

'Easter is early this year so act today' is written large on the Real Easter egg promotion leaflet. A reminder to get our orders in so that they have arrived in good time for Easter Day. Do have a look at them, great tasting chocolate with the true story of Easter - what's not to like! There has been talk about fixing the date of Easter, and, for the sake of unity across the worldwide church, planning for schools and holidays it all does make sense. However, I will miss the conversations, "Is Easter early this year?" or "It seems a long time to Easter". My favourite question came from one of my daughters just a couple of years ago - "If Easter is sometimes early and sometimes late - when is it on time?" Well I don't know the answer to that question but I do know **'Easter is early this year so act today'!**

In preparation at the Good Shepherd we are about to enter into the season of Lent. Shrove Tuesday, with our Fish and Chip supper is our last 'party' before we begin the journey in the wilderness with Jesus heading towards the dramatic events of Easter week. Our building of the Lenten Garden each week will help us to reflect on our journey in our worship. This year we are also using the Psalms as part of our Lenten reflection. Our house groups will follow the York course materials, written by Bishop Stephen Cottrell. The Website says of the material: *The ancient poems we call Psalms are over 2000 years old. They were written in very different times from our own when humans could travel at the speed of a camel - not at the speed of sound. But these songs have stood the test of time for they address many of the problems we still face:*

violence, injustice, anger - and bewilderment. Why do the wicked prosper? Where is God when we suffer? In this 5-session course, Bishop Stephen Cottrell - a prolific and popular author - reflects on the psalms in general (and five psalms in particular). He invites us to join him as he does so.

There are five sessions

Session One Know that the Lord is God (Psalm 100)

Session Two Out of the depths have I cried (Psalm 130)

Session Three How long, O Lord? (Psalm 13)

Session Four You spread a table before me (Psalm 23)

Session Five Unless the Lord builds the house ... (Psalm 127)

Each Sunday we will sing the Psalm we are looking at that week in a variety of ways, either using a hymn, a chorus or plainsong. This will allow the Psalms to enrich and inform our worship this Lent. Ruth has written more about this later on in the newsletter. Do join us this Lent, as together we journey onwards looking forward to the hope of Easter Day.

Dave

House Groups will be as follows:

MONDAY– please speak to Esther

TUESDAY– please speak to Lois and Phil

WEDNESDAY– please speak to John and Alison

All these are 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Also **WEDNESDAY**. This will be after the Wednesday Communion Service. Please speak to Rachel.

Our students are leading the groups and we look forward to some really interesting evenings.

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 FEBRUARY

Sundays and holy days

7 SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Exodus 34: 29 - end
2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2
Luke 9: 28-36

14 LENT 1

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Romans 10: 8-13
Luke 4: 1-13

21 LENT 2

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18
Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1
Luke 13: 31 - end

28 LENT 3

Isaiah 55: 1-9
1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
Luke 13: 1-9

Wednesdays

3 2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17
Mark 6: 1-6

10 Isaiah 58: 1-12
2 Corinthians 5: 20 – 6: 10

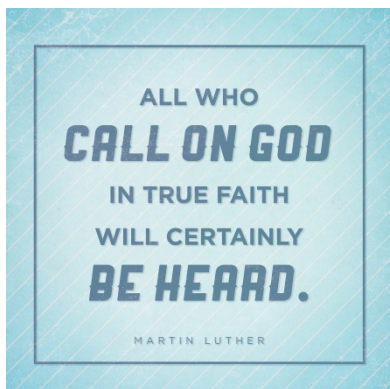
17 MORNING PRAYER
Genesis 42: 6-17
Galatians 4: 21 – 5: 1

24 Jeremiah 18: 18-20
Matthew 20: 17-28

FIRST CALL

Sunday February 7 at 6pm at ARBURY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday February 21 at 7pm at The Good Shepherd



REGULAR SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

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 FEBRUARY

Wednesday February 10 at 9.30am and 7pm Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes



EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

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

Tuesday February 9 Shrove Tuesday Fish and Chip Supper and entertainment at 6.45 for 7pm in church

Thursday February 11 – Saturday February 13 Godly Play training in church

Saturday February 20 Jumble Sale in the Hall 10.30-12 noon

Saturday February 27 Welsh Evening with Bring and Share Supper at 7.30pm at Liz and Rex's home





Judith posted this on the Church Facebook page. It's something we can't have said too often, so here it is again - whether you saw it before or not!

***Silence – A Christian History* by Diarmaid MacCulloch**

This is an absolutely fascinating and erudite book as those who have seen the author's TV series *A History of Christianity* would very much expect. This book is based on MacCulloch's Gifford Lectures and are available to listen to as a free podcast <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/itunes-u/gifford-lectures-audio/id396651186?mt=10>.

The book begins with a reference to Sherlock Holmes and the dog which did not bark – so we can begin to understand that silence is not of itself evidence that nothing has taken place, indeed silence should rather engage us and lead us deeper in.

Part One looks at silence in the Bible – sometimes a sign of God's presence in the Old Testament or perhaps a way of praying which is not normally recognised as prayer by contemporaries. Samuel's mother prayed silently which was effective in the story, but not obviously a generally recognised way of praying at the time, which we can assume was noisy. Then the New Testament – what is Jesus' response to silence? – sometimes he casts out noisy devils, at other times he goes away to pray. And what does Paul have to say to the Christians of the new non-Jewish churches?

We move on to contemplative prayer and the place of silence in the monastic setting. Here many people will feel they have some understanding of the use and meaning of silence within their relationship with God and certainly Christians through the ages have found comfort in silent prayer and retreat. But again MacCulloch has much that is new or barely known to tell us. The reader may be surprised to find medieval writers using biblical texts to turn the original meaning on its head, while the Abbot of Nogent in the 11th century interpreted the Book of Revelation as recommending a variety of divine siesta to provide a rest from too much intense contemplation!

Part Three takes us through three Reformations with the first iconoclasts of 700-843 AD and the divisions between the Eastern and Western Churches. From there we turn to the Protestant Reformation and then the Counter Reformation. At all these periods of history there is an important under story which can be found with the mystics. And we should not deceive ourselves – mysticism has a vital role to play in the history of Christianity and has a place in East and West as well as Protestant and Catholic. Today searching for God in the negatives and in silence can still be a helpful approach in our busy noisy world.

Finally MacCulloch looks at silence in a totally other way through history right up to the present. He looks at what he describes as Nicodemism, where Christians and Jews have kept silence in order to preserve their lives and their faith at times of persecution. And there are other ways in which silence has been vital for people, such as homosexuals, who have been unable to admit to the world their own true natures. Beyond that he looks at the way in which silence has hidden shame and sin – Christian behaviour in relation to Judaism leading up to the Holocaust and beyond, and child sexual abuse by clergy. Too often the Church has pushed offending behaviour by clergy, for example, under the carpet in order to protect the Church, regardless of the effect this has had on the victims – and it is by no means only a modern phenomenon.

The book ends with a brief look at the present and future of Christianity – silence in ecumenism and in and through music, as well as a cover for sin – readers may be surprised to read of the once highly regarded theologian Paul Tillich in this respect.

I have found this both a real eye-opener of a book and an inspiration to further study and contemplation. Throughout it is enlivened by MacCulloch's wealth of stories and peepholes into the dark corners of Christian history.

Published by Penguin at £9.99.

Rosalind Lund

[Or you can do as I did and read it as an e-book. I completely agree with Ros, it's a fascinating book and I'm grateful to her for recommending it.

Ruth]



RESCUED

(First published in 2012 in 'TEACH US OF LOVE')

**In former times religions taught
Our world was central point of part
Of universe perceived at night
With naked eye alone, and art
Conceived of God as like a king
On earth but greater far than one
They knew and feared. But tax
Required by mighty Lord of sun
And stars they taught was blood of dove
Or lamb, or even ox, to soothe placate
His wrath at constant sins of men.
If God were so I'd truly hate
His name, as fear not love would kill
Desire to worship such a fiend.
Perhaps when Christ was nailed to cross
It once for all declared we're weaned
From need to sacrifice to earn
A place as child of God. Our call's
To walk the way of justice, love
And peace. His Spirit's grace installs
Compassion deep within our souls
And by degrees it wins control
Of base desires and selfish drives.
It then becomes our daily role
To sanctify encounters made
And tasks required to earn our keep.
So let us join with pilgrim flock
Content with being rescued sheep.**

Henry Disney



JUMBLE SALE

There will be a Jumble Sale on Saturday 20th February 10.30-12.00, so now is the time to search through those wardrobes, drawers and kitchen cupboards to discover all of those unwanted/ unused treasures. If we get 2 or 3 items from everyone there will be plenty of jumble to sell.

This is our first fundraiser of 2016, so let's hope it's a success. There will be more information in the bulletin in the next week or two.

Ruby, Evelyn & Paula.



SINGING THE PSALMS

During Lent our House Group study will be based on the Psalms and each Sunday we shall be singing a Psalm – in different ways. Why are we *singing* the Psalm? Psalms were written to be sung and David, who wrote many of the Psalms, was a musician. Personally I am delighted to have Psalms in our worship, they express such a wide range of emotion – much of which we are frequently unable (or unwilling) to express in words ourselves. They feature rage, fear, and despair but also joy, praise to God and love. The Psalms selected for our course show this range of emotions and they are being sung as the second hymn each week (the Gradual hymn if you want to be technical).

So, what sort of words and music will we have? The Scottish church has a wide range of metrical Psalms i.e. the words of the Psalm are set to conform to an agreed number of syllables in a line. The first week we shall be singing the magnificent setting Vaughan Williams wrote for the Queen's Coronation. It's the familiar tune to *All people that on earth do dwell* but it has a great organ part (thank you, Bron!) and you have to wait on a couple of occasions for an organ flourish – it's all marked in your service sheets. The second week we shall sing a Psalm setting with modern hymn words and a familiar tune. People are still drawing fresh inspiration from the Psalms.

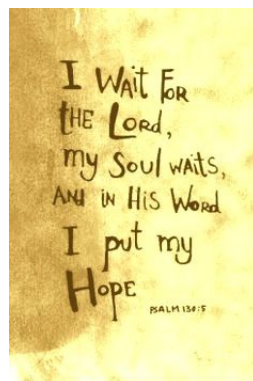
Week three we have a responsorial psalm. Those of you who have been at the Good Shepherd for a while will remember that we used to sing Psalms like this regularly. One small part of the Psalm is set as a refrain for everyone to sing and the rest of the Psalm is sung by the choir – everyone sings the response between each verse and we'll teach it to you at the start.

Week four we have a song setting of a Psalm – the verses are set Psalm words and the refrain is a song of praise based on the song writer's own thoughts. On this occasion – the composer is Stuart Townend and it's a very familiar Psalm!

The last week we go right back in the history of Psalm singing and are singing a Plainsong setting. Those of you who have come to Compline will have sung Psalms this way and it was intended that everyone should join in. Plainsong is not difficult, you just have to get the knack.

We hope you enjoy singing and studying the Psalms – people have been doing so for centuries. Tell me your experiences with the Psalms – especially singing them in different ways. Perhaps we could have an article in GS News after Easter?

Ruth



Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? (Theological Version)

Rick Warren: The chicken was purpose driven.

Pelagius: Because the chicken was able to.

John Piper: God decreed the event to maximize his glory. OR . . . it was an act of Christian hedonism. The chicken realized that his greatest joy would only be found on the other side.

Irenaeus: The glory of God is the chicken fully alive.

C.S. Lewis: If a chicken finds itself with a desire that nothing on this side can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that it was created for the other side.

Billy Graham: The chicken was surrendering all.

Pluralist: The chicken took one of many equally valid roads.

Universalist: All chickens cross the road.

Martin Luther: The chicken was fleeing the Antichrist who had stolen the Gospel with his papist lies.

Tim LaHaye: The chicken didn't want to be left behind.

James White: I reject chicken centred eisegesis.

John Wesley: The chicken's heart was strangely warmed.

Rob Bell: The chicken. Crossed the road. To get. Cool glasses.

Joel Osteen: The chicken crossed the road to maximize his personal fulfilment so they he could be all that God created him to be.

Roger Olson: The chicken recognizes no clear evangelical boundaries.

Driscoll: A [bleeping] chicken crossed the road to go get a beer.

Gary Demar: The chicken was fleeing the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. That's it.

Jim Wallis: The chicken is an organizer for Occupy Barnyard.

Emergent: For this chicken, it's not the destination that's important. It's the journey itself.

N.T. Wright: This act of the chicken, which would be unthinkable in British barnyards, reeks of that American individualism that is destructive to community.

Al Mohler: When a chicken begins to think theologically, he has no other alternative but to come over to the Calvinist side of the road.

Michael Horton: The chicken was forsaking the kingdom of this world to live solely in the Kingdom of Christ.

John Frame: The chicken had an existential need to change its situation according to a new norm.

T.F. Torrance: The inner logic of the incarnation proved an irresistible draw to the other side of the road.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: He was abandoning cheap grace for the costly discipleship of risking the dangers of crossing the road.

Karl Barth: The crossing of the road, like all true theology, was done for profoundly Christological reasons. Because Christ came as the judge to be judged, all chickens cross the road in the end.

Paul Tillich: Because he sensed that the other side of the road represented the ground of all being.

New Ager: Because he saw the light beckoning him forward.

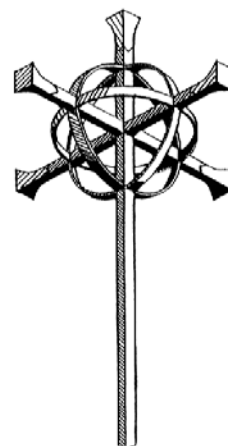
Fundamentalist: Because his pastor told him so.

Elevation Church: Because Pastor Furtick told him to get in the line on the other side for a spontaneous baptism.

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
SANG Monday 10– 11.30 (meets in Haven and in Church)	Rachel Blanchflower	523066
THE MONDAY CLUB Monday 2.00 – 3.30pm	Ruby Leyshon	352151
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
March Newsletter:
February 14
(Publication date February 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

