



The Church of the Good Shepherd 2014-2015

Annual report

**We hope you will enjoy reading what went on in our church
in 2014**

**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.**

Cover image reproduced with permission from the London
Institute for Contemporary Christianity

WHO ARE WE?

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	
Curate	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann (from July 2014)	
Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	
Assistant Curate	Rev. Harry Rose	
Licensed Lay Minister	Linda Dean	
Authorised Lay Minister (Admin & Music)	Ruth Banger	
Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral Care)	Lilas Davison	
Authorised Lay Minister (Social Awareness)	Liz Collinson	
Churchwarden	Terry Barringer (until April 2014)	
Churchwarden	Fiona Blows (from April 2014)	
Churchwarden	Rhodri James	
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	
PCC Vice Chairman	Rhodri James	
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	
PCC Treasurer	Ginni Carroll (until February 2015)	
PCC Treasurer	Ginni Carroll (from March 2015)	
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	
Deanery Synod Representative	John Phillips (until April 2014)	
Deanery Synod Representative	Ruth Banger (from April 2014)	
Deanery Synod Representative	Ginni Carroll	
PCC Members	Ruth Banger	
	Guido Barzini	
	Sarah Blakeney	
	Sean Blanchflower	
	Fiona Blows	
	Caroline Bordoni	
	Paula Carter	
	Melissa Chamberlain (until April 2014)	
	Esther Choolun	
	Ruby Leyshon (until April 2014)	
	Philip Morris (until April 2014)	
	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
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon
Children's Work	John & Alison Phillips (until September 2014)
Children's Work	Paula Carter (from September 2014)
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon
Coffee Makers	Gill Ambrose (until December 2014)
Coffee Makers	Guido Barzini (from January 2015)
Food Bank	Liz Collinson
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Ruby Leyshon
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Evelyn Walker
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger
Intercessors	John Lamont
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Paula Carter
Lesson Readers	Rhodri James
Monday Club	Ruby Leyshon
North Cambridge Council of Churches	Michael Lovell
Planned Giving Secretary	Jinty Keir (until February 2015)
Planned Giving Secretary	Ginni Carroll (from March 2015)
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Tom Shipp (until December 2014)
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Lilas Davison (from December 2014)
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney
Sacristan	Stuart Keir
Safeguarding Officer	Paula Carter
Servers	Bill Elsey
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Terry Barringer
Sound System	David Wilson
Sunday Lunch Club	Jinty Keir



WELCOME AND VICAR'S REPORT

Welcome to the annual report from the Church of the Good Shepherd. It's been another great year, the church continues to grow with new members - some being born into the church right through to some well, a little more senior! We've really enjoyed welcoming Judith, our new curate, and Matt and Simeon, all of whom have been made to feel welcome and become part of the family of the church. As you will read, a lot of activity goes alongside the regular rhythm of prayer and worship here, and we continue to strive to reach out to those around us with God's love.

It's been a year of reflection, we paused with the Bishop of Ely to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the Church. Friends old and new gathered for an evening celebration and the Bishop led us in worship as we gave thanks for all that God has done, is doing and we hope will do in this place. Whilst we have reflected, and we have grown, as a PCC we have been concerned that we don't stand still. Together we have discovered information about who is living in the parish and are beginning to use the Diocesan initiative for change to challenge ourselves as to how we can best reach out to those who don't know God's love for them.

Thank you to all those who make the life of the church here happen, and be so interesting and exciting. Thank you for to those who do the jobs that everyone sees and to those who do the work which is essential but not always seen - my church mice. Thank you for being willing to be generous, and welcoming, and embrace things that may be new but not always comfortable! I would also like to thank the students who have been with us the past year. It's been a real pleasure to have them with us, they have rolled up their sleeves and joined in the life of the church with great enthusiasm, and they are missed when they move on!

So what's next? Our theme for this year is *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*. Through our Eastertide sermon series and house groups we will be considering how we can be fruitful in this community. Judith will be priested in the summer, and we will look forward to receiving Rachel as our second part time curate. There are, and will be, plenty of opportunities to be involved. Read the report, continue to pray and ask God how he would like you to serve Him this year.

David

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past. We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead. Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety; gives us grace to let go of all that holds us back; and grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us

In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Since the last APCM the PCC met in June, September and November last year and February this year. We plan to have our final meeting of this PCC in March 2015. Meetings have been well attended and we are continuing 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. A number of the PCC have attended meetings held by the Diocese to support the Diocesan Mission Strategy and we have spent a lot of our time at PCC meetings considering the implications of this for our parish.

But we know the building needs to be cared for and the church grounds need to be looked after, 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 2014. We are currently enjoying an equally interesting Lent journey this year. The Social Awareness Team has had a great year – Food Bank has continued, as has the number of Prayer Shawls knitted and crocheted. 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.

On January 18 nine PCC members went to St Andrew’s Histon for a talk by Paul Weston (Mission Tutor for Ridley Hall) on “*Understanding Culture: Listening to our community*” (the biggest church group there!). Also, on February 10 ten PCC members attended “*Mission Conversations*” at St Augustine’s Church. Both these sessions were very informative and helpful and we have spent much time in our own PCC meetings discussing matters raised at those meetings.

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 Rhodri, our retiring Churchwarden, for all his unflappable patience, to Caroline Bordoni and to Dave Wilson. 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

Again this year has been a busy one, but we have achieved what we set out to do, some planned, some not. At long last we have a Lady Chapel that looks like a side Chapel, with new cupboards for Godly Play to store their equipment in. The old heaters have been taken out and a new heater installed and the old lighting that was hard to maintain has been removed. New wall lights are to be installed in the near future. The Church heating has been bought up to date, with a new control panel that allows us to heat specific areas, instead of having to heat the whole church. We have a new heater in the Haven and the old radiator and the gas fire have been removed. We did have some teething problems with the heating, but they have now been sorted and the Church is warm when we want it to be. The grounds have been looked after by Ruby, Evelyn and Tom with a lot of help from the young people on Community Service. This will always be a work in progress item, as will the Memorial Garden that Dave Wilson tries to keep tidy. We have had all electrical equipment tested, so that is up to date.

The unplanned item was to find office space for Judith, David and Rachel which we have found and that is moving along slowly. The hall floor lifted in places, but we found someone to repair the damaged areas and also to sand down and reseal the entire floor. It now looks like a new floor, which, if looked after, will last many more years.

Building and Grounds Team is like a swan, majestically moving slowly forward upstream on a fast flowing river. Above the surface everything looks calm and controlled. Below the surface, its legs have to work hard and fast just to keep it moving forward. If it stops paddling for one moment it is washed back down stream.

A big THANK YOU to all the team and anybody else who has helped the Building and Grounds Team this year. We look forward to seeing what challenges we have in the year to come.

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



Children and Families Team

Following various personnel changes at the end of the academic year of 2013/14 the Sunday School has continued since September 2014 with new personnel. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Hazel and John for the time they spent supporting the young people of the Sunday School.

Although the number of attendees is quite low with just 7 or 8 maximum attending, the School has been progressing and it is hoped that numbers will increase in due course.

Most of the Sunday School personnel were recently able to get together and meet gaining some expertise and advice from Gill. Regular meetings are being arranged in order to spend time planning sessions together.

Paula Carter (convenor), Ginny Carroll, Sophie Murray, Judith Gretton-Dann



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 one 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 and we continue to support members of our fellowship in their bereavement. During the past year we have mourned the passing of Maureen Carter, Evelyn Dennington, Tom Shipp, Jeannette Dixon, Peter O'Dell and Gilbert Handley. 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.

This year we have celebrated the births of Isaac and Benjamin. Support is offered to families following the birth of a baby, or a stay in hospital, in the form of meals being provided and delivered by various members of the church.

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, Lilas Davison, Michael Lovell and Janet Witting



Social Awareness Team

This has been another busy year for us. As we write, we have now completed two years of hosting Food Bank at The Good Shepherd. Since last February we have had 409 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 409 people, as the vouchers are for single people, couples, small families and large families, as required. We average around 8 people coming for food each week. 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 3 vouchers in 6 months except in extreme circumstances. We have been blessed

with wonderful volunteers from our own church, as well as Mark from St Andrew's 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 continues. The shawls are blessed in Church and then go out with a label of blessing and are always very well received. 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!

We are very grateful to Sean who offered to look into the cost of solar panels for our church roof. He provided us with a detailed report and with the recommendation that we do not pursue this at this point in time.

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, Sean Blanchflower, Fiona Blows, Paula Carter, Henry Disney.



Worship and Music Team

We have worked hard this year, although the Worship aspect of our brief probably goes unnoticed by the congregation at large, and that is how it should be. It is, however, a very important part of what we do as a Team. We have again 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 have further developed the Advent services, highlighting the different lectionary themes from the readings each week and reflecting these themes in the singing of an Advent carol at the lighting of the Advent candle. It made clear

liturgical sense and again 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. For the first time the 8.30 congregation had a wreath of Advent candles in the Chapel.

In 2014 we worked on a pattern of services which was used throughout Lent and which included the weekly development of different aspects of a Lenten garden. As in Advent, we included a ten minute "youth slot", encouraging participation from our young people before they leave us to join their groups. Again the Lenten services were used by both groups of worshippers and we are enjoying further developments to this in Lent 2015. We are now working on how to continue this "youth slot" in the 10am services in the post-Easter period.

We have developed children's service sheets in a different font, including just the material they need at the beginning and end of the service plus the week's activity sheet from *Roots*. These sheets were initially planned for Advent and Lent but were missed by the young people when they stopped during the Christmas period! So we are working on extending this aspect of our work, as these sheets definitely increase the involvement of our young people in the service.

We have also had a Service of the Word to celebrate Christingle. On that Sunday in January we had our regular 8.30 said Common Worship Eucharist, a Service of the Word at 10am and an evening Eucharist in the Iona tradition. This was an important departure for us, as a Team we learned a lot from it, and the range of services was appreciated by the congregation. We plan to continue this pattern on selected Sundays throughout the year.

Now to Music, the second aspect of our brief. We have continued the pattern of including a wide range of musical styles in the services - easier for us in that we have no regular hymn book so can have a really wide choice of material. What we sing ranges from plainsong to contemporary worship songs - we try to ensure that the music is appropriate for the service and good of its kind. During Advent we shared an evening of Taizé worship with friends from Arbury Road Baptist Church and we were delighted to have additional instrumentalists that evening.

We have considered the service music we sing and have settled at the moment on a setting for the penitential seasons which is based on plainsong with a more modern setting for the rest of the church year. We are also using, on All Age Sundays, a setting based on music drawn from well known spirituals. We plan to review and possibly revise this choice of service music after a year.

The Choir meets each week to prepare music for the following Sunday's worship and we are encouraged to see our numbers growing – we would love to see more join us! The Music Group continues 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. We are always happy to welcome more. 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 are grateful for the feedback given by members of the congregation regarding the music in the services. Music is there to enhance our worship; we know we cannot all like the same things but we hope there is something everyone can take away and think about in the following week. And, whatever the music is, your musicians offer it as worship to God. At every choir practice we pray that God will be glorified through our music.

We forward in the coming year to helping to work out the implications of our Mission Survey as it affects our worship. Worship is what we are all about and we are privileged to help to plan this.

Ruth Banger (Convenor), Ginni Carroll, Linda Dean, Judith Gretton-Dann, Jinty Keir, David Maher, 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



Schools work

We continue to support the work of the schools in the local area. David is chair of governors at Arbury primary. We regularly take part in assemblies and lessons with them as well as Kings Hedges and the Grove school. They all visit the church, along with Orchard Park as part of the R.E syllabus. Part of our role is to support the teaching staff which we try to do with prayer and emergency supplies of biscuits - in case of OFSTED.

Our involvement with North Cambridge Academy has continued to strengthen over the year. We hosted a moving Remembrance service of the whole school in November and our youth worker, Jax, has been dropping in to school at lunch time to talk with the young people. We are hoping to continue to develop this relationship as the school continues to grow and develop.

David Maher



18th Cambridge Scout Group

Beavers

We had an exciting year with two sleepovers and many other activities. Ten Beavers attended the Paradise Wildlife Park sleepover in October and we had a fantastic weekend in Hunstanton at the end of the Summer term.

We currently have 18 Beavers, 2 will be moving up to Cubs after Christmas, with several joining in the new year. Demand for places has been such that we have started a waiting list.

Unfortunately Sam left us in July to take up a teaching post in Suffolk. Emma and Nikki continue to run the section, supported by Megan, one of our Young Leaders.

Cubs

This year the Cubs have enjoyed a District camp at Lode and more recently a night hike around Cambridge. Activities have included cooking with homemade fresh pasta, a sausage sizzle at Byron's Pool, and a trip to the cells at Parkside Police Station.

We currently have 22 Cubs and 4 Leaders.

Looking towards 2015 we are aiming to organise a few 'FUN' weekend activities for the Cubs.

Scouts

What another awesome year!

It started with a frosty Winter camp in January, followed later in the year by Gaaarrhh!! an amazing pirate themed camp which pitted Scouts against Leaders in an epic sea battle. In August we had an action packed summer camp in the Lakes where the activities including, hill walking, cooking, climbing, sailing, stream scrambling and bridge building. The year was rounded off with Survival camp where the Scouts built and slept in their own shelters and survived on Army ration packs.

Throughout the year we have also hiked, built, played, given and learnt through a huge array of activities and completed loads of badges. All in all a great year and we have big plans for 2015!

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 a few new starters we have 21 Scouts and 6 Leaders in the troop.

Roger Ling



18th Rainbows and 18th/25th Brownies

Brownies

Brownies have enjoyed a fun and full year as always. This year we celebrated 100 years and took part in the big Brownie Birthday Challenge. Some of the fun things we did included an overnight sleep over and travelling back in time to try out some “old fashioned” brownie activities.

Summer term saw the girls earn their Friends to Animals and road safety badges. We also celebrated Fluffy owl’s wedding and the Brownies gave her a “hen night” to remember with cake, flowers, 18 bridesmaids who all made their own dresses. We held a Pack Holiday Adventure in November.

We celebrated Thinking Day in style with a carousel of activities from the four world centres and tried some exotic foods from Mexico.

Rainbows

The Rainbows at the Good Shepherd Church continues at full strength and have said fond farewells to quite a few girls, who have moved off to brownies and even to cubs. We also bid farewell to our long time Unit Helper “piglet” who has moved away from Cambridge but know she will keep in touch.

The Girls in Rainbows have fun and think of ways to be helpful. They have worked towards a Special Roundabout challenge called “All About me” which got them thinking about all the ways people are the same, but different. They learned about the meanings of their names and thought about what the future might be like as they grow up.

Both units are also actively collecting used Tassimo T-discs in an effort to raise much needed funds for our units to continue doing fun things and taking part in amazing challenges. If you own a Tassimo Machine, and want to help - follow this link to find out more!: <https://www.facebook.com/TassimoCambridge>

Pat Marsh



Godly Play

A group for children from 3 to 7 is offered on Sunday mornings in term time. Children gather in the chapel and use the Godly Play method to explore Christian faith and the Bible by

- gathering in community,
 - hearing a story and wondering together about it,
 - exploring and reflecting through play, art and craft and prayer,
- before rejoining the congregation at the Communion.

Over three summer evenings we ran a training course and there is now a team of seven people who share the roles of door person and story teller over the course of each term. We were all delighted in the autumn when beautiful purpose-designed oak shelving was installed in the chapel so that the space can be kept tidy and the materials safely locked away.

We are regularly a group of eight children, sometimes more, to the extent that we occasionally have a problem with over-crowding, which is affirming but rather concerning

Gill Ambrose



Monday Morning Mums

We are a small group of Christian mothers from different churches here in North Cambridge. Along with our children (0-4) we are meeting at the church hall every Monday between 11.00-13.30. We continue to meet during school holidays as well as term time as we have more time and so we can be more creative and children have more time to play.

We try to introduce Bible to our children in very playful, age adapted way. Basically since Sept 2014 we are following Bible study series for preschoolers -

Beginning with God (from The Good Book Company), that is linked with the Beginners Bible.

In today's culture so much pressure is put on us parents to feed our children well. Our time of meeting (lunchtime) is very apt as the materials are presented like a menu and also this Bible series is really helping us to nourish our children with the word of God. It is presented in 3x menu options -an appetiser (introducing the story with the examples from their surrounding), the main course (story, questions, prayer, sticker) and snack for the journey (conversations while out and about).

We had wonderful time with children discovering stories from The Old Testament - The sneaky snake, The tall tower, Jacob's dream - or stories from the New Testament - Christmas story, Jesus is lost, Jesus chooses His disciples, Jesus teaches on a mountain.

We plan to continue until the summer, when our children will be starting primary school full-time. After that time, a lot depends on newcomers to the group and a desire to continue meeting at a time suitable for everyone.

We gladly welcome newcomers, but realise that the best way of inviting people is by word of mouth. So please if you know someone who might be interested with children younger than 5, do point them in my direction.

Zuzana Lovellova



Sunday Night Youth Group

Sunday night youth group has now been running for well over a year and we currently have between six and nine young people coming each week. Since October our new youth worker, Jax has taken over leading the group and we also have Lucy and Phil supporting her in this. We generally spend time together playing games, making (and eating) food, chatting, reading and discussing the Bible and praying.

It has been great to have Jax with us, especially as she is able to meet our young people midweek for a catch up and involve them in planning our sessions. She

has also encouraged some of our young people to get involved in the YFC mission week and attend city-wide gatherings where they can meet other young Christians and explore their faith in a different context. We are hoping and praying that the young people would continue to grow in their faith and feel able to share their faith with others. We are also looking for other volunteers who would be able to help lead our Sunday afternoon sessions once Lucy leaves Cambridge this summer.

Lucy Nagel



DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

9th July 2014

This was the first meeting of the ‘new’ synod (representatives having changed after the various parish APCMs) and after the election of officers and the Standing Committee Dr Shirley Hall, Diocesan Assistant Director and Religious Adviser, gave an update on the RE syllabus and opportunities for engagement with schools. The school RE syllabus is not on the national curriculum but is put together by local authorities for their schools. The syllabus is renewed every 5 years, with the next one starting in September 2014. Shirley took us through what was different about the new syllabus – the emphasis is on answering questions (‘why?’ rather than ‘what?’) – and what churches can do to support their local children in learning about Christianity. If any church needs help with projects going into schools then Shirley can help.

For those interested, the syllabus can be found at <http://www.learntogether.org.uk>.

The 2015 Diocesan Budget was presented prior to its approval by the Diocesan Synod in September. It was also reported that Bishop Stephen had been made a member of the House of Lords.

23rd October 2014

This was a joint Cambridge North and South Deanery Synod meeting at which the Rev’d David Maher was commissioned as the Rural Dean for Cambridge North by the new Archdeacon of Cambridge, the Ven Dr Alex Hughes.

Dr Hughes then went on the address the Synod, giving his background and five themes relating to his vision for the church which he had found useful to reflect on:

- A vital church, deeply inspired by God

- A church that relates to its context – crossing cultural and social gaps and responding to change
- A church that makes a difference
- A church that is serious about changing people’s lives
- A church that raises its expectations about what it can achieve

We were then invited to discuss our experiences of church as a community and the particular challenges facing the church in Cambridge.

After this lively discussion, it was noted that there is some funding (£1,000) available from the Diocesan Mission Project Fund for eligible projects.

Cambridge Street Pastors asked for volunteers to support their ministry and there was a short debate on the council plans to increase Sunday parking charge areas, which would impact on city churchgoers.

I would like to thank John Phillips, who stood down this year, for his tireless attendance at all Synod meetings, and to Ruth Banger who joined me as Deanery Synod representative this year.

Virginia Carroll



FLOWER ARRANGERS

We have now finished the second year of our rota with extra flower arrangers, and we have enjoyed seeing 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.

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.

In October last year we attended a day at Addenbrookes Hospital entitled "Faith and medicine", with a variety of speakers including a psychiatrist who is also an Anglican priest, a Baptist minister who is a hospital chaplain, the founder of Parish nursing ministries and a Professor of Neonatal Paediatrics, also a Christian. It was an extremely moving and inspiring day.

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

Linda Dean



HOUSE GROUPS

These are one of the most rewarding, relaxing and undemanding ways to study the Bible whilst enjoying the company of fellow church goers. Also they are readily accessible to most Good Shepherd worshippers as they take place in homes around the parish and beyond,

Each session has an appointed leader and in the group I attend this has been Terry, David, our lay preacher Linda and some of our final year students. This cross section of contributions brings fresh ideas and challenges to our discussions.

In anticipation of our meetings a book of the Bible is selected for study – the last one being Paul’s letter to the Philippians. A typical evening goes something like this: on arrival at our hosts we are all welcomed with tea or coffee and biscuits and we chat until everyone is assembled and relaxed in comfortable chairs. Before we have a chance to “nod off” we are given a sheet of relevant points and questions to stimulate discussion, the session then begins with a short prayer.

Following this each participant reads a short passage from the chosen text and discussion begins. This can be lively and wide-ranging, and sometimes humbling, to share other members’ views and deep biblical understanding and experiences.

On the short walk home I am thinking to myself that, despite any banal contributions I may have made, Wednesday is definitely the best evening of the week for me and I look forward to our next session.

Ann Callear



NORTH CAMBRIDGE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

This year, we have enjoyed another active year within the North Cambridge Council of Churches with continuing discussions about the purpose of the organisation. It was felt that we still needed a city wide ecumenical voice to bring all our churches together so that they can be heard, and so it is still important that we maintain our north Cambridge geographical area. It was also felt that we needed to be seen outside our buildings more, and we are doing this already to a certain extent.

We do a lot of community outreach now as individual or groups of churches under the North Cambridge Council of Churches banner, but less city outreach and very little together as a body, preferring to work with neighbouring churches. One new and important development this year has been the establishment of a new foodbank in Chesterton, based at Chesterton Methodist Church. We also continue to operate a foodbank in Arbury and Kings Hedges based at the Church of the Good Shepherd. We also pray for our local community through First Call and Calling Together. And we hold various action days around our community at different times of the year.

We were able to support the Rural Development Movement in India through the purchase of palm crosses for our Easter celebrations last year, and this year too.

We enjoyed a barbeque at Pentecost, hosted by St George's Church, Chesterton, which was a lovely occasion. It also gave us the opportunity to see the display put on in the church for local schools to teach them about Pentecost.

We saw the departure of Peter Browne in the summer at North Arbury Chapel as he moves north to be closer to his family. We also welcomed Ian Murray as the new deacon at Chesterton Methodist Church. We also heard of the death of Jill Burnett, a long-time supporter of the North Cambridge Council of Churches, but we know that she looked forward with joy to the sound of the trumpets!

In the autumn of 2014, the North Cambridge Council of Churches ran a parenting course within Kings Hedges based at Buchan Street, which was successful and another one is planned this year. The idea of these courses is to provide impartial support for families struggling with parenting. They were using a course called "Parenting Puzzle" published by Family Links.

In January, we celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with "Calling Together" held at Arbury Road Baptist Church on 18th January – a prayer event for the world and our local community. And also on the second Sunday, 25th January, we remembered homeless people in our community, listening to "Street Voices" and supporting "Wintercomfort".

Romsey Mill have also reported that they have had some of their funding withdrawn and are having to look for long-term partners in order to guarantee their work within our community, which includes the North Cambridge Youth Worker project. Meanwhile, we now have one and a half youth workers working in our area of Cambridge employed by our churches, which will be a major asset to our churches and community.

David Maher joined us as Treasurer, I continue as Chairman, and Des Filby continues as Honorary Secretary.

Michael Lovell



NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

We take seriously our responsibilities to show love and support in prayer the residents and staff of the care homes in our parish – Buchan House (co-ordinator Terry) and Alex Wood House (co-ordinator Judith)– and Havenfield (co-ordinator

Ruth Reid). Many residents are physically frail and/or confused so this is a gift of time and attention, sometimes just sitting beside someone and holding their hand. Some are unresponsive but it is often a joy to see faces light up as they hear familiar words or receive Communion. We aim to hold a simple Communion service in each home, at least once a month and drop in at other times to chat and perhaps join in activities.

Terry Barringer, Judith Gretton-Dann and Ruth Reid



SAINT JOHN'S ORCHARD PARK

Over the last 12 months, Orchard Park has grown and developed. Another 130 flats and houses are on the way to being built, and new shops have arrived. We're more of a village community than we were. And at St John's, too, developments and changes have taken place within the church community. Our vision, though, continues to remain the same. We want to love and follow the Lord Jesus joyfully, and serve the people of Orchard Park.

Our weekly activities start with a Sunday morning service at the primary school at 10.30am, followed by lunch all together at the Vicarage. Sunday afternoon sees a group of men playing 5-a-side football – a great way to get to know others. And, on Sundays at 5pm a small group gathers to pray for the local area. On Tuesday evenings our two house groups meet. We study the Bible together, often the passage preached on the previous Sunday, and aim to help each other very practically to live in the light of what the Lord is teaching us. On Wednesday mornings another small group meets for those unable to make evenings. Growing to know and trust 8-10 others, being able to speak honestly, and praying for one another regularly – all this makes our small groups so important for the life of the church.

Other activities over the past year have included: regular assemblies for me at the school; craft evenings; an Italian night and a curry night for locals; a Christmas Family Activity day, and carol services; helping out with school events.

Activities, though, don't tell the whole story of a year. People are what matter. We're thankful to the Lord for slowing growing us in number. We're now a stable

core of around 30 adults and 10 small children. St John's now feels like a small church, rather than a tiny group! And others have found themselves on the fringes of church life, either re-discovering a more active faith, or considering Jesus for the first time. We thank God too for making us an increasingly diverse family – reflecting Orchard Park as a whole.

Numbers of people, though, don't tell the whole story of a year. We've had some new marriages, some newborns, some real joys together. Seeing the church family welcome newcomers and love and care for one another has been wonderful. And at the same time, we've experienced real stresses and strains - financial pressures, illness, anxiety, challenging family relationships. For some, it has been a real struggle to make it through another year. Normal church life.

And so, looking both backwards and forwards, we're so conscious of how dependent we are on our Father to keep us going.

As I wrote last year, we're so very thankful for our partnership with you, our sister church, and we continue to pray with you that the kingdom of Jesus will grow in the north of Cambridge.

Chris Lowe
Vicar, St John's Church Orchard Park



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.

Planned Giving to the church totalled £45,581 in 2014 (2013 : £42,440) , with collections of £6,119 (2013 : £5,780). Thanks to the auspices of Gift Aid, tax reclaimed was just under £11,000. We can now reclaim income tax on an element of church collections, but this is limited to an annual cap on collection values of £5,000. Reclaimed tax is a valuable contribution to the Church's finances, and I would encourage everyone who is eligible to fill out Gift Aid forms. Planned Giving income (including tax) covers over 50% 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 2014 the charities chosen were the Cambridge Street Pastors and Family Links – charities which do valuable work in the parish, Cambridge and other cities, and the Rural Development Movement. Other charities such as the Children's Society were also supported through fund raising events and collections.

An additional contribution was made to the Red Cross for the victims of Ebola.

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 £623 during 2014 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 £2,500 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!**



STUDENTS

As usual, we've had a number of student ordinands with us through the year, as part of their training to be vicars. Lucy Nagel and Rachel Blanchflower continued to be a part of the church but we said goodbye to Dan Ingles, Jonathan Clark and Adam Burnham. (Rachel has also spent time gaining experience away from Good Shepherd.) In October 2015 we welcomed Laurence Smith, Dan Barnes-Davis and Rosheen Browning on regular attachment. In addition Dave has had students shadowing him on more intensive placements, Rosheen in June 2014 for 4 weeks and Heather Leppard from January to March 2015. Heather particularly enjoyed volunteering with Foodbank and visiting the local nursing homes, and Rosheen found the insight into the vicar's working week especially enlightening. All have been grateful for how welcoming the congregation and clergy have been, to themselves, their families and visiting peers. The students from Ridley Hall have all had their sermons critiqued this year and feedback from the congregation has been very much appreciated.

The students have between them been active helping us as deacons, preaching, leading small groups and prayer meetings, Lunch Club and assisting the teams that take Holy Communion to the housebound. The students are all thankful to the church and particularly Dave Maher for the support and encouragement they've found. To quote one student: "I have loved my time there and have learned a huge amount."

Rosheen Browning



SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

The Sunday Lunch Club exists for the 3 F's - "Fellowship, Food and Fun" for the over 60's of the local community. This year we continued to meet on the first Sunday of each month for a lunch which was served at 12.30 in the church hall of the Church of the Good Shepherd, and were delighted to be joined by several new members.

We enjoy a full Sunday roast meal followed by a traditional English pudding (with fruit salad available for those watching their weight) rounded off by tea or coffee and a much loved free raffle – all fantastic value at a cost of £3.50. However, even more importantly, we have the opportunity to make new friends and meet with others.

It was with a sense of shock and very real sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Evelyn Dennington in July. Evelyn had been the Club's chief chef and friend since its beginning some 25 years ago. She had been instrumental in its conception, and had given her all to the Club over the years. It is impossible to state in words just how much she meant to us all. Thank you Evelyn.

John and Libby also felt that the time had come for them to pass over the leadership to others, and it was agreed that this should happen at the end of 2014. In the meantime we are extremely grateful to Pat Marsh (Brown Owl) who undertook to help keep the Club going by standing in as chief chef for the latter half of the year.

The finale to 2014 was the Christmas Party lunch when we were joined by all the helpers, and the church choir who led great Carol singing before the meal. Then about 68 of us sat down to the full works – salmon starters, full turkey main course with all the trimmings, and of course traditional Christmas pudding – with crackers, Christmas decorations, and even a little wine – a great party!

The Club brings much joy to many folk, and it's great to bump into fellow members when wandering about in Arbury Court, shopping in Budgens, - or even in the hairdressers! So it's really good news that it will be led into the future by teams coordinated by Jinty Keir. We have joined as members, and we look forward very much to the future programme.

So we now hand over to Jinty, to introduce the new organisation and plans for 2015.

John & Elizabeth Lamont

At the end of October all interested parties met to discuss the future of the Sunday Lunch Club. There was a consensus that we only wanted to continue if we could do it well and that it was unreasonable to expect Pat Marsh to cook month in, month out, going forward. Thankfully, two extra cooks stepped forward to work on

a rota with Pat and spread the load; we agreed to try this out for six months in the New Year, with a review in March. At the time of writing we have had three lunches under the new arrangements and everything is going extremely well so far, thanks to the willing service of Pat Marsh, Gill & Tom Ambrose and Ruby Leyshon. And a special thank you to John & Libby Lamont for all their work behind the scenes over the years.

The Sunday Lunch Club also relies on helpers to prepare vegetables beforehand and to serve and wash up on the day and we are grateful for the hard work of all our volunteers. If you would like to get involved by going on the helpers' rota please see Jinty Keir or Ruth Banger.

Jinty Keir



CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

2014 was dominated by the fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of the church. A full week of celebrations and happy memories of how things have changed since worship began in the hut all those years ago culminated in a service led by the Bishop of Ely. Just to prove that it is a small world, Bishop Stephen's driver had worshipped at the Good Shepherd as a boy!

The year also saw Terry Barringer step down as warden, and we would like to thank her for five years of faithful ministry in the job. Not that Terry seems to be doing much less for the church; she is still running the rota of greeters, knitting prayer shawls, putting time into the Ministry Team and more! In her place, Fiona Blows has stepped up to the job of church warden. Fiona normally attends the 8:30 communion service, so she brings a different perspective on our church community with her.

We have also welcomed Judith Gretton-Dann and her family this year. Judith joined us over the summer as a part-time curate, and has already been a great boon to us in lightening the vicar's workload. We hope she is enjoying her time with us as much as we enjoy having her here!

As a church, we have continued to grow as we did in 2013. This year we have had over a hundred people at a regular communion service for the first time in a great many years, a testament to how well our ministry is reaching out into the parish.

Our house groups and children's groups have continued to flourish and grow, helping to strengthen our individual and collective faiths. 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.

St John's Church in Orchard Park has also continued to grow and stand on its own feet. After what seems like an age, Chris Lowe has finally been licensed under the Bishop's Mission Order, and is now officially in charge of St John's. We are delighted that church bureaucracy has caught up with the needs of the community.

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.

Fiona Blows and Rhodri James

INDEX

Beavers	13-14
Brownies	15
Building and Grounds Team	7-8
Charitable Giving	24-25
Children and Families Team	8
Children and Young People	12-18
Churchwardens' Report	28-29
Cubs	14
Deanery Synod	18-19
Flower Arrangers	19
Godly Play	16
Healing Ministry	20
House Groups	20-21
Monday Morning Mums	16-17
North Cambridge Council of Churches	21-22
Nursing and Residential Care Homes	22-23
Orchard Park	23-24
Parochial Church Council	6-7
Parochial Church Council: Building and Grounds Team	7-8
Parochial Church Council: Children and Families Team	8
Parochial Church Council: Pastoral Care Team	8-9
Parochial Church Council: Social Awareness Team	9-10
Parochial Church Council: Worship and Music Team	10-12
Pastoral Care Team	8-9
Planned and Charitable Giving	24-25
Rainbows	15
St. John's Orchard Park	23-24
Schools Work	13
Scouts	14
Social Awareness Team	9-10
Students	26
Sunday Lunch Club	27-28
Sunday Night Youth Group	17-18
Toddler Group	12-13
Vicar's Report	5
Worship and Music Team	10-12

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

Vicar: David Maher 01223 351844

Curate: Judith Gretton-Dann 01223 750013

Licensed Lay Minister: Linda Dean 01223 328658