

**We hope you will enjoy reading what went on in our church
in 2013**

**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.

WHO ARE WE?

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	
Honorary Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	
Assistant Priest	Rev. Harry Rose	
Licensed Lay Minister	Linda Dean	
Licensed Lay Minister	Martha Clark	
Authorised Lay Minister (Admin & Music)	Ruth Banger	
Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral Care)	Lilas Davison	
Authorised Lay Minister (Social Awareness)	Liz Collinson	
Churchwarden	Terry Barringer	
Churchwarden	Rhodri James	
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	
PCC Vice Chairman	Rhodri James	
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	
PCC Treasurer	Ginni Carroll	
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	
Deanery Synod Representative	John Phillips	
Deanery Synod Representative	Ginni Carroll	
PCC Members	Ruth Banger	
	Guido Barzini	
	Fiona Blows	
	Caroline Bordoni	
	Melissa Chamberlain	
	Ruby Leyshon	
	Philip Morris	
	David Wilson	
Administrator	Ruth Banger	
Convenor PCC Buildings and Grounds Team		David Wilson
Convenor PCC Children and Families Team		Hazel Maher
Convenor PCC Pastoral Team		Linda Dean
Convenor PCC Social Awareness Team		Liz Collinson
Convenor PCC Worship and Music Team		Ruth Banger
Altar Linen	Finsetta Cummings	
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	
Child Protection Co-ordinator	Paula Carter	
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	
Children's Work	John & Alison Phillips	
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	

Coffee Makers	Gill Ambrose
Coffee & Rolls	Fiona Blows
Food Bank	Liz Collinson
Friends of Etterbeek	John & Elizabeth Lamont
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Eva Hutson
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Ruby Leyshon
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Evelyn Walker
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger
Good Shepherd Players	Liz Collinson
Good Shepherd Players	Ruth Banger
Intercessors	John Lamont
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Paula Carter
Lesson Readers	Rhodri James
Monday Club	Eva Hutson
North Cambridge Council of Churches	Michael Lovell
Planned Giving Secretary	Jinty Keir
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Tom Shipp
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney
Sacristan	Stuart Keir
Servers	Bill Elsey
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Terry Barringer
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Rhodri James
Sound System	David Wilson



WELCOME AND VICAR'S REPORT

Welcome to the annual report from the Church of The Good Shepherd. It has been an eventful year, and I'm pleased to say that life at The Good Shepherd never stands still - it has been wonderful to see the church continue to change and grow. We have also enjoyed reaching out to our community with supporting the Community Action days, the development of the First Call prayer meeting, which

is turning into a truly ecumenical event, and, of course, running Alpha with City Life Church.

I do hope you enjoy reading this report and I'd like to say a big thank you to those who have written the piece and all those who play their part in the life of the church. This year we saw the implementation of the teams who work with the PCC to reflect on the outcomes of the consultations. Together we continue to seek God's will, implement new initiatives and work to support the ongoing life and development of the church. The teams have been really effective in what they have been asked to do and will, I am sure, go from strength to strength.

But of course not everyone who helps at The Good Shepherd is on a team. Those quiet church mice, who collect the church wafers and polish brass as well of the hundreds of other 'little' jobs, make all the difference, a huge thank you to you too. You know who you are.

Finally, thank you to you, members of this church, for letting me be your vicar. In amongst the joys and the sorrows, the pain, frustration and laughter, each day I continue to be thankful to God for the privilege of serving you and our community.

So what's next? We look forward to welcoming a new curate, Judith Gretton-Dann, this summer, the chapel is to be refurbished and office space developed, and we look forward to welcoming the Bishop of Ely for our anniversary celebrations in the autumn. An eventful year ahead and we do hope that you can join in too. Read the report, continue to pray and ask God how he would like you to serve Him this year.

David Maher

Christ has no body but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours,
yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world,
yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours,
yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Since the last APCM the PCC met in June and September last year and January this year. We plan to have our final meeting of this PCC in March 2014. Meetings have been well attended and we are beginning to see positive benefits from the work of the various Church Teams. As the year has progressed we have been able to spend more time on our “real” work – supporting the Vicar in the mission and worship of our church – and less on the nuts and bolts. We know those nuts and bolts really matter so we are most grateful to the Building and Grounds Team for attending to many of these practicalities on our behalf. Just as we are grateful to the Families and Children’s Team for all they do to encourage the worship of our young people and to the Pastoral Team for co-ordinating help throughout our church members to ensure that no one slips through our care net (so far as is humanly possible). The Worship and Music Team have worked hard this year to review the format of our services and were particularly pleased with the series of services held throughout Advent 2013. We had a real Advent journey last year and we plan an equally interesting Lent journey this year. The Social Awareness Team has had an incredible year – Food Bank has really taken off, as have Prayer Shawls, and the empathy the Team’s work has encouraged was shown in the really varied suggestions made by the congregation for charities we should support – Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Stop the Traffik and Life Craft. The Vicar is *ex officio* a member of every team and all of the Teams include PCC members and those in the church who are not PCC members but have relevant expertise (which is invaluable). All the Teams report to the PCC at each meeting and it is the PCC which makes any necessary decisions – it is just great to have the help and involvement of the whole church supporting us as we make those decisions. Individual reports from each Team follow this report.

Finally, a big thank you to all who have served on the PCC and whose time of office comes to an end at this meeting – to Terry, our retiring Churchwarden, for all her cheerful hard work, to John Phillips who has served also on Deanery Synod, to Ruby Leyshon, Phil Morris and Mel Chamberlain. All have contributed so much in so many ways and will, we hope, continue to serve the church in the year to come.

Do pray for your PCC. We, together with the Vicar, are the decision making body in the Church and we really want those decisions to be the ones that God wants for us, decisions which will foster positive growth. Decisions too which will help our church to be welcoming to all around, a true parish church for this area. We can only do this when supported by your prayers.

Ruth Banger (PCC Secretary)



PCC TEAMS

Building and Grounds Team

Outside you will see big changes over the past year, as a great deal of work has gone into improving the grounds around the church. Dave and Janet Wilson have worked on the Memorial Garden which is now beginning to settle into the beautiful peaceful place we all hoped it would become. Ruby has had a busy year not only in regularly tidying the garden with Evelyn Walker but also in acting as the church liaison with the young people on Community Service who have worked in our garden throughout the year. Very special thanks to Tom Ambrose who, helped by Dave Wilson, has worked tirelessly on the hedges around the church boundaries. As a result of Tom's hard work the notice board at the back of the church grounds overlooking Budgens Car Park can now be seen clearly. There is also now no hole in the boundary hedge. As this report is written an action day on the grounds is planned to set all to rights before the growing season is truly upon us. The work on our grounds done by dedicated members of this Team and others has not only made the church surroundings look attractive and cared for it has also saved us a great deal of money as we did not have to call on the help of external contractors.

Inside the church we are at the planning stage in many ways, so there is less to be seen but much preparatory work has been done. We have improved the security of the church in that we have had new security locks fitted to the external doors. These are individually numbered keys so the church wardens know exactly who has which key. But our major task this year has been for the planning of the upgrade of the church heating system and the re-organisation of the Chapel. Visits from the architect, heating engineers and a blacksmith have all been arranged and the agreement of the PCC has been secured, so a great deal of work has gone on behind the scenes. You will see its fruits hopefully later this year. As they say, watch this space.

Inside the hall (as well as the church) we are most grateful to Dave Wilson who cheerfully carries out so many of the regular maintenance tasks every building needs. One visible change you will see is that we now have more notice boards which hopefully will enable us to make the entrance a more welcoming place. We have also worked to keep us up to date on Health and Safety legal requirements.

Most importantly we see our church and hall being used regularly by us for worship but also as a resource for those in our local community. We know there are many more areas we need to work on but, as a Team, we are determined to get there.

David Wilson (Convenor), Tom Ambrose, Ruth Banger, Ruby Leyshon.



Children and Families Team

Over the last year we have seen a steady number of children attending Sunday School each week. There is a core of 10 children most Sundays but numbers do increase at times. Ages range from 6 years -14 years. Due to the age range it is necessary to split the group into 2 sub sets. This has been problematic as we continue to struggle for helpers. John Phillips and Hazel Maher lead the children each week with an additional helper from the congregation. We have been satisfied with the Roots material and children have responded enthusiastically to it.

Children have played a key part in the All Age Services this year participating in dramatic readings, singing, drama and running the slides for the projector. During the crib service children were responsible for running craft activities and it was felt this added to the feel of the service and should be encouraged next year.

2 older children were baptised during an All Age Service and this was most enjoyable.

Hazel Maher (convenor), Gill Ambrose, Sarah Blakeney, John Phillips, Jenny Thomas



Pastoral Care Team

Pastoral care is an integral part of our ministry here at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The Pastoral care team works closely with the Leadership of the church to identify pastoral needs, to co-ordinate visiting and other aspects of pastoral care

and to report to the PCC on a regular basis.

On the first Sunday of each month licensed lay members of the congregation take Communion to people who are housebound directly from the main Sunday Eucharist. This is very much appreciated by all those we visit as it enables them to feel they are a real part of the church congregation.

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: Marjorie Bragg, Irene Langley, Doreen Pearson, Peter Carter, Gerry Butler, Florence Waite, Sheila Munns and Jim Bass. They will be missed by us all.

Pastoral care 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. It encompasses care of those who are sick, bereaved, housebound or in any way distressed.

Our congregation has been growing and changing and we have become increasingly aware of the needs of those who have recently joined us as we seek to help to create an environment which is welcoming and accepting of all people.

During the coming year we will continue to work to develop awareness of pastoral needs, to provide care where and when appropriate and prayerfully to further this area of the ministry of the church.

Linda Dean (convenor), Terry Barringer, Martha Clark, Lilas Davison, Michael Lovell, Lois Morris, Ruth Reid and Janet Witting



Social Awareness Team

This has been a busy year for us. As we write, we have completed a year of hosting Food Bank at The Good Shepherd. We have had 432 vouchers handed in (there will have been more by the time you read this) in exchange for food. This, of course, means that we have provided food for far more than 432 people, as the vouchers are for single people, couples, small families and large families, as required. We average around 10 people coming for food each week. On the Thursday before Christmas, three trips had to be made to the warehouse to collect food, as over 30 people arrived with vouchers. Unfortunately, only 29 of them

were able to have food, as there was then none left in the warehouse. The remainder had to go to St Paul's the following afternoon. All people who come for food must bring with them a voucher from an agency that knows their situation and no-one should have more than three vouchers in six months except in extreme circumstances. We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers from our own church, as well as Mark and Susan from St Andrew's and Mary and Megumi from the Vineyard Church. We are so very grateful to everyone who packs up the food, talks to our visitors, drives to the warehouse to collect the boxes, makes cups of tea, puts on the music and generally provides a comfortable environment on Thursday mornings!

The Ministry of Prayer Shawls is still going strong! We have lost count of the number knitted/crocheted, but 10 went out to Buchan House before Christmas. They go out with a label of blessing and are always very well received. Three Baptism shawls have been given out and there is a beautiful crocheted one for a small baby waiting in the wings, thanks to Dave Wilson! We would be grateful for any spare balls of wool that could be spared or for donations towards wool – we do have a church knitting fund. Also, if you know of anyone who is ill or in distress we would be very happy to knit a shawl especially for them. Many thanks to all knitters!

The Quiz in support Christian Aid held last May went well and raised over £100. Please come and support the one this year. Christian Aid will also benefit from our Lent Lunches. We have taken part in two community action days, removing lots of rubbish and furniture etc. This has been much appreciated.

We keep our links with the Red Hen Project, Jimmy's and the Rural Development Movement and pray for them regularly. Janet Witting visited the RDM in India and some of their hand – made products have been sold at our church. They are also making palm crosses for us and for St Laurence's. This year we are supporting with our charitable giving: 'Stop the Traffik', 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' and 'Life Craft'.

Please continue to pray for our church as we try to reach out with God's love to our community

Liz Collinson (convenor), Guido Barzini, Fiona Blows, Henry Disney, Rhodri James



Worship and Music Team

This has been an exciting year in many different ways and, although our work on the Worship aspect of our brief probably goes unnoticed by the congregation at large, that is how it should be. It is, however, a very important part of what we do as a Team. We have worked on revising the booklet we use in Ordinary Time based on the helpful annotated booklet devised by a previous curate and this has been well received.

We were delighted to be given the brief to work on developing the Advent services, highlighting the different lectionary themes from the readings each week and reflecting these themes in the singing of a new Advent carol at the lighting of the Advent candle. It made clear liturgical sense and helped to give Advent a positive place in our worship. The special Advent service pattern was used by both those who worship at 8.30 and those who worship at 10 o'clock and gave unity to the two groups.

We have since been working on a pattern of services to be used throughout Lent which will include the weekly development of different aspects of an Easter garden. Again it will be used by both services.

Members of the group have worked to develop the flyer to advertise our Lent House Groups. We see the House Groups as an important part of how we learn and grow.

Now to the second aspect of our brief. The exciting development musically is that we have had Bronwen with us every Sunday from the beginning of 2014 and at choir practice from September 2013. As a church we welcome her most warmly. We are very grateful to those who played for services so willingly after Dorothy died – we are all delighted to go back to singing in the choir again! It was decided that we would not appoint a Full Time Director of Music at this time but that we would form a Team to fulfil the role of Director of Music, consisting of Vicar, Bronwen, Ruth and a student. We have continued the pattern of including a wide range of musical styles in the services and this is made much easier in that we have no regular hymn book so can have a really wide choice of material.

The Music Group continue to assist at our monthly All Age services and a wide range of people from the Music Group and the congregation now join in leading singing the Gloria. More would be welcome. Members of the congregation suggested hymns to be sung at the Offertory during August and we also had suggestions for recorded music before and after the service. This proved very popular and made a special feature of August for those who were not away on holiday at that time. Members of the Worship and Music Team also assist each month in the planning of the All Age services.

We have bonded as a group and have really benefitted from working together. We are committed to intentionally welcoming people to our services (this has become a big theme as the year progressed). We are also looking for “special” services to which we can invite specific groups of people. Worship is what we are all about and we are privileged to help to plan this.

Ruth Banger (Convenor), Mel Chamberlain, Jonathan Clark, Linda Dean, Jinty Keir, Phil Morris, Bronwen Taylor



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Toddler Group (Fridays)

Toddler group on meets on Friday morning from 9.30-11.30 during term time and is open to anyone who is caring for a child pre-school child: grandparents, parents and carers. Activities are offered for all children attending. Along with our toys, including animals, bricks, books, cars, trains, and baby toys, we also provide an art activity that can be anything from play-doh, biscuit decorating to sticking and glue. We also try to cover seasonal events: Easter, Christmas but also things like Chinese New Year.

Tea and coffee is available for the adults drinks and biscuits for the children, with a mix of fruit on and off during the year. At around 11.00 we ask the children to help tidy up so we can get the ride along toys out – most children are very willing to help with this!!! We include a sing time session which the children really enjoy and they love to pick out their favourite songs!!

We also have a Christmas party and a few short services in the church to mark special occasions. We are a fun group who love to see any new faces!!!

Claire Duell



Shout Aloud

Shout Aloud is a children's community choir which rehearses at the Church of the Good Shepherd every Tuesday afternoon. It is open to all children aged 7-11, and includes members from many of the local primary schools. With our focus on creating a positive environment, developing friendships and learning to work together we enjoy a variety of games, activities and snacks as well as lots of singing. We have performed at a number of events this year: Arbury Court Tree Lighting, Alex Wood House and at the Corn Exchange. Shout Aloud is a partner project with the Church Schools Trust, Romsey Mill and the Good Shepherd, with a partner choir running on Mill Road. We always welcome adults to help us and children to join the choir.

Hannah Adam



Work with schools

The Vicar continues to work with the local schools.

Arbury Primary

David is the Chair of Governors at Arbury Primary. Over the course of the year he contributes to the RE programme with a variety of lessons, for example, 'What does a vicar do?', the Ten Commandments and the various festivals. Each year the whole school visits the church for a harvest assembly and this is very popular with the children and their parents. Different classes visit and explore the church throughout the year as part of the RE curriculum.

Kings Hedges Primary

David takes a monthly assembly and visits the school to for various lessons in RE. This year we sadly held memorial services for two pupils who tragically passed away, one in the autumn and one just after Christmas. David also took special assemblies for the school to remember the children that had died.

The Grove and Orchard Park Primary Schools

These schools continue to visit the church as part of their RE lessons.

Mayfield Primary School

This year we also enjoyed welcoming Mayfield Primary school for their Christmas Concert for the first time.

North Cambridge Academy

David is still in contact with North Cambridge Academy (formerly the Manor School) and has been invited to have a meeting with the head teacher before Easter.

David Maher



18th Cambridge Scout Group

Beavers

There are currently about 17 Beavers and a group of three leaders.

10 Beavers attended the October sleepover and we went to Gulliver's theme park who kindly donated 10 free tickets as part of a community weekend, after getting back we had a hot tea and watched a DVD, which was enjoyed by all. There has been a night hike to McDonalds and the Beavers had all completed their science badge. 3 Beavers have worked hard and completed their Chief Scout award, well done!

Cubs

This year the Cubs have enjoyed Cubs activities of 40 years ago to mark 40 years since Arkala became a Cub: a camp at Abington, a night on a river boat and a sausage sizzle at Byron's Pool.

2013 has seen major welcome changes in the Leadership Team of the Cub Section and after a lot of departures to Scouts in the Summer meaning Cubs have ran this term with 15 Cubs, and no waiting list, bliss!

Scouts

What an awesome year! We have camped in deep mid-winter, hosted a magnificent banquet in the woods, evaded Zombies in the forest and so many other things! Banquet camp was a superb event which showed all the best qualities of the

Scouts - hard work, determination, team work and a focus to everything the best it can be done. The result was an awesome seven course banquet for 50 people prepared in a day from fresh ingredients on open fires. It was a huge achievement and created an evening that everyone will remember for years! Throughout the year we have also hiked, built, played, given and learnt through a huge array of activities and completed loads of badges. Thank you to all the Leaders for their unending dedication and support that makes the events possible and to the Scouts for their commitment, hard work and attitude that makes it worthwhile. After lots of new starters in September we have 22 Scouts and 4 Leaders in the troop.

Roger Ling



18th Rainbows and 18th/25th Brownies

Both Rainbow and Brownies have had the introduction of a new promise which sees us developing beliefs and helping with the community. The Rainbow and Brownies played a part in that by making the Sunday lunch Christmas table decorations which were well received. They also join forces for a Thinking Day celebration.

Rainbows

It's been a fun filled year as usual. We have done many makes and new skills learnt we have a good unit of 15 girls and a well-stocked waiting list. Rainbows love to stick and glue, play games and have fun, all many new skills were learnt and happily employed.

Brownies

There has been a slight decline in numbers: girls going to Guides or moving away. From a leader's perspective, this can be a good thing as we get to speak to the girls more often and can do more with a smaller unit.

We have done a lot this year:

9 new badges were gained by the girls over the course of the year.

A pack holiday in July to Newmarket was enjoyed by all.

We have had a visit from the guide dogs and the Raptor Foundation. It is always a joy and pleasure to welcome them to our unit.

We look forward to 2014, the Brownies' centenary, for which we have a lot of fun things organised.

Pat Marsh



Godly Play

A Sunday morning group for under-sevens follows the *Godly Play* curriculum and meets in the Lady Chapel. *Godly Play* offers the opportunity to become familiar with foundational stories of the Bible within the context of the church year and the structure of Christian worship and in a spiritually-supportive setting. On each occasion the children listen together to a story, wonder about it as a group and as individuals, and chose whatever they would like to do to ‘tell the story some more’.

The founder members of our group, who were just three years old when we began, are now its oldest members, but we have many more children who have been welcomed and supported by the now-older children. Let us rejoice and celebrate in this young Christian community as it works and prays.

Gill Ambrose



Monday Morning Mums

We are a group of Christian mothers meeting every Monday between 10.00 and 11.30 am in Haven with our children/toddlers. Our group is not only from the members from the Good Shepherd church, but it is very ecumenical as it consists of mothers from various churches (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical churches).

Our aim is to introduce God, prayer, and Bible stories to our very young children (0-3) and bring the Christian message through play, storytelling, craft activities, and music. We have a social time where we can chat, and we also have a prayer time for each other. Recently, we have looked at the stories of the Creation, Noah, Daniel and the lions, the lost sheep. We are all keen on teaching our children

about God so we take turns in leading the group. We welcome anyone with children who would like to see their children learning more about Jesus.

There have been lots of changes in the purpose of the group and in the format of our meetings. We began by being more of a Bible Study group for mothers, with the children attending a crèche in the Haven. However, it was not always possible to find someone to look after our children each week, so we have chosen to focus on the growth of our children. We find this more practical and fulfilling for us and our children.

Zuzana Lovell, Catherine Nancekievell



Sunday Night Youth Group

Since January 2014, we have been running a Sunday night youth group for those in year 8 (aged 12) and over. This arose as it was felt that several young people connected with the Good Shepherd needed an opportunity to explore and deepen their faith. We meet for an hour and a half each Sunday evening have snacks, play games, pray and spend time discussing issues to do with faith using DVD series - we are currently working through Youth Alpha.

We are really pleased with how the group is forming and growing - we are regularly getting around 8-9 young people attending and so may have to move location soon! The young people seem very positive about coming and are committed to being there each week. They indicate feeling that this is a place where they can learn, ask questions and grow in their understanding of Christianity as well as their personal faith. As we look towards the future we are excited to see how the group will grow and are looking for new leaders who might be able to play a part in running the group.

Lucy Nagel & Dan Ingles



DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

During the year the Deanery synod met on these dates:

17 June, St Matthew's

23 October, joint meeting of North and South Deaneries. St George's

6 February. Christchurch

We are following, with interest, the evolution of the new scheme for the church's funding, the Ministry Share, as the older scheme based on a complex formula is to be replaced by a more flexible system. The new scheme is to have the potential to allow funding to support the pastoral plan, instead of dominating it, as well as to reflect the costs involved in the Deanery. The final plan is not out yet but the product of the consultations and discussions is taking shape.

Another thread we have seen woven through meetings over the past months is the question of women Bishops. We have watched the development of discussions to the local voting, to General Synod vote. Now we see that new draft legislation developed last November is on its way to the General Synod this summer in July.

On the 17th June we had an interesting presentation by Matthew McDade about the DAC or Diocesan Advisory Committee. This is the name of the body within the Diocese who oversee changes to and maintenance of church buildings. Matthew spoke about some of the processes and procedures that were in place as well as the range, in age and style, of some of the buildings in the Diocese. We are fortunate to have a team greatly experienced in these matters in this parish

In our joint North/South session we were able to catch a glimpse of some of the different styles of ministry elsewhere in our region. For example one group consisted of a combined ministry of 25 parishes which between them had 19 harvest festivals and 21 carol services. We also explored, using traffic signs, how the concept of shared leadership was viewed differently by people from different parishes and backgrounds.

More recently, in the February meeting, Rosemary Watson and Arn Decker spoke to us about Credit Unions. They represent the Cambridge City Credit Union but also spoke about the Rainbow Saver Anglia Credit Union. Credit Unions can supply much needed help to people who might otherwise have to depend on payday loans to get them through short term problems.

More details can be found on their web sites:

Cambridge City Credit Union: <http://www.cambridgecreditunion.org.uk/>

Rainbow Saver Anglia Credit Union: <http://www.cambridgecreditunion.org.uk/>

In closing I would like to thank my co-representative Ginny Carroll who also does a great job as Parish Treasurer as well as Deanery Treasurer.

John Phillips



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.

Jeanne Elsey & Iris Brown



HEALING MINISTRY

The Ministry of Healing has been an integral part of the life of this church for many years. It is offered to the whole congregation during the main Sunday Eucharist on a bi-monthly basis, being administered by clergy, Ordinands, licensed and authorised lay ministers and some lay members of the congregation. However, it is always stressed that the prayers of the whole congregation contribute to this ministry, that God works through us all to make a real difference in people's lives.

If anyone feels in need of prayer at any time there are always people available to pray with them in the chapel.

We take very seriously the training and development of those who are involved and so each year some of our members attend the Diocesan day of Healing and Wholeness which is open to anyone who is interested in taking a more active part in this ministry or who would like to find out more about it. The day usually consists of training sessions in the morning, with an outside speaker, finishing with a Eucharist with prayers and laying on of hands for healing.

If you would like to know more about the church's healing ministry please speak to anyone on the team.

Linda Dean



HOUSE GROUPS

We have had house group sessions throughout the year, most being in individual homes, but one series of joint meetings in the summer was held in church. What follows is an individual response to joining a House Group.

The house group meetings did not appeal to me at first, the concept of sharing my thoughts, views and opinions on my faith and beliefs in a group setting was something new and like all new things a little scary. I joined a group as it was literally across the road to my house and the time suited me. On my first meeting, I was greeted by a very warm and hospitable host coupled with a group of friendly familiar people. The first item on the agenda is always tea/coffee, biscuits or cake and informal chat, this sets a relaxed atmosphere. During this time we get to know each other better so sharing ideas and opinions on our relevant topics take its natural course.

We normally have a short introduction by the group leader before the discussions begin with all group members contributing at some point during the evening. Some group members know the Bible extremely well and some, like me, are familiar with the Bible on a general level but could not quote verses in support of my points. This does not matter at all, what does matter is that we are interested enough to attend.

A great advantage of the house groups is that they are local, the discussions are not at all "high brow". The Group consists of people from different professions and backgrounds so we all have different perspectives on life and this is reflected in the contribution we make. I found this rich vein of ideas both interesting and stimulating. We all have anecdotes to tell where God had influenced our lives, the idea of "ask and it will be given unto you, seek and you will find" is very comforting and is something I sometimes forget, we were reminded of it in our last group meeting.

Every contribution to the discussion is valued and I personally found it very thought provoking as it gave different perspectives on the same theme. The discussion sometimes took us out of our comfort zone, always a positive thing, one thing that stood out for me was someone saying that their love for God was greater than that for family. This led me to think, do I love God in that way? God seems abstract, you can't give him a hug. After months of reflection, recently this has

fallen into place for me, we do love God more as he is in the fabric of our make up in a way that no human being can be, the God within is ever present, I "speak" to him through prayer, He guides, protects, comfort and love us unconditionally - always.

The topic of the last house meeting was the interesting one of prayer, how, when, what and who we pray for, it was lively and informative. Our leaders direct rather than influence the discussions, of course they have to call us to order sometimes when we wander too far off the point. They always have a relevant passage in the Bible that we read to cement our discussions or sometimes leads us to view the topic from a completely different angle, all fascinating, stimulating and thoroughly enjoyable. These experiences have inspired me to begin to read the Bible from beginning to end, I am about to begin Chronicles, I am so looking forward to finishing the Old Testament.

All this with a cup of tea, biscuit or cake in comfortable surroundings with people we all know, if you are thinking about joining one.....go on jump in!

Esther Choolun



NORTH CAMBRIDGE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

I am writing this report as the newly appointed Chair after the surprise departure of Revd Lynda Taylor at the last AGM. She has had to give up a year early as she is now moving out from North Cambridge and her position at St George's Chesterton. We will miss her input at our meetings and her leadership. The position of vice-chair was filled by Revd Nick Moir, the vicar of St Andrew's Chesterton. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Revd Ian Murray, the new Methodist deacon who will be serving the Chesterton community. This has been a sad year for the NCCC with the sudden death of Revd Neil Harding, the minister of the Arbury Road Baptist Church, but the local churches have leapt together to support our friends at the Baptist Church and Neil's family at this difficult time.

At our AGM in June, we were able to ratify the new constitution for the NCCC, but I feel there is still a long way to go. I noticed at the May 2013 meeting when we talked about the purpose of the NCCC that there was a considerable difference of opinion. So I have asked the NCCC to consider again our purpose this year. Please will you pray for us.

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. We were able to listen to speakers from Cambridge Foodbank and plans are under way for a third foodbank in North Cambridge which will be based at Chesterton Methodist Church. This is very exciting news.

Michael Lovell



NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

We take very seriously our responsibilities to show love and support in prayer the residents of the care homes in our parish. Many of them are physically frail and/or confused but appreciative. There is plenty of scope for an extension of this ministry. Please speak to one of us if you would like to give the gift of your time and attention.

At present this work is concentrated on Buchan House, where we aim to visit two afternoons a month, sometimes for a Communion Service sometimes for an informal visit, to chat and join in activities. (For example: Terry particularly enjoyed a recent cake-icing session). In addition we sang carols at Christmas and made a gift of prayer shawls.

Regular monthly communion services have been held at Havenfield, co-ordinated by Ruth Reid.

Terry Barringer, Linda Dean and Ruth Reid



SAINT JOHN'S ORCHARD PARK

Over the past year in Orchard Park various developments and changes have taken place. Our vision, though, remains the same. The church family at St John's wants to love and serve the Lord Jesus joyfully, with a deep commitment to loving one another and serving our local community.

Through the spring and summer of 2013 10-15 adults and 5 children met each Sunday morning at Orchard Park Primary School. After regular morning services we ate lunch together. Whilst we were few in number, this period gave opportunity for us to get to know one another increasingly deeply, and I look back with thankfulness for how the Lord maintained our unity and enabled each member of the body to serve and grow. Through these months we slowly started to get to know more Orchard Park residents – some through the Sunday meeting, some through our regular Sunday afternoon 5-a-side football, some through neighbourly conversations. We ran an Easter craft morning for children, and I continued my involvement in the school, taking regular assemblies. Also, the diocese bought a house for the Lowe family, and we moved into the new vicarage at 3 Icen Way at the end of May. This felt hugely significant. We now had a physical base in Orchard Park, and were a real part of the community.

Towards the end of the summer we were praying for more Christians to join us. Sunday services were viable, and we were able to welcome visitors, but the core church family was stretched. Wonderfully, the Lord gave. Through the autumn a number of people joined us. A handful came from other churches, drawn by the vision of an outward-looking church for Orchard Park. Others have found themselves more involved with us than before, either grappling with questions of faith or re-discovering a more active faith. As of early January, we'd become a congregation of 25-30 adults with 8-10 children. We're very thankful to our Father for this.

On November 14th, the Bishop's Mission Order was finally signed, establishing the church as an authorised "Mission Initiative" within Church of England structures. This is an important marker, and bears testimony to the prayers and planning and gospel-heartedness of many people at the Good Shepherd and Christ Church and within the diocese over the past few years.

On February 25th, the Bishop of Ely came to Orchard Park to conduct a licensing service and to commission the church family. It was a wonderful evening - with community leaders, church members, representatives from local churches, people from Orchard Park, friends and family gathering together as one to thank and praise the Lord, and to pray for the ministry here in the years ahead,

Looking forward, we're praying that over the coming year we'll become further embedded in the life of Orchard Park. Through regular football, a monthly Dads & Kids group, neighbourly relationships and one-off events we want to serve our local community, get to know people, and speak about the goodness of Jesus Christ.

We're thankful for our partnership with you, our sister church, and continue to pray that the kingdom of Jesus will grow in the north of Cambridge.

Chris Lowe



PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING & FUND RAISING

"Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver " 2 Corinthians 9:7

We are grateful for the continued support of our members through the planned giving scheme and church collections. 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 2012.

Planned Giving to the church totalled £52,556 in 2013, with collections of £5,780. In 2012, planned giving totalled £53,821 with collections of £2,665. Planned Giving income covers over 60% 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.

Each year a proportion of the Planned Giving income is set aside for donation to charity and in 2013 the charities chosen were the Stop the Traffik, Lifecraft and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. The following charities were also supported through fund raising events and collections:

- Alzheimer's Society
- The Children's Society
- EACH
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Jimmy's
- The Red Hen Project
- St David's Foundation
- Angel Tree

Two collections were held for the victims of the natural disaster in the Phillipines and for humanitarian aid to Syria.

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 £360 during 2013 and the fund raising team organised a number of events which proved as popular this year as in previous years - the May plant and book sale (always a firm favourite), the Arbury Carnival cake stall (well supported and a good opportunity to take the Church out to the community), the autumn jumble sale and the Christmas market (the highlight of the fundraising calendar). In total, fundraising contributed over £2,200 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.

All of the above is testimony to the fact that we are a church of "cheerful givers". 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



STUDENTS

As usual, we've had a number of student 'ordinands' with us through the year, as part of their training to be vicars. In 2013 we welcomed Adam Burnham and Lucy Nagel, who were new to Cambridge, and Kunle Ayodeji and Rachel Blanchflower, whose families had been worshipping with us already. We were sorry to say goodbye to Jide Macaulay, who was ordained to work in London. Together with Dan Ingles, Jonathan Clark and Ben Topham (who shadowed Dave for a month in the summer), these students have between them been active helping us as liturgical deacons, preaching, leading small group home groups and prayer meetings, and assisting Linda's teams that take communion to the housebound, and offer pastoral care. A few have been involved in supporting the PCC's teams, and all have

helped too with the Lunch Club. The students are all thankful to the church -- and particularly Dave Maher and Linda Dean - for the support and encouragement they've found with us, which is investing in the next few generations of the mission of the Church of England.

Jonathan Clarke



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 £3.50, after a modest price rise this year. 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, or any of your friends 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 for the members, but also for an excellent team of helpers. This year we have 27 on the helpers’ rota, but there is always room for more. If you think you would like to join the team next year please come and have a chat, and we can explain the finer details. Be prepared – all helpers pay the £3.50 fee as well!

The helpers serve in teams of approximately six, about 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. 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 once again 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.

At the nerve centre of the cooking operation 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 23 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



CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

2013 has been an interesting year for the Church of the Good Shepherd. We have continued to grow in our numbers, seeing more and more regular faces every Sunday; in our fellowship, as our house groups and children's groups continue to flourish; and in our community, as we build on our relations with local schools, care homes and community centres. A lot of this has been due to the hard work and enthusiasm of "ordinary" members of the congregation, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all you extraordinary people for all the things you have done over the year. Your work and witness is very much appreciated, in all its varied forms.

We have also continued to support Chris Lowe and St John's Church in Orchard Park, albeit in a much less hands on way than we used to. By the time you read this, Chris will finally have been licensed under the Bishop's Mission Order; the wheels of bureaucracy have ground exceedingly slow in this case!

One of the biggest challenges we have faced this year was establishing ourselves as a collection point for Food Bank. With help from other churches in the area, we have been able to help a great many families and individuals who have been at crisis point. We can be proud that we have been able to make a difference, but it is alarming that so many people have needed the help of Food Bank.

The life of the wardens has been made considerably easier by the work done by the various PCC teams. We would like to thank the Buildings and Grounds Team for all the practical work they have done to keep the church in good repair, the

Children and Families Team for the enjoyment they so obviously bring to our children and young people, the Social Awareness Team for all the hard work they put into running Food Bank, the Pastoral Team for everything they do to spread Christ's love in difficult times, and the Worship and Music Team for continuing to find new ways to inspire us with every service.

Finally, we would like to welcome Judith Gretton-Dan, who will be joining the Good Shepherd this summer as a part-time curate. We hope she will enjoy her time with us as much as we enjoy having her here, and we very much appreciate having another pair of hands to lighten the vicar's workload!

Terry Barringer & Rhodri James

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**Here are the contact details for the members
of the Ministry Team**

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