

I am of the opinion, some would say I have too many, that the real and important questions in life are the ones that impinge on our own consciousness. Most of us compartmentalise the issues of our life in one form or other, for instance our spiritual and temporal lives, seldom if ever allowing the two to overlap or, God forbid, to be one.

When one overtakes the threescore years and ten, a popular pastime is to look back at one's life and try to analyse the whys and wherefores of our decision making. This is not done in order to rectify perceived mistakes or to glamorise those moments when we think we have excelled. In truth, if we could revisit those moments we would still make the same decisions, for we would only have same the facts as we had then. I have to admit that in many ways I yearn for some of the old values to return, especially the value of allowing, indeed of accepting the truth, that for a Christian, as life progresses, the temporal and the spiritual gradually merge. This position recognises liturgy as the tool of worship rather than accepting the outlandish exercises put forward as worship, masquerading under the banner of liturgy.

In the time that has elapsed since my ordination the church has plunged both to a liturgical minefield and low numbers and the most active Committee in any Diocese is that of Redundant Churches. It beggars belief how a church whose majority of Ordinands are female can knowingly vote to block a move to allow women a full and active ministry. I think back to the days when the Convocation of Bishops spoke with one voice (well almost) and the church followed. Was that such an awful thing? The church has boldly embraced lay participation

but I believe sometimes Synod has got it wrong.

There is I believe no common factor that explains why the church is today in decline, but there is one cliché which I believe sums up our decline and that is, **the Church has made God All Matey instead of Almighty.** Some Churches are at pains to explain that the spiritual life is the hour we give to God on a Sunday and the remainder of the week is theirs to do as they please. Occasionally one hears from the pulpit words that challenge our life style, but not too often. I believe with every fibre of my being that Worship is at the heart of a Christian Church, worship that seeks to find in its actions and words the true Kingship of God and the healing power and presence of Christ in its midst. It also requires that we offer of our very best, making sure that shoddy liturgy is not acceptable.

I offer these words in no definitive way but as thoughts that may or may or may not promote thought or discussion. In response to God's Son Jesus we need to ask some soul searching questions, perhaps starting with the question "Is what I give and do my best?" I am not in the premier league but I always try to do my best and firmly believe that it is acceptable to God.

Harry



PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Honorary Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Licensed Lay Minister	Linda Dean	328658
Authorised Lay Minister (Admin& Music)	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral Care)	Lilas Davison	354300
Authorised Lay Minister (Social Awareness)	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Churchwarden	Terry Barringer	424584
Churchwarden	Rhodri James	357607
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	351844
PCC Vice Chairman	Rhodri James	357607
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
PCC Treasurer	Ginni Carroll	01954 212993
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	354300
Administrator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Altar Linen	Finsetta Cummings	352757
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Bass	363156
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	357622
Child Protection Co-ordinator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Children's Work	John & Alison Phillips	502969
Christian Aid		
Church Cleaners	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Coffee Makers	Gill Ambrose	858994
Coffee & Rolls	Fiona Blows	329822
Music Co-Ordinator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Friends of Etterbeek	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Eva Hutson	574070
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Evelyn Walker	364067
Good Shepherd Players	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Good Shepherd Players	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Ann Callear	357694
Lesson Readers	Lilas Davison	354300
Monday Club	Eva Hutson	574070
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	John Phillips	502969
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	Ginni Carroll	01954 212993
North Cambridge Council of Churches	John Lamont	565559
North Cambridge Council of Churches	Michael Lovell	328521
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	Linda Dean	328658
Planned Giving Secretary	Lilas Davison	354300
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Tom Shipp	353734
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney	359396
Sacristan	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	David Wilson	720097

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Sundays and holy days

- 3 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
Revelation 4
Luke 8: 22-25
- 10 SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2
Luke 9: 28-36
- 13 ASH WEDNESDAY at 7.30pm
Isaiah 58: 1-12
John 8: 1-11
- 17 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Luke 4: 1-13
- 24 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
tbc
tbc

Wednesdays

- 6 Hebrews 12: 4-7, 11-15
Mark 6: 1-6
- 13 Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17
Mark 1: 29-39
- 20 Jonah 3
Luke 11: 29-39
- 27 Jeremiah 18: 18-20
Matthew 20: 17-28

FIRST CALL

Sunday February 3 at 8pm at the Vicarage



REGULAR SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

- 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

SPECIAL SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

- Sunday February 24** at 10am All Age Service
- Wednesday February 13 Ash Wednesday**
Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 9.30am and 7.30pm

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- Sunday February 3** at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall.
- Tuesday February 12** Shrove Tuesday Fish and Chip Supper in Church. 7.15 for 7.30pm
- Saturday February 16** RSCM course - Children and music in worship 2pm-4.30pm
- Saturday February 23** Wedding at 1pm
- Sunday February 24** Last Orders at a local pub.



Christmas Joy

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky has withdrawn,
when the kings see their prophecy rightly fulfilled,
when the princes and shepherds have gone;
then the true work of Christmas begins,
the work of Christmas begins.

To find the lost,
to heal the broken hearts,
to feed the hungry,
to free the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all brothers,
to make music,
to make music in the heart.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
then the true work of Christmas begins.

The poem is by Howard Thurman and the choir sang it as an anthem on January 13. Just before that Phyl Barringer sent me the following piece and several of us attended a meeting about setting up the Food Bank her at The Good Shepherd. (See Liz's article on page 5) God is definitely telling us something here, I'm sure.

An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her. 'Are you God's wife?'



News from the Social Awareness Group

Cambridge City foodbank works to support people who find themselves on the edge of disaster, following a sudden crisis, such as bereavement, benefit delay, redundancy or illness. (Foodbank leaflet)

As you will know, we have been thinking and praying about setting up a Food Bank here at the Good Shepherd for some time. Well, we have good news – we hope to begin on February 14th! Some leaflets are available for you to look at on the table in church.

We met with Dave Goldspink (Project Co-ordinator) and Angie Campbell (Assistant Co-ordinator) on January 8th. Also present was Ruth Banger, in her role as Church Administrator, and Charlotte Davies, as a representative from the Vineyard Church. We had a very productive meeting. We were sorry Dave (Maher) couldn't be with us, as he was ill, but we knew he would be thinking of us. He had previously suggested Thursday morning as a good slot, which turned out to be ideal, as none of the other distribution centres are open on that day. It was generally agreed that we would be well-placed, as the other three distribution centres are at the other side of the city.

We will need to collect the food boxes from the warehouse before the sessions and return the empty boxes and any remaining full ones at the end of them. We do not need to store any boxes of food here in church, which was one thing we had been concerned about. There will be some administration to do by way of voucher-checking (vouchers are issued by front line care professionals) at each session, which no doubt we will soon get used to. We hope to have cups of tea and coffee available for anyone who would like them and Dave is keen for there to be someone available to chat to people, other than the two volunteers dealing with the food boxes.

By the time you read this, Liz will have visited C3 to see a session in action and also visited the warehouse. Once we have done this, we will have a better idea of exactly what is involved and therefore be in a better position to know how many volunteers we will need and what they will be doing! The Vineyard Church congregation are keen to help, which will be good. So, here we go! Please pray for us as we plan for February 14th and think about what you could do to help when it is time for us to ask for volunteers.

A Christian Aid Prayer

Generous God, you give us everything,
Our world, our humanity, our peace.
May we mirror your generosity in our living
Through our solidarity, prayers and action.
May all your children find dignity and life in all its fullness

*Liz, Rhodri, Fiona and Henry
(Social Awareness Group)*

Our Shoeboxes

Ruby received a message saying that our boxes this year had gone to the Ukraine together with about 90,000 others!

If you have internet access have a look at

<http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/Ukraine>

You will see there the stories of Nastya who lost both her parents in a road accident and of Ivanna and Andrey who have alcoholic parents and are being brought up by their grandparents.



House Groups

House Groups will be well on the way when you receive this paper. There's still time to join in – there are many venues and times for meetings.

Monday evening group

VENUE 53 Gilbert Road
HOST Lilas Davison

Tuesday evening group

VENUE 8 Blackthorn Close
HOSTS Lois & Phil Morris

Wednesday evening group

VENUE 1 Henry Morris Rd, Impington
HOST Ruth Banger

Thursday evening group

VENUE 40 Roseford Road
HOSTS John & Alison Phillips

Morning group in Church

(Monday morning)

for further details talk to Rachel Blanchflower or Dave

LETTER FROM A MOTHER TO A DAUGHTER:

My dear girl, the day you see I'm getting old, I ask you to please be patient, but most of all, try to understand what I'm going through.

If when we talk, I repeat the same thing a thousand times, don't interrupt to say: "You said the same thing a minute ago"... Just listen, please. Try to remember the times when you were little and I would read the same story night after night until you would fall asleep.

When I don't want to take a bath, don't be mad and don't embarrass me. Remember when I had to run after you making excuses and trying to get you to take a shower when you were just a girl?

When you see how ignorant I am when it comes to new technology, give me the time to learn and don't look at me that way. Remember, honey, I patiently taught you how to do many things like eating appropriately, getting dressed, combing your hair, and dealing with life's issues every day. The day you see I'm getting old, I ask you to please be patient, but most of all, try to understand what I'm going through.

If I occasionally lose track of what we're talking about, give me time to remember, and if I can't, don't be nervous, impatient or arrogant. Just know in your heart that the most important thing for me is to be with you.

And when my old, tired legs don't let me move as quickly as before, give me your hand the same way that I offered mine to you when you first walked.

When those days come, don't feel sad ... just be with me, and understand me while I get to the end of my life with love.

I'll cherish and thank you for the gift of time and joy we shared. With a big smile and the huge love I've always had for you, I just want to say, I love you, my darling daughter.



This made me feel bad for getting aggravated with my Mum sometimes – after all, we are all getting older!

Spring Jumble Sale

Saturday 16th March 2013 at 10.30 am

At last, after more than a year, we'll be having a Jumble Sale in the Church Hall.

It's time to clear out those cupboards and drawers and recycle all those bits and bobs you'll never wear or use again. If you start sorting out now, we'll have lots to sell on the day.

Remember, if it's not been worn or used since last year, you'll never miss it and it will make room for something new!



Message from Harold Lambert

I am now living in Felixstowe.

I have just been through the most stressful six months of my life. I have been greatly helped and encouraged by the love, friendship and support I have received from my neighbours and friends of the congregation at The Good Shepherd. Over the years I have been a fairly regular worshipper, but my last six years at The Good Shepherd have been one of the most satisfying and comfortable periods of my religious life.

There is no need for me to say any more – except to say how grateful I am for your Christian support. In return I can offer visitors to Felixstowe coffee and biscuits 24/7 and a first class sea view.

With love and best wishes, Harold Lambert

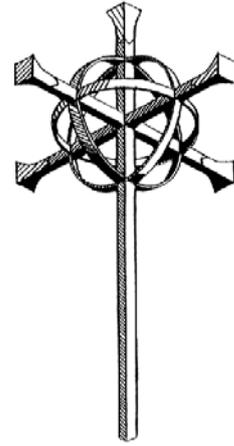
IN THE CHURCH HALL

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	Steve Morrell	529670
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
March Newsletter:
February 10
(Publication date February 24)**



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

