

## **Should we practice laying on of hands?**

The Bible mentions two types of the phrase "to lay hands on". I will look at all instances, but with emphasis on the healing properties associated with laying on of hands.

The first meaning is related to physically grab a hold of a person or thing in a manner to detain or lay siege to or to take control of a person. There are a number of scriptures which make mention of this. One common understanding between this and the healing, that is associated with laying on of hands, is that you are associating yourself with the person through the laying on of hands and prayer and welcoming God to take control.

### **Healing by the laying on of hands:**

We begin our journey in the book of Acts. Here we find that the true power of healing is from God and not from within man. This is opposite to what some advocate. Here it is believed that man is evolving into godhood, and that we have the god potential within all of us. But I assert what is the mainstream Church of England position that God alone is that one who provides the gift of healing.

Acts 8:18-21 *When Simon saw that through laying on of hands the Holy Ghost was given to them, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.* Peter clearly stated that it is a power given from God.

The act of laying on of hands was not the only means of association, reading in Acts 5: 15 *Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.*

1 Timothy 4:14 *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

The laying on of hands is not always mentioned when a healing is done. In

Mark 6: 13 we read that oil was used, and no mention of hands was made for this healing *And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.* Also in James 5:14-15 *Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven.*

Jesus made clay to heal a blind man's eyes in John 9:6, in Matthew 8:13 Jesus healed the centurion's son from a distance by speaking the word. In Mark 5:27 a woman was healed by touching the hem of Jesus garment, and again in Mark 6:13 oil was used with no mention of laying on of hands.

In Acts, Paul's handkerchiefs or aprons were given to the sick and were healed by touching them. Acts 19:12 *So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them*

The laying on of hands is not required to heal a person. The actual act of laying on of hands is not what heals a person, but the power of God does the healing. However, as with the bread and wine, the laying on of hands focuses the mind. As with all sacraments they are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. This is by no means all the needs to or ought to be said. I offer this in the hope that we may all take on board and pray for the healing through the laying on of hands.

Harry



## *PARISH DIRECTORY*

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Honorary Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Assistant Priest	Rev. Harry Rose	01954 211553
Licensed Lay Minister	Linda Dean	328658
Licensed Lay Minister	Martha Clark	07990 588479
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
Convenor PCC Buildings and Grounds Team	David Wilson	720097
Convenor PCC Children and Families Team	Hazel Maher	351844
Convenor PCC Discipleship and Teaching Team	David Maher	351844
Convenor PCC Pastoral Team	Linda Dean	328658
Convenor PCC Social Awareness Team	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Convenor PCC Worship and Music Team	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Altar Linen	Finsetta Cummings	352757
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	357622
Child Protection Co-ordinator	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Children's Work	John & Alison Phillips	502969
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	Paula Carter	07952919701
Food Bank	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
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	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
Sound System	David Wilson	07899 917831

## READINGS FOR MAY

### Sundays and holy days

- 4 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Acts 2: 14, 36-41  
Luke 24: 13-35
- 11 GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY  
tbc
- 18 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Acts 7: 55 - end  
John 14: 1-14
- 25 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Acts 17: 22-31  
John 14: 15-21
- 29 ASCENSION DAY at 7.30pm  
Acts 1: 1-11  
Luke 24: 44 - end

### Wednesdays

- 7 Acts 8: 26 - end  
John 6: 35-40
- 14 Acts 1: 15 - end  
John 15: 9 - 17
- 21 Acts 15: 1-6  
John 15: 1-8
- 28 BCP MATINS  
Psalm 132  
Numbers 17: 1-11  
Luke 7: 1-10

## FIRST CALL

Sunday May 4 at 7pm in the Church



## REGULAR SERVICES IN MAY

- 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 MAY

- Wednesday May 7 at ELY CATHEDRAL**  
at 7pm Signing in of Churchwardens
- Sunday May 11 Good Shepherd Sunday**  
All Age service at 10am
- Sunday May 18** Service of Healing and the  
Laying on of Hands with Prayer at 10am
- Sunday May 25** All Age service at 10am.
- Thursday May 29 (Ascension Day)**  
Service at 7.30pm

## EVENTS IN MAY

- Sunday May 4** at 12 noon Sunday Lunch  
Club meets in the Church Hall.
- Sunday May 11** Soup plus Bring and Share  
Lunch in Hall 12 noon till 1pm
- Sunday May 25** Last Orders in a local pub
- Saturday May 31** Plant and Book Sale in  
Hall 10.30 – 12 noon

FATHER  
while I was with them,  
I kept them whom you  
gave Me+Alleluja!+  
but now I am coming  
to you+I do not pray  
that you take them out  
of the world+but that  
you keep them from evil  
Alleluja+Alleluja!



## **Every Street Prayer**

### *Coming to a street near you*

Every Street Prayer is an initiative of Hope Cambridge, encouraging Christians to walk the streets where they live and work, observing, listening and praying and blessing them in the name of the Lord. We are called to ask how the Good News might sound in those streets and how the Kingdom of God might come closer.

At the Good Shepherd, uniting with friends from Arbury Baptist and City Life Church, we joined in on the evening of Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. We went out in groups of three to the streets around the church; another trio stayed in church to pray. 40 minutes later we reunited to report back. It was not quite so dramatic as the feedback of the seventy sent out by Jesus (Luke 10: 17-20) but we all returned encouraged, and with the sense that God was there and at work ahead of us. For example, my group had a relaxed but quite deep conversation with someone in Arbury Court who told us that he had been to church that morning for the first time in seven years. I was struck too by the social diversity of this small area. What does it mean to build community here? How can Christians here respond to God's call to be salt and light, proclaimers and channels of his blessing, by word and action?

*Terry Barringer*



### **The Every Street Prayer**

*To the homes, families and people of this street, we bless you in the Name of the Lord – that you may find eternal life through Jesus Christ – to know the one true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We bless the hearts of all who live, work and visit here that the kingdom of God may come among and within you in power.*

More information from [www.everystreetprayer.com](http://www.everystreetprayer.com)

### **We all need a tree**

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and he had just finished a rough first day on the job, a flat tyre made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

When I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked towards the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterwards he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

“Oh, that’s my trouble tree,” he replied. “I know I can’t help having troubles on the job, but one thing’s for sure, those troubles don’t belong in the house with my wife and children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again. Funny thing is,” he smiled, “when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren’t nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.”

**We all need a tree!**

*Supplied by Dorothy Gardner*



## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out...

A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person walked by and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

A mathematician calculated how deep the pit was.

A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.

An IRS agent asked if he was paying taxes on the pit.

A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit."

A fire-and-brimstone preacher said, "You deserve your pit."

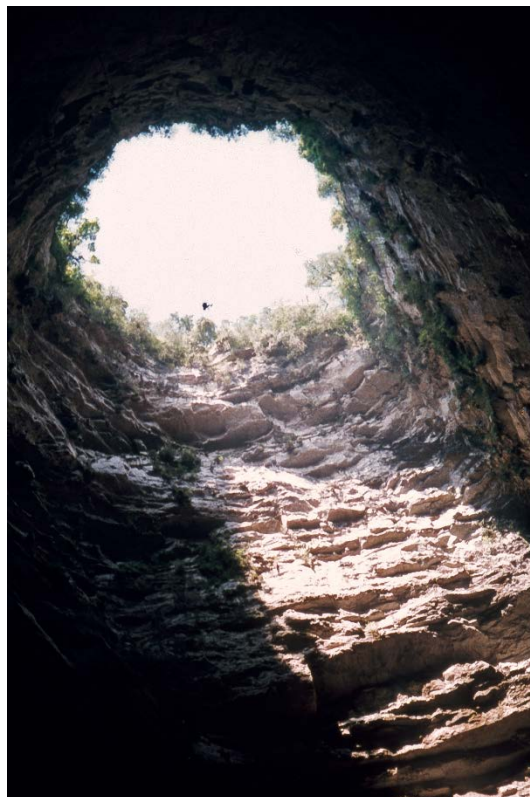
A psychologist noted, "Your mother and father are to blame for your being in that pit."

A self-esteem therapist said, "Believe in yourself and you can get out of that pit."

An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

A pessimist claimed, "Things WILL get worse."

**Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.**



## Thoughts on our Lent House Groups

*"On economics and a right relationship with money"* seemed rather a serious and somewhat grim title for our Lent Group sessions this year. Linda and Martha led our Wednesday sessions and we all agreed we found it very challenging and thought provoking and it sparked off some lively discussions. We were all shocked at the extent of the poverty and injustice in our world. In one country 20 percent of the population were living below the poverty line yet their Government are spending billions on nuclear weapons. Even in our own still affluent country, children go hungry to school and more and more people are relying on the food banks which are springing up everywhere. We asked why it is that it is always the under privileged, the poor and disabled who have to make the sacrifices, who have their benefits cut, while others at the other end of the scale manage to have huge salaries and continue to live "the good life." There is still a huge divide between the "haves" and the "have nots." It is difficult not to feel overwhelmed by despair and hopelessness in this situation. We felt that we needed a strong and powerful voice to put forward our opinions and we were encouraged that the Archbishop of Canterbury is making his voice heard in high places. We discussed how we could help and decided that it is in small ways every day. For instance, our own Church is already helping by supporting Jimmy's and the food bank and other institutions. For ourselves individually we decided that we try not to waste food, to shop carefully and to put a few extra items in our shopping trolley for Jimmy's, to recycle clothes etc. for charity shops and jumble sales. If money is scarce we could give in other ways - by giving of our time - an offer of a cup of tea and a chat or just a listening ear. In regards to our neighbours, can we be like the Good Samaritan and go that extra mile? These thoughts have only just scratched the surface and we felt that we must continue to pray that the world may become a fairer and a more just and equal place.

*Joy Staley*



## CONSERVATION AND THE CHURCH GROUNDS

A few years ago I was asked to make recommendations to the PCC as to how we might enhance the conservation value of the church grounds. I put forward some proposals and these were adopted. However, the changes made keep being reversed to the detriment of conservation. The latest being the mowing of the area designated to be left NOT mown. It has been suggested therefore that I spell out the rationale on which I based my proposals. Conservation practice aims to protect natural and semi natural ecosystems, to take action to save endangered species and to manage the rest of the landscape to maximise biodiversity - i.e. the number of species able to thrive in the situation. The church grounds provide an opportunity for this third objective. With respect to a situation like the church grounds the key to maximising biodiversity is to concentrate on insect diversity. Why insects? The Class Insecta has more species than all other classes of terrestrial organisms and embraces a wider range of lifestyles than any other class of animals. Thus actions to increase the diversity of insects will enhance the diversity of all other organisms. So what we need to concentrate on is maximising the **diversity of resources** that will favour insect diversity. What are the potential resources that will achieve this in our church grounds?

1. A **variety of plants**, especially of native species. Where they are non native, introduced, garden plants we should avoid sterile hybrids that do not provide the important resources of pollen and nectar. Among native plants an especially valuable species is ivy as it produces a rich supply of pollen and nectar late in the season (and the ivy on the wall at the north east corner is especially good due to its southerly aspect and its protection from cold northerly winds). The diversity of native plants can readily be increased by not mowing all the ground previously given over to lawn. By leaving an area free of mowing such an area then loses mowing tolerant species such as daisies to be replaced by mowing intolerant species, thus increasing the variety of native plant species.

2. **Structural diversity**. The tussock community that develops in the unmown area creates a more humid microhabitat at ground level. This favours a range of insects and other invertebrates (small snails, woodlice, millipedes, etc

3. **Dead wood**. An astonishing variety of insects and other invertebrates are associated with decaying wood. This has much to do with the fungi that exploit it. It was for this reason that I suggested that fallen dead branches from the trees be accumulated in the north east corner of the church grounds. But they keep being cleared away or burnt!

While options 2 and 3 introduce an element of 'untidiness' they comprise a major component if one wishes to increase biodiversity.

*Henry Disney*





## For Laughter and Thought

I was leading a 'Sankey' evening at Bethel Chapel, Verwood on 12th January—Sankey being a nineteenth century Gospel hymn writer who worked with DL Moody, the evangelist. We had chosen several hymns, and one of them was 'Saviour lead me lest I stray'. (You can Google it if you want to hear it or see the rest of the words).

Anyway to make the whole evening a bit more spiritual I had selected a verse to go with each of these hymns, and the verse I selected to be read—by a volunteer in the congregation—was Psalm 31.1, which reads 'In you O Lord have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame: deliver me in your righteousness.'

UNFORTUNATELY, the fellow who decided to look this up and read it somehow managed to not quite reach Psalms, and read ch 31.1 from the previous book, which is Job. Job 31.1 reads like this—'I have made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.' Whether God was trying to tell him something or not I don't know, but people that hadn't laughed for years, laughed that night. He said he was going home to make a full confession to his wife.



A man dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates and says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her and loved her deep in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth two points."

"Two points!?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" says St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point."

"One point!?! Well, I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"Two points!?! Exasperated, the man cries, "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God."

"Bingo! 100 points! Come on in!"



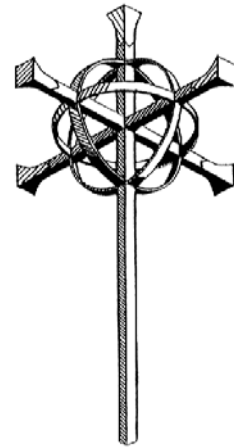
## IN THE CHURCH HALL

<b>THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month noon – 1.30pm	John & Elizabeth Lamont	565559
<b>THE MONDAY CLUB</b> Monday 2.30 - 4pm	Eva Hutson	574070
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD CUBS</b> Monday 6.30 - 8pm	Charles Brown	07720 441123
<b>LINE DANCING</b> Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45am	Mrs B Wright	426517
<b>KEEP FIT 50+ GROUP</b> Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm	Margaret Briggs	01954 250870
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS</b> Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
<b>DOG TRAINING CLASSES</b> Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O’Hanlon	235281
<b>CARERS &amp; SUFFERERS OF DEMENTIA</b> Wednesday 10 – 12 noon	The Manager	884031
<b>THE 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES</b> Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
<b>THE CAMERA CLUB</b> Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm	Steve Morrell	529670
<b>GUILDHALL RETIRED MEMBERS CLUB</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2 - 4pm	Yvonne Wisbey	523549
<b>ROYAL BRITISH LEGION</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm March to November	Mr. Gawthrop	351855
<b>T G W U</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month 2 – 4pm	Evelyn Hunnyball	364293
<b>CAMBRIDGE INSTRUMENTS PENSION FELLOWSHIP</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 10am - noon	D. Fisher	262282
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS</b> Thursday 6.15 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS</b> Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm	Chris White	0700 891511
<b>CHURCH TODDLERS’ CLUB</b> Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
<b>TAI CHI</b> Friday 2 – 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
<b>DOG TRAINING CLASSES</b> Friday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**TO BOOK THE CHURCH HALL**

**Please phone 352151 (evenings)**

**Submission date for  
June Newsletter:  
May 11  
(Publication date May 25)**



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](http://www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk)

