

October 4th is the feast of Francis of Assisi, one of the best known and widely respected Christian saints, both outside the church as well as inside it. Yet the popular picture of Francis does not do justice to the complexity of his life and character. The stories of him preaching to the birds and taming the fierce wolf who was afflicting the town of Gubbio, have encouraged a view of Francis as if he were simply a sentimental nature-lover, almost a kind of hippie one might say. In fact the driving force of his life was a commitment to poverty for the sake of Christ and he was stern and demanding in following this vocation. As a young man he had been a soldier, but the transformation of Francis' life began with an encounter in Rome with some lepers, to one of whom he gave his clothes. His calling was confirmed in a mystical experience in which he heard a voice that seemed to come from the figure of Christ on the crucifix of a church. Seven disciples then joined him, forming the band from which the Franciscan Order was to grow with astonishing rapidity across Europe. Francis was somewhat anti-intellectual (the early brothers were forbidden to own books) but later generations of Franciscans were to produce some famous theologians. Increasing popularity of the Order soon brought in some wealthy benefactions and its character began to change. Eventually Francis was to give up the leadership, which was then taken up by the more worldly Brother Elias. Francis saw his mission as being world-wide and he set off for the Middle East in the hope of converting the Saracens. On the way he rebuked the Crusaders for their brutality and went on to make his way across the battle lines and meet with the Sultan. He was received with respect as an evidently holy man but he did not succeed in converting the Sultan.

In his later years, Francis became somewhat detached from the Order he had founded. The change in its character can be seen when one compares the vast fortress-like basilica that Brother Elias came to have constructed in Assisi in memory of Francis with the wattle huts in which the first Brothers had lived. Nevertheless Francis left a great spiritual legacy to the Church, one item of which was his having had constructed the first ever Christmas crib.

John Polkinghorne

A Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for your mercy and for your truth's sake.



PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Curate	Rev. Anthony Lees-Smith	425338
Honorary Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Reader	Linda Dean	328658
Churchwarden	Terry Barringer	424584
Churchwarden	Rhodri James	357607
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	351844
PCC Vice Chairman	Rhodri James	357607
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
PCC Treasurer	Ginni Carroll	01954 212993
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	354300
Administrator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Altar Linen	Finsetta Cummings	352757
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Bass	363156
Book of Remembrance	Horace Giles	359001
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	357622
Child Protection Co-ordinator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Children's Work	John & Alison Phillips	502969
Christian Aid	Simon & Clare Redfern	740513
Church Cleaners	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Coffee Makers	Gill Ambrose	858994
Coffee & Rolls	Fiona Blows	329822
Director of Music	Dorothy Holliday	234409
Flower Arrangers	Iris Brown	565956
Flower Arrangers	Jeanne Elsey	357622
Friends of Etterbeek	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Eva Hutson	574070
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Evelyn Walker	364067
Good Shepherd Players	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Good Shepherd Players	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Ann Callear	357694
Lesson Readers	Lilas Davison	354300
Monday Club	Eva Hutson	574070
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	John Phillips	502969
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	Ginni Carroll	01954 212993
North Cambridge Council of Churches	John Lamont	565559
North Cambridge Council of Churches	Michael Lovell	328521
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	Linda Dean	328658
Planned Giving Secretary	Lilas Davison	354300
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Tom Shipp	353734
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney	359396
Sacristan		
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 OCTOBER

Sundays and holy days

- 2 HARVEST FESTIVAL
Philippians 4: 4-9
John 2: 1-11
- 9 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Romans 8: 1-6
John 20: 1-18
- 16 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Genesis 1: 26-28
Luke 2: 41-52
- 23 LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
2 Corinthians 2: 14-17
John 12: 1-8
- 30 FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
1 Samuel 1: 20-28
Mark 7: 25-30

Wednesdays

- 5 Jonah 4
Luke 11: 1-4
- 12 Romans 2: 1-11
Luke 11: 42-46
- 19 Romans 6: 12-18
Luke 12: 39-48
- 26 Romans 8: 26-30
Luke 13: 22-30

HOUSE GROUPS

House Groups continue You will be most welcome – just find a group whose time and venue suit you.

FIRST CALL

First Sunday of every month
8-9pm at 51, Highworth Avenue

MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

Saturday October 8 Meeting for all Sunday Lunch Club helpers at the Lamonts 6.30pm for 7pm

Monday October 17 Standing Committee meets at the Vicarage at 9.30am

REGULAR SERVICES IN OCTOBER

- 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

Play and Pray at Orchard Park will be on October 9, 16 and 23 at 4pm in the Orchard Park Community Centre on Central Avenue. There will be *Something Else* at 4pm on Sunday October 30. Light refreshments. All welcome. For further details see the weekly bulletin.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Sunday October 9 at 6pm Evensong – Book of Common Prayer and King James' Version readings

Sunday October 16 AT ELY CATHEDRAL at 6.30pm Commissioning service for Authorised Lay Minsters and Licensed Lay Ministers (see page 16)

Saturday October 29 All Souls Remembrance service at 3.30pm

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Saturday October 1 Come and help decorate the church for Harvest

Sunday October 2 at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall.

Saturday October 15 Jumble Sale 1.30 – 12 noon

Sunday October 30 Social evening at the Carlton Arms.



The Word Revealed.

During the reign of James the First two important events happened that we vividly remember to this day. They are the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 and the Authorised Version of the Bible in 1611.

We commemorated the 400th Anniversary of the Bible by having a Festival Service, which was attended by 32 people.

After the Gathering and Collect we looked at the Early Church, and its formation of the Scriptures. Sitting in a horseshoe formation 17 readers, in pairs, took part in reading how the Bible was formed from Tudor times through to the Stewarts. We were informed that in 1526 a translation of the Bible into English by William Tyndale arrived in England, and that work together with the work of John Wyclif formed the basis of the King James Bible, but it cost Tyndale his life as he was burned at the stake in 1586.

Following the Hampton Court Conference in 1604, at the command of the King, translators began their work and it took them over two years, with each translator being paid 30 shillings per week.

During the Thanksgiving for Baptism, we were all reminded that we have all been born anew by water and the Spirit, and were sprinkled with Holy Water.

Our small but able Choir sang Hymns, Anthems and a Taizé Chant most beautifully, these being interspersed with readings, one in Greek, and the last a very light hearted, humorous story of Sarah's Dinner (see next page)

The morning Festival ended with tea, coffee, and delightful cakes made by Shirley and Ruth.

To those who collated this lovely Service, and those who read, a big thank you for such a serious, but enjoyable morning.

Bill & Jeanne



Sarah's dinner was read by Liz at the service. The object was to show how many of the phrases we take for granted in everyday speech are actually quotations from the King James' version of the Bible. This was so much enjoyed by those at the service that it is included by special request.

Do you think you could write something including quotations as this does? If so, pass it to me and we'll publish it.

Sarah's Dinner

Sarah decided to give a dinner party for family and friends, and she sent out many invitations – *three score and ten* to be precise. Her husband, Jack, was worried. “It’ll cost us a fortune,” he said. Sarah replied, “Well, *it’s better to give than to receive. So let us eat, drink and be merry while we’re about it. Anyway, as you sow, so shall you reap!*”

Jack protested, “*Man does not live by bread alone. Besides, why invite Great Uncle Tom – he’s as old as the hills and at his wits’ end. He’ll barely make it by the skin of his teeth – if he’s got any left! And as for that wayward brother of mine – talk about a man after his own heart. Can’t see why we should waste good money on him. Am I my brother’s keeper?*”

“Oh, come on, Jack,” retorted Sarah, “that’s just *sour grapes.*”

“No, it’s not. He was always his father’s favourite, *the apple of his eye*, until his *fall from grace*. Shows what happens when you *spare the rod and spoil the child*. Ha! *How are the mighty fallen. Can a leopard change his spots?* Not him – feeding him would be casting *pearls before swine!*”

“Sorry, Jack,” said Sarah, “but it’s time to stop this *eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth* attitude. *Blessed are the peacemakers. For everything there is a time and a season*, and I for one think it’s time to be reconciled. After all, *love covers a multitude of sins* and he is your own *flesh and blood*. I know he’s been a *thorn in the flesh* at times, but that doesn’t give us the right to *cast the first stone*. Besides, these days he might be the *salt of the earth.*”

Jack realised he wouldn’t win an argument with Sarah until the day he *gave up the ghost*. So he changed the subject back to food: “So how are we going to cater for this lot? That’s the *root of the matter.*”

Sarah replied, “Yes, that is a bit of a *fly in the ointment*. But we could do a casserole – there’s a chicken in the freezer.”

“A chicken? One chicken? I know *a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush*, if all these folk turn up we’ll need to lead a whole *lamb to the slaughter*. Besides, last time you did a chicken casserole, it was literally a *baptism of fire* – came out of the oven as a *burnt offering*. Talk about *ashes to ashes, dust to dust!*”

“In which case,” snapped Sarah, “you can enjoy watching your brother *bite the dust!*”

“Oh, very funny!” said Jack. “What about drink?”

“No problem – there’s plenty of gin and tonic to go round for starters, a case of wine in the cellar and a large bottle of malt for afters.”

“So then,” said Jack, “to sum up, the booze is great but there’s only one measly chicken. I see what they mean when they say *the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*”

And Sarah laughed.



Autumn Fayre 2011

Well, despite seeming a low key affair at the start, there was a steady stream of people all afternoon and this resulted in a magnificent boost to church funds of £732.44 (including just under £30 raised on Sunday in the Hall). What a great result! We met a big cross-section of our parish population, including a few new faces who seemed impressed by the warm welcome they received. Our thanks to all who donated items for sale and all who could spare the time to man the stalls on the day and sell refreshments and books in the Hall . (They missed the wonderful weather outside!)

Best wishes to all who contributed,

Ruby, Evelyn & Eva

[There are some excellent coloured pictures of the event thanks to Dave Wilson]



A PRAYER AS THE DAYS GROW SHORTER

Wild Spirit,
do not let us be tamed
to a life made only
of straight lines.
May we also travel
like the geese,
sharing the load
enjoying the lift,
calling encouragement:
just flying.

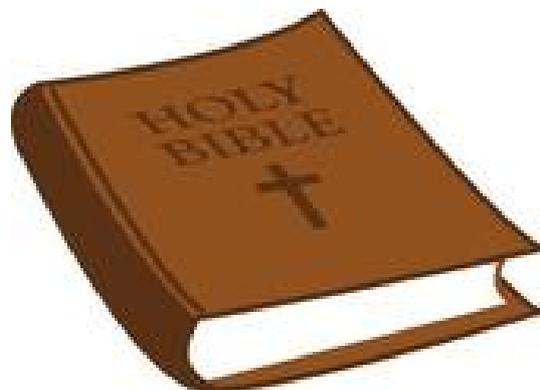
– from '*Still travelling*' in *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* by Janet Lees

FOURTH GOSPEL

When Schweitzer set aside the book,
The most profound the world has
owned,
Because a quirk of scholars dipped
Their pens in skeptic's ink as sour
As bitter sloes, it skewed his view
Of Gospel gold. His *Quest* ignored
The truest tale of life of Christ
On earth, because of wrong surmise
That Gospel said to be by John
Was only written years beyond
The time when all who knew the Lord
Had died. Today the tomes of those
Without an axe to grind uphold
The clues that John, beloved of Christ,
When old recalled for other John,
We call the Elder, what he knew
To be the truth. And what a tale
He had to tell. And yet it must
Be said that Schweitzer later lived
A life in Congo showing world
The way that Jesus taught is best.
We each in turn receive a call
To share in work that Christ began
On earth and now entrusts to us
To carry on, however small
Our role in scheme of things or poor
Our gifts and means. We each are
called
To live our lives empowered by love
Our risen Lord bestows, sustains,
Whenever will allows assent.
We pray to hear His will each day.

We pray for strength to heed it too.
As John recalled disputes with Jews,
And private talks with chosen friends,
He'd slowly grasped the Word
conveyed
But only dimly understood
At time. His tale is best recall,
Along with later paraphrase
Of what it meant in retrospect.
The claims of Christ about His role
Were either plain insane or else
The world could never be the same
Again. It's as we heed His Word
We learn it's key to how to live.
The Father's love will lift our own
So feeble love if we'll allow
His Holy Spirit's gift to guide
Our hearts and will. The claims of
Christ
Were not delusions leading John
Astray. They're truth indeed endorsed
By fact that death on cross was not
His end. He rose from tomb and came
Again, as He'd foretold. He came
To hand the baton on, that all
May learn the Gospel way is meant
For each and everyone, whom God
The Father loves in life and when
Beyond the grave we'll live again.
For Christ has shown we'll rise from
dead.
It's then we'll be with Father God
Who now is hid from sight and mind,
Apart from Gospel's living Word.

Henry Disney



Science and Religion in Quest of Truth

by John Polkinghorne

This is John's latest book which I sat and read with enormous enjoyment while travelling to and from London on a weekly visit to my Mum. It's a different book from John's last one in that science, in both historical and contemporary theory, is very much to the fore. I am, as most of you know, definitely not a scientist – if you did not know before but came to the Wednesday service in August, you will know what I studied! But I loved being made to think. There were words which I had never met before – do you know what a WIMP is? Have you heard *disconfirm* before? But that really did not matter, as John's love for both aspects of his subject shine through this elegant short book.

I thought I knew about Copernicus but I certainly had not realised that the Catholic Church did not change its position on his discoveries until 1820. I know Dorothy will be as fascinated by the passing reference to the brains of London taxi drivers as I was by the comparison between laser light and prayer. And I'm sure John's writing on the nature of God is something that will remain with me – I sat and thought for a long time on the train when I got to that point in the book.

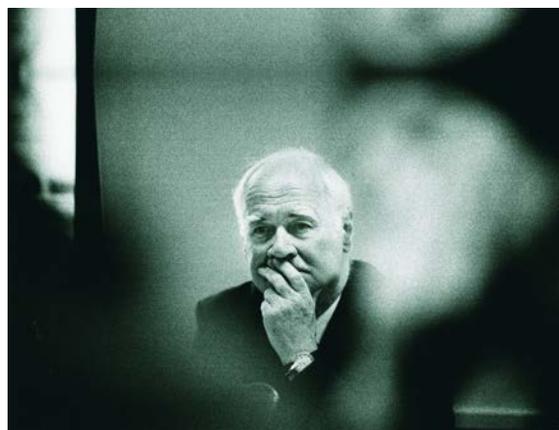
As always, it is the little things that flash into my mind – when writing about life after death John remarks that we are not apprentice angels. The colour of hell is grey not red, because the inhabitants have been separated from the divine life and what is left is endless boredom. The Bible is not a divinely dictated textbook but a kind of spiritual laboratory notebook containing human accounts of God's revelation to us. The difficulties of working with those of other faiths while maintaining the core beliefs of our own.

This is a non-scientist writing about a scientific book and just saying what reading it meant to me, and I'm saying, "Try it." We are called to think about our faith and, if you don't, it will be a very weak and insubstantial thing which will give you little support when you most need it.

Come along on November 7 and hear John talk about this book – and buy a copy so you can read it for yourself. It will be a really worthwhile experience. You will be in good company – it is in *Church Times'* bestsellers list.

Ruth Banger

P.S. A WIMP is a weakly interacting massive particle – so now you know!



Godly Play

We have been offering a Godly Play session to under-sevens on Sunday morning for almost a year now and they seem to enjoy it. Of course, I shouldn't speak for them – so if you want to know all about it, why not ask one of the children? Several of our older Godly Players have just started school and they are excellent communicators, so I am sure they would share their experiences.

Godly Play is a way of doing theology, and a way of spiritual direction. It was developed originally for children, but it has been found to be very meaningful in other situations, in prisons, with people who are sick and with those who are facing the end of life. It explores the Bible through a pattern of Christian worship and the seasons, encouraging people to raise questions and to work out their own ideas in a creative way.

Originally developed in the USA, Godly Play has been in use in Britain for about twelve years now and its popularity is growing. We are fortunate at the Good Shepherd to have an excellent collection of Godly Play materials available, owned by the Godly Play UK Trust, which exists to support the development of Godly Play.

In **November** we are privileged to be able to host a national training day for Godly Play led by Dr Rebecca Nye, the leading Godly Play trainer in the UK and an expert on children's spirituality.

Children's Spirituality: What it is and why it matters & Introduction to 'Godly Play'
Saturday 12th November 2011 10.00am - 4.00pm.

There is a charge for this course but, as we are hosting it, Good Shepherd members will not have to pay. However, we do have to book, so if you would like to come please tell Gill Ambrose, who will let you have a booking form to complete. The day includes lunch and drinks.

In March next year we shall host a national three day training course, which results in qualification as an accredited Godly Play teacher. Again, booking is essential so if you would like to take part, ask Gill for a booking form.

Wednesday Thursday and Friday 14th -16th MARCH

A non-residential three day training course at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Arbury, Cambridge

Cost: £280 non-residential (to include lunch) Led by Rebecca Nye and Peter Privett

Each day will start at 8.30am and finish at 6.30pm on Weds & Thurs, and at 5pm on Fri.

For more information about Godly Play in general, go to www.godlyplay.org.uk

Gill Ambrose



Making Sense of the Bible by Helen-Ann Hartley

SPCK – Modern Church series

This small book – 88pp in total – is intended as an introduction to reading the Bible in the context of the modern world. Here we are in the 21st century, living in the UK, mostly in considerable comfort compared with times past, but knowing that there is considerable poverty in our country, let alone what is experienced in parts of Africa and Latin America, say. We cannot undo – would we want to? – the scholarship of the past in relation to the Bible and nor can we undo the scientific developments which have brought us to our present state of knowledge about the natural world.

The book leads us through four short chapters via stories, context, encounters and conversations to read the Bible with other experiences in mind than simply a literal reading of the text. We know, of course, that the Bible is a collection of books by multiple authors and we cannot expect total consistency within it. Some of the stories are obvious parables, such as Jesus told, others, more multi-layered, turn out to be a mixture of myth, sacred history and prophetic warnings.

Every generation of Christians has focused on some parts of the Bible more than others – but not always on the same parts – and different meanings have been found depending on the circumstances in which the Church has found itself. But the author points out that “This is not to say that the text once meant something and now means something different. The point is that there can be continuity of meaning if we allow conversations to take place between ourselves and the texts that we encounter.”

We are introduced to the idea of rabbinic midrash – there are rules for biblical interpretation, but meaning is not always clear, so conversations help to clarify meaning – something no doubt most of us have found in our own bible study.

And we are not to shy away from the literalness of the texts. The author discusses the use of the genealogy at the start of Matthew and the complicated layers of meaning in the choice of women – do we want to airbrush out the negative stereotypes of “loose women” whom Matthew includes?

A book this length cannot provide a source for studying the whole Bible. Rather it is intended as providing some insights into possible new ways of looking at texts. The examples are well chosen and, having done a first reading at some speed, I think it will bear re-reading to get the full benefit. The author concludes “Any encounter with the texts of the Bible should leave us changed, but not always in the ways we might expect.”

This book is planned to be part of a series published by Modern Church with SPCK. A second, *Making Sense of God's Love: Atonement and Redemption*, by Lorraine Cavanagh is already published. They cost £7.20 each and are available from the MC website <http://www.modernchurch.org.uk/publications/ms.htm> or, of course, from Amazon.

Modern Church is the new name of the Modern Churchpeople's Union (MCU), which as many of you will know, I have belonged to for many years. It is in essence a liberal Anglican organisation which aims to help members and the wider Church look at faith and the Bible from a liberal and contemporary point of view, taking into

account the best of modern scholarship. We have an annual conference at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, which this year was on the subject of the Bible – “Can these bones live?” chaired by Prof. Adrian Thatcher. Next year’s conference has the title “By whose authority? An interfaith look at women and religious authority”. I am looking forward to it.

Rosalind Lund



A Pause for thought

Jacob was a cheater, Peter had a temper, David had an affair, Noah got drunk, Jonah ran from God, Paul was a murderer, Gideon was insecure, Miriam was a gossip, Mary was a worrier, Thomas was a doubter, Sarah was impatient, Elijah was moody, Moses stuttered, Zacchaeus was short, Abraham was old and Lazarus was dead. Now..... what's YOUR reason for thinking God won't use you?

God CAN use you where you are...if you let him! :)

I CHOOSE by Michael Halleen

"I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" (Psalm 91:2)

Mrs. S. had lived alone for many years and got out only with the help of a wheelchair. Every Sunday she wheeled herself into the side aisle of our sanctuary (one without handicap access) where she worshiped enthusiastically. She always seemed to be "up." People smiled when they were around her.

One evening Mrs. S. spoke to the youth of the church and was asked how she could always be so alive, so full of joy. She responded, "Because I *choose* to. I had no choice about living the last half of my life as a widow or having one of my sons killed in the Korean War. And I certainly I didn't choose to have to ride around in this chair for the past ten years. But one thing I did choose - to be happy. I decided to make the best of every day and to see the best in every person."

A friend who had been a missionary in South America told me of taking some American visitors through his city. One of them spotted a beautiful, large poinsettia tree in front of a small house as they passed by. The visitor wanted to take a picture and, not realizing that the plant was brittle, reached up to pull down a branch for the camera. A six-foot length of flame-red poinsettia snapped to the ground.

At that moment the woman of the house stepped out of the door and confronted the gringos standing there, poinsettia branch in hand. Humiliated, they offered to pay for her loss. But they could no more fix the personal damage than they could repair the tree. Still, instead of adding to their embarrassment, the woman cheerfully asked them in for tea. She chose to forgive them, to overlook their clumsy behaviour. She chose to offer them grace.

Nothing is more crucial to the quality of our lives than the choices we make about how we approach the circumstances and relationships of each day. In the end it is that attitude which largely determines the outcomes we will find. The Lord made today, but it is we who decide how we will live in it. I *choose* God as my refuge . . . I *choose* to believe . . . I *choose* to find a way.



GREENBELT

The Greenbelt Christian Festival, now 38 years old, is still going strong, and attracting huge crowds over the August bank holiday weekend. It is several years since the festival moved from a collection of muddy fields in Northamptonshire to the superb facilities of Cheltenham racecourse. The change has made it possible for elderly founder members, some on scooters for the disabled, to continue to join in all the events. Indeed, the high level of participation by disabled people of all ages was quite remarkable. The vast programme means that there really is something for everyone, with worship and music going from the loud rock festival style to the meditative and classical. There is so much else that the programme suggests nine different ways into the festival for those who are new. Children's involvement made a huge change this year. Rather than having a set of separate activities for children, there was a programme inviting all age participation from families in an area called 'The Village'. Of course it meant that children couldn't simply be 'parked' whilst adults enjoyed their own programme. I overheard one parent saying 'You come to one boring talk and behave and you get one ice cream, two talks and two ice creams, but if you kick up a fuss...!' But then, with all the music, film exhibitions and other activities, there was plenty for families to experience together. Within the 'resources' tent the Church of the Good Shepherd was well represented. Clare Redfern had an interest in the Christian ecology stand and also Christians in Science. Ros Lund shared in staffing the Modern Church stand. I met the chair of the organisation who said 'Bishop Bell 70 years ago thought there would be no need for an organisation like this in the future, but in the face of a huge increase in fundamentalism and negativity since then, our message is needed more than ever.' Gill who edits the 'Roots' resources for worship (known by Sunday School leaders and preachers) staffed a stand with colleagues. They also led worship in 'The Village' but the venue proved less than ideal. Their tent also housed an enormous queue for lunch in the cafe at the back! The whole weekend was hugely successful, and a great encouragement to thousands of participants. Why not consider coming next year? You don't HAVE to camp, as Cheltenham has lots of accommodation. You don't have to cook as there is food of all kinds in a variety of venues. You might need wellies and you will certainly need warm clothes as the evenings get very cool. It can deepen and stretch your faith. It can be challenging, uplifting, moving, and tremendously enjoyable.

Tom Ambrose

[There are some pictures of Greenbelt on the coloured pages]

NCCC Update: September 2010 Transitions Development Worker Update

Year 6 Transfer Groups

Romsey Mill worked with 38 Year 6 pupils to prepare them for their transfer from primary to secondary school. We worked with pupils from 6 primary schools including a pupil from St Laurence's Primary School. All the participants indicated they felt more confident, less worried and happier in their friendships by the end of the programme.

Horstead Residential

We took 34 young people away for two nights during a very wet weekend in July to the Horstead Centre near Norfolk. Due to the weather we weren't able to take part in all of the activities, however we still had a fun filled time, with new friendships made and challenges overcome.

Falcon Camp

We took ten young people to Falcon Camp during the first week in August. It was the first time that four of the group had attended Falcon Camp, and two of the group were returning as young leaders with additional responsibilities. The week was filled with activities such as trips to the beach, crazy golf, swimming and bowling as well as time for spiritual reflection. It was wonderful to see the young people develop their social skills as they interacted with young people from other parts of the country. It was also a privilege to see the young people explore issues of spirituality.

Please join us in giving praise for:

- Continuing relationships between Romsey Mill and local schools as we both seek to support the local community
- Increased awareness and support for young people as they transfer to secondary school
- The funding the Transitions programme has received to sustain its activities into early 2012.
-

Please pray for:

- The families and teachers who are supporting the Year 7's as they adapt and adjust to secondary school
- Wisdom regarding appropriate support for the young people who need it as they start Year 7
- The Transitions Team and Management as we continue to reflect and review the current programme.



MODERN HYMNS?

It seems all the time nowadays we are being bombarded with something new. Perhaps it's my age and it has always been the same! My personal preference would be for a completely new hymn rather than an "update" of a much loved favourite. Don't get me wrong – there are plenty of old hymns which should have been consigned to the dustbin of history many years ago. And there are plenty of new hymns which will definitely not stay the course. I just want us to offer the best of whatever genre we sing to God in worship. I'm old enough to remember the great thrill there was with all the new hymns from Geoffrey Beaumont and his group in the 60's. At the most, about three of them have survived in regular use. Terry passed me the following version before hymns were sorted for harvest. By the time you read this we will probably have sung this hymn – in the "proper" version. How do you feel about this one?

**We plough the fields with tractors,
with drills we sow the land.
But growth is still a wondrous gift
of God's almighty hand.
We add the fertilisers
to help the growing grain,
but for its full fruition
it needs God's sun and rain.
*All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above.
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love***

**With many new machines now
we do the work each day.
We reap the fields with combines,
we bale the new mown hay.
But it is God who gives men
incentives, skills and drives
which lighten labour's drudgery
and gives men fuller lives.
*All good gifts around us....***

**We thank thee then, O Father,
for life so rich and good.
For seed time and the harvest,
the wealth of daily food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all thy love imparts
but what thou most desirest -
our humble thankful hearts.
*All good gifts around us....***

I go to the Children's Music Group rehearsals and listen to Wendy carefully (and successfully!) explaining to the children the meaning of the words of some of our "traditional" hymns and I really wonder how much most of us understand what we are singing about sometimes. Some of our much loved Victorian hymns are very

obscure. The delight and difficulty of music is that we can't help becoming emotionally involved with it and any attempt to interfere is fraught with difficulty. Words matter and we need to be sure we really know what we sing – and say! And that is before we embark on discussing the perils of the “wrong” tune.

After acting as a leader at a Scripture Union camp this Summer, Rhodri passed me some hymn spoofs. They came from a book by Adrian Plass entitled *Bacon sandwiches and salvation*. This is a humorous book to dip into when you feel low. It will give you a jolt too – some of his definitions will really make you stop short and think again. Meanwhile, Rhodri's spoofs – if you want to enjoy more than this one you will have to buy Adrian Plass' book (orders happily taken – cost £7.11)

**And can it be, that no one was concerned
When I staggered in with an awkward lurch.
If they had asked me they might have learned
I came off my bike on the way to church.
My chain came off, I swerved into a tree
I smashed my shin and grazed my knee
My chain came off, I swerved into a tree
I smashed my shin and grazed my knee**

No prizes for guessing what hymn that is loosely based on!

Alison, who was recently with us as a student, once said to me that she thought it was great that we had the words of our hymns printed in the service leaflet. She thought this was much more important than to have the Bible readings printed out in full. (Now that I've thought about it, I completely agree with her). After all, I would be prepared to bet (were I a betting woman) that we all have at least one Bible at home, but our hymns come from a wide variety of sources. You would have to be sad hymn book geeks like Dorothy and me to have all the volumes from which our hymn words come!

We discussed hymn books, not surprisingly, when I was studying during this last year to be an Authorised Lay Minister in Music. We were the only church represented in my group not to have a regular hymn book – and NO ONE was happy with the hymn book they had! They envied us. I think we are happy with the mixture we get although I would be very surprised if anyone likes every single hymn (don't be unreasonable!). If you see a new hymn on the sheet (and it may well be sung to a tune you already know), do read the words carefully – they are important and you can enjoy those even if you don't sing the hymn.

As we sat and ate our rolls for lunch in the Church Hall yesterday, having assembled the Book Stall for the Autumn Fayre, Terry, Liz, and I were talking about hymns and Terry said something really important – we get most of our theology from our hymns! Think about what you sing, read the words of the hymns again during the week and think how fortunate we are to have such a vast rich resource of Christian musical tradition available to us.

Ruth Banger

Shoe Box Sunday November 6th

Another gentle reminder to everyone about filling a shoebox for deprived children at Christmas this year. If you are in the Grafton Centre, just pop into Poundland for some great bargains for your box. They sell loads of small items, which will delight these little children and it won't break the bank! We are trying to reach a target of 100 shoeboxes from the Good Shepherd this year and I'm sure we'll do it with your help. If you need some guidance on what to put in the box, just ask me or pick up a Samaritan's Purse leaflet from the table at the back of the Church

Ruby



Come and support us

On Sunday October 16 several of us will be in Ely Cathedral and I do hope you will be able to join us. At 6.30pm there will be a special service at which those who are Authorised Lay Ministers will be authorised (or re-authorised) to serve in their parishes and also those who are new Licensed Lay Ministers (what we used to call Readers) will be licensed to serve.

If you are an Authorised Lay Minister your authorisation now lasts for four years after which it lapses or is renewed (this is after discussion between the Lay Minister and the Vicar of their church). Four years ago (that does not seem possible!) just as Dave arrived with us, four of us were authorised to serve as Lay Ministers. They were Lilas Davison and Ruth Reid (for a ministry in Pastoral Care), Dorothy Holliday (for a ministry in Music) and Ruth Banger (for a ministry in Administration).

As you know from what I have written during the year, I have been working this year towards becoming an Authorised Lay Minister in Music so that I can be of greater help to Dorothy. So this time it will be Lilas (Pastoral Care), Dorothy (Music) and Ruth [Banger] (Music and Administration).

This is a really big event for us and we would value your presence with us and, especially, your prayers. We ask for your prayers not just for that evening but for all the work we, in our different ways, will, God willing, be doing in the future for him.

OCTOBER 16 AT 6.30PM IN ELY CATHEDRAL

For your amusement

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."



A woman in a supermarket has been walking behind a grandfather and his badly-behaved, 3-year-old grandson. It's obvious to her that he has his hands full with the child screaming for sweets in the sweet aisle, cookies in the cookie aisle, and for fruit, cereal and soda in the other aisles.

Meanwhile, Granddad is working his way around, saying in a controlled voice, "Easy, William, we won't be long, easy, boy."

Another outburst, and she hears the granddad calmly say, "It's okay, William, just a couple more minutes and we'll be out of here. Hang in there, boy."

At the checkout, the little terror is throwing items out of the cart, and Granddad says again in a controlled voice, "William, William, relax buddy, don't get upset. We'll be home in five minutes; stay cool, William."

Very impressed, the woman goes outside where the grandfather is loading his groceries and the boy into the car. She said to the elderly gentleman, "It's none of my business, but you were amazing in there. I don't know how you did it. That whole time, you kept your composure, and no matter how loud and disruptive he got, you just calmly kept saying things would be okay. William is very lucky to have you as his grandpa."

"Thanks," said the grandfather, "but I'M William ... the little brat's name is Kevin."



An African-American preacher in Alabama during the Dust Bowl scheduled a special prayer service to pray for rain. The church was packed out with folks from far and wide. The preacher stepped into the pulpit, scanned the assembled congregation, and told everyone, "Y'all can head on home. This service is over!"

The people protested, "But we've not prayed for rain!"

"Won't do a lick of good," the preacher replied. "Ain't none of you brought their umbrella!"



A wide-eyed little girl, attending her first wedding, did not miss a single detail.

Afterward she asked her mother: "Did the lady change her mind? She went up the aisle with one man and came back with a different one!"



WIFE'S DIARY:

Tonight I thought my husband was acting weird. We had made plans to meet at a nice restaurant for dinner. I was shopping with my friends all day long, so I thought he was upset at the fact that I was a bit late, but he made no comment on it. Conversation wasn't flowing, so I suggested that we go somewhere quiet so we could talk. He agreed, but he didn't say much.

I asked him what was wrong. He said, "Nothing." I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset. He said he wasn't upset, that it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it. On the way home, I told him that I loved him. He smiled slightly, and kept driving.

I can't explain his behaviour I don't know why he didn't reply, "I love you, too." When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely, as if he wanted nothing to do with me anymore. He just sat there quietly, and watched TV. He continued to seem distant and absent. Finally, with silence all around us, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed. But I still felt that he was distracted, and his thoughts were somewhere else. He fell asleep; I cried. I don't know what to do. I'm almost sure that his thoughts are with someone else. My life is a disaster.

HUSBAND'S DIARY:

A four putt! Who FOUR putts? Arrrgghh



A young executive was leaving the office late one evening when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document here, and my secretary has gone for the night. Can you make this thing work?"

"Certainly," said the young executive.

He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button.

"Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."



Memories

Around 14 years ago Anne Dowbiggin, a member of our church, talked to me about her work at Jimmy's, a shelter in the basement of East Road Zion Baptist Church. She explained that it was founded and run by two members of the congregation with the support of their Minister. She then offered to take me to one of her sessions.

It was organised by Joan and Richard Howlett, and street dwellers, who were outside all day and then found a doorway or car park to sleep in at night (often with a dog for warmth, companionship and protection) could find refuge at Jimmy's from 7pm to 9am.

The Howletts attracted volunteers from all walks of life – church members, students, retired people and others who just wanted to help with cooking, cleaning, laundry and preparing food. A volunteer in the 70's told me that she had sat up playing cards most of the previous night with a guest who couldn't sleep! The staff always referred to their visitors as "guests". The Good Shepherd Youth Group of the time contributed by cheering up the dour basement living room walls with fresh, bright paint.

I asked what I could do. For my first task Richard produced a pile of large dishes and many boxes containing out of date apple sauce in glass jars and asked if I could "do something with these." Apple crumble took care of pudding for one night a week for quite some time!

Next I moved on to a large chocolate cake each week, just a drop in the ocean.

Sourcing sufficient food for people who had probably not eaten since breakfast was a real problem. However, stores donated near sell by date produce, sandwiches etc. and volunteers drove around at closing time to collect all the offerings.

The churches became involved and Harvest Festivals produced fruit that could be prepared and frozen, people were asked to "remember Jimmy's" when they shopped. In this respect our church has proved magnificent, continuing faithfully to donate food and Christmas goodies for 13 years without fail – AN AMAZING RECORD.

Now, thanks to government funding, Jimmy's will be able to offer much more. The accommodation will no longer be rudimentary, guests will be able to remain throughout the day. It will become an Assessment Centre. Training in skills leading to employment will be offered, also treatments when required, tracing lost relatives, all with a view to returning visitors to main-stream society and self-sufficiency where possible.

HOWEVER, food is still a basic requirement and rising costs mean that it eats up resources, as many of us are discovering. It would be so helpful if you could pop just one Jimmy's item into your shopping bag each week.

Items that are used on a daily basis are at present most sought after:

Coffee
Sugar
Tea
Marmite

Squash
Juice
Cooking
sauces
Oil

Cereals
Biscuits
Cake
Fruit

Jam
Pickles
Peanut
butter

This practical help would again be received with much gratitude.

Ann Callear

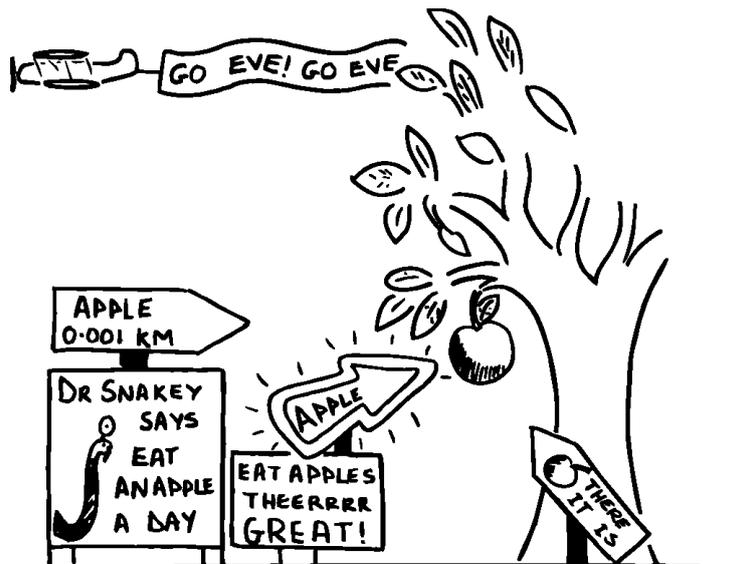


A footnote as we are studying women in the Bible this sermon series.

If three wise women had come to Bethlehem instead of three wise men, they would have

- arrived on time
- cleaned the stable
- and brought sensible presents.

Thank you, Terry!



Who says advertising doesn't work?

WHEN I SAY, "I AM A CHRISTIAN" by Carol Wimmer

When I say, "I am a Christian,"
I'm not shouting "I am saved."
I'm whispering "I was lost";
That is why I chose this way.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble,
And need someone to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak,
And pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed,
And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"
I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are too visible,
But God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches,
Which is why I speak His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"
I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority;
I only know I'm loved.

The Hospice Movement

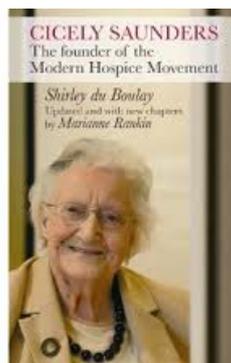
When I was working in London, Maureen, the friend with whom I shared a home, worked voluntarily in the local hospice. She said later that, in a strange way, it provided her with some of the happiest times she'd known.

Alf, a tough Londoner, was admitted, angry and frightened. When Maureen offered him the lunch menu she was told in no uncertain terms where she could put it! "What about a sausage sandwich?" she asked. "Ah, now you're talking, girl", was the reply. The spirit of the hospice began to permeate. Some time later Sister was fussing with his pillows and in the most loving voice Alf said, "Of, f*** off, Sister dear". When she returned a little later Alf was dead.

Maureen also went to visit the bereaved. Going into one flat she began to commiserate with the widow. "Don't bother, luv" she said. "He was a trial to me all our lives. Let's drink to his going." So they did!

Perhaps this is an apt reminder to us not to anticipate another person's reactions but to "take off our shoes as we approach holy ground" and to give thanks for Cicely Saunders who started the whole of the hospice movement in this country.

Pat Givan





Sharing

The old man placed an order for one hamburger, french fries and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the french fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously they were thinking, ‘That poor old couple – all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.’

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said they were just fine – they were used to sharing everything. People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn’t eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said ‘No thank you, we are used to sharing everything.’

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man came over to the old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked ‘What are you waiting for?’

She answered, ‘The teeth!’



Thank you, Finsetta!

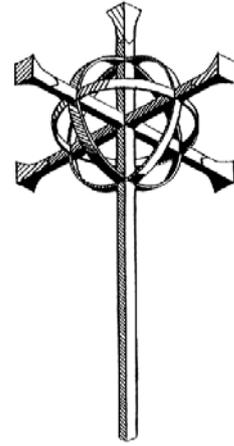
IN THE CHURCH HALL

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
November Newsletter:
October 16
(Publication date October 30)**



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

