

I was really uncertain where God wanted me to be and if He indeed had any use for me at all? Such were the thoughts, that along with my illness, which have taunted me these last few months. Until this last week I had almost given up on Church and God. You may well ask how a priest can experience doubts and uncertainty? In truth I have to tell you that we are no different from all of God's other children. If we are on a pedestal, guess who has put us there?

David may just have been talking to me this morning when he asked what type of Church we wanted? Then having led us down the path of self righteousness he brought us down to earth and corrected his opening question to ask the real question, **what kind of Church does God want us to be?** From a feeling of satisfaction with our efforts, I hope and pray that you like me felt singularly uncomfortable with this stark contrast that took us from me and us, to God and them. How dare David have the temerity to challenge us in this way? He took us down this path because he loved God and others more than himself.

In my doubts and uncertainties I too had looked at this seemingly impossible equation. What did people think of us? Did they know we were Christians? And if they did not, whose fault was it? The easy answer is to blame God and then walk away from the truth pretending all was OK. Articles in the newspaper predict that by 2050 Christianity will be a minority religion in Great Britain. Are we to be like the ostrich and bury our head in the sand? The only action that precipitates is a swift kick in the posterior. The clergy have had a wake up call from no less a person than the Archbishop of Canterbury, who said, "Clergy have preached too many sermons that stroke the egos and persona of listeners, rather than challenging Christians about their faith or lack of it" Well he was more eloquent than I ever could be, but I think that is what he meant. I refer you back to our own Bishop who came and ministered to us at the reception of our young people at their first communion. There was something

dynamic about him that lingers in my memory. There is a word that sums up his whole attitude, it's a simple word that we all use but it is an attitude that in our Christian outreach we must all show, and that word is LOVE. Our Bishop has challenged us all to travel with him in our Christian outreach. Don't let us leave him to walk alone.

After I had been privileged to receive the Blessed Sacrament this morning, I sat in my chair looking to the front and I was mesmerised by our Lord on His cross. As I quietly sat looking into His eyes I heard Him say, "Why do some people leave me here when they go home? Tell them I am sitting on the Church steps waiting for them to invite me home with them".

Like many other times in the History of the Church it is facing a crisis of faith and an inability to see that we are not the problem, but we are part of it. Jesus said to His disciples "go into the world and make disciples of all nations". He is saying the same words to us, except He tells us to witness in Arbury. Just tell them as it is, speak the truth of God's word. Then we must have faith to leave it where it falls, because it is God alone who converts the hearts and minds of our fallen world.

There is much more I could say, but this is not the time or the place, perhaps maybe my next sermon, but be warned, if asked, I will shoot from the hip and will take no prisoners.

May God bless our endeavours to bring the Light of Christ into a troubled world; you may never know until you try, but you may just be the person God is looking for to bring His message to you neighbours.

It's good to be back

Love Harry.



PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Curate	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann	750013
Assistant Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Assistant Curate	Rev. Harry Rose	01954 211553
Licensed Lay Minister	Linda Dean	328658
Authorised Lay Minister (Admin & Music)	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Authorised Lay Minister (Pastoral Care)	Lilas Davison	354300
Authorised Lay Minister (Social Awareness)	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Churchwarden	Fiona Blows	329822
Churchwarden	Phil Morris	352698
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	351844
PCC Vice Chairman	Fiona Blows	329822
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
PCC Treasurer	Jinty Keir	572303
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	Paula Carter	07952 919701
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
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Coffee Makers	Guido Barzini	300497
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Evelyn Walker	364067
Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Food Bank	Liz Collinson	01954 251377
Lesson Readers	Rhodri James	357607
Good Shepherd News Editor	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	Ginni Carroll	01954 212993
North Cambridge Area Deanery Synod	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Council of Churches	Michael Lovell	328521
Planned Giving Secretary	Ginni Carroll	01954 212993
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Lilas Davison	354300
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney	359396
Sacristan	Stuart Keir	572303
Safeguarding Officer	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Servers	Bill Elsey	357622
Sidesmen & Sideswomen	Terry Barringer	424584
Sound System	David Wilson	07899 917831
Sunday Lunch Club	Jinty Keir	572303

READINGS FOR JUNE

Sundays and holy days

- 7 TRINITY 1
Genesis 3: 8-15
2 Cor. 4: 13 – 5: 1
Mark 3: 20 - end
- 14 TRINITY 2
Ezekiel 17: 22 - end
2 Cor. 5: 6-10, 14-17
Mark 4: 26-34
- 21 TRINITY 3
Job 38: 1-11
2 Cor. 6: 1-13
Mark 4: 35 - end
- 28 TRINITY 4
Wisdom 1: 13-15, 2: 23-24
2 Cor. 8: 7 - end
Mark 5: 21 - end

Wednesdays

- 3 1 Peter 1: 18-25
Mark 12: 18-27
- 10 2 Cor. 3: 4-11
Matthew 5: 17-19
- 17 2 Cor. 9: 6-11
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
- 24 Acts 13: 14-26
Luke 1: 57-66, 80

FIRST CALL

Sunday June 7 at 7pm in the Chapel



REGULAR SERVICES IN JUNE

Sundays 8.30am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion

Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays Morning Prayer, when said in church, will be at 9.15.

Second Monday of each month will be set aside for Staff Prayer.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN JUNE

Sunday June 21 - The President at the 10am service will be the Revd. Dr Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge

Sunday June 28 the 10am service will be an All Age service

EVENTS IN JUNE

Sunday June 7 at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall

Saturday June 13 Arbury Carnival

Sunday June 21 is Poverty Sunday. You are invited to share a frugal lunch in the Hall. All donations will be given to the work of the Red Hen project (more information to follow in the weekly bulletin)



Hello everyone. My name is Dan, I'm a first year student at Ridley Hall training for ordination and I'm lucky enough to be joining you for a summer placement at COGS in June/July. I'm looking forward to joining your church family for a period!

To give you some brief background information...I've had a slightly nomadic life this far. I was born into a missionary family and spent the first 5 years of life living in Belgium and then the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire). I lived most of my schooling years in New Zealand (home for my wife and me) only interrupted by a stint back in Africa, in Uganda when I was a teenager. With my family moving to the UK when I was 18 I decided to study Economics and Politics and then cross-cultural Biblical studies at All Nations Christian College in order to return to the Congo to serve the church there. Naturally this led smoothly to the call to training for ordained ministry in the Church of England...(or not!). You can see it has been something of an unusual path (not that there is a 'normal' path) to where I find myself today but following God is exciting and surprising so sometimes its best just to go with the flow.

My wife, Amy, and I are also expecting our first child in August, which is a new adventure to begin. We have two years left at Ridley and then only God knows where we will end up: England, NZ, Congo or elsewhere! Of special interest to us are cross-cultural and inter-faith engagement, creation care, and working with the vulnerable and marginalised. We're also keen Watford (Premier League bound!) and All Blacks (of course) fans.

I've heard lots of positive things about COGS from the Ridleians on attachment there so I'm thoroughly looking forward to spending a month with you learning from how you worship God and engage with your community. See you soon ☺

Daniel Ross



FROM THE DOG ABOUT THE CAT by W. Bruce Cameron

To: Master of the house

From: Dog

Subject: Cat

Master:

The cat is despicable. She doesn't do any tricks and never comes when you call and I've been there and I know she can hear you. We need to face facts: It is time to get rid of the cat.

Before the cat's arrival, meals were very festive times. I would sit and stare attentively at your lips, trembling slightly and drooling.

You would play the game of pretending to be cross and demand that I leave the area, but whenever you cooked dinner your children would slip me food under the table. Now, though, the cat is allowed to jump on the table--actually physically walk on the table! You don't yell at the cat, you just pick her up and put her back on the floor, and I know you don't see it but she always gives me a haughty look as she walks past me.

And speaking of meals, I have always been satisfied to eat the gritty pellets of meat by-products you bring home in the giant bags, right? Have I ever once, ever, failed to finish a meal? But now I find out that the cat is being served lobster and salmon and crab--and she never consumes all of it! This means there are little containers of delectable snacks lying around and how can I be blamed for making sure they get eaten? Why do you get so mad? As long as the pet food is going to the pets, isn't that what is important?

Then there is play time. I think we can clearly see that I am a big dog, descended from a noble line of hunters accustomed to chasing prey and attacking it. Haven't I nearly managed to take down a few cars as they've driven past the house? The cat is about the size of a squirrel and in my view should behave like one, but when I attempt to chase her, she hunches up and spits at me! This cannot be sanitary.

And shouldn't she be declawed? I'm very concerned about the potential for damage to the furniture plus my nose.

Speaking of sanitation, do you realize that the cat goes to the bathroom in the house? And not in the drinking basins like you do, but in a sandbox in the basement. What are we going to say if some woman brings her baby over to play in the sandbox and the cat has been using it as a toilet? I used to police the thing for you, but you put it up out of my reach for some reason.

I'm not the only one who feels the cat is an evil person. Here is a note from the hamster:

To: Master of the house

From: Hamster

Subject: Cat

Please tell cat to stop staring at me while I work.

Signed,

Hamster

Department of Rodent Wheels

I also tried to get a note from the fish, but apparently it believes that everything happening outside its bowl is some kind of reality TV show.

I don't understand why the cat is allowed up on the bed and I'm not. I am far more cuddly than any stupid cat. I think her purring sounds unhealthy and may be a sign of tuberculosis. And why doesn't she ever get a bath? She smells like saliva from licking her paws--you'd

never catch me licking such ridiculous places. I often smell wonderful from rolling in road kill, yet you give me baths all the time!

And speaking of sleeping, sometimes I will be taking a nap and she'll come right up and lie down beside me. Usually I'm too tired to do anything about it, but then later the other dogs smell her on me and crack a lot of jokes at my expense.

So, not to exaggerate, but the cat has brought the family to complete ruin. I'm sorry I've got to be the one to bring it to your attention, but now that I have I think we can all agree that we should go back to the way it was, when I was the number-one pet.

Yours truly,

The Dog



FROM THE CAT ABOUT THE DOG

To: Large Human Resident of My Home

From: Her Royal Highness, Princess Feline

Subject: The burdens I must bear

You are my most senior staff member, and by "senior" I mean, of course, "oldest," because I hold both of your daughters in much higher regard. This position means you have certain responsibilities - responsibilities you are not living up to.

Naturally, I am speaking about the dog, who has recently written a cowardly memo to you in an attempt to spark a revolt in the household. It was your duty to administer swift and preferably capital punishment to the insubordinate animal, and your dismal failure in the matter has led me to craft this letter. This forces me to do something I am utterly loathe to do--acknowledge your existence. I must warn you that as a result, I am putting a copy of this memo in your personnel file.

This whole matter is most unseemly, as the dog lacks standing to register a complaint of any kind. This is an animal who, when excited, attempts to make love to the sofa--an animal who, when allowed outside, rewards us by defecating in our yard!

How often, I ask you, have we been enjoying a lovely evening of our favorite activity--sitting in front of the television in the family room, everyone taking turns stroking and worshiping me--only to have this mutt release a gaseous emission that brings tears to our eyes and screams of anguish from your children? Of course, you yourself are to blame here for the bad example you set with your own flatulent behavior. In fact, there is such a strong link between your initial discharge and the dog's follow-up volleys that I've come to think of them as "sympathy farts." You'll never catch a cat performing such an indelicacy. In my view the both of you should be banished to the deck--you can watch television and me through the window. His tendency to bark at the most routine event--such as the ringing of the doorbell (is this supposed to be some sort of warning? We all heard the doorbell, for goodness sake!) is most perturbing, as it interferes with my hobby--bird watching. (I've been observing the birds in the feeder for more than a year now, and have determined that most of them can be classified as "edible.")

The only function at which the animal excels is as a pillow for my mid-late afternoon nap, and sometimes for my early late afternoon nap as well. Yet even at this he often fails, falling into a restless state full of leg-twitching and soft yipping. (I know you think he is dreaming of chasing rabbits, but nothing could be further from the truth. You know what he is dreaming of? Running from cats, and well he should. He knows he's in serious trouble with me, you can tell by the way he slinks around in my presence.)

As a species, canines represent a broken rung on the evolutionary ladder. Have you ever seen two or more of them mingle together? They sniff each other in unmentionable places, then race over to lift their legs on the bushes, proudly strutting around as if they've caught a mouse or something, when all they've done is urinate on target.

Even worse: I think the fool canine actually likes me. It's probably because I am so beautiful; but have you ever thought about what it is like to be licked by that tongue? It's like being wiped down with a drooling carpet.

In short, the dog has done nothing but cause trouble ever since I, its replacement as the most beloved animal in the house, arrived to take the throne. This attempt to violate the chain of command and appeal to you to stage some sort of peasant uprising is just the latest affront. We would be much better served if we replaced him with a pet we would all find more enjoyable and fun.

May I suggest a family of free-range gerbils?



EASTER'S SHOCK

(First published in "GUIDED BY KNOWLEDGE,
INSPIRED BY LOVE" in 2009)

It's not as explanation must
We conjure God to fill the gaps
In knowledge gained. It's not as cause
Before all others must our minds
Conceive a power beyond the rest.
Such may have lit the fuse to start
The monstrous bang beyond what thought
Can grasp. Perhaps it's only last
Of series since our universe
Restarted clock of time anew.
The psalmist erred in claiming God
As force that makes the grass to grow.
From what we know today such creeds
Conceal the lack of need for such
Hypotheses. Our search for God
Begins with hunt for aim of life
As we become aware of self
Within the wheeling scheme of things
And other folk. Perhaps it's all
A pointless game. But I have found
Beneath the clamour, hid within
The darkest depths, a yearning met
By silent voice who calls my name;
Inviting me to fan the glow
Of love into a flame that lifts
Emergent soul above this world
Of birth and death, of joy and pain.
Indeed that strangest man we call
The Christ proclaimed this truth in life,
And in his stranger death espoused
As act of trust the world is still
At loss to fully comprehend.
Incarnate love it seems is key
To his and our eternal hope
That life is more than ghastly joke,
As Easter's shock redeems our faith.

Henry Disney

WE ALL FORGET!!

Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together.

One night the 96-year-old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94-year-old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses. "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92-year-old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea, listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful," as she knocked on her wooden table for good measure.

She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."



MY REMEMBERING

My forgetting's getting better
But my remembering is broke
To you that may seem funny
But, to me, that is no joke.

For when I'm *here* I'm wondering
If I really should be *there*
And when I try to think it through,
I haven't got a prayer!

Often times I walk into a room,
Say "What am I doing here?"
I wrack my brain, but all in vain
A zero is my score.

At times I put some things away
Where it's safe, you understand
But then! The person that it's
safest from, you've guessed, it's
generally from me!

When shopping I may see someone,
Say "Hi" and have a chat. Then,
when the person walks away I ask
myself "Who the hell was that?"

Yes, my forgetting's getting better
While my remembering is broke,
And it's driving me plumb crazy
And that really isn't a joke.

(Thanks to Jean Samson for this)



aunty acid

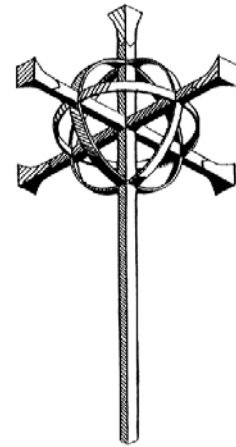
**I remember the
words to every
song from the 80's**

**...but forget
why I walked
into a room.**

IN THE CHURCH HALL (to book call 352151 (evenings))

THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB 1 st Sunday of the month noon – 1.30pm	Jinty Keir	572303
RED HEN Monday 8.15 – 11am	Christine O'Reilly	0781 6444439
MONDAY MUMS 11am – 1pm	Zuzana Lovellova	328521
THE MONDAY CLUB Monday 2.00 – 3.30pm	Eva Hutson	574070
THE GOOD SHEPHERD CUBS Monday 6.30 - 8pm	Charles Brown	07720 441123
LINE DANCING Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45am	Deborah Walker	01954 231382
KEEP FIT 50+ GROUP Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm	Margaret Briggs	01954 250870
THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
CARERS & SUFFERERS OF DEMENTIA Wednesday 10 – 12 noon	The Manager	884031
THE 18th & 25th GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
THE CAMERA CLUB Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm	Steve Morrell	529670
GUILDHALL RETIRED MEMBERS CLUB 2 nd Wednesday of the month 2 - 4pm	Yvonne Wisbey	523549
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 3 rd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm January to November	Mr. Gawthrop	351855
T G W U 4 th Wednesday of the month 2 – 4pm	Evelyn Hunnyball	364293
ALZHEIMERS DROP IN CAFÉ 12.15 – 3pm on 1 st Thursday of the month	Sheila Burgess	01353 699422
THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS Thursday 6.15 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm	Chris White	0700 891511
CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
TAI CHI Friday 2 – 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Friday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**Submission date for
July Newsletter:
June 14
(Publication date June 28)**



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

