

Ah, new year's resolutions – things with the shortest life span in the world, I think! Somehow because of an arbitrary bit of counting that we call the calendar, we choose the coldest, darkest, most difficult days of the year to carry on normally, to try to suddenly challenge ourselves to pull our socks up, and fix everything in our lives, in one fell swoop! It might be our finances, it might be our diet, our television or internet habits. And too often, by the middle of the first month of the new year, (or possibly week, or day!) it's all forgotten, as we remember that all we want to do is huddle down away from the weather and keep warm, with comfort food and comfort watching.

***Once I've cleaned the house up –
Adrian Plass***

Once I've cleaned this house up properly, I honestly think I'll get somewhere.

Once I've pulled out every single piece of furniture and used an abrasive cloth with strong stuff on it, I think I shall come to grips with the rest of my life.

Once I've put everything into separate piles, each containing the same sort of thing, if you know what I mean, I think I'll manage.

Once I've written a list that includes absolutely everything, I think the whole business will seem very much clearer.

Once I've had time to work slowly from one item to another, I'm sure things will change.

Once I've eaten sensibly for a week and a half.

Once I've sorted out things that are my fault.

Once I've sorted out things that are NOT my fault.

Once I've spent a little more time reading useful books, being with people I like, going to pottery classes, getting out into the air, making bread, drinking less, drinking more, going to the theatre, adopting a third world child, eating free range eggs and writing long letters.

Once I've pulled every single piece of furniture right out and cleaned it all properly.

Once I've become somebody else, I honestly think I'll get somewhere.

This poem describes so well how many of us feel about New Year's resolutions. How many of us are trying to change who we are because we think that's the problem – or that we're more likely to be loved if we change? Are we trying to pretend that we're not getting older, living in denial, or are we desperately trying to live up to utterly unfair and unrealistic expectations because we look at the media, with their airbrushed images, proof that the camera CAN lie? Jesus came to a world that was hurting, hating, because He loves it, just as it is. And he loves you, just as you are. He longs to know you and all that you love and hate about yourself. We don't have to change to be loved by Jesus. The world tells us that if we change x, our lives will become perfect. Jesus says that he loves us, even in our imperfections. In the darkest days of the year, Jesus walks with us. Over time, those who love each other become more attuned to each other and understand what each other needs and wants. It isn't an immediate thing, it happens with couples who have walked with each other for many years. It's the same with us as Christians. Our lives are changed over a lifetime of walking with Jesus, of having a relationship with him. This new year, let's step off the treadmill of desperate attempts at self-improvement in an attempt to get rid of self-loathing, and see Jesus on the cross, loving us as we are – and allow ourselves to like and love ourselves. If Jesus loves us, who are we not to love ourselves? We are called to love our neighbours as ourselves, which means that we are allowed to love ourselves too.

Happy, and peaceful new year.

Judith

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Assistant Curate	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann	750013
Assistant Curate	Rev. Rachel Blanchflower	523066
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	Philip 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	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	Margaret Handley	357970
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
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinators	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Intercessors	John Lamont	565559
Jimmy's Night Shelter	Paula Carter	07952919701
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	Fiona Blows	329822
Sound System	David Wilson	07899 917831
Sunday Lunch Club	Jinty Keir	572303

READINGS FOR JANUARY

Sundays and holy days

- 3 CHRISTMAS 2
Isaiah 25: 6-9
Revelation 21: 1-6
John 11: 32-44
- 10 EPIPHANY
Isaiah 60: 1-6
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12
- 17 EPIPHANY 2
Isaiah 62: 1-5
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
John 2: 1-11
- 24 EPIPHANY 3
Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31
Luke 4: 14-21
- 31 CHRISTINGLE
Ezekiel 43: 27 – 44: 4
1 Corinthians 13
Luke 2: 22-40

Wednesdays

- 6 Isaiah 60: 1-6
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12
- 13 1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10 - end
Mark 1: 29-39
- 20 1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51
Mark 3: 1-6
- 27 2 Samuel 7: 4-17
Mark 4: 26-34

FIRST CALL

Sunday January 3 at 7pm in the Chapel



REGULAR SERVICES IN JANUARY

- 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.

CHURCH HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Church will close after the 10am service on Christmas Day and re-open Wednesday January 6. During this period there will be no mid-week services and only a 10am service on Sundays.


SPECIAL SERVICES IN JANUARY

- Sunday January 24** at 10am Service of healing and the laying on of hands with prayer
- Sunday January 31** All Age Family service and Christingles at 10am
- Sunday January 31** Evening Eucharist at 7pm

EVENTS IN JANUARY

- Sunday January 10** at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall





O Startling God

When we use religion to control you,
when we use faith to serve our vanity,
when we use charity to save ourselves
from meeting those in greatest need;
O Startling God, come.

Expose our strategies of power,
break the childish armour of our fear.
Come, meet us as yourself,
naked and without defence.

Come, expose the flimsy glamour
of wealth, competence and dominion.
Come, give us courage to be ourselves.
Meet us and set us free. Amen.

Rachel Mann

Judith wrote on page 1 about New Year resolutions. Inviting our startling God to be with us is a great way to start the year (and to continue it).

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TOP TEN THINGS TO SAY ABOUT A CHRISTMAS GIFT YOU DON'T LIKE

10. Hey! There's a gift!
9. Well, well, well ...
8. Boy, if I had not recently shot up 4 sizes that would've fit.
7. This is perfect for wearing around the basement.
6. Gosh. I hope this never catches fire! It is fire season though. There are lots of unexplained fires.
5. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!
4. I love it -- but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.
3. Sadly, tomorrow I enter the Federal Witness Protection Program.
2. To think -- I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.
1. "I really don't deserve this."

FRACTURED CHRISTMAS SONGS FROM KIDS

- ~ Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
- ~ We three kings of porridge and tar
- ~ On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me
- ~ Noel. Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.
- ~ With the jelly toast proclaim
- ~ In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is sparse and brown
- ~ Oh, what fun it is to ride with a one horse, soap and hay

CALENDAR

(First published in 2014 in *COME WHAT MAY*)

It hangs beside the door and greets
The eye at breakfast when we're half
Awake. It's set of rural scenes,
From views of soaring hills to calf
That's standing by its dam with gaze
That seems surprised by wonders all
Around. We share in its delight;
And long before it starts to pall
It's time to turn the page again.
But cherished pictures now are part
Of routine ways to which we scarce
Have given thought for years, apart
From snaps of children living far
Away, along with kids their own,
Too seldom seen. A work of art
We'd yearned to own we'd now disown
If paraplegic son could walk
Again. While beauty eases pain
Of black events, it's love of kin
And friends that will abide, come rain
O sun, come dark or light. In end
It's all that lasts, it's all that's gain.

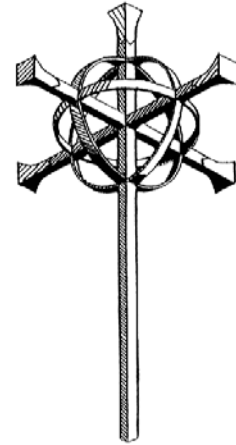
Henry Disney



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
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 3 rd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm January to November	Mr. Gawthrop	351855
UNITE RETIRED MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION 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
February Newsletter:
January 17
(Publication date January 31)**



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

