionally performed. It was all just grand, and we shall surely - however terrifying the thought - never tire of swimming over that dam! Brilliant all!

So Thank you Bishop David, thank you Shirley, thank you Ruth, thank you to the table and chair removers, and the drinks organisers, thank you for the welcoming tables, and thank you to the sweeper-uppers and waste removers. And a huge and heartfelt thank you to the Fish and Chip Emporium!

AND THANK YOU GOD

Audrey Disney

There are pictures of our Fish and Chip supper in a central insert to this issue of the Good Shepherd News. Thank you to Stuart Keir for taking them.

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
May Newsletter:
April 3
(Publication date April 17-
(a little earlier because of Easter)**



Church Office 01223 312933

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

