



I have always loved listening to the radio, particularly to the dramas on Radio 4.

Recently I heard a lovely comedy called *Giving it back*, the story of Johnny, a small-time thief who is disturbed during a burglary. He finds himself in a baby's nursery and decides that the contents of the nursery would be perfect for his heavily pregnant girl friend.

Unfortunately for him, the baby is lying gurgling in his cot. Soon, the mother comes to investigate, only to find Johnny about to make off with her baby's musical mobile. Upset by the raised voices, the baby begins to cry so his mother feeds him to calm him down. As he watches the scene before him Johnny is reminded of Mary and baby Jesus and is inspired to change his life and give back everything he has ever stolen, before his own child is born.

Needless to say that isn't as easy as it sounds and Johnny finds himself in a race against the clock, which results in mockery, humiliation and time in the cells, but which also provides a glimmer of hope.

Many of us, I'm sure, will have memories of school Nativity plays, and as an ex primary school teacher I have plenty! But one in particular has remained with me over the years. I was teaching a class of 10-year-old children who had behavioural and learning difficulties, and together we put on the Nativity play as part of the Christmas celebrations. Although at the beginning they may have seemed to be the most unlikely characters, with some persuading they rose to the occasion and for a brief time, were transformed by the whole experience. They grew in stature, positively glowed and said how much they had "loved doing that Miss"!

There's something about the story of the Nativity, about seeing the scene in the stable in Bethlehem that gets to people isn't there? Even those people who may not go to church at any other time apart from Christmas seem to be moved by it. An encounter with Jesus can be transforming, if we open ourselves to him. During Advent, as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our lives, let us pray that we may allow our encounter with him this Christmas to transform *us*.

Linda



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 DECEMBER

Sundays and holy days

- 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 40: 1-11
Mark 1: 1-8
- 11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
John 1: 6-8, 19-28
- 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Luke 1: 26-38
- 24 CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT
Isaiah 9: 2-7
Titus 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-20
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
Hebrews 1: 1-4
John 1: 1-14

Wednesdays

- 7 Isaiah 40: 21-end
Matthew 18: 12-14
- 14 Isaiah 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b - end
Luke 7: 18b-23
- 21 Zephaniah 3: 14-18
Luke 1: 39-45

FIRST CALL

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


**JESUS
IS
THE
REASON
FOR THIS
CHRISTMAS SEASON.**

REGULAR SERVICES IN DECEMBER

- 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

Service at Orchard Park on December 11
and 18 at 11am in Orchard Park School.
Light refreshments. All welcome. For
further details see the weekly bulletin.

CHURCH CLOSURE

The Church will be closed from December
26 to January 3 except for the service at
10am on Sunday January 1.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN DECEMBER

For Christmas Carols and services see page
14

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

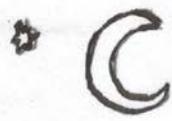
Sunday December 4 at 12 noon Sunday
Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall. This
is the Christmas special with carols.

Friday December 16 Messy Christmas
Party at Orchard Park Community Centre
followed by Walking Lights Procession with
Carol Service at the School (see weekly
bulletin for details)



... For the pillars of the
Earth are the LORD'S
and he hath set the world
upon them.

SONG OF HANNAH.



Women in the Bible – our latest sermon series and house groups

This series has produced an amazingly varied response and here are the “offerings” from most of our groups. With such a variety how could you not find a group to suit you?! The delightful drawing on the previous page is an original work from Jane [Copping] inspired by studying Hannah

Monday evenings with "Women in the Bible"

*Are there many women in the Bible? Well, there was the mother of Jesus – Mary. So what do we know about her? Perhaps she was attacked by a Roman soldier and had the baby Jesus as a consequence. Err ... I thought we were talking about what the **Bible** tells us about various women, not what others have come up with by way of wild speculation. Anyway she was the mother of Jesus, so that makes her **really** special and important.*

*Then there was that other Mary – you know, the tart. Now let's look to see what the Bible tells us about her. Mmm ... not a fat lot. So where does it tell us about her former "profession"? What? There's no mention of it! Oh! ... Ah yes, but she was the first to see our risen Lord – that's definitely in the Bible. OK! She was **one** of the first, even though she wasn't alone in some of the accounts. Whatever the case, she certainly loved Jesus deeply and was a devoted disciple. And NO! We're not saying she was married to Jesus. So who's been reading too many Dan Brown novels lately? As we were saying, she was a deeply devoted and loving disciple who never gave up on our Lord (unlike some of the men we could mention!) So that makes her **really** special and important too.*

So how many other women are there? Well there was Eve, of course. And Mary of Bethany – you know, Lazarus' sister (try saying that when you're drunk!). And Ruth. Ah! that's a lovely story. And Hannah. ... Who? ... Oh, Samuel's mum. Funny how, personally speaking, I've read that passage in the past and never really registered anything about Hannah. Must learn to read the Bible more carefully in future, and especially pay more attention to what it actually says about the women in it!

How wonderfully stimulating the Monday evening housegroups at Libby & John's have been. Not all of the above conversations actually took place, and there are others that did take place that I dare not mention! But I hope I have been able to give you an impression of the sort of exciting and informative sessions we've had exploring women in the Bible. Many thanks to Libby & John for being such terrific hosts, and also to Hazel for hosting one of the sessions. Vicar Dave and Cliff also deserve medals, not to mention stiff Gins-and-Tonics, for putting up with such an unruly group as we've been and for helping us understand scripture better. Finally, but certainly not least, I would like to thank everyone in the group for making the sessions so special and enjoyable.

Neville Dean

Women in the Bible. (Roseford Road, Wednesday Night Group)

We're a small group, averaging 7 regulars. Our discussions have been fascinating and fruitful and we constantly go off at interesting tangents. I have really enjoyed sharing thoughts and ideas about women in the Bible.

So, in no particular order, we have ...

Deborah, (yes we slipped in an extra one) from Judges; she was a strong lady whose story is told in verse and prose and who is arguably “the star of the book of Judges” (quote from Terry's notes). It is the only book of the Bible she appears in, unlike some of the other ladies. Notably the three Marys (does anyone remember the Bunty comic i.e. the 4 Marys; sorry for the irreverent comment).

We have said so much in our group that it is hard to remember everything and if I could it would fill several magazines! The general consensus was that Mary, the mother of Jesus was an amazing young woman, full of humility and trust.

I didn't feel so bad about getting the Marys muddled up in the story of the oil poured over Jesus' feet when Andrew said that Mary of Bethany and Mary Magdalene were often confused. It was of course Mary of Bethany who showed her devotion to Jesus in this way, much to her sister Martha's frustration. We talked about our feelings for and possible identification with Martha, Mary and even Judas, whose reaction to the seeming extravagance was understandable but coloured by our knowledge of his later behaviour.

I missed the discussion on Hannah, but heard Cliff's sermon. Hannah's hopefulness and persistence in prayer and keeping her promise by handing over her son at the temple show her to be so faithful and steadfast in her trust of God.

Eve and the Creation story - how long have we got? Raised more questions than answers.

I love the story of Ruth, and her faithfulness to Naomi, and how God provided for them through Boaz.

I apologise if I have left any ladies out. Thank you, Terry, for your leadership and provision of pictures from ancient, medieval and modern art and sculpture so that we could discuss artistic interpretation as well as the Bible story. Thank you Andrew for leading us, and along with the 2 other men in the group sharing discussions about women in the Bible.

Alison Phillips

A Book Review

Our studies on women lead me on to recommend an amazing book about and for women. My niece Emily, who is a teacher in Manchester, and a lovely young Christian woman, gave a copy of this book to my sister saying "Mum, you have to read this book." My sister read it and said to me, "Ali, it may be an American book but it is a must read". I'd agree. I have a son living with his American wife in Texas, so I do American!

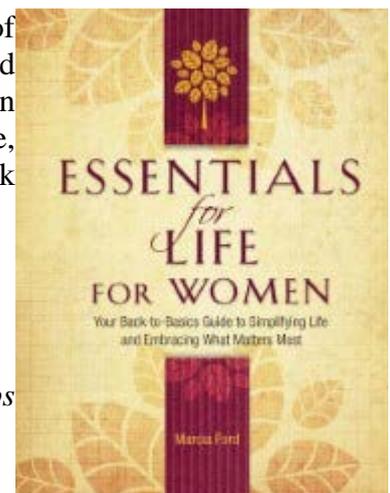
The book is called:

"Essentials for life for Women: Your Back to Basics Guide to Simplifying Life and Embracing What Matters Most."

It is not a self help book and it is not very American in its use of language. There are 50 meditations based on Bible passages mixed with quotations from many different authors. There are meditations on every aspect of life as well as about several women in the Bible, including Hannah, Dorcas, Rahab and Mary of Nazareth. It's a book for women of all ages

I can't part with my copy but I've bought some more if people would like a copy and will happily order further books from Amazon. Alongside the Bible it's a great everyday read!

Alison Phillips



SIX WOMEN AND A WILD LION – THE WEDNESDAY EVENING IMPINGTON HOUSE GROUP

Beware! Radical God at work. Expect to be upset, challenged. Don't be surprised if you find yourself having to rethink everything you thought you understood about God and the way he operates!

That wasn't how we expected to be thinking in the Wednesday evening house group when we set out to consider the six biblical women of the autumn sermon course. We expected to be focusing primarily on their faithful responses to God (or, in the case of Eve, her *faithless* one) and the working out of God's purposes through them. But more and more, as we considered these women, we found ourselves encountering a God of surprises: a loving God – yes, but a God who constantly turns things upside down.

Although we didn't realize it at the time, it was John who pointed our direction in his first sermon of the series – on the Virgin Mary. 'Who would everyone have considered to be the most important person in the world at the time of the annunciation?' he asked. The answer? Beyond any shadow of doubt, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, of course. But John reminded us that this proved, in fact, to be the *wrong* answer. The most important person was actually an obscure, unmarried girl who became the mother of God's son. The world, with its hierarchies and expectations, was turned utterly upside down.

Mary herself gives voice to this in her outpouring of joy at the news she has received:

...the Mighty One has done great things for me.....

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.'

And we found this radicalism on the part of God continuing through the stories of the other women we studied. Take Ruth, for instance, the rank outsider – the Moabite woman whose faithfulness was used by God to make her the ancestor of King David himself. Or Mary Magdalene who, according to Luke, had been cleansed of seven demons yet who, despite her troubled history, became the first person to meet the risen Lord. Mary of Bethany was criticised as a spendthrift and no doubt raised eyebrows at her behaviour towards Jesus, yet he accepted her and her love for him. Even Eve's faithless disobedience was turned on its head by God to become the cornerstone of a salvation history which has resulted in our own faith today.

At the end of the series we looked at Hannah, the taunted, childless wife whose 'faithfulness before God, even in the absence of answered prayer' (as Cliff put it in his sermon) led to the birth of the child Samuel. Her exultant song after the birth of her son foreshadows Mary's song in its joyous celebration of a social order stood completely on its head:

My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God.....

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.

Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,

but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

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

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

That was exactly the kind of God we felt we had met as we studied the stories of these six women: a God who confounds categories, who works in his own way and time, yet a God who transforms lives and turns expectations upside down. A wild lion indeed – yet a wonderful and faithful one!

Liz & Rex Collinson

P.S. Our Impington group thoroughly enjoyed Terry's art suggestions. We also delved into poetry associated with the characters we were studying. These ranged from Keats and his allusion to Ruth in *Ode to a Nightingale* to a truly awful modern song based on Esther. It didn't fit the tune it was supposed to be set to and produced the comment Aaaargh from Tom. No, I'm not going to reproduce it – it does not deserve the exposure!

Ruth Banger

Wednesday Morning group

I was intrigued by the subject chosen for the latest of the House group meetings – just how many women in the Bible were there I wondered for us to study and what had they done that was memorable and would give us food for thought and discussion? After all in those far off days women were second-class citizens, not expected to voice their opinions – they were to be seen and not heard and to get on with the job of bearing and raising children!

We began with Mary the mother of Jesus, the most important woman in the Bible.

I can imagine the young deeply religious Jewish girl being utterly bewildered and full of fear when the Angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that she was to bear a son and He was to be the Messiah. As the years passed she realised that Gabriel's words were coming true and she knew there would be much sorrow ahead, yet she remained faithful and trusting and courageous as the terrible events that led to the cross came about. There is a wonderful statue in Florence of Mary holding the body of her beloved son taken from the cross, which depicts her sorrow and love and anguish.

Mary is revered the world over and there are many statues and shrines to her and she intercedes for many through prayers, especially in the Catholic Church. I think she is rather neglected in the Church of England. Mary Magdalene was a challenging and interesting character. Some think she was a prostitute but it does not say this in the Bible – perhaps, as Jeanne remarked, it was because of her flaming red hair! I think she was very outspoken for her time – she was not afraid to speak her mind. What is very evident is her deep love for her Lord and her complete acceptance when she was privileged to be the first person to see Jesus after His Resurrection. There was no doubt in her mind. She was a faithful disciple much loved by Jesus. I wonder what she would think of the reluctance to-day to accept women priests?

I found Eve the most difficult woman to understand. She has been given a bad press – blamed for the fall of man – yet she was called Eve which means life-bearer. There was much discussion in our group about being created in the image of God.

The story of Ruth is a lovely one and has a happy ending. It tells of her love and devotion to Naomi and her kindness to her by not leaving her but returning to live in her country. Whilst gleaning in the fields she caught the attention of Boaz and eventually he married her and she bore him a son. I do love a happy ending!

Mary of Bethany was proved to be another faithful, loving and obedient disciple of Jesus. I have some sympathy for Martha left to do all the work whilst her sister was the centre of attention by washing Jesus' feet with expensive perfume and drying them with her hair. We discussed Jesus' reply when he said that the poor would always be with us and we thought it was right to always put God first as Mary had done and to focus on important matters.

After many years of childlessness, Hannah's husband took a second wife who gave him several sons. But in spite of Peninah's taunts Hannah never gave up hope and she continued to pray and ask God for a child and eventually her prayers were answered and she had a son. We found several other childless women in the Bible whose prayers were answered – a reminder to us, I think, that we should never stop praying and asking and never give up hope.

I enjoyed the meetings very much. I think we all learned a great deal and it opened our eyes to the position of women at that time, and of how difficult life was for them. They were all strong and courageous characters.

Thanks to everyone who prepared the sermons and asked the questions – some of us found them quite hard!

Thanks to Linda our leader for guidance and to Ruth who once again welcomed us into her home.

Joy Staley

So what's next for our House Groups?

On February 12 we shall be having a visit from Bishop David. He is coming to be with us when some of our children celebrate their first Communion. In preparation for this – and because some of us adults are a bit rusty on the details - we are having a series of three sermons from Dave on aspects of the Eucharist. These will be on January 15 and 22 and on February 5. January 29 will be an All Age service and will be our Christingle service. Please note, as of the beginning of 2012 the All Age services will be on the last Sunday of the month, not the first – this actually suits the pattern of school terms and holidays better.

House groups therefore will be in the weeks beginning January 15 onwards and we hope will end with a special celebration in the week of February 12 after Bishop David's visit (more of that in a later issue!) Then, unbelievably, Lent will be upon us as Ash Wednesday is on February 22.

Do book those dates if you can and plan to come to a House Group somewhere at some time – they are enough around and, as you will have realised from the preceding articles, they differ enormously.



Beyond Belief

22-28 October 2011

The project kicked off on the Saturday afternoon as the local project leaders strategised with the leaders of the small groups assigned to our churches at Impington Village College which served as a base for the city wide mission. The visiting delegates slept and ate breakfast at IVC for the next few days.

On the Sunday morning the three teams for North Cambridge were dropped off at the Good Shepherd by a suitably labelled Whippet double decker. These teams then participated in the morning meetings of The Good Shepherd, Arbury Road Baptist Church and Arbury Community Church. After lunch with their host churches, orientation and preparation, the delegates moved off for a barbeque at Christ's Church. On Sunday Evening we had a city wide commissioning including the Bishop of Huntingdon wielding a sweeping brush as he prayed!!

The mission proper started on Monday. The delegates had a worship, teaching and preparation session before being dropped off at the Good Shepherd at 12.15pm. After lunch together, the teams of delegates went off to their various projects with the local teams from our own churches. The groups of white hoodies could be seen passing through the streets of Arbury at various times as the teams moved around! We soon discovered that we had a very resourceful group of keen Christian young people visiting us and they made a fantastic contribution to the mission in many ways. Each church provided an evening meal for their group of delegates.

The Good Shepherd team worked on Orchard Park and had various family activities in the afternoon. In the evening they had a cafe but not many people came along and so the team went out to the skate board park where they had very good contact with youth throughout the week. David Maher took groups from all three teams each day to do a number of community projects in the area including the decoration of a home and painting some garage doors.

The Arbury Community Church team operated at Nuns Way Recreation Ground. In the afternoon we erected a steel sports cage designed for 2 on 2 football. This proved very popular and was used fairly continuously for 2 hours every afternoon. We also provided other outside games and some more sedate activities in the Nuns Way Pavilion. In the evenings, we organised a Youth Cafe and had a good number of youth each evening aged 11-18 and finished each evening with a "God Slot". Some of the team went out to the shops on Campkin Road to offer hot chocolate and chat with local teenagers and to invite them to the Pavilion. We had many good conversations about God and faith with the young people.

The Arbury Road Baptist Church had a similar programme with a sports cage in the afternoon and Youth Cafe in the evening. It proved more difficult to make use of the sports cage on the Manor field and eventually it was relocated onto the area in front of the Church. The Baptist Church organised a final Big Night at their Church including a huge inflatable jousting game, a visiting band called Maloki, and a speaker.

The whole week was very busy for everyone involved but it was a wonderful opportunity to engage with sections of the community and many people were brought nearer to God through it. We were so thankful to the visiting young people who gave up their holiday to share the love of God with the people of North Cambridge. We are also thankful for the members of local churches who put time aside to help during the week.

On the Friday, there was a debrief for the city wide mission and it was so good to hear of the way that God had worked in the 16 projects throughout the city - beyond belief indeed!

John Robertshaw

As many of you know, Beyond Belief hit town on the week commencing the 22nd October. We have had an amazing week reaching out to the Orchard Park community and some of the young teens in Arbury. Firstly, we would really like to thank the church of 'The Good Shepherd' for the amazing welcome we were given at the Sunday service on the 23rd October. We all feel very honoured to have been serving alongside your church and the wider North Cambridge community. Most of you will know that our main hub for the week was Orchard Park School. From here we hosted a young peoples drop in centre in the day time and in the evenings we would walk to the local skate park, giving the youth hot chocolates and biscuits. All of us involved have been spiritually changed and have grown in our faith and spiritual walk with Jesus.

The day-time drop in centres open to younger children had various themes throughout the week from land and sea, to animals and creatures. There we offered the children lots of different activities to get involved in such as biscuit decorating, arts and crafts and apple bobbing. This gave the parents an opportunity to sit and chat at the free café, where we served hot and cold drinks, biscuits and sweets. We were then able to mingle with the parents and share our faith.

After a creative and energetic day at the drop in centre, we would pack up before a walk back to Good Shepherd for dinner. Everyday we would have a dinner cooked for us by two lovely ladies, Pat & Evelyn. Their food was superb and fully restored our energy levels in readiness for the evenings ahead. We cannot thank them enough for all the hard work they put in each day to prepare and cook such amazing food.

After dinner, we had a short period of time to rest, some taking the initiative to fit in a nap before continuing our outreach in the evenings. But one evening, however, was slightly different. After a lovely curry and treacle sponge which we had eaten in the church, Dave told us the 'brick story.' Now for all those who don't know this story, apparently there is one brick in the church which is out of sequence. This was done with the intention of meaning that God is the only perfect one, therefore they could not build a perfect church. So we asked where this brick was and Dave replied 'I wont tell you exactly where it is but I will give you a clue, it's in the chapel.' So we all began searching for this one brick. After 15 minutes of intense searching for this one brick, one of us found it...hooray! We rushed to tell Dave and he confirmed that what we had found was the hidden imperfection in the church. However, after looking closer, we found that exactly the same pattern was a few rows below, meaning the imperfect pattern that Dave had taken two years to find was still to be found. We were the unfortunate youth group that broke the distressing news to him.

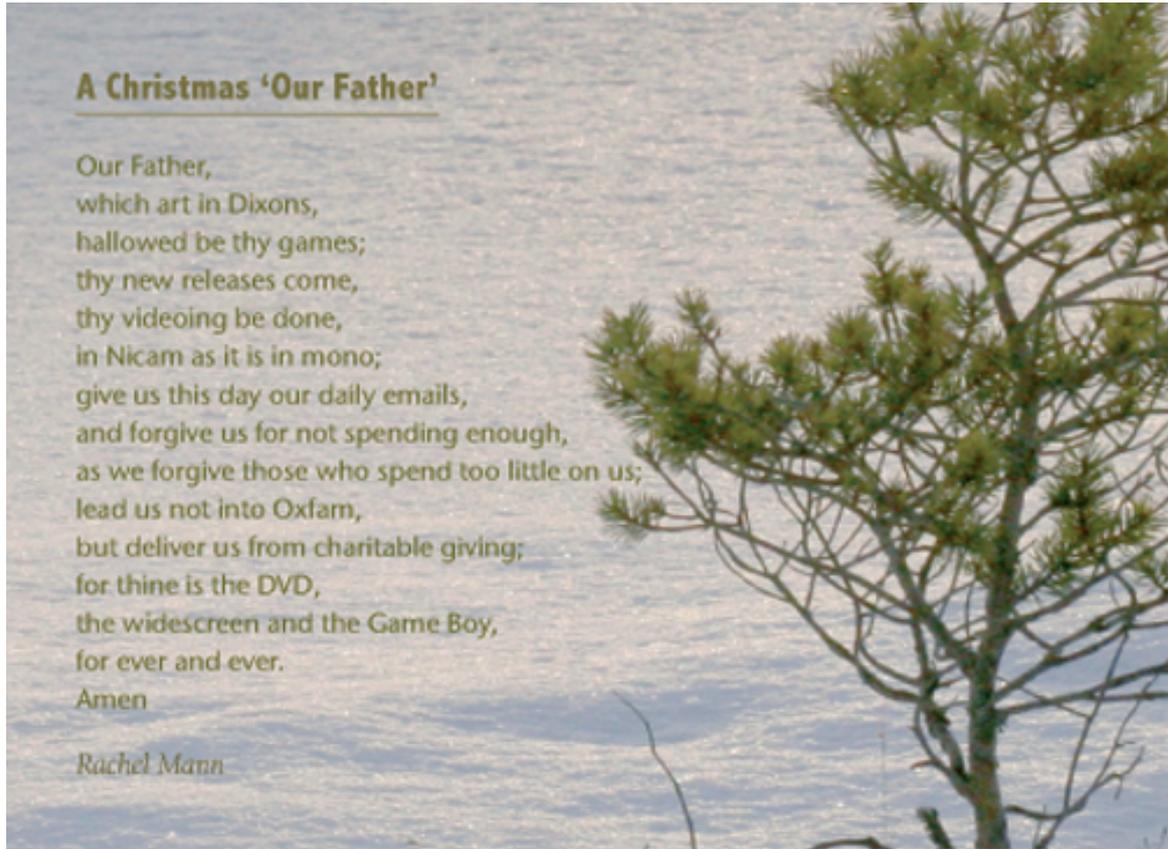
Overall, we have had the time of our lives and we have all grown in our faith and in our relationships with God. It has given us great courage, learning to step out in faith, taking risks and putting our trust fully in God. Before we went out, we knew that we were going to be talking about Jesus to everyone we met and we aimed to bless their lives and make a difference. However, we did not expect to be blessed ourselves by those that we met, and be really inspired by their lives. We are also so thankful for all the work that the church of 'The Good Shepherd' has put into the week and we feel so blessed that we were able to be apart of what our youth has named as 'The best week our entire lives.' We would love to keep in touch and want to come back and visit in the future. Thank you for partnering with us and welcoming us so generously to your church. We hope to see you all soon.

God Bless,

Team 1 - The C4 Youth Group (St Mary's Church, Bletchley)

CAROLS 2011
Come and join us if you can

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PLACE
Sunday November 27	4pm	Advent service and start of the knitted nativity	Church
Sunday December 4	12 noon	Sing Carols with Sunday Lunch Club	Church Hall
Tuesday December 6	4pm	Sing Carols	Round tree in Arbury Court
Thursday December 8	6.00-6.45pm	Carols	Kingsway Flats green area and community room
Monday December 12	2pm	Come and sing carols	Church
Thursday December 15	2pm	Carols	Buchan House
Friday December 16	7.30pm	Carol Service	Orchard Park School
Saturday December 17	10am	Choir sings carols for Cam Mind	Lion Yard
Sunday December 18	6.00/6.30pm	Community Carol service	Church
Wednesday December 21	11.00	Carol Eucharist	Havenfield
Christmas Eve	3pm	Crib service & return of knitted nativity	Church
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	Church
Christmas Day	10am	All Age Christmas service	Church



MANGER SONG

Child in the manger, think on me:
Though bright the Christmas star may shine
Dark is the path that leads to thee
Save thou be mine.

Child in the manger, look on me:
Only thine eyes may cleanse my sin;
Deep where my deepest shadows be
Shine thou within.

Child in the manger, watch with me:
The daytime, as the night, is long;
Only thy love, thy constancy
Can save from wrong.

Child in the manger, stay with me:
The waters of the world are wide;
Hold my heart where it best may be –
At Christmastide.

Rex Collinson

Sing a Song of Christmas

Sing a song of Christmas
Coming round the bend
Get lots of money from the bank
We've got to SPEND and SPEND!

Sing a song of supermarkets,
Crammed with Christmas "stuff"
Get an extra trolley
Make sure we get enough!
Sing a song of Christmas presents
Each year costing more
Put them on the credit card
Not much over to give to
The homeless and the poor.
Sing a song of baby Jesus?
Yes I suppose we must
Oh don't those flippin' Christmas cards
Create a lot of dust.

Sing a song of Good will
and Peace to men on earth
Does that include old Uncle George
Snoring by our hearth?
Sing a song of Christmas Carols
In church so softly lit
Give a £1 to charity
At least we've done our bit.
Sing a song of "the party's over"
Broken toys, tears and fuss
Heave a sigh as we wave "goodbye"
To Uncle George on the bus.

Sing a song of Christmas
Disappearing round the bend
But at least we've seen it through
To the bitter end!

Joy Staley



OR



LAW OF THE JUNGLE

An enterprise is like a chair
Supported by a set of legs
That number four. The first denotes
The workers' claim to foremost share
Of profits made. Then those who buy
The product should expect a price
That's fair. The state requires at least
Substantial slice of tasty pie
In tax, to fill the public purse
Required to meet our needs for health,
And schools, and all the rest. And last,
From what is left, we may disburse
A dividend to those whose cash
Provided means to build the plant
At start of game. Today, it seems,
Investors jump the queue in smash
And grab that's little short of crime.
But leading band of greedy thugs
Are pension funds, and so we're all
In dock. In irony sublime,
It's only when they're past their prime
The lowly workers get their dime.
And furthermore the public purse
Is robbed to feed the hungry curse
Of senseless wars abroad that nurse
The flames of Moslem's deep unrest
That seeks revenge against the West.
Because of Bush, along with Blair,
Our world's awash with black despair,
As thirst for oil pollutes our air.

Henry Disney



Alzheimer's Society Drop-In Centre

Every Monday and Wednesday the Alzheimer's Society runs Cambridge Drop-in from 10-12 in the Gibson rooms, St Columbas Church, Downing Street, Cambridge. At the Drop-in we help people whose life is affected by any types of memory problems, and all types of Dementia. We provide support and information to families, friends, carers. We can make sure that people have access to equipment which may make life easier, benefits, council tax reductions, carers assessment, help with planning for emergencies, access to care at home, information on respite, care homes etc.. We try to help people to understand the condition and develop strategies to cope, as well as providing emotional support. There is also an opportunity to chat to someone in a similar position.

Our service is free from charge and no appointment is required. If your life is affected by a memory problem why not come along and see us?

For further information contact The Cambridge and Ely Office of the Alzheimer's Society on 01223 863854

**Harry, Ginni and Toby wish
all their friends at The Good
Shepherd a very happy
Christmas.**

*We hope that you will have a very
joyful and blessed Christmas and
New Year,
Merry Christmas
Dave, Hazel, Jude, Zoe & Rosey*



Wishing everybody a wonderful
Christmas and many blessings for
2012. Love to all. Lois & Phil

TO ALL OUR GOOD SHEPHERD
FRIENDS,

GOD GAVE HIS GREATEST GIFT TO
US
ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY
AND MAY THE JOY AND WONDER
ALWAYS GUIDE AND LIGHT YOUR
WAY!

WISHING YOU A JOYFUL
CHRISTMAS
AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.

ANTHONY, WENDY, ERICA AND
HILARY
XXXX



Wishing a joyful Christmas season to all of my friends and fellow worshippers at the Church of the Good Shepherd and to all readers of the Good Shepherd News.
Margaret Handley.

A happy and peaceful Christmas to all my Good Shepherd friends
Jeanette

**Although we are not sending Cards to all our friends, those in Church, and elsewhere, we send you all our very Best Wishes for Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.
Bill & Jeanne.**



*We wish all our friends at the Good Shepherd a peaceful and joyous Christmas.
With love,
Linda and Neville*

We wish all our friends a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year
Ruth & Dorothy

Terry and Phyl send warm Christmas wishes to all their friends at The Good Shepherd



*Christmas greetings to our clergy and their families, our
visiting students and all the wonderful "all age" congregation
at COGS
Ann Callen*



*Wishing all at The Good Shepherd
a joyous journey through Advent
to a wonderful Christmas.
Love from Cliff and Jane Kay*



Cleaner

John

Merry Ahsai

202

Christmas

With love to all at the Good Shepherd from the Phillips Family

A very special Christmas message

'Twas the night before Christmas,
he lived all alone
in a one bedroom house
made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
with presents to give
and to see just who
in this house did live.

I looked all about
a strange sight did I see,
no tinsel, no presents,
not even a tree,

no stocking by mantle,
just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands,

with medals and badges,
awards of all kinds.
A sober thought
came into my mind.

For this house was different,
it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
silent, alone,
curled up on the floor
in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
the room in disorder,
not how I pictured
a true British soldier.

Was this the hero
of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
the floor for a bed?

I realised the families
that I saw this night
owed their lives to these soldiers
who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world
children would play,
and grownups would celebrate
a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom
each month of the year
because of the soldiers
like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve
on a land far from home.

The very thought
brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened
and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry,
this life is my choice,

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more.
My life is my God,
my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over
and drifted to sleep.
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
so silent and still,
and we both shivered
from the cold night's chill.

I did not want to leave
on that cold, dark night
this guardian of honour
so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over
and a voice soft and pure
whispered, "Carry on, Santa,
It's Christmas Day, all is secure".

One look at my watch
and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas, my friend,
and to all a good night."

Sent by Dave Wilson

FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT – AND THOUGHT

Oops!

With his request approved, the CNN News cameraman quickly used his cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport.

Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!" The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off.

Once in the air, the cameraman instructed the pilot, "Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can get shots of the fires on the hillsides."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm a cameraman for CNN," he responded, "and I need to get some close up shots."

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is...you're NOT my flight instructor?!"

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others. (*Attributed to Audrey Hepburn*)

I was walking across a bridge one day, and I saw a man standing on the edge, about to jump off. I immediately ran over and said "Stop! Don't do it!"

"Why shouldn't I?" he said.

I said, "Well, there's so much to live for!"

"Like what?"

"Well...are you religious or atheist?"

"Religious."

"Me too! Are you Christian or Jewish?"

"Christian."

"Me too! Are you Catholic or Protestant?"

"Protestant."

"Me too! Are you Episcopalian or Baptist?"

"Baptist."

"Wow! Me too! Are you Baptist Church of God or Baptist Church of the Lord?"

"Baptist Church of God."

"Me too! Are you Original Baptist Church of God, or are you Reformed Baptist Church of God?"

"Reformed Baptist Church of God."

"Me too! Are you Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1879, or Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915?"

"Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915!"

To which I said, "Die, heretic scum!" and pushed him off.

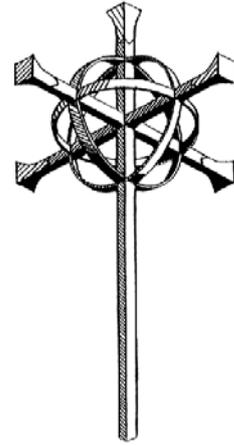
IN THE CHURCH HALL

THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 1 st Sunday of the month noon – 1.30pm	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559
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
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Christina Oxtoby.	017800767627
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	Tom Boughton	301002
CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
TAI CHI Friday 2 – 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Friday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

TO BOOK THE CHURCH HALL

Please phone 352151 (evenings)

**Submission date for
January Newsletter:
December 4
(Publication date December 18)**



Vicarage 01223 351844

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

