

We hope you will enjoy reading what went on in our church in 2012 – and enjoy looking at the intriguing cover picture. The calligraphy is by Jenny Cooper Cards and the Scripture from NIV of the Bible.

But the report only covers the past! If you want to know what is happening at The Good Shepherd NOW and what is planned for the future, go to our webpage www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk and make sure you don't miss out.

Vicar's Report

Thank you. This year it has been so exciting to see the church pull together. Having to say goodbye to Anthony in the summer I feel that we have rallied together to continue building God's kingdom here in this parish. We've established teams - Worship and music, Children and Families, Social Awareness, Pastoral Care, Buildings and Grounds and Teaching and Evangelism. These teams consist of members of the PCC and the congregation and undertake work on behalf of the PCC and feedback to help in the direction of the life of the church. Together with the PCC and Standing Committee they are doing a great job. If you would like to be involved let me or Ruth Banger know.

Thank you. This Autumn we had our Consultations. This is when we took a 'term off' and over evenings and afternoons with wine and puddings, we shared, discussed and listened to God and one another about where God is calling us to be over the next five years. We talked about our vision to 'See this community worshipping Jesus' and discussed how this may happen. Much of the information has been filtered to the teams and at the APCM I will share some more.

Thank you to the numerous people who are not on any committee or team but quietly get on with serving the church in practical ways. The Church would not run without you, and I am thankful for all that you do.

Thank you to Linda, John, Harry, Ruth, Terry, Rhodri, Ginni, Hannah and Chris who support me in practical and spiritual ways. And thank you to our students, who have done a great job of throwing themselves into the life of the church and have made significant contributions to our lives and our worship.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you, Lord. It has been such a privilege to see you move in people's lives, see you touch hearts, in our worship and church, as well as in the community at large. Thank you that we have seen your love in action, demonstrated in our love for one another. Lord, we have a long way to go, we know we are not perfect but thank you that we are seeing signs of your Kingdom coming. May our hearts be open to continue to be led and equipped by your spirit, and may your will be done, in our lives, in your church and in this community we are called to serve.

David Maher



Buildings and Grounds Team

The team consists of Dave Wilson (Convenor), Tom Ambrose, Ruth Banger, Ruby Leyshon and David Maher (ex officio)

We have met five times and have managed to see that a number of necessary day to day items are dealt with relating to the Church, the Hall and the Grounds – the things you don't notice when everything goes smoothly, but about which everyone grumbles when they go wrong! For example, we saw through (via the PCC, of course) the repair of all the fans in the heating system and this has made a great deal of difference to the temperature of the church. We have commissioned the new banners for the front of the church and are finally making good use of the notice board overlooking Budgens Car Park to advertise our services and events. Major work has been done in the church grounds with the taming of the back hedge and we are working on filling the gap in that hedge. We are also the liaison group between the church and the young people who have been working in our grounds as part of their community service, supervised by the YMCA. Their efforts are much appreciated.

These are all major things, but we also deal with the minor things – the need for a new blind pull or the failure of a hand drier or extractor fan for example. We have dealt with all of those and more. We try to be proactive so that we can suggest to the PCC matters which need attention. At present we have in hand, among other things, improving the access to the main car park entrance and looking for suitable storage for the Godly Play materials, but we are sure that many unexpected items will crop up which need our attention.

We are all people who like to get things done and so enjoy working together as a Team for the good of the Church community.

Dave Wilson, Tom Ambrose, Ruth Banger, Ruby Leyshon



Care Homes (Nursing and Residential)

We take very seriously our responsibilities to the nursing and residential care homes in the parish and are grateful for the welcome we receive from staff and residents.

Regular monthly communion services have been held at Harry Scott Court (co-ordinator, Linda Dean), Havenfield (Ruth Reid). We also visit Alex Wood House. Buchan House (co-ordinator, Terry Barringer) has two monthly services, one Communion and one which is more informal.

Although some residents are very frail and/or confused, they appreciate the sacrament and familiar hymns, readings and liturgy. It is a privilege to be with them.

If you would like to come along and join in with any of these services, please speak to one of the co-ordinators

Terry Barringer, Linda Dean and Ruth Reid



Charitable and Planned Giving and Fund Raising

Planned Giving to the church totalled £51,834 in 2012. Planned Giving income covers 65% of the cost of the church's activities and is essential to the continued life of the church within the parish. Planned giving enables us to budget for, and manage, our expenditure with confidence and allows the PCC to plan for the future.

Every year we report an unprecedented level of giving from the members of the Church of the Good Shepherd, and this year was no exception, with more being raised than in 2011. Each year a proportion of the Planned Giving income is set aside for donation to charity and in 2012 the charities supported

were the Red Hen Project and the RDM Parakkanvilai. Both of these charities received £960 (with the RDM Parakkanvilai also receiving monies from specific fundraising events). The following charities were also supported through fund raising events and collections:

- Alzheimer's Society
- The Children's Society
- EACH
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- The Musicians' Benevolent Fund
- The Red Hen Project
- St David's Foundation

Additionally there are the other charities supported by members of the Church, such as Christian Aid and the Poppy Appeal, but which do not pass through the Church's books.

In addition to the planned giving, fund raising makes a significant contribution to the Church's income. Our regular Sunday coffee raised £355 during 2012 and the fund raising team organised a number of events which proved as popular this year as in previous years. The March jumble sale raised £300.92 and the May Plant and Book sale (always a firm favourite) raised £285.35. The Arbury Carnival cake stall was well supported and raised a fantastic £272 – and a good opportunity to take the Church out to the community. The Christmas market, the highlight of the fundraising calendar, raised £1,548.70. In total, fundraising contributed over £2,700 to the ongoing work of the Church in the parish and this was only made possible by the enormous efforts and tireless support of the fundraising team, helpers, donors and customers.

To all those who gave so generously both to the specific causes supported by the church and to the Planned Giving scheme in the year, and to those who gave so freely of their time and energy to make our fundraising efforts so successful – **THANK YOU !**

Ginni Carroll



Children and Young People

On Sundays at The Good Shepherd - *Sunday School*

The past 12 months have been really enjoyable and we now feel we are in a place to offer all children suitable activities each Sunday morning and we are improving our all age services too. Most children now happily participate in age-appropriate groups with material that supports the same themes as those being explored in church.

Children from 6 years of age are welcome to join in with the group in the hall and pray, read, create and enjoy a wide range of fun experiences together. Finding leaders continues to be a challenge but we have many willing helpers that the children appreciate and amuse.

As we seem to be growing in the number of families we are encountering it is important to ensure all are catered for within the life of our church. A Children and Families Team has been established to look at this and consider how we move forward at the Good Shepherd. One of the changes we have made this year has been the trial of cloth bags for children to access after Godly Play or for children that prefer to remain in church.

We hope to take the children out on a few activity trips this term possibly skating or sharing food and fellowship.

During the spring term we enjoyed the support of Emily Mackintosh on a Youth for Christ placement with us. She worked with the older group on Sunday mornings and took some of them to the Costa Coffee youth evenings. Over the short time she was with us Emily offered a welcome role model and a safe platform to discuss issues and ask questions. A legacy has been the opportunity to attend the Costa evenings again this year. She also worked in the Manor School drop-in and led some assemblies in local schools. Emily's work at the Orchard Park Skate Park was a real witness as she visited with hot chocolate on the coldest Sunday afternoons in winter.

Hazel Maher & John Phillips

On Sundays at The Good Shepherd - Godly Play

Children from three to the end of Key Stage 1 are welcome in the chapel each Sunday to explore Bible stories and the basis of the Christian faith through Godly Play. As many of our children are very small, we enjoy the presence of some parents also, making us a varied, mixed-age, learning and worshipping group.

Godly Play is a liturgically-based learning method that deeply values the varied spirituality of individuals, encouraging people to explore in ways that respect their own preferences and needs. Over the last year the children seem particularly to have enjoyed the liturgical stories that have keyed into their experience of the worship in our own church building. Talk to them about what they see and do: you may well be surprised by what they know!!

Additionally, our church was used on several occasions during the year as a base for Godly Play training, for people locally from around Cambridgeshire and also from much farther afield. It is good to have the Haven now as a welcoming space into which these groups can expand to have coffee, lunch and discussion.

Gill Ambrose

Shout Aloud

Shout Aloud is a community children's choir based in Arbury. It is for children aged 7-11 and includes pupils from many of the local primary schools. The choir rehearses every Tuesday during term-time and the children enjoy games and snacks as well as lots of singing. They have performed at a number of community events this year, including the Arbury Carnival, Arbury Court Tree Lighting, the Good Shepherd Advent service and at Alex Wood House. Shout Aloud is a collaborative project between the Cambridge Church Schools Trust, Romsey Mill and the Good Shepherd, with a partner choir running in the Mill Road area.

Hannah Adam, Musical Director

Toddler Group

I run the Toddler Group in the Church Hall every Friday in term time from 9.30 until 11.30. We are open to all parents, grandparents and carers of any pre-school children. We offer a wide range of play activities including

Duplo, puzzles, baby toys and soft play. We also offer a craft every week: this can be anything from painting to calendar-based activities such as Mother's Day and Christmas. We also try to provide a short church visit at Christmas and Easter. We provide a drink and biscuits for the children and drinks for the carers. We also try to do either some singing or free play with the ride along toys. We are a very friendly place to come along for a chat.

Claire Duell

18th Cambridge (Good Shepherd) Rainbows

The Rainbow unit goes from strength to strength – though we started the year with a worry over a rather bare waiting-to-join list. However we did not need to fear, as the unit has maintained our full number of 15 and now have a healthy number of girls (most of who are under 3!) waiting to join!

In addition we welcomed two new Unit Helpers who have joined the volunteer team and make this valuable contribution to Rainbows in City West District.

This year we took part in the Cambridgeshire East Rainbow Guide 25th Birthday Challenge, so the girls enjoyed thinking about parties and special anniversaries and what they mean to us. As well as this the girls also completed the Disney Challenge Badge and all now proudly wear the big blue badge with Mickey Mouse Ears.

We supported the Church this year at the Harvest parade service with donations to Jimmy's and the Cambridge Food bank. We also held a handmade craft stall at the Christmas Market with lots of hand made goodies on sale.

As well as this we also went on our very first outings, with the Brownies on a coach, all the way to Pleasurewood Hills. A great time was had by all!

If you would like to (or know someone who would like to) take part in the fun at Rainbows please visit the following link and sign up online!
www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved.aspx

Dana Marsh, Guider-in-Charge

18th /25th Cambridge Brownies

During the summer term we explored the history of our Pack and local area. We created family trees, had a Jubilee Party and made things for Father's Day. We dressed soft toys and had a fashion parade. Lots of preparation was needed for our Pack Holiday in Newmarket, which kept us busy and was very enjoyable. Finally we held an American Independence Day party

In the autumn term we took a group to Pleasurewood Hills near Lowestoft which was very enjoyable. We had a toilet set challenge to raise money for a toilet and spent an evening playing with toilet roll wrapping chairs, unrolling and rolling back up again. For bonfire night we made Guys and judged which was best then we worked to produce items for the church Christmas Fete, made Christmas gifts for parents and wrapped 80 chocolate bars for the Sunday Lunch Club.

As an organisation the Guide Association has changed its tag line from 'Girls in the lead' to 'We discover as we grow'. So in the spring term we designed badge and welcomed the Kings Hedges Brownies to join us for Thinking Day.

So we are still going strong and looking forward to the year ahead. We thank the church for its continued support so we can help girls to discover and grow.

The Owls

18th Cambridge Scout Group

Beavers

Last year we had 16 Beavers. The Colony currently has 14 Beavers, 2 of whom are moving up to Cubs in the New Year which will leave us with 12. We have a waiting list for those not old enough to join and are hoping for some new recruits next term. This term we have worked for our Healthy Eating and Fitness Challenge badges. We had a District day which was followed by a sleepover which worked well and eight Beavers attended the District Christmas party. We did a night hike from the Green Dragon Bridge to McDonald's with the 26th Beavers, helped by Roger and Charlie as we didn't have enough leaders. Next term we are going to cover three more badges and hold another sleepover.

Cubs

The Cubs Section has remained at a steady 23 to 26 Cubs since the last AGM and is working well. There are 5 Cubs moving on to Scouts, 2 Beavers anticipated to move up and 1 transfer expected in January meaning the Spring Term will start with 22 Cubs.

This year we have looked at badges for Faith, Safety, Local Knowledge and Astronomy to name a few. We have had a very successful Camp at Graffham Water with the 27th Cambridge Cubs and there have been hikes, days out at St Ives and Duxford, a Christmas Party and the Remembrance Day Parade. I would like to pass on my thanks to my Leadership Team for all the help in making this possible.

Next term will be 40 years since I, Akala, became a Cub Scout. This suggested a new activity. The Cubs will be doing the things that I did so long ago: I will be re-creating the old *Cub Handbook* with week to week tasks for the Cubs to complete to earn similar badges to those I would have had.

On a down side, I may be losing one of my Section Assistants in January and as a result I am having to ask for help from parents. I am putting together a parent rota and I need volunteers. If everyone is able to help you may only be needed once or twice a term (and you may find you enjoy it!).

Akala

Scouts

The Scout section currently has 15 Scouts with 5 Cubs moving up in the New Year. The troop peaked at 27 in the summer term. 6 moved on to Explorers or left the troop at the beginning of this term, one has moved to the 14th troop where his school friends are, one moved to India and two left due to sporting commitments. Unfortunately we lost 4 leaders due to work commitments/personal reasons.

What an awesome year! This year the troop have been out adventuring all over the place: Winter Camp at Gilwell, on expedition in Norfolk, Community Challenge camp in Newmarket, Survival camp in the wild (Fulbourn!), Night hikes, Wide games, Orienteering, Crafts, Pioneering, Cooking... the list goes on. It has been a very active year for the Troop and all the Scouts should be incredibly proud of all that they have achieved throughout this year, including several challenge badges (Creative,

Community, Expedition) and stepping up to any challenge that is thrown at them.

A massive thank you must go to all the leaders and helpers as without their commitment and enthusiasm the program would not be half as exciting and thank you to all the Scouts for making everything great fun (well, almost everything!).

Next year promises to be just as action packed. We have a new leader starting in January and it would be great to have extra people to help to ensure that we can do everything that we want to do.

If you want to find out more about what we have been up to ask a Scout, or if they are too scary, ask one of the leaders! And come and talk to us about next year and the one after that, it's going to be awesome!

Roger Ling



Flower Arrangers

We have now finished the first Year of our new Rota with extra flower arrangers, and we have enjoyed seeing their different arrangements.

Donations would be very welcome as we do not receive any funding from the Church.

If you would like to join us please get in touch with Jeanne or Iris.

Jeannne Elsey & Iris Brown



Housegroups

This year we have only had one term for the housegroups because of the consultations in the Autumn when we give everything else a break. As a

result of the consultations we felt that what we needed to look at in depth was discipleship and growing in confidence in our faith. The course that we chose to look at was *Discipleship Explored*, and thanks to a generous gift we were able to purchase books for every member and a DVD for each group. The course looked at Philippians and I know many have found it to be challenging, encouraging, difficult, rewarding and sometimes frustrating. But through the support and nurture of the groups most have felt stirred in their faith to move on. I'm so thankful to see how God is moving in people's lives. And a big thank you to hosts and leaders of the groups, as well as those who have been coming along and been brave enough to engage with the material and one another.

Our summer course will start in May, details will be published soon, and we are confident that there is a group which is near where you live that you will feel welcome in and fit well. For more information have a chat with me.

David Maher



Monday Club

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

We have done all the usual things – we have had our hot cross buns, Easter eggs and strawberry tea, and our much enjoyed visit from the Arbury School choir. Towards the end of the year we had our Christmas Party.

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

Eva Hutson



Music

What a year this has been with such variety of music. Our major priority, as always, has been that the music for our services should deepen our worship. To this end we have a very wide range of music in all our services although the balance will vary depending on the focus of any particular service. We sing modern worship songs with enjoyment but we also include (with equal pleasure) traditional hymns. We are blessed in that we do not use any one hymn book so we have a free choice of the best material from a wide range of books. While he was still with us Anthony chose the hymns, but since he left us Jide and I have been sorting the hymns together and this has been a real privilege – we have, I believe, genuinely learned a great deal from each other. As Jide moves on from being a student with us, Jonathan is going to help me and, again, I trust this will be a learning opportunity for us both.

Throughout the year we have been very fortunate to have Bronwen with us once a month and we have all really enjoyed hearing the organ so beautifully and sympathetically played. We have also gained great pleasure from listening to Henry, both on the organ and on the keyboard. In the year since the last Annual Report I have been struck by how much confidence has been gained by those of us who play for services regularly now – Liz, Tom, Rhodri (and I). I thank God for my musical friends and their talents which they give of so generously.

The Music Group was led by Wendy but Linda has taken this over since Wendy's departure and the Group is really moving on under Linda's direction. We look forward to greater collaboration between the various music providers – more events like the song with bell accompaniment we sang together for Anthony's last service. We have enjoyed providing music for special services such as choral evensong and the August Wednesday morning service – these events give us a chance to sing music which would not otherwise fit into our regular pattern of worship.

We have had fun music too – silly songs from many members of the congregation at my birthday party and on Shrove Tuesday and we even sang in Welsh on the Welsh Evening (or an approximation to Welsh!). We were entertained by Street Voices at our Harvest Lunch and that was a very happy occasion, as was hearing our smallest children with their parents singing a Christmas song with actions at the Crib Service. We've also been there with music to support the quieter, sadder events which we all encounter – the All

Souls' service and Quiet Christmas spring to mind as does the memorial service for Jamel which we shared with local school children. Music now regularly also quietly supports the ministry of healing in the church.

We would love to have more people involved in the music at The Good Shepherd but we realise that not everyone can easily give up time regularly to rehearse. If you feel you would like to join with us (choir or music group) do let me know. At present the choir rehearses every Thursday evening, but we really do not criticise those who cannot come every single week, I plan round those who can come! The music group rehearses before All Age services, so only once a month. Music is a really important part of our lives and our worship, joining in making music is also good for our general health and wellbeing. Do consider giving it a try and thank you for all the encouragement and support you give your musicians.

Ruth Banger



North Cambridge Council of Churches Report

This has been an exciting year for the NCCC, which began with the sad departure of our curate Anthony, who had been first the vice chair and then the chair of NCCC. Anthony has been succeeded by Revd Lynda Taylor, the assistant priest of St George's Church, Chesterton, as the chair of NCCC and Michael Lovell was appointed as the vice-chair. We have been very happy to welcome Revd Ruth Adams, the new vicar of St George's Church, Chesterton, who has been actively involved in NCCC since her arrival with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, where the Songs of Praise was hosted.

Our new chair, Lynda has proposed a review of the NCCC's constitution, with a purpose to considering its membership. A working party was asked to look at the current constitution. This will be presenting its findings back to the NCCC in March 2013, which will give time for the member churches to provide their feedback and acceptance of the new constitution. Our AGM takes place in June 2013.

Meanwhile, the NCCC has been providing a forum for individual churches to share events which are taking place locally, which is a great opportunity for

Christians to do things together. Events which have taken place have been prayer breakfasts, action days, guest speakers, foodbank etc. The most surprising will be between the new Bishop of Ely and the MP for Cambridge City, who apparently has no opinions about the church!

The NCCC continues to work with Romsey Mill which provides a youth worker for North Cambridge. Romsey Mill is a Christian organisation which aims to support vulnerable children in the North Cambridge schools. We have been supporting a youth worker for many years and their work has a significant impact about young people and their families here.

Michael Lovell



St John's Orchard Park

Firstly, I'm hugely grateful to the Lord for Anthony Lees-Smith, Nathan Dale, Kina Robertshaw, various ordinands, and a number of others who've been deeply committed to Orchard Park for a number of years. Their prayerfulness and community involvement and hard work has laid a wonderful foundation for the church. Anthony, in particular, was well-known and appreciated by many in the local community and in the school, and we're benefitting now from the goodwill towards him and others.

The past year has seen lots of changes at Orchard Park – a new name, a newly-formed group of people, a new full-time minister. This is the brief summary of what's taken place:

Over the summer period, after Anthony's departure, the church stopped meeting on Sundays for a while. During that time, the group from Christ Church met together with those from Orchard Park. We wanted to study the Bible and pray together and get to know one another. It was crucial for us to start to become one church family together, and to develop a common vision for ministry in Orchard Park. These early meetings were a real blessing. As we started to grow relationships together, our vision for the church on Orchard Park became clear: we want to be passionate about the Lord Jesus, and committed to loving one another and serving our local community.

At the start of September, we started meeting again on Sunday mornings at Orchard Park Primary School. We didn't publicise our Sunday services at first. Again, we wanted to deepen our own relationships with one another first before going 'public.' Through the Autumn, we started to pick up on contacts previously established through Anthony and others, and I enjoyed getting to know staff and children at the primary school. Towards the end of November, we were commissioned at a service at the Good Shepherd. This was a significant moment for us, underlining the partnership we enjoy together. In December, with a name change, St John's Orchard Park went public again, with a number of Christmas events.

As of today, at the end of February, we are thankful to the Lord for further establishing this small church in Orchard Park, and for many blessings: we are, on average, 15 adults and 5 children on a Sunday morning; the primary school is a great location to meet in; the diocese has bought a house for the Lowes to move into shortly; the drafting of the Bishop's Mission Order is entering its final stages; my weekly meetings with Dave Maher are a great help and support. Most importantly, there is a small number of Orchard Park residents who've started getting involved in church life. And that's what we're here for – to see the kingdom grow in this new development.

Chris Lowe



Pastoral Care

This year has seen the re-formation of a Pastoral Team, which works closely with the Leadership Team and Healing Ministry to identify pastoral needs, to co-ordinate visiting and other aspects of Pastoral Care and to report to the PCC on a regular basis. The Team consists of Linda Dean (chair), Terry Barringer, Martha Clark, Lilas Davison, Michael Lovell, Lois Morris and Ruth Reid.

In particular we have worked on the new arrangements for Home Communion. On one Sunday each month, Communion is taken to the housebound directly from the main morning Eucharist, by licensed lay people.

The care of the dying and bereaved is always a particular concern for the church. The past year has seen the passing of some much loved members of our fellowship, Leela Sebastian, Jean Russell and Jeannie Smith-Louden. They will be missed by us all.

Pastoral Care, given and received, is part of the ministry of the whole church, and the contribution made by all members of the congregation in informal ways is always appreciated.

During the coming year we will continue to work to identify pastoral needs, provide pastoral care and further develop this area of the church's ministry.

Linda Dean



Parochial Church Council

Such a lot has happened this year! The PCC and Standing Committee has each met on alternate months in 2012 (except for December and August), and we would like to thank Dave and Hazel for allowing us to meet in the comfort of their home during all the upheaval of building works. We are now trying to meet in the newly refurbished Haven – but sometimes we creep back to the Vicarage when the Haven is unavailable.

PCC Officers have remained unchanged this year and, as a PCC, we are now attempting to come to grips with all the material generated by the latest round of Consultations and therefore to formulate our next Mission Plan. We are helped in this in that we have decided to form a number of new working teams to deal with different aspects of all that the PCC does. So we now have teams for Church Buildings and Grounds, for Families and Children, for Pastoral Care, for Social Responsibility and the Wider Church and for Worship and Music. We are confident this will lead to us getting more done more efficiently at our meetings, and these groups have contributed to this report.

We are delighted to see our church growing and it is a very unusual PCC meeting that does not have a list of names to approve as additions to the

Electoral Roll. Sadly this year has also seen us lose some major contributors to our church life together and these are recorded by the PCC too.

Special thanks should go to Pam Claybyn, Liz Collinson and Pat Marsh who are coming to the end of their elected time on the PCC.

Ruth Banger



Schools

We continue to be involved in the schools in the parish. David is Chair of Governors at Arbury and takes lessons and assemblies in all the primary schools. We also welcome the schools to the church to explore the building and to grill the vicar on exactly it is that he does. Because of the changes in Manor school and Anthony leaving, we have not been involved as much as in previous years but we are looking forward to building on that relationship once again when the new head arrives in the summer.

David Maher



Social Awareness Group

These are exciting times for us as a group! Our first meeting was held on July 2nd of last year where we discussed what we would like to do over the coming year. As Dave had mentioned at the last PCC that he would be keen to see our involvement with the Rural Development Movement of South India revived, that was where we started. Those of you who have been at the Good Shepherd for some time will remember that a Nursery School was set up in Parakkanvilai as a result of our donations, which is called The Church of the Good Shepherd Nursery School. Henry keeps in touch with Father Israel and recently attended the RDM AGM with him. The '8 o'clockers'

have a collection for RDM every month at coffee. We all felt that we would very much like to propose it as one of our charities for the coming year.

At our second meeting on October 1st we thought about social awareness locally. We discussed Community Action Day and what a positive thing it was for the local community. Those of us who subsequently joined in on 13th October had a great time and met lots of interesting folk. Dave also raised the question of additional prayers in the intercessions.

We decided on:

Week 1 Red Hen Project

Week 2 Jimmy's

Week 3 Rural Development Movement

Week 4 Food Banks

We also discussed prayers for special days. Thanks to Fiona, (who realised that the words to type into Google were 'Awareness days'!) we now have a list of awareness days throughout the year so that intercessors can include prayers for them if they wish.

On October 20th Ruby and Liz attended a day at Meadowlands Community Centre. It was a seminar entitled 'Community Centres Future Management'. In our groups we were asked to discuss how we could all work more closely to share facilities, the better to serve our communities. The council is exploring how to build stronger partnerships with local people, sharing expertise. It was good to meet new people and swap ideas.

For us, perhaps the most exciting thing to happen has been the setting up of a branch of Cambridge Food Bank here in church. It had been a project close to Dave's heart for some time. On Wednesday January 6th Liz, Ruth, Henry and Fiona attended a meeting with representatives from Cambridge Food Bank. Also present was Charlotte from the Vineyard church. By the end of the meeting we had a date to start – February 14th!

Then Ruth, Rhodri and Liz attended the Mayor's reception on February 6th which was all about Food Banks, as it is the Mayor's chosen charity, Rowan Williams has agreed to become Patron for the Food Banks and gave a wonderful talk. It was a superb evening with excellent talks, music and stalls with helpful leaflets. Our first Food Bank Day felt a bit daunting. Boxes of food have to be collected from Cambridge and then returned at the end of the session. When visitors come for the boxes, there are forms to be checked and filled in. However, they have been very patient and we are getting to grips

with the system now! We have got off to a slow start, but hopefully things will pick up once people realise that we are here! We are hoping to distribute more information to the local community centres and doctors soon. All people who come for food must bring with them a voucher from a front-line professional. Only one voucher can normally be issued to the same person every three months. As the leaflet says, it is “Helping People in Crisis”.

We have been very blessed with volunteers both from our own church and also from the Vineyard Church, St Andrews and Arbury Road Baptist Church. We are so grateful to everyone for their support. Also, we have had great support from the Food Bank Team. Please pray for us all as we grow in this very important ministry.

Liz Collinson, Fiona Blows, Rhodri James and Henry Disney



The Sunday Lunch Club

The Sunday Lunch Club is not just for the Senior Citizens of the Church of the Good Shepherd, but exists for anyone in the local community who is 60+ years of age who would welcome a “delicious roast meal with all the trimmings”, and enjoy eating it in good company!

We meet on the first Sunday of every month, and the meal costs only £3.00. (Once again, no price rise this year, but there will probably have to be an increase to £3.50 next year – be warned!) We start to drift into the Church Hall from 12.00 noon, commence eating at 12.30, and usually finish by about 1.30. If you would like to come, do let us know – we are always keen to welcome new members.

As well as serving a three course meal, the Lunch Club provides fun and fellowship for all - not only the members, but also for an excellent team of helpers. This year we have 31 good folk on the helpers’ rota, but there is always room for more. If you think you would like to join the team next year please let us know and we can arrange a “taster” Sunday when you can come along, sample the food and fellowship, and find out what it is all about. Be prepared – all helpers also pay the £3.00 fee as well!

The helpers serve in teams of six, approximately three times a year, to lay the tables, collect the subscriptions (and do the bookings for next time), give out the (free) raffle tickets, serve the food, take round tea and coffee, wash up, and finally tidy the church hall at the end of the event. This usually takes about half an hour extra. Perhaps one of the most important jobs they do is get to know the club members by chatting to them as the meeting goes on. The team works hard, but they also enjoy the fellowship and buzz of the club.

Our vicar, David Maher must think that the Club does a good job, as he requests that all students in training take part in this rota as a good preparation for their work in ministry. Does any other church have “washing dishes” as part of their job spec? Seriously, we as a parish are truly blessed in having such terrific students this year, and what a privilege and pleasure to be able to get to know them better over sharing in the Sunday Lunch Club tasks.

There used to be three stalwart folk in the kitchen each month. Now there are only two! This year Finsetta Cummings retired from kitchen duties after many, many years of preparing the vegetables we had each Sunday, even to the extent of growing some of them in her allotment! A huge thank you to Finsetta for this and all the many other jobs she did for the Club. We are so glad that, although Finsetta no longer works in the kitchen, she comes to the Lunch each month and shares in the fellowship.

So, who are the two stalwarts without whom there would be no Club? Evelyn Dennington, who has worked tirelessly, graciously and so efficiently from the very beginning of the Club 22 years ago, and Pat Marsh (Brown Owl), who joined her in 2010. Our heartfelt thanks to you both for doing such a wonderful job.

John & Libby Lamont (01223) 565559



Church Wardens' Report

2012-13 has been a good year for the Church of the Good Shepherd. Our house groups, crèche and children's groups continue to flourish. We have continued to reach out to and serve our local community, with good relations with schools, care homes, community centres and pubs. We have had some good celebrations together, usually involving food. The Royal Jubilee Lunch and new style Harvest lunch stand out.

Halfway through the year, we lost Anthony to the Diocese of Leicester. He made an enormous contribution, beyond that of the 'ordinary' curate to so many aspects of our church life. He, along with Wendy, Hilary and Erica, is greatly missed. As wardens, we are aware that David's workload, without a curate, is excessive and we will continue to urge our vicar not to take on too much and the diocese to provide more support.

With Anthony's departure, COGS' involvement on Orchard Park is less hands-on but we are committed to supporting the ongoing work of Chris Lowe and St. John's under the Bishop's mission order.

Inevitably, the wardens have to be concerned with practicalities of buildings and plant and we are particularly grateful to the Buildings and Grounds Team who have taken on many practical and ongoing tasks.

The completion of The Haven and its increasing use by church and community is a cause for thanksgiving, especially with the establishment of the Food Bank.

In Autumn, 2012 COGS held its second round of Consultations, allowing every church member to contribute their thoughts and ideas for the life and witness of COGS. In the months to come, the PCC and its committees will be working with these to carry forward our communal life and witness.

A big thank you to everybody who gives their time and talents, prayers and money to contribute to the varied witness, service and activities of the Good Shepherd. Please don't think you are taken for granted.

Terry Barringer & Rhodri James

INDEX

	Page
Beavers	8-9
Brownies	12-13
Children & Young People at The Good Shepherd	6-13
Christian Aid	4
Church Flowers	4
Church Hall	5
Church Wardens	5-6
Cubs	9
Fund Raising	6
Godly Play	6-7
Good Shepherd Young People	7
House Groups	13-14
Lunch Club	14-15
Monday Club	15
Music	15-16
Music Group	16
North Cambridge Council of Churches	17-18
Nursing and Residential Care Homes	18
Orchard Park	19-20
Parochial Church Council	20-21
Pastoral Care	21-22
Planned and Charitable Giving	22-23
Rainbows	12
Schools Work	7
Scouts	9-11
Social Awareness	23-24
Shout Aloud	8
Toddler Group	8
Uniformed Organisations	8-13
Vicar's Report	3

**Here are the contact details for the members
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