

There is a man who stalks the London Underground looking for easy prey. He is in his early forties and slightly shabbily dressed. He goes up to unsuspecting commuters and tourists and asks them if they believe in God. He says that he is a Christian.

I have not had the pleasure of meeting this man myself, but I know people who have. If you are foolish enough to engage in conversation with him, then you quickly find out that you are not good enough to be a Christian – not even if you are a Vicar. He sets the goalposts, asking if you believe in God. If you answer yes, the goalposts are narrowed – are you a Christian? If you answer yes, those goalposts are narrowed once more. Are you born again? The questioning continues until, for some reason or another, it becomes clear to him that you are not a real Christian, and he harangues you for letting the side down.

One of this man's particular concerns is Christians who get involved in things 'of the world'. People who have a drink with friends, who live, who love, who enjoy themselves. Christians, he thinks – and he is apparently very happy to tell you this until your train turns up – Christians should keep apart from 'the world'. They should not do as other people do. They should not go to pubs, cinemas, or theatres. He believes that this kind of behaviour is inappropriate for Christians. He is, if we are kind, misguided. Or perhaps he is simply wrong.

The message of Christmas reminds us that God is completely, wholly committed to 'the world'. Our God does not deal with the mess of the world with sterilised gloves. He dives straight in. He becomes one of us. Jesus is born to a real woman, with a real birth, with real blood and guts and all that human birth involves. He cries real tears, and feels real pain.

And God behaves inappropriately. The religious man on the underground would not have approved. He is born to an unmarried woman. His first visitors, we

are told, are shepherds, who were religious outcasts, looked down on by the religious people and who lived life on the fringes of decent society. His next set of visitors weren't much better – non-Jews, the Magi, from where we get the word 'magician', but probably astrologers forbidden by Jewish Law.

God behaves inappropriately. The religious man on the underground would not have approved. And Jesus, as he grows up, continues to misbehave. He mixes with tax collectors. Not your everyday Inland Revenue people, but malicious, unscrupulous types who collaborated with the Romans and taxed the people to the hilt. He had dinner with prostitutes. He spoke to lepers and touched them. He did not keep himself apart from the outcasts and the disreputable – he spent time with them – just as he spent time talking with, and dining with the respectable and the religious leaders of his day.

Why did God mix with undesirables? Because he so loved the world. God did not so love the world that he kept out of it, he did not so love that he left it to run down like a wind up clock. God did not so love the world that he gave up on the mess we had made of it. No, God so loved the world that he sent his only Son. He got involved.

This Christmas come and hear the stories again about how God got involved, and if we let him, how he still wants to get involved in our lives. The gift has been given, all we have to do is unwrap it.

And he thankful.

Dave



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Honorary Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
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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
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Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Bass	363156
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Coffee Makers	Gill Ambrose	858994
Coffee & Rolls	Fiona Blows	329822
Music Co-Ordinator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
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Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Evelyn Walker	364067
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Good Shepherd Players	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
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Lesson Readers	Lilas Davison	354300
Monday Club	Eva Hutson	574070
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
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Sacristan	Stuart Keir	572303
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

- 2 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Luke 21: 25-36
- 9 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Malachi 3: 1-4
Luke 3: 1-6
- 16 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Zephaniah 3: 14 - end
Luke 3: 7-18
- 23 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Micah 5: 2-5
Luke 1: 39-45
- 24 **CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT**
Isaiah 9: 2-7
Titus 2: 11-14
John 1: 1-14
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Hebrews 1: 1-4
Luke 2: 1-20
- 30 **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
Colossians 3: 12-17
Luke 2: 41 - end

Wednesdays

- 5 Isaiah 25: 6-10
Matthew 15: 29-37
- 12 Isaiah 40: 25 - end
Matthew 11: 28 - end
- 19 Judges 13: 2-7, 24 - end
Luke 1: 5-25



REGULAR SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sundays	8.30am Holy Communion 10am Parish Communion
Mondays	9.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesdays	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	9.30am Holy Communion
Thursdays	9.30am Morning Prayer
Fridays	9.30am Morning Prayer

CHURCH CLOSURE

The Church will be closed from December 26 to January 7 except for the services at 10am on Sunday December 30 and Sunday January 6. So there will be no 8.30 services on December 30 and January 6 and no Wednesday service on January 2.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN DECEMBER

For Christmas Carols and services see page 4

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Sunday December 2 at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall. This is the Christmas special with carols.



CAROLS 2012
Come and join us if you can

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PLACE
Sunday December 2	12 noon	Sing Carols with Sunday Lunch Club	Church Hall
Sunday December 2	4pm	Advent service and start of the knitted nativity	Church
Tuesday December 11	4pm	Sing Carols	Round tree in Arbury Court
Sunday December 16	6.00/6.30pm	Community Carol service	Church
Monday December 17	2pm	Come and sing carols	Church
Wednesday December 19	11.00	Carol Eucharist	Havenfield
Thursday December 20	2pm	Carols	Buchan House
Sunday December 23	4pm	Quiet Christmas	Church
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



I saw this and thought of Tom and his visit to the Holy Land. While I would not dream of suggesting we sing this version, do read it. It gives a real feel of our twisted world into which Christ came.

O West Bank town of Bethlehem,
how still thy victims lie;
the grieving weep, deprived of sleep;
militiamen roam by;
for through thy dark streets rageth
the never-ending fight:
such hopes and fears, such bitter tears
are met in thee tonight.

O morning news, O papers,
report the dreadful dearth
of saints who sing to praise the King,
of peace across the earth;
where Christ was born of Mary
'midst wondering angels' love,
in anguish deep, sad mortals keep
few thoughts of things above.

How violently, how violently
the hope of peace is riven;
can God impart to these torn hearts
the blessings of his heaven?
Who now recalls his coming
to this dark world of sin?
Where harsh words still promote ill-will,
can Christ now enter in?

O Child once born in Bethlehem,
draw near again, we pray;
you died to win this world from sin -
yet sin persists today.
May we, like Christmas angels,
announce Immanuel,
till all are given a glimpse of heaven
and not a taste of hell.
Martin Leckebusch (1962-)



CHRISTMAS AWAKENING

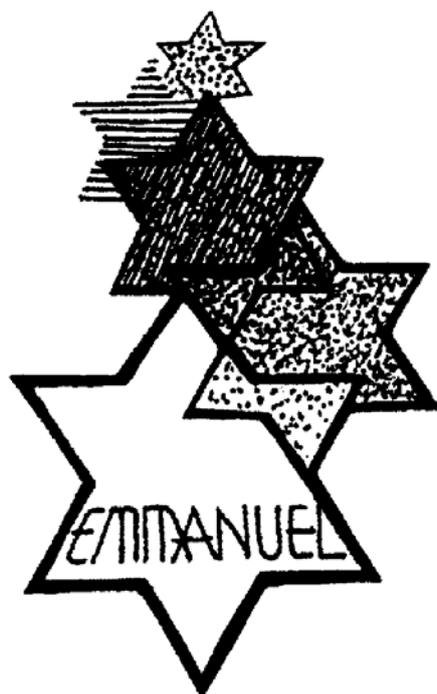
May I awake
on Christmas morning, Lord,
with all the eager
wonderment of a child
who is up before daybreak,
before the first bird
in bounding anticipation of what
the day will bring.

May this day be to me
as if the first of days,
extravagant with becoming,
brimming with liquid light –
the radiance of newborn creation.

May I find space to look
beyond the busyness, the cards, the wrappings
(though not ignore, for they too are tokens
of human love, your love)
to the simple unadorned gift –
a child in an outhouse stall.

And as I kneel
jostled by rough shepherds
may I know afresh
that this is the gift above all,
the pearl of greatest price –
the present that utterly transforms
all giving, all receiving,
this day, the world – everything.

Rex Collinson



The Psalms: God's Guide to Prayer

Last month, Ruth and I attended an Ely Diocesan training day on using the psalms in worship. I thought I knew about the psalms since I had sung them every evening as a boy, but I still learned an awful lot. I had no idea how much structure there is to a psalm!

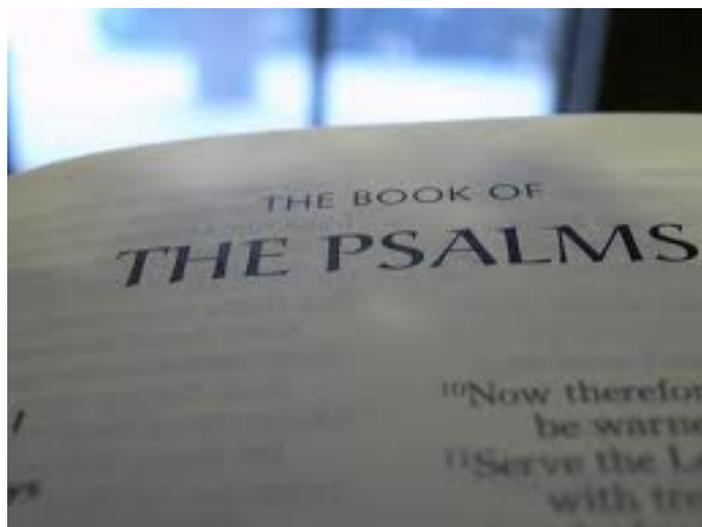
The morning sessions were lead by Dr Philip Jenson, who taught us about the history and structure of the Book of the Psalms in the Bible - or rather the five books, all joined together into one. They are rather like Hymns Ancient & Modern (Revised (Again)); collections of the songs sung in the Temple, changing over time as the weaker or less effective songs were dropped and new ones brought in. What has reached us is the result of centuries of this filtering, and it's amazing how well it still stands up to modern use.

Philip also introduced us to "Form Criticism", roughly speaking applying literary criticism to the poetry of the psalms. Not having enjoyed my English lessons at school I didn't expect to like this much, but it turned out to be fascinating. While we get a lot out of reading or singing the psalms nowadays, there is a lot more there that we don't notice because we don't have the same cultural background as the original writers. It had never occurred to me, for instance, that the "raging sea" in the psalms is often harking back to the waters that God's spirit moved over at the start of creation.

In the afternoon, Jan Payne demonstrated as many different ways of using the psalms in modern worship as she could. There were plainsong, Anglican chant, responsorial psalms, metrical psalms, hymns and worship songs of all sorts of different styles. I'm very pleased to say that we at the Good Shepherd are already using a lot of what Jan presented. In fact she had gone out of her way to find examples of different styles that Ruth didn't know, and only came up with one!

All in all, it was a fascinating day. Some of the things we learned will probably sneak into services in the future, and I hope you will enjoy them. I heartily recommend these training days – talk to Ruth if you want to know what subjects are coming up in the future.

Rhodri James



Disclosure

Prayer is like watching for the
Kingfisher. All you can do is
Be where he is likely to appear, and
Wait.
Often, nothing much happens;
There is space, silence and
Expectancy.
No visible sign, only the
Knowledge that he's been there
And may come again.
Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,
You have been prepared.
But sometimes, when you've almost
Stopped expecting it, a flash of brightness
Gives encouragement.

Anne Lewin



This poem is reproduced from *Watching for the Kingfisher* which is published by Canterbury Press. Our grateful thanks to the author who gave permission for us to include it.

(Linda asked for this poem for the November issue but I could not get copyright clearance in time for that. However, it is a wonderful thought for Advent)

Welcome!

Please allow me to introduce myself, I'm Daniel Ingles.

So, you might ask, what brings me to Cambridge?

In a word, Jesus.

Having spent years, living life as a Christian and being actively involved in a wide variety of work, both within my local church and in the wider community, last year I responded (belatedly) to God's gentle tap on the shoulder and decided to test the call I thought God had given me. And the Church agreed! So here I am at vicar school.

I am an ordinand (trainee vicar) and I'm delighted to be joining you at The Good Shepherd for the next couple of years. I'm studying at Ridley Hall and am accompanied by my wife Jenna and young Aidan-look for the baseball cap.

I've been following Jesus for most of my life from the age of about 11, with varying degrees of success. I have seen a lot of the world, good and bad. Through travel, through work, and through living a life that has made me, ahem, "a man of the world"(a polite way to say I too am a sinner). Through it all Jesus has been patient and encouraging, and God has also chastised and brought me back to him, and has forgiven far more than I deserve - but that's what unites us all - sin, the cross and God's grace and love.

So in response to the love shown to me by God, my aim now is to serve Him at the Good Shepherd, and at college as best I can, and while I am here to live and learn with, and from, all of you here, and prepare to serve wherever He calls me to next.

Liturgically, I'm a mixed bag. Anglican by tradition I could add a bunch of other adjectives, but enough to say I believe that God really does love us all, really does meet us in our everyday lives, and really does do things when we pray to Him and for each other. Although they may surprise us!

If you have a more "technical question" to ask on this please feel free to ask, and I'll try to make some sense. I don't have all the answers but I'm happy to chat about anything.

Amongst other things I've been a cowboy, a blacksmith, worked in production (normally the unglamorous bits), worked on and for the lifeboats, run a bar, was a self employed motorcycle courier and for the last 6 years managed to find people to pay me to work with the homeless, young people and with Ex offenders, including a wide variety of issues from mental health and drug misuse to buying nappies and personal finances!

Up until March this year I had 2 things I don't have now, long hair, and a Yamaha TDM motorcycle. Sadly I lost one in an accident and the other to an eager hairdresser. Now I have a bicycle, and a leather jacket that looks out of place.

I'm currently trying to grow Bonsai trees, I'm interested in science, history, art, locally produced beer and things in general and have several pets.

The only other thing I'd really like to say is thank you to all of you who have made my family and me feel so welcome, and I look forward to getting to know you all in the future.

Last month we had Jonathan introduce himself and Martha, next month I hope we shall include something from Max. And don't forget Jide who introduced himself last year. We are so fortunate to have our students with us – we can learn so much from them and, hopefully, they from us.

WITH US

Months, weeks, hours, minutes, seconds
Years ticking away
Christmas suddenly upon us
"Seems like yesterday!"

Baking, wrapping, entertaining
Parties, pageants, tinsel, lights
Evergreens, tree, ornaments
Pressured days and shortened nights.

Relatives and friends, cards, cookies,
Pressed year-end deadlines, more
Traffic snarls, sales, mall Santas
Frantic rushing store to store.

Immersed in season's tasks and trappings
Pushing on but losing joy
Good and busy but forgetting
Immanuel was that baby boy.

Help me, Lord, to slow and wonder
At miracle unfolded here
Truthfully, in finite chaos
My Savior, Lord, and God came near

Dave Veerman



Social Awareness Update

This is just to let you know what the social awareness group has been up to of late. As I wrote in last month's newsletter, we met with Dave on September 10th. He talked with us about Food Banks and asked us to investigate how we could set one up. We are still pursuing this and it seems now that other local churches are keen to join with us, which would be great! We are hoping to hold a meeting in the near future. Exciting times – so please pray for us as we try to sort it all out!

As well as praying for the Red Hen Project, Jimmy's, The Rural Development Movement and Food Banks every month, we have also now produced a list of 'awareness days/weeks/months' for intercessors to use, thanks to Fiona who managed to work out that 'awareness days' was the key thing to type into Google! We have done a list up to April.

On October 20th Ruby and I attended a day at Meadowlands Community Centre. It was a seminar entitled 'Community Centres Future Management'. About 50 of us from all over Cambridge gathered together to explore, under the leadership of independent consultant Marilyn Taylor, how community centres could be managed in the future. She stressed that we were in a fortunate position at the present time. The City Council directly manages seven community premises. They are well-run, with a clear focus on helping the most vulnerable. The council is exploring how to build stronger partnerships with local people, sharing expertise. It will be necessary to re-examine the management model as both city-wide and neighbourhood partnership is essential to facilitate this.

In our groups we were asked to discuss how we could all work more closely to share facilities, the better to serve our communities. Some of the ideas that came up:

- a common calendar for people to see what space was available and when for functions so they could contact the providers for further details and booking
- maximise use of centres in a complementary rather than a competitive way
- common procurement – bulk buying, sharing insurance and licensing
- directory of community centres and their assets
- networking
- joint publicity
- better co-ordinating in order to advertise what's on offer

There were many more! It was good to meet new people and swap ideas. There will be other follow-up seminars. Marilyn Taylor stressed that there was no urgency about what we discussed but it is always good to think ahead. Ruby and I enjoyed the day – and the lunch - and certainly thought that some of the ideas for co-operation were very useful.

Liz Collinson (on behalf of the Social Awareness Group)

*Transform our empty spaces
O Christmas God.
Fill the empty mangers of the world
with food.
Empty the cardboard boxes,
refuge of the lonely and despairing.
Bring warmth and light and shelter
to all who watch and wait this night.*

*In bar and bare hillside,
in barrio and back room,
in crowded flat and empty home
may we feel your presence
at our shoulder and in our hearts.*

Kate McIlhagga

WHEN ALL THE CHRISTMAS HASSLE GETS YOU DOWN

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us.

My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly.

So I asked, "Why did you just do that? That guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!"

This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck."

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage - frustration, anger, disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you.

Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on.

Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't.

LAWYER FUNNIES

Lawyers aren't typically funny--unless by accident. Case in point: The following questions from lawyers were taken from official court records nationwide:

1. Was that the same nose you broke as a child?
2. Now, doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, in most cases he just passes quietly away and doesn't know anything about it until the next morning?
3. Q: What happened then?
A: He told me, he says, "I have to kill you because you can identify me."
Q: Did he kill you?
4. Was it you or your brother that was killed in the war?
5. The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?
6. Were you alone or by yourself?
7. How long have you been a French Canadian?
8. Do you have children or anything of that kind?
9. Q: I show you exhibit 3 and ask you if you recognize that picture?
A: That's me.
Q: Were you present when that picture was taken?
10. Were you present in court this morning when you were sworn in?

Lawyers aren't typically funny--unless by accident. Case in point: The following questions from lawyers were taken from official court records nationwide:

11. Q: Now, Mrs. Johnson, how was your first marriage terminated?
A: By death.
Q: And by whose death was it terminated?
12. Q: Do you know how far pregnant you are now?
A: I'll be three months on November 8.
Q: Apparently, then, the date of conception was August 8?
A: Yes
Q: What were you doing at the time?
13. Q: Mrs. Jones, do you believe you are emotionally stable?
A: I used to be.
Q: How many times have you committed suicide?
14. So you were gone until you returned?
15. Q: She had three children, right?
A: Yes.
Q: How many were boys?
A: None
Q: Were there girls?

16. You don't know what it was, and you don't know what it looked like, but can you describe it?

17. Q: You say that the stairs went down to the basement?

A: Yes

Q: And these stairs, did they go up also?

18. Q: Have you lived in this town all your life?

A: Not yet.

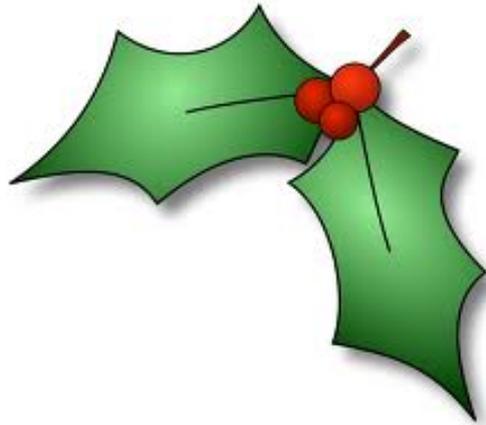
19. A Texas attorney, realizing he was on the verge of unleashing a stupid question, interrupted himself and said, "Your Honor, I'd like to strike the next question."

20. Q: Do you recall approximately the time that you examined the body of Mr. Edington at the Rose Chapel?

A: It was in the evening. The autopsy started about 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Edington was dead at the time, is that correct?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy!



SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS

~ Toy Store: "Ho, ho, ho spoken here."

~ Bridal boutique: "Marry Christmas."

~ Outside a church: "The original Christmas Club."

~ At a department store: "Big pre-Christmas sale. Come in and mangle with the crowd."

~ A reducing salon: "24 Shaping Days until Christmas."

~ In a stationery store: "For the man who has everything...a calendar to remind him when payments are due."

Christmas Greetings 2012

Our "default" charity this year is the Rural Development Movement in South India. Henry wrote about this in a recent GS News but I am sure he would be happy to tell you more about RDM if you ask him. By default charity I mean that any money donated to me in lieu of Christmas cards will go to that good cause this year. You may, of course, have a charity dear to your heart which you wish to support. Margaret Handley supports Mercy Ships, Jeanne and Bill Elsey support the Zipper Club and the British Heart Foundation and Phil and Lois Morris support Addenbrookes Kidney Patients' Association. The rest of us have a number of charities we support at different times, it is just that any money from Christmas cards this year is going to RDM.

Wishing all the joys of Christmas to my friends and fellow-worshippers at the Good Shepherd and to all readers of the Good Shepherd News.

Margaret Handley.



Although we are not sending cards to all our friends this Christmas in Church and elsewhere, we send you all our very best wishes for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year

Bill and Jeanne Elsey



"Wishing everyone a Peaceful and Joyous Christmas, and a marvellous 2013.

Lois and Phil Morris.xx".



We are so pleased to be part of the family of God at The Good Shepherd for our first Cambridge Christmas. Thanks for your very warm welcome. God bless,
Jonathan & Martha Clark



Christmas greetings
Terry and Phyl Barringer

Let me begin with a grateful heart to everyone, since my arrival at the Church of the Good Shepherd in September 2011, I found a church family that welcomed and loved me unconditionally. Christmas is a time of joy and for some very challenging, but I know by grace and faith we all share equally in the ineffable love of God. Here is an excerpt from a poem I wrote in 2001,

What will He give us?
The unspeakable gift
An unbroken connection
God to save
Christ to intecede
Man to die
What will He give us?

What will He give us this day?
For all, for all, for all
For all His loving people
JESUS CHRIST
God's gift to us this day
Now, that is a Merry Christmas

More love more power
Jide Macaulay



Wishing all at The Good Shepherd the peace and joy of Christmas followed by a happy New Year.
Ann Callear

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



To all at the Good Shepherd.
As we remember the birth of our Lord, may we enjoy the present of his grace.
Wishing you a happy, blessed and peace filled Christmas.
Daniel, Jenna and Aidan.



To all at The Good Shepherd
I thank God for all the love we share and wish you all a very happy Christmas.
Ruth Banger

SOME FACTS ABOUT SANTA CLAUS

1) No known species of reindeer can fly. But there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not completely rule out flying reindeer, which only Santa has ever seen.

2) There are 2 billion children in the world (persons under 18). But since Santa doesn't (appear to) handle Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, or Buddhist children, that reduces the workload by 85% of the total--leaving 378 million according to the Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there is at least one good child per house.

3) Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stocking, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about 0.78 miles per household, a total trip of 75.5 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding, etc. That means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space

probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, at tops 25-30 miles per hour.

4) The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming each child gets nothing more than a medium sized LEGO set (2 lbs), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting the "flying reindeer" can pull TEN TIMES that normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine--we need 214,200 reindeer. This increased the payload--not even counting the weight of the sleigh--to 353,430 tons. Again for comparison, this is four times the weight of the HMS Queen Elizabeth.

5) 353,000 tons travelling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance. This will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecrafts re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy per second, each. In short, they will burst into flames almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and creating a deafening sonic boom in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa meanwhile, will be subject to centrifugal forces of 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250 lb. Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of the sleigh by a 4,315,015 pound force. In conclusion, if Santa ever DID deliver presents on Christmas Eve, he's now dead.



TOP TEN THINGS TO SAY ABOUT A CHRISTMAS GIFT YOU DON'T LIKE

10. Hey! There's a gift!
9. Well, well, well ...
8. Boy, if I had not recently shot up 4 sizes that would've fit.
7. This is perfect for wearing around the basement.
6. Gosh. I hope this never catches fire! It is fire season though. There are lots of unexplained fires.
5. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!
4. I love it -- but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.
3. Sadly, tomorrow I enter the Federal Witness Protection Program.
2. To think -- I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.
1. "I really don't deserve this."



Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE! AND AN XBOX 360! AND I PRAY FOR THE NEW IRON MAN COMIC BOOK!"

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."

To which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"



**Best
Christmas
Presents**

Christmas is weird. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

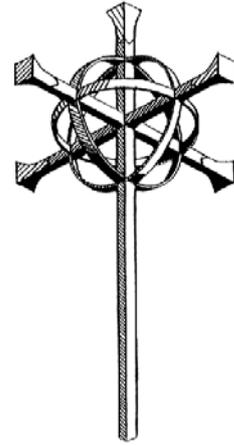
IN THE CHURCH HALL

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	Margaret Briggs	01954 250870
THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O’Hanlon	235281
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	Mr. Gawthrop	351855
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	D. Fisher	262282
THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS Thursday 6.15 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm	Chris White	0700 891511
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 2
(Publication date December 16)**



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

