

Preparing to say 'yes'

Four years ago, on the last day of my selection conference, those of us applying for ministry in the Church of England were challenged with this prayer by Dag Hammarskjöld:

Lord,
For all that has been
"Thank you."
For all that is to come,
"Yes!"

In this, we became freshly aware of the vulnerability of the calling we were exploring: we would need to be ready to say 'yes' to all that was to come, regardless of whether we received a 'no' or a 'yes' outcome from the Panel itself.

As I await my ordination into the priesthood in just three weeks from the writing of this, I find myself revisiting this prayer. Can I dare still to pray it? Did I really dare to pray it back then?! As I read through the vows I am shortly to declare in Ely Cathedral, I am mindful of the things that will certainly come along in my ministry: painful, exhausting, confusing, embarrassing, boring and perhaps, sometimes even futile, things. Will I still say 'yes' with all my being to those? There will surely be many times when I want to side-step them, preferring to say 'yes' to what appears more fruitful, efficient, enjoyable, humanly impressive....

However, as with every journey of Christian discipleship, its purpose is not to make ourselves comfortable and safe, but to follow Christ into places where His light, life and love are to be shared with others. That we are asked and enabled to participate in this work of His at all is staggering! It is how we can be thankful, even if the 'all that has

been' has been very, very far from what we would chose for ourselves.

The two parts of this prayer must sit together. We can only really say an unconditional 'yes' to all that is to come if we have been able to say 'thank you' for all that has already been. To say an unconditional 'yes' to a God whom has not already shown Himself to be ever gracious, compassionate and merciful, would be foolhardy and wrong. Ultimately, it is thankfulness that sustains our capacity to continue to entrust our 'yes' to Him, come what may.

And so, as I prepare to be ready to say 'yes' on July 2nd, I am taking time to look back over the faithfulness of the Lord over the years to me, and over the centuries to all His people. I am taking time to notice the signs of His love and blessing for the people and places of Arbury and King's Hedges. I am taking time to re-learn how to say 'thank you' to the One who works through everything to bring 'all that is to come' into His Kingdom of peace, forgiveness and great joy.

This Petertide, might you too be deeply blessed in your 'thank you' and in your 'yes'.

Rachel Blanchflower



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	David Maher	351844
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 JULY

Sundays and holy days

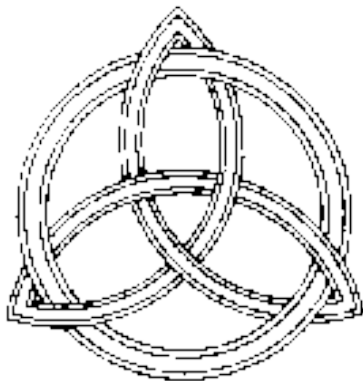
- 3 TRINITY 6
Isaiah 66: 10-14
Galatians 6 : [1-6] 7-16
Luke 7: 11-17
- 10 TRINITY 7
Deuteronomy 30: 9-14
Colossians 1: 1-14
Luke 10: 25-37
- 17 TRINITY 8
Genesis 8: 1-10
Colossians 1: 15-28
Luke 10: 38 - end
- 24 TRINITY 9
Genesis 18: 20-32
Colossians 2: 6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11: 1-13
- 31 TRINITY 10
Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14; 2: 18-23
Colossians 3: 1-11
Luke 12: 13-21

Weekdays at 9.30am

- 6 Hosea 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12
Matthew 10: 1-7
- 13 Isaiah 10: 5-7, 13-16
Matthew 11: 25-27
- 20 Jeremiah 1: 1, 4-10
Matthew 13: 1-9

FIRST CALL

Sunday July 3 at 7pm in the Chapel



REGULAR SERVICES IN JULY

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 JULY

Sunday July 17 All Age Service at 10am

Sunday July 24 a service of healing and the laying on of hands with prayer at 10am

CHURCH SUMMER BREAK

The church will close for the Summer break after the 10am Communion Service on Sunday July 24. We shall re-open with the 8.30 Communion service on September 4.

During the Summer Break there will be Compline at 7pm each Wednesday (starting on July 27 and ending on August 31) there will also be the weekly Wednesday Community Lunches and Activities which will start on July 27 and end on August 17. There will be no other midweek services and only a service at 10am on Sundays.

EVENTS IN JULY

Sunday July 3 at 12 noon Sunday Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall



A MESSAGE FROM PHIL

The second most miserable sounding band from Manchester wrote a song with the great line "I was looking for a job and then I found a job...and heaven knows I'm miserable now."

There are many opportunities to help out within churches and I can confirm that they don't all result in the wailing and gnashing of teeth.

I was asked a few years ago now about helping with the youth work. While growing up I went to a group that didn't necessarily help with my faith immediately but gave something that has stayed with me. Helping out wasn't something I had ever considered but I could remember the effort that others had made and was willing to give it a try. It hasn't always been easy but it has provided encouragement to be involved with helping the next generation to consider what they believe.

Other fun things that I help with include selling the bric-a-brac at the jumble sales. It's fun seeing the random collection of donated items and feeling the challenge in trying to sell it.

Often the work in churches isn't shared out because nobody asks for help and nobody thinks of offering without being asked. The only way to work around this is to encourage those who are busy to ask for help and to encourage those who might be able to do something to get involved. There are different levels of commitment from things that are needed every week, to being on a rota to help every 6 weeks, to something that happens a couple of times each year.

Some possible jobs (in no particular order) include gardening, flower arranging, making coffee, selling things, welcoming people, decorating the church for Christmas, carrying the cross, visiting the housebound, knitting, cooking (for lunch club or holiday lunches), serving communion wine, singing, helping with Sunday school or Godly Play....

Why not pick something you've never done before? If you're not sure who to ask then speak to a churchwarden or one of the ministry team. Go on...you might actually enjoy it!

A MESSAGE FROM HUGH

Dear Ruth

I wish to add my thanks to you, David and all at the Good Shepherd for the warm welcome and presentation you gave to us on Sunday. It was, as ever, a great joy to be with you. I only wish we lived a little closer and were able to be more closely tied into your communal life. The strength of your life together in Christ has been consistently impressive in the years I have been acquainted with you. Happily the clergy - Andrew McKearney and Martin Suter were those I knew - have maintained the same vision of a church rooted in prayer and engagement in the local community. At the same time, given wise and hard working leadership, I believe the GS has always been able to combine continuity and change in an exemplary way. At times this has been difficult, I am sure; but unity (i.e. attracting children and families as well as thinking adults) has been maintained and the Spirit has not been quenched. Praise be for all that!

May God, in his mercy and love, continue to bless and inspire you all to "keep the faith" in these turbulent times.

Canon Hugh Searle and his wife were with us at the beginning of June to say goodbye as they are moving to Scotland. Hugh was of enormous help to us in the period before David joined us. He really looked after us and we grew to love him and his wife

Hugh referred to past Vicars of The Good Shepherd whom he had known and mentioned Canon Martin Suter. We are delighted that we have his daughter, Cathy, worshipping with us and recently we have had the privilege of witnessing the baptism of Martin's great granddaughter at our church. For long established members of The Good Shepherd, here is a reminder of our church's past. For newer members perhaps it will show the long connection between our church and service in the community. For me, it is also a link with music and our church – at the Baptism the choir sang a beautiful hymn which Martin had written. The obituary was written by the Revd. Peter Cameron who was Martin's successor here. Thank you to Gwen Green who unearthed an Ely Ensign from February 1990 and passed it on to me. Thanks be to God for all that Martin and Peter gave to this church community.

Editor

For Martin, the last eighteen months have been a time of waiting – waiting which Barbara and the family shared with him, and worked so lovingly, with other loving helpers, to make as bearable as possible for him. It is our honour to be with Barbara, and with Jeremy, Cathy and Tim, and their families, to celebrate the end of this waiting; for with Martin we can say at this altar, in Isaiah's words, "This is the Lord, we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation".

We know we can say this with Martin, because Martin is a man of faith whose like we are not aware of seeing very often. He is someone who has known from his youth – indeed, we are given to believe from his childhood – that his life is hid in Christ with God. In this sense his whole life has been the time of waiting spoken of by Paul in Romans, "If we hope for what we do not see, then do we with patience wait for it (8.25)

This conveys also the sense of waiting upon God in prayer: for Martin is pre-eminently a man of prayer, whose fundamental attention is so fixed on God that he does not even realise how deeply God's love warms us through him, as he gives each that close attention we value so much.

Martin's early life was active, springing from the active lives of a father and mother given to the work of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa (now united with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel as the USPG). Martin's mother was a missionary teacher when he was born at Fort Beaufort in South Africa, and his father was rector of Grahamstown before they returned to this country in 1919m on his father's appointment within the London administration of the UMCA.

The time of a chorister is not inactive, and Martin made the most of his time at Magdalen College School, Oxford, where a chorister can continue to eighteen after leaving the College Choir when his voice breaks. Martin was an energetic oarsman; Captain of Rugby football; and shot for his school, going on to shoot at Bisley as a member of the Rifle Club of Great Britain.

We should not be surprised, therefore, that when war broke out the year after Martin went up to read English at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford he was commissioned as a young officer, at first in the Somerset Light Infantry guarding beaches in Kent, but soon transferring to the King's African Rifles. He served in Abyssinia, and then, with a period at Quetta Staff College, in Burma, as a major in Intelligence, twice mentioned in despatches.

Barbara tells me it was Martin's experience of war against the Japanese that moved him to seek ordination – at that time with the aim of taking the Gospel to Japan. We are fortunate that after a

year at Cuddesdon Martin settled to the life for which he was so evidently designed, that of an English parish priest. After three years at All Saints', Acton, Martin married into the curacy of All Saints', Friern Barnet in May 1950; and it is there I am proud to claim my own first acquaintance with Martin and Barbara, for there my father was Martin's vicar.

My first recollection, like those of many here today, are of a young priest who was thoroughly enjoying *everything* – and particularly music. A pianist, composer, and singer (with an excellent tenor voice), Martin introduced me to music I had not met before>

My last memory of that period, before our ways diverged for 25 years, is of Jeremy's Christening at St. Mark's, Noel Park in north London, where Martin was vicar from 1953 to 1968. Here the man of action and the man of prayer became completely one, where the daily mass was foundation of, for example, care of the homeless, which led to Martin's helping to found one of the early housing trusts; of work with ex-prisoners and others who eked out their life on the railway sidings – work carried out in co-operation with the Salvation Army; and of much more. The floor and roof were renewed in the church hall, and always there was the visiting; the availability for counselling; the swift response, at any hour, to bereavement or illness or other trouble, of which people still speak also at The Good Shepherd, as in Martin's other parishes.

The move to Little Downham gave a change to a village setting where Martin and Barbara could be involved in the life of the whole community; the *whole* community could know him and love him and did so. But Martin and Barbara were allowed only four years to be so much at home in the country – where gardening became an abiding interest; where wine-making grew and flourished; where in peaceful moments birds could be watched.

The call to The Good Shepherd came in 1972, and the following ten years were filled with worship, visiting, completing the church building, founding King's Hedges Ecumenical Centre – and with curates!

The regard in which Martin is held in our diocese was expressed by Bishop Peter Walker and Jean, whose last visit to Martin was their final call in the diocese as they drove away into retirement.

Martin was an active member of the Movement for the Ordination of Women; he set himself to be active also in other causes and organisations he felt to be important for the life of our society and of the world – among them CND, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Labour Party and the Royal British Legion. His citizenship in Cambridge he specially delighted to express as the Mayor's Chaplain.

At the time of life when many clergy are content to retire, Martin moved to a fresh sphere, where his priestly nature could be totally involved for the last five years of his stipendiary ministry. At Papworth Everard, Martin quickly became equally loved in the parish, the settlement and the hospital.

Time would fail me to list in full the toddler groups, lunch clubs, men's and women's groups, carnivals, MU branches and other organisations and events (not forgetting concerts) which Martin set up and maintained in his parishes – he was Ely Diocesan Chaplain to the Mothers' Union for many years. In addition to these parish activities Martin was a valued retreat conductor, Confessor and spiritual director; and from his own retreat each year, with continued

reading, and unfailing attention to the Mass and Daily Office, Martin derived a store of wisdom which he was diligent in putting into preaching and teaching.

This is only a minimal account of the life that is now being offered to God, by a saint drawing us with him towards mature humanity in the fullness of Christ. We all shall miss Martin for what he is to each of us, and we unite in our loving support of Barbara and their family. But we also say again with them for Martin as we gather to the altar, “This is the Lord, we have waited for him, we will rejoice and be glad in his salvation”.

Picture of Martin. It was taken in 1972 (Martin is on the left)



COFFEE IN AUGUST

I am sure many of us remember Katy Lewis' fund raising efforts last Summer – she was raising money to provide clean water. The original Turkana water pump project she was collecting for had moved on by the time Katy was ready to donate. She is now working towards funding a second "clean water" project. She ended up making her donation to fund the following project in Bangladesh: <http://presents.practicalaction.org/wheels>



Water wheels

For many slum communities in Bangladesh, pollutants such as arsenic and iron are found in ground water, which means clean, safe drinking water is almost impossible to find. A tricycle fitted with a 200 litre plastic container means that clean water can be delivered to families, and whole communities can benefit.

What project do you want to raise funds for? See Guido about booking a slot.

MESSAGE FROM PHYL BARRINGER

I have a hardly used electric sewing machine - a Singer 615C - free to a good home (but small donation to the Good Shepherd Knitting Fund would be appreciated). Anybody interested, speak to Terry.

Youth at Church of the Good Shepherd:

The Church of the Good Shepherd have a youth group that is for young people year 8 and above. Each week at the beginning of youth, we talk about our weeks, share jokes and play games, eat sweets (and TOAST!).

During February half term the group took part in Be the Change (a YFC Event), one of the youth group helpers, Murray, was involved with it and it took place at Arbury Road Baptist Church. In the morning we had sung worship and listened to talks then after lunch we went out into the local area to meet with people and talk about God, it was really interesting to meet with others and talk about our faith.

The church youth group has really helped me with my faith. It has allowed me in a fun and energetic way to refine and fully understand my faith and what I feel comfortable with. One example of the ways we discovered our own faith was when we thought about the Holy Trinity and how God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are all different but all the same. Youth group really brings faith together allowing the group to talk about and discover all aspects of it. We normally look at a specific excerpt from the Bible to help us learn and study in that session, often its tied into what was spoken about at the morning service. We finish all our evenings by asking the group what they'd like prayer for and we come together to pray as a group for those things. With new found faith I would like to invite anyone interested to come and join us.

The youth group always have a great time together exploring who Jesus is, why we come to church, what it is to know God and heaps more. If you are in secondary school, and would like to find out more then why not send an email to Jax the youth worker (jkeal@cambridgeyfc.uk) and join us on a Sunday evening (5pm-6.30pm).

This article was written by Zoe and Alex and edited by Jax



IMPERFECT VIEW

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

As I survey the cluttered shelves
And bookcase tops I wonder why
We hoard these diverse things. There's
some
Of poor design I can't deny.
But some are fun and some sublime.
They come from many nations. Few
Are old. But most were gifts from friend,
From child, from colleague, or there's two
That came from parents after death.
The fact remains it's fond recall
Of folk behind each item here
Displayed that means they never pall.
If only same applied to church.
Its creeds, too many hymns and rites
Retain decaying dogmas long
Extinguished by advancing flights
Of knowledge gained by patient slog
Of scholars' care. They've neatly pruned
The blighted growths, they've blown the fog
Of strange beliefs away for good;
Or so we thought. So why does church
Not follow suit? It drags its feet
With always slow, begrudging, lurch
Towards the need to weed its patch
To let a new insight emerge,
To show its face along with facts
Not seen before. It then can merge
With lasting truths retained intact.
When viewed with eyes refreshed we see
It's dry beliefs that still divide

The Church of Rome, the C of E,
And all the rest. They're little more
Than twigs so nearly dead they need
The secateurs to let the rest
Reveal display. We'll then proceed
To welcome precious gifts that each
Enshrines, despite imperfect view
We all possess of God beyond
What any mind can grasp anew,
However fresh the recent gains.
In past the stars were fixed in space,
The mountains too. Our souls were thought
Were gifts from birth. The human race
Was quite distinct from rest of beasts.
But now we know that all is flux.
By slow degrees we have emerged,
Along with fish and even ducks.
We're born without an adult mind,
But slowly self awareness starts
To sprout, along with speech, until
Our thoughts are fully dressed and arts
Emerge along with infant soul.
Our aim in life to let it thrive
Until at death it quits the flesh
To live for ever more alive.

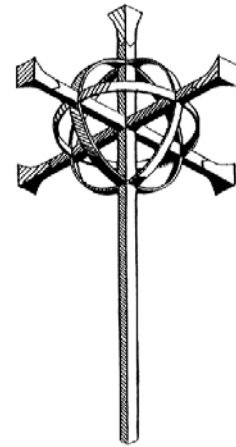
Henry Disney



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
SANG Monday 10– 11.30 (meets in Haven 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
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
SIN CRU Friday 5-7.30pm (Term time only)	Lucy Crowe	07989 927706
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Friday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**Submission date for
September Newsletter:
August 14
(Publication date August 28)
(August GS News is a single sheet)**



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

