



The Church of The Good Shepherd Annual Report 2015-2016

**We hope you will enjoy reading what went on in our church
in 2015**

**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

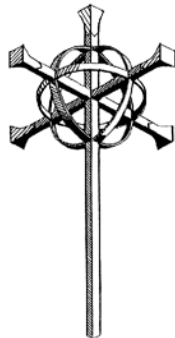
and make sure you don't miss out.

**During this past year we have found ourselves called to
reach out to our local community in a number of different
ways that have involved food. The cover photo tries to show
what we have been doing.**

WHO ARE WE?

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	
Assistant Curate	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann	
Assistant Curate	Rev. Rachel Blanchflower (from July 2015)	
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	Rhodri James (until April 2015)	
Churchwarden	Philip Morris (from April 2015)	
Churchwarden	Fiona Blows	
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	
PCC Vice Chairman	Fiona Blows	
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	
PCC Treasurer	Ginni Carroll (until February 2015)	
PCC Treasurer	Jinty Keir (from March 2015)	
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Lilas Davison	
Deanery Synod Representative	Ruth Banger	
Deanery Synod Representative	Ginni Carroll	
PCC Members	Terry Barringer (from April 2015)	
	Guido Barzini	
	Sarah Blakeney	
	Sean Blanchflower	
	Caroline Bordoni (until April 2015)	
	Paula Carter	
	Esther Choolun	
	Liz Collinson	
	Hazel Maher (from April 2015)	
	Alison Phillips (from April 2015)	
	Jinty Keir (co-opted from March 2015)	
	Ruby Leyshon (co-opted from April 2015)	
	David Wilson (until April 2015)	
Administrator	Ruth Banger	
Convenor PCC Buildings and Grounds Team		David Wilson
Convenor PCC Children and Families Team		Judith Gretton-Dann
Convenor PCC Pastoral Team		Linda Dean
Convenor PCC Social Awareness Team		Liz Collinson

Convenor PCC Worship and Music Team		Ruth Banger
Altar Linen	Margaret Handley	
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	
Children's Work	Paula Carter	
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	
Coffee Makers	Guido Barzini	
Food Bank	Liz Collinson	
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Paula Carter	
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	David Maher	
Planned Giving Secretary	Jinty Keir (until February 2015)	
Planned Giving Secretary	Ginni Carroll (from March 2015)	
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Lilas Davison	
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney	
Sacristan	Stuart Keir	
Safeguarding Officer	Paula Carter	
Servers	Bill Elsey	
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Fiona Blows	
Sound System	David Wilson	
Sunday Lunch Club	Jinty Keir	



WELCOME AND VICAR'S REPORT

Welcome to the annual report of the Church of the Good Shepherd. We have had an extraordinary year and it is with genuine thankfulness that we look back and celebrate all that has been going on. This time last year we could not have imagined that we would be part of an initiative that has served over 1,000 meals to the local community, in the last 12 months. We have established a fresh expression of worship with two other churches and we have continued to strengthen and deepen our connections with the community surrounding us. All this has been going on as we seek to share and demonstrate the love that God has for each one of us. Whilst this has been happening the church has continued to flourish. I am so thankful for the team, Judith, Rachel, Linda, Ruth who work alongside me in the leadership of the church. I am so thankful for the Churchwardens, PCC and the many many volunteers who week in and week out contribute to the life and worship of the Church.

Finally, and most importantly I am so thankful to God for all that He is doing in this Church and community. It has been an exciting year seeing where the Spirit blows and seeking to follow.

If you want to know why I'm excited read on!

**Do not call to mind the former things,
Or ponder things of the past.
"Behold, I will do something new,
Now it will spring forth;
Will you not be aware of it?
I will even make a roadway in the wilderness,
Rivers in the desert.
"The beasts of the field will glorify Me,
The jackals and the ostriches,
Because I have given waters in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert,
To give drink to My chosen people....**

Isaiah 43:18-20

NEW INITIATIVES

Holiday lunch Project

On 5th March 2015 an Anti Poverty conference was held at Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre. Conversation afterwards between Binnie Pickard (Community Development Officer (North) and Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre Manager) and David Maher, and their concern for needy schoolchildren who would not be getting free lunches in the school holidays, led to the implementation of this scheme. The aim was to provide family activities and free meals so that at least one hot lunch each week would be provided.

David asked Ruby and Paula to lead a team from the Good Shepherd to develop and provide lunches for one day each week for four weeks in the Summer Holiday. At the same time the Meadows Community Centre and Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre were also providing activities and meals. Over the four weeks, the three centres provided around 850 lunches for children and their accompanying parents, as well as a programme of activities for the children run by a team of volunteers at each centre before lunch. Being a Sunday Lunch Club cook team gave us the experience we needed for this (or so we thought), but 80+ children are a lot more of a handful!

From these figures, it was obvious that there was a need in the community for such a service to provide children with a hot meal, with pudding and a drink plus some fun and games and to this end the three centres will run this event again for four weeks this Summer. In fact, at The Good Shepherd we served 83 lunches on Wednesday 17th February during Half Term and there were activities and lunches at the other two centres on the Monday and Tuesday of Half Term as well.

Many thanks to all voluntary helpers who provided unstinting assistance with activities and help in serving lunches, not forgetting those who stayed behind to wash up. Also our thanks go to all those individuals, local shops and businesses that generously donated food.

Ruby Leyshon & Paula Carter



Sing A New sonG (SANG)

In September 2015 a small group of mothers from COGS, Arbury Road Baptist and Grace Community Church met together to pray about the next steps for 'Monday Mums'. Almost by accident, Sing A New sonG (SANG) began as a new music group for 0-4 year olds and their parent/carers, ran as a joint initiative by churches together across North Arbury. Drawing out of the Biblical context of 'singing a new song to the Lord', the group has four main aims:

- To provide a joyful, fun, energetic time of singing and making music together!
- To become a local community of 'surprising kindness', within which parents/carers can share support, build friendships and find encouragement midst the hard task of caring for very young children.
- To gently hold prayerful space for people to reconnect with themselves and their own spiritual journeys midst the business and pressures of life.
- To offer invitations and signposting to other services, events, courses in the local area which might be of further interest and support.

Each SANG session follows a similar shape each week:

10 – 10.30: coffee and cake in the Haven – with toys for the children.

10.30 – 11.10: welcome, music and singing in the Church.

11.10-15: short reflection, 'thought for the week.'

11.15-11.30: time for exploring the interactive prayer spaces in the Prayer Chapel – or further chatting and play.

SANG held a Christmas party in December and several members of the group came with their families to sing in the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. We are planning an Easter party in March with further invitations to the various different activities that our churches will be running over the Easter period.

Numbers of those coming to SANG rather took us by surprise, rising rapidly from 8 to around 50 people each week! We are delighted that there are still new faces each week too and that people are inviting friends to come along. It has been a joy getting to know those who live in our community better and to grow new friendships. A challenge of these next months is how to build a regular body of volunteers who can help sustain our welcome and hospitality and be extra pairs of hands and eyes during the sessions.

Just before Christmas Ely Diocese kindly awarded SANG a grant towards its work, recognising that the community that is forming might be a 'fresh expression' of what church can look like and mean in a local context. We certainly hope that SANG might be a touching point of welcome and love, where each adult and child is known

by name, feels they belong, and has their specialness affirmed. We would be glad of your prayers for ‘surprising kindness’ as we continue to sing new songs together. *Rachel Blanchflower (COGS), Erica Bowler (ARBC), Joanna Burke (Grace), Sarah Phillips (Grace), Margaret Winchcomb (ARBC)*



Red Hen Coffee Mornings

The Red Hen Project has been holding coffee mornings in the church hall every Monday during term time since September 2015.

The group has parents and preschool children from the local community, generally with children attending the primary schools who are supported by the project. They are Arbury, The Grove, King’s Hedges, Orchard Park and Shirley.

The sessions are friendly and relaxed and offer play activities for the children, peer support from other parents and advice from the family workers as well as a cooked breakfast of bacon sandwiches, fresh fruit and bread and butter.

The numbers vary in the group and some weeks have been up to 24 and it is always very friendly, welcoming and supportive. At Christmas we held a Christmas party with Christmas crafts and a small gift for the children as well as party food.

The Church has been very supportive of those of our parents who are less well off financially and have been very generous in supplying groceries to those who are struggling and this has been much appreciated.

A number of the families who attend the coffee mornings also attended the holiday activities and lunches held at the Church and these were very enjoyable and provided a much needed service.

We sometimes have visitors attend the group to promote other groups such as the singing group in the church, parenting groups being offered in the community and family workers from the locality team talking about the work they do.

We look forward to many more coffee mornings and welcome newcomers from the community.

Chris O’Reilly



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Since the last APCM the PCC met in May, July, September and November last year and February this year. We plan to have our final meeting of this PCC in March 2016. 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.

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 we continue to build on the work done in previous years and also to innovate. 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 whenever they meet 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.

During this year we have started to consider possible ways we might upgrade the Church Hall and we had a most enjoyable “dreaming dreams” session. Undoubtedly this will start to be converted into practical action in the year to come. We have also started on considering the Diocesan 2025 Mission document – self examination is not always comfortable but it is certainly necessary if we are to be a healthy church. PCC meetings always start with worship and our March 2016 meeting will give the PCC, and any other church members who come, an opportunity to experience the Cambridge Church Schools’ latest exhibition, *Travelling with Jesus*. Something we all pray we do.

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 our elected members Guido Barzini, Sean Blanchflower and Sarah Blakeney and to our co-opted members Jinty Keir and Ruby Leyshon. 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

2015 was a quiet one for the building and grounds team; so there is not a lot I can tell you about it. We have had one or two problems. The heating in the Haven, Vestry and Lady Chapel did not work too well. So we have now renewed the heating pump, which had been doing the work from the time that it was installed in 1957, it is now working well.

The church grounds are not looking too bad now that the YMCA boys and girls keep them reasonably tidy. Ruby keeps an eye on what they do, and does some work as well with Evelyn. Janet and I try to keep the memorial garden as tidy as possible.

As for this year, it looks like it may be a busy one for the team.

David Wilson (Convenor), Tom Ambrose (until April 2015), Ruth Banger, Peter Langley (from April 2015), Ruby Leyshon, David Maher



Children and Families Team

The last 12 months have been a busy time for Godly Play. Gill Ambrose moved away – we thank her for all her hard work and dedication in setting up Godly Play. This necessitated the church building up our own Godly Play resources. Thanks to very kind donations and the skills of congregation members, we have stocked up and have a beautiful selection of equipment to enable us all to explore bible stories in new ways. Additionally the Godly Play team undertook two days of training which was a really useful time for building up confidence and learning new techniques for Godly Play. We will be having regular practice evenings to help with learning and trying out new stories.

In Sunday School we have run a course over several weeks, looking at what it means to take communion, leading to several of our young people being admitted to communion for the first time.

We are grateful for all the leaders and helpers who are committed to this work, both in Sunday School and Godly Play. Following on from the Godly Play training, we will be considering what training would be helpful and appreciated by the Sunday School leaders, and how that can be implemented.

For both groups, we now have registration forms (a safeguarding requirement) which should be filled in for each child attending groups, along with a register of attendance.

Over the next 12 months, we will be looking at how we can encourage parents and carers, and offer tools and training for helping with being godly parents, and equip them for making encountering God easier to do as families.

*Judith Gretton-Dann (Convenor), Caroline Bordonni, Ginny Carroll, Paula Carter
Esther Choolun, Hazel Maher, Jude Maher, James Lewis, Susie Lewis, Sophie
Murray, Catherine Nancekievill, Eleonora Scognamiglio, Jenny Thomas, Zuzanna
Lovell,*



Pastoral Care Team

Pastoral care is an integral part of the ministry of the whole church here at the Good Shepherd. It is co-ordinated by the Pastoral Care team, which works closely with the Leadership of the church to identify pastoral needs and all aspects of pastoral

care and to report to the PCC on a regular basis. We keep our practice constantly under review and are currently thinking more about how we can clarify who we are as a team and what we can offer.

The contribution to the pastoral ministry of the church made by all members of our congregation in informal ways is always appreciated and encompasses care of those who are sick, bereaved, housebound or in any way distressed.

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

It is a way of building our pastoral care as a congregation, not only of people who are not physically present, and it is also an opportunity for us to pray for one another. As we seek to help to create an environment which is welcoming and accepting of all people we have become increasingly aware of the needs of people who have recently joined us and it is encouraging to see pastoral contact being made in church and after the morning service during coffee time. We have also held a welcome supper for people who are relatively new amongst us and we plan to repeat this during the coming year.

Our church is growing and changing with new people joining us and we have also celebrated the births of Lily, Aurora, Alice and Elizabeth. It has been a great joy to welcome them all into our fellowship.

But sadly we have also had to say goodbye to some of our faithful long term members who have died during the past year. Ian Catchpole, Mary Langford and Dorothy Gardener will be missed by us all. We continue to support members of our fellowship in their bereavement. As part of this support those who have been bereaved during the year are invited to a special service for All Souls when loved ones are remembered by name. After the service we offer tea for those who would like the opportunity to meet and chat. There is also an invitation to a Quiet Christmas service which we offer during Advent.

An important aspect of our pastoral care of the wider community is in our contact with residential and nursing homes in the parish. We visit Buchan House, Havenfield and Alexwood House once a month to take a Communion service and call at other times simply to be alongside people and listen. Many residents are physically frail and/or confused and we feel it is important to offer this gift of time and attention.

The ministry of Healing continues to be an integral part of the life of this church and is offered on a bi-monthly basis. It is administered by clergy, ordinands, licensed

and authorised lay ministers and some lay members of the congregation. However, the prayers of the whole congregation contribute to this ministry and we know that God works through us all to make a difference in people's lives. Each year some of our members attend the Diocesan day of healing and wholeness which offers an opportunity for training, sharing practise and taking part in a Healing Eucharist at the end of the day.

In addition to our morning services we also offer a range of quieter services, for example an evening Iona Eucharist which focused on Julian of Norwich and will be followed by a Quiet day at the Julian Centre, also the Ash Wednesday evening service where it was felt there was a deep sense of healing hands at work.

During the coming year we will continue to reflect on our practice and 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, Sarah Blakeney, Rachel Blanchflower, Michael Lovell, Alison Philips, Ruth Reid, Janet Witting,



Social Awareness Team

This has been another busy year for us. As we write, we have now completed three years of hosting Food Bank at The Good Shepherd. Since last February we have had 375 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 375 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 now have our food boxes delivered and collected which is a great help. We are grateful to Alex, our usual van driver and also to Stephen, our relief van driver. It has made such a difference! We are also very grateful to everyone who packs up the food, talks to our visitors, 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!

Members of the team were active in participating in North Arbury Clean-up Day back in the Autumn.

We are still pursuing the matter of Fair Trade status, thanks to Judith. We need to do a bit more work on this.

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, Henry Disney and Judith Gretton-Dann



Worship and Music Team

First, the worship aspect of our brief. Judith and her helpers seized the opportunity provided in 2015 of Ash Wednesday falling in Half Term and had an Ash Wednesday children's service. This was well attended and clearly met a need. We need to consider how we progress this in the years Ash Wednesday does not fall so conveniently.

At the request of the Godly Play helpers we have modified our regular pattern of All Age services so that there is only one in Lent – Mothering Sunday. This should enable those who attend Godly Play and the Sunday School to cover the large amount of material presented to them at this time in the Church Year. Undoubtedly we shall review this change in the coming year.

Our contact with local families who have come to the activities and lunches we organised in the school holidays in 2015 made us wonder whether a midweek service in some yet to be agreed different format was what God was calling us to do – and then God surprised us. A clear local need was made clear to us and, before we

realised what was happening, SANG had been formed and is flourishing. Rachel has written about this earlier in our Annual Report.

We are keen that the activities we engage in as a church are what is right for us to be doing *now*, and that it is not that we have done something before so still continue with it. After some discussion we decided not to hold the Posada in 2015. This does not mean we will never do it again, just that we need sometimes to pause and think. The same attitude of examining our activities also extends to our very successful Shoebox Sunday. We are investigating whether we might perhaps be involved with a different Christian charitable organisation which would distribute boxes to lonely elderly people as well as to children.

An innovation this year means we shall be holding our first Passover meal on Palm Sunday afternoon. We are looking forward to this in so many different ways, not least that it gives us some idea of the meal Our Lord would have shared with his disciples. It is also a great opportunity for the church family to meet and eat together.

As far as the music part of our brief is concerned, we continue to have as wide a range of music as possible – the great advantage of not having a regular hymn book. Twelve members of the Church went to hear Graham Kendrick at Bury St. Edmunds and had an inspirational evening. Since then new songs of his have been creeping into our repertoire. In fact, we are regularly learning new hymns and songs while trying to continue with established favourites as well. One great delight is when some of our youngest members together sing a verse of the Gloria. And we really enjoy the variety of musical contributions from so many of our congregation. It's not how well you sing that matters, it's whether you sing for God's glory that counts. At every choir practice we pray that God will be glorified through our music.

We again gave the congregation an opportunity to suggest hymns and “before and after” music during August and had a great response. We are blessed with our students at The Good Shepherd who make a great contribution to our worship and we do not want them to drift away from us at the end of their time in Cambridge. In 2015 we started a Students Sunday and each of our students chooses one of the hymns for that Sunday and speaks on what it means to them. Last year this was an amazing Sunday and we look forward to our five students contributing to this service this year.

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.

We look forward in the coming year to continuing to work out the implications of the 2025 Mission document as it affects our worship. Worship is what we are all about and we are privileged to help to plan this.

Ruth Banger (Convenor), Rachel Blanchflower, Ginni Carroll, Linda Dean, Jinty Keir, David Maher, Hazel 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 with Kings Hedges and the Grove School. They all visit the church, along with Orchard Park School as part of the R.E syllabus.

We have also have hosted a number of excellent events. Arbury Primary came with their families for a Harvest service in October. North Cambridge Academy held a moving Remembrance service on the 11th November, we had to have three services to accommodate the whole school! Christmas saw the church hosting Grove Primary school and their Christmas concert. Again this was such a success we may have to go to two services next year.

Also at Christmas we helped co-ordinate and run the turning on of the Christmas lights in Arbury Court, which was a fun event attended by three local schools, local churches, the Mayor of Cambridge and, of course, Father Christmas.

Finally this Lent it was a real joy to welcome the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust for the second year running. They put on an exhibition called 'Travelling with Jesus: the road to Jerusalem and beyond ...' which invited children to explore the meaning of Easter and to engage with stories that Jesus told. Schools from all over the county attended, as well as local schools and families.

David Maher



Uniformed Groups

Beavers

We had an exciting year with three sleepovers and many other activities. Ten Beavers attended the Shepreth Wildlife Park sleepover in October. We had a fantastic weekend in Heacham at the end of the Summer term, and even a visit to Leicester Space Centre in the spring.

We currently have 18 Beavers, 3 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.

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 very soon a night hike around Grantchester Meadows. Activities have included cooking homemade pies, a sausage sizzle at Byron's Pool, and a trip to Fordham for a joint sleepover with the 1st Wickhambrook Cubs.

We currently have 23 Cubs, 4 Leaders and 2 Young Leaders

Looking towards 2016 we are aiming to organise a few 'FUN' weekend activities for the Pack

Scouts

What another awesome year!

It started with a cold and muddy Winter camp in January, followed at Easter by our Fires and Fry Ups camp which had the full cohort of scouts attending. Three of the Scouts completed their expedition challenge badge in July with a 16 mile hike over two days with all their kit. In August we had another action packed summer camp with the 1st Thorner and Scarcroft Scout Group in the Lakes where the activities included hill walking, cooking, rock climbing, sailing, and stream scrambling. This also yielded two new culinary inventions - the deep fried KitKat and the breakfast Taco. The year was rounded off with visits to the Institute of Astronomy and Marshalls Defence and Aerospace.

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 2016 including teaming up with Water Aid to help deliver the Scout Association's A Million Hands initiative and handing out at least 3 chief scout gold awards!

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 leavers we have 10 Scouts and 3 Leaders in the troop with plenty of cubs due to move up next year.

Roger Ling



18th Rainbows and 18th/25th Brownies

Our summer term started in May with preparation for a unit first – namely our Summer Panto – “Cinderella”. It was a fab event at the end of which every brownie received her Entertainer Badge and the parents clapped and celebrated with us as we bid a fond farewell to the very lovely leader Fluffy owl. She had been approached by a local unit to her home in Bury St Edmunds who were facing closure so she rose to the call and for a while attended both units, but decided that it was time to focus on just one unit.

This leaves us a little short staffed at Brownies and so if you do know anyone who might be interested in joining the team please get in touch we are looking for motivated volunteers willing to join in and have fun planning and exciting and varied programme.

After the success of the panto we carried on with the Brownie Traditions badges where we discovered all about Brownies and Guides from years gone by and what they got up to. We also got creative with the Artist badge – designing Christmas Jumpers and Festive Pillow Cases amongst other things.

2016 has seen our Brownie numbers rise quickly back up to 24, meaning that the unit is FULL once again and a waiting list is in operation. It’s lovely to know that so many girls want to be a part of what is going on in the unit and that they are having so much fun!.



Our newest badge had been the Chinese New Year Badge and great fun was had by all making Chinese lanterns and practising their chopstick skills whilst tasting all sorts of delicious Chinese treats.

As Thinking Day approaches we will embark on our World Guiding badge and plan some International Adventures from the comfort of the church hall. We also just booked our Pack Holiday where hold a 2-night sleepover in the Jarman Centre at Newmarket for all girls.

Dana Marsh



Sunday Night Youth Group

For about 15 months now Jax has been leading the young people at COGS mostly on a Sunday evening but also she's had opportunity to meet with them in the week. During these times real community has begun to grow and it is evident the young people are supporting one another. Emma has also joined the team which has allowed Phil to have a much needed break on the occasional Sunday.

The Sunday evenings have held significance as discussions have taken place and questions have been answered. Of course the eating snacks, playing games, occasional baking, chatting and praying all continue to happen. Last term the young people took the lead role in heading up and running the 'decorate a gingerbread man' stall at the Christmas market. Everyone had fun and laughed a lot.

This term has begun by talking about story and the importance of the bible narrative; in preparation for Exploration Station, a YFC event where more questions can be asked, discussions take place and the young people have a chance to explore what faith is. The young people last year very much enjoyed this event so the prayer is that this event continues to allow them to explore their personal faith and courage to share it with their friends.

The hope and prayer for the young people at COGS is that the community would grow as their faith in Jesus develops and they discover all that He has for them.

Jax Keal, Phil Morris



DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

13th July 2015

The 2016 Diocesan Draft Budget was presented prior to its approval by the Diocesan Synod in September. Queries were raised on the numbers and allocation of clergy in the Deanery, the move towards financial self-sufficiency for all deaneries, how

deaneries and parishes might share resources and the significance of the Deanery Plan.

Looking forward to the October joint deanery meeting, the Rural Dean introduced the Diocesan Strategy paper – People Fully Alive. Synod members debated the strategy and raised point for discussion with the Archdeacon in October. It was noted that workbooks would be produced for PCCs to engage with in the Autumn. The Synod then received presentations on social initiatives in the North Cambridge area from the following :

The Children's Society

Ann Brittain introduced the work of the Children's Society, which has been in existence since 1880s. The Society's activities include supporting vulnerable and homeless children with the aim of reintegrating them into a safe home, working with destitute families, lobbying government, campaigning, research e.g. around debt, mentoring, advocacy and legal advice. It largely raises its money through collection boxes and the Christingle Service collections, as well as sponsorship activities. More information can be found on <http://www.childrensociety.org.uk> or by emailing Ann Brittain (e:mail address available on request from the synod reps) who is very willing to visit any congregations to provide further information.

Supported Lodgings

Andy King presented the work of Cambridge City Council, supporting homeless people in the city in a number of different ways, particularly through intervening at an early point of crisis. The Supported Lodgings scheme was introduced, which seeks to act as a matching scheme between those who are 'new' to homelessness and those who have spare bed space in Cambridge. The scheme also provides background checks and puts support structures in place (e.g. relationship counselling, debt advice). Placements usually last between 3 and 9 months. The vision is for 40 homes to take on lodgers, working as a network together. Congregations were encouraged to consider if they might respond in compassion and faith, and play a part in rebuilding people's lives. For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/rent-room-in-your-home, or email Andy (e:mail address available on request from the synod reps) who is willing to visit any group to provide further information.

Chris Jenkin also flagged up the ambition of **Hope Cambridge** (who run the Winter Shelter scheme) to raise money to invest in 'pastorally-supported' housing and reach out to the 'last, the least, the lost', with the ultimately vision of people giving glory to God as their lives are transformed (Mark 5: 15-19).

The Synod's attention was brought to the Annual Report from Chaplaincy At Work and the new resource from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity to support Christians in the workplace. The Rural Dean reported a positive report from

the Ethical Investment Advisory Group and the Synod was encouraged to contact the Diocesan Environment Committee (Nigel Cooper) if there were any points which parishes wished to discuss following the Pope's recent encyclical on climate change and the current debate at Synod on divestment.

29th October 2015

This was an open Cambridge North Deanery Synod meeting at which the Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, Archdeacon for Cambridge, presented his Archdeacon's People Fully Alive : Ely 2025 mission structure.

At its meeting on 3 June 2015, the Ely Diocesan Synod voted overwhelmingly to adopt the proposed new strategy, *People Fully Alive: Ely 2025*. This is a strategy for growth for the diocese to take its life forward to 2025.

The synod motion that was voted through asked the bishop's team, benefices, parishes and deaneries, diocesan boards and councils to carry the diocesan strategy into all current and future planning.

The strategy was formally launched at a special celebratory service in Ely Cathedral on Sunday 27 September 2015.

People Fully Alive is a document designed to set out an agenda for growth for our diocese over the next decade. It has been shaped using suggestions and responses from members of the diocese and shows us that change is to be adopted and embraced.

The full text of Ely 2025 can be found at <http://www.elydiocese.org/who-we-are1/diocesan-strategy>. Our PCC will be discussing elements of this strategy during PCC meetings as all parishes are asked to be fully engaged with this.

Ruth Banger & Virginia Carroll



FLOWER ARRANGERS

We have managed to maintain the arranging of flowers weekly with special displays for festival weekends during the past year, however, due to various reasons (i.e. sickness and age), the rota is somewhat depleted. David, the Vicar, says we do an amazing job of presenting wonderful displays throughout the year on a limited budget.

Please if anyone feels that they could join us to either arrange the flowers or tidy up afterwards, we would be delighted. Help would be needed once every six weeks – if we have more volunteers it would not be so often, of course.

Please see me if you can help in any way

Iris Brown



HOUSE GROUPS

Our house groups in the last year have focused more on living as Christians than studying a particular book of the Bible.

Our first course of the year was Fruitfulness on the Frontline, all about the challenges of everyday life and how we can meet them with God's help. Later on we looked at the Bible itself; how we read it, what we gain from it and how it helps us live our lives.

As ever, one of the most fascinating things has been finding out the different questions and answers the various groups have had. We all have very individual styles, and the different lights these have shone on our courses have produced some quite surprising insights, at least to me!

Of course the house groups are also social groups, very welcome times for us to simply be together as Christians. Being there to quietly support each other -- and I say this as someone who has great trouble asking for help -- is one of the blessings of these groups. And of course we do things together socially; the group I go to is beginning to make a habit of ending each course with a shared supper. It's all very easy-going and friendly, despite the seriousness of the subject matter.

Rhodri James



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 slowly 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

The generosity of members in supporting the work of the Church of the Good Shepherd through the Planned Giving Scheme and church collections is very much appreciated.

Planned Giving totalled £45,880 in 2015 (2014 : £45,581), with plate collections of £4,556 (2014 : £6,119). Tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme was £13,672, which is a valuable contribution to the Church's finances at no extra cost to donors. Planned Giving income, including tax reclaimed, is essential in enabling the PCC to budget for, and manage, our expenditure and to plan for the future. I would urge everyone who pays tax to complete a Gift Aid form, enabling the Church to claim an additional 25p for every £1 given.

Despite the fantastic generosity of our members, the Planned Giving and other regular income is not sufficient to cover the day-to-day running costs of the Church and, therefore, the PCC will be asking everyone over the coming months to prayerfully re-consider their giving as we work together to balance the books. We are very fortunate in having endowment income and reserves generated by the efficient stewardship of resources donated and bequeathed by faithful members, both past and present, over the fifty years since the Church was built. It is the aim of the PCC to continue this good stewardship so that the reserves are available for larger planned projects and unforeseen major expenditure rather than being used to subsidise the day-to-day running costs.

In addition to the Planned Giving, fund raising makes a significant contribution to the Church's income. The fund raising team organised a number of events including the Arbury Carnival cake stall, the plant and book sale, the Christmas market and two jumble sales which, together with our regular Sunday coffee income, generated £3,249 during 2015 for the work of the Church. This was only made possible by the enormous efforts and tireless support of the fundraising team, helpers, donors and customers.

Each year a proportion of the Planned Giving income is set aside for donation to charity and in 2015 £2,280 was split equally between the Romsey Mill Aspire

Programme, based in Cambridge, and the Rural Development Movement and Help for Forgotten Allies, working overseas. Specific collections and fund raising events totalled an amazing £2,695 and benefited Save the Children Refugee Crisis, Christian Aid Nepal Earthquake Appeal and the Children's Society, amongst others.

A big thank you to everyone who gave so generously, both to the Planned Giving scheme and to the specific causes supported by the Church, and to those who gave so freely of their time and energy on our fundraising activities.

Jinty Keir



STUDENTS

As it was, is now, and ever shall be, a number of ordinands (trainee vicars) have had the privilege to serve among the good people of the Good Shepherd over this last year. We all know that Rachel Blanchflower is now serving our community as curate, having been made a deacon in the summer; Laurence Smith (from Ridley) is now a curate in Bury St Edmunds; Rosheen Browning (also Ridley) is curate in Paddock Wood, Kent; and Heather Leppard was made a deacon, alongside her husband Dom Thornton (both Westcott), and they are now serving Harnham and Salisbury as curates. In Michaelmas, we welcomed Mike Perkins, Felicity Cowling and Rory Balfour from Ridley and Michael Robinson from Westcott.

As it was, is now, and ever shall be, we have all enjoyed being a part of the community and hugely valued the experience we have gained serving with you all. Part of the intention behind ordinands' Sunday attachments is that they become the 'genuine' worshipping community which we can call home, and I have definitely found that the Good Shepherd is a well-appreciated refuge from college life. It is such an honour to play some humble part in the life of a wonderful — not to mention busy — parish church.

As it was, is now, and ever shall be, we have all been deaconing, preaching, leading and assisting in house groups, and helping with both Lunch Club and home communions, among many other things. One example which I am sure we will always remember fondly was creating the advent prayer spaces service with Rachel. As ever, we are all inexpressibly grateful to the whole church family — and not least

to Dave, Rachel, Judith and Linda — for the welcome home we are glad to find among you.

Dan Barnes-Davies



SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

As Libby and John Lamont wrote last year, *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.* And we have been really pleased to welcome a number of new members again this year, the Lunch Club is continuing to grow.

2015 was our first attempt to run the Lunch Club and we are delighted to have had the helpful presence of John and Libby to support us. The cooking skills of Pat Marsh, Ruby Leyshon and Paula Carter have been much appreciated – the meals have been fabulous. We are particularly grateful to our cooks as they unhesitatingly co operated with revising the work schedule when Tom and Gill Ambrose left us last Easter. As previously, we have served a full roast dinner with a traditional pudding (or fruit salad) plus a cup of tea or coffee for £3.50 which is amazing value.

We have been blessed since September with five students all of whom have entered fully into all aspects of our church life – including Sunday lunches. They have worked really hard and we are truly grateful for all they do, and so cheerfully too!

If you feel you would like to join the team of cooks we would be delighted to welcome you, but the Sunday Lunch Club also relies on helpers to prepare vegetables beforehand and to serve and wash up on the day – might any of this be something you could do? We need more help and if you would like to get involved, please see Jinty Keir or Ruth Banger.

Jinty Keir & Ruth Banger



CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

2015 has for the most part been a good year, and the Church has continued to reach out to Arbury and beyond offering faith hope and practical support. Judith Gretton-Dann has continued to grow in her role as has Rachel Blanchflower, and their insights and perspectives have kept us challenged, thinking and praying, as well as giving us confidence, hope and tolerance.

The services have been well attended and there has been an exciting range of styles. Some non Eucharistic services have taken place, along with all-age and healing services. While it has not been possible to please everybody all the time, there should be something for everyone and we hope that people can appreciate that others may have different preferences.

Prayer meetings have been encouraging especially as we have joined with Arbury Road Baptist Church. House groups create an opportunity for discussion and we hope people are encouraged to attend over the coming year.

One of the highlights of the year has been the lunches that were provided over the school holidays. These brought a lot of people into the church with all sorts of needs and talents. A real encouragement was the way that so many people worked so hard together to make everyone feel welcome. Food Bank is still a necessary part of church life and is a good way to reach out to people in a practical way and show how much we care.

Another big highlight has been the SANG group for parents/carers with young children. This has brought more people into the church and been extremely popular. Over the past years we have been blessed to have a number of students on placement. In the last 12 months we have said goodbye to some and welcomed Rory, Felicity, Michael, Dan and Mike. It is always a pleasure and an encouragement to see the enthusiasm and talents of those who are training for the ministry.

Following the common tradition within churches we have encountered problems with the building and in particular the heating. Thankfully this has mostly been fixed, along with other problems. The buildings and grounds team members have done an excellent job of dealing with these and making sure that we have a church and hall that are in a decent state to use.

Plans are in hand to improve or replace our church hall so that we have a flexible, modern building that can be used by the whole community. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

The work of the PCC teams has made our lives considerably easier and we cannot say thankful we are for their tireless contribution, which not only helps the Church community but sends our love unconditionally out into the wider community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who does what they can to make the Church of the Good Shepherd a living growing Church with a contemporary meaningful message about the Christian faith.

Fiona has continued to split her worship between the 8.30 and 10.00 am services, and has found new things to do this year, like leading singing the Gloria and improving her time on the ten yard dash into the vestry for baskets if there has been a communication failure about the collection.

Phil has enjoyed being a churchwarden and found it a very rewarding experience. It has been a chance to get to know more people within the congregation. He also helps with the youth work on Sunday evenings. This has been fun to do and it has been good to consider some of the questions that come out from it.

In looking at the list of past Churchwardens we know we have got big shoes to fill and we are grateful that we are wardens of a tolerant and forgiving church, where people care more about their faith than getting it right all the time; but we also hope that over this past year we have got to grips with our roles. We have been struck by people's willingness to help and step in whenever needed with patience enthusiasm and hard work.

Fiona Blows and Phil Morris

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