

I am often struck by how difficult it can be to remember what certain experiences feel like. For example, what it feels like to be well when we are in the midst of being ill – or what the sun feels like on our faces, when it has been cold for long periods of time. By virtue of being embodied creatures, our memories are, by and large, bound by our present circumstances and experiences - (and, of course, remembering what it feels like to lie on a beach with an ice-cream in hand, is never *quite* the same as when we're actually doing it!)

There are few more embodied spiritual rites than that of baptism. In baptism, the physical symbols of oil, water and flame are used to take us through an inner experience of being claimed, washed and made to shine in the love of Christ for us. In baptism we are called into belonging forever not just to Him, but into a new relationship with the whole of His family on earth and in heaven. It is a mysterious and moving experience - a special event to celebrate together with others.

Traditionally for much of the first six centuries, Christian baptisms would take place on Easter Day itself, after a period of careful preparation through Lent. Easter, the morning when we remember that death is defeated and the mess we make of loving ourselves and others is utterly forgiven; when we are freed to start again with new life and hope in our hearts.

This Easter morning at The Good Shepherd, we will be celebrating with great gladness the baptism of several children, along with their families, friends, and the communities in which we live. As for the earliest Christian communities, this is a very significant

experience in all of our discipleship journeys, as we recognise again how much we all need one another's encouragement and support along the way.

When life becomes hard and tough, and God feels very far away, it can be difficult to remember what the joy of Easter morning feels like, but come again it will, as Spring follows Winter...

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;

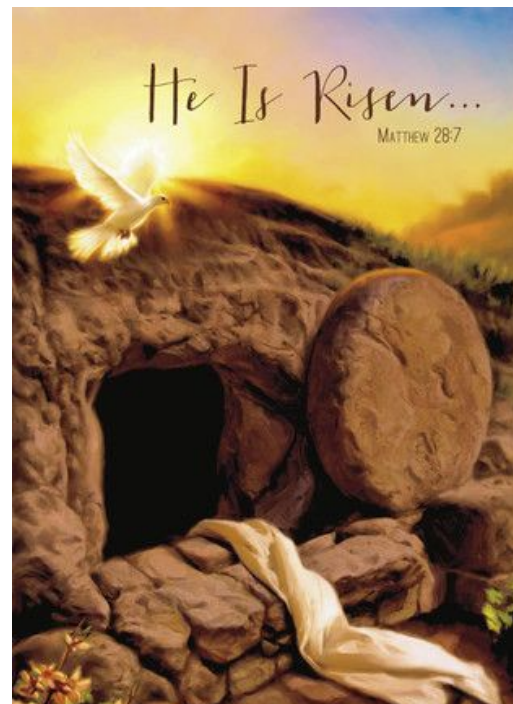
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;

Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;

For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting!

May the joy of Easter morning bless your hearts and minds with peace and hope. Please keep our baptism families in your prayers as we prepare to welcome them into Christ's family.

Rachel



PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	
	until further notice please phone	07764 613862
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
Licensed Lay Minister	Terry Barringer	424584
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	Rhodri James	357607
Churchwarden	Philip Morris	352698
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	see above
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	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
North Cambridge Council of Churches	David Maher	351844
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 APRIL

Sundays and holy days

- 5 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Romans 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45
- 9 PALM SUNDAY
Palm Gospel
- 13 MAUNDY THURSDAY
Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14
John 13: 1-7, 31-35
- 16 EASTER VIGIL (5am)
Romans 6: 3-11
Mark 16: 1-8
- 16 EASTER DAY (8.30am & 10am)
Acts 19: 34-43
Matthew 28: 1-10
- 23 EASTER 2
Acts 2: 14, 20-32
John 20: 19 - end
- 30 EASTER 3
Acts 2: 14, 36-41
Luke 24: 13-35

Weekdays at 9.30am

- 5 Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
- 26 Acts 5: 17-26
John 3: 16-21

REGULAR SERVICES IN APRIL

- 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 EASTER CLOSURE

The Church will close after the 10am service on Easter Day and re-open on Wednesday April 26 for the Communion service at 9.30. During the closure period there will be no midweek services and only a 10am service on April 23.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN APRIL

- Sunday April 2** Service of healing and the laying on of hands
- Sunday April 9** All Age Palm Sunday service at 10am
- Sunday April 9** Passover service and Bring and Share Lunch at 12 noon
- Thursday April 13** Maundy Thursday service at 7pm
- Friday April 14** Good Friday act of witness in Arbury Court at 10.30am
- Friday April 14** Good Friday meditation in words and music 2pm

EVENTS IN APRIL

- Sunday April 2** at 12 noon Sunday Lunch
Club meets in the Church Hall



ROAD TO EMMAUS

(Luke 24: 13-35)

*'He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him;
And he vanished from their sight.'*

Maybe the village lies
somewhere down every road –
a seven mile trek perhaps
or less, or so much more
(a lifetime even)
but the pattern, the encounter
always much the same.
You set out enveloped in despondency
(or perhaps elation) but still enmeshed
in the strangling web of self. You find maybe
a fellow traveller whose mien and mood
mirror your own. But as you walk,
gradually, imperceptibly, you become aware
that you are not alone; someone else has joined you
and walks beside; someone who at first
seems to know nothing of your circumstance
but who turns out to understand
more than everything. You cannot help
but bare your soul to him and then,
the hour being late, sun dropping
in a copper sky, the road
azure with shadow,
you chance your arm and on an impulse
invite him in. And as he shares
a meal with you and takes and blesses bread
your eyes are opened and you know his face.
And then he's there no more, his place stands empty
and the lips of affirmation must mouth also
the bewilderment of loss.

Tantalizing Lord
heart kindling, vanishing,
how can I hope to plumb
the strangeness of your grace,
where look to find
your wild love's token?
I turn only
to a journey shared,
a table spread;
wine poured and blessed
and bread broken.

Rex Collinson

AHEAD

(From my 2011 collection REITERATION)

My thoughts of past reveal some gems
Amongst the mounds of slag regrets.
I would not wish to dwell therein
Again. The light ahead is dim,
But still it's full of hope. The road
I glimpse is not so rough as track
I've come, or sketched without regard
For fears induced by sudden bends
Or strains derived from disregard
Of hills and dales. Besides the glow
Discerned beyond my line of sight
Appears to be a kinder light
Than glare of youthful sun I've felt
In days when I aspired to make
My mark on larger stage. For now
It's love expressed in little things
That matters most, as I progress
Along a way of little choice.
Its end will be a fresh surprise.

Henry

Annual Plant and Book Sale

Saturday May 20th 10.30 – 12.00

As the days get longer and the temperature begins to rise, the garden begins to call to tell us it's Spring again. Whether you're splitting shrubs, planting flower or vegetable seeds, please put one or two aside for the Church. We always have customers for tomatoes of all varieties, beans, peas and herbs of all sorts. Annuals and perennial flowers always make good sellers on the day, so please pot something up for the Sale. We'll be able to give more details as we get nearer to the day.

Ruby, Evelyn & Paula.

This is a poem I wrote looking out into the garden on a beautiful sunny day in January this year.

Redemption: Friday Afternoon Winter Warmth

Sun on my face,
touched by Your grace.
Chair by a door;
feeling that more
love before
was there for me
than I could see,
or feel or know;
until with slow,
and faltering, gradual steps
I heard your voice calling me stop ...

Why do you rush?
Why do you push
yourself to prove
that you can move
heaven and earth,
despite the dearth
of time you give
simply to be
still before me?
Will you love your neighbour as yourself?
Love me your Lord with all your heart?

You must be still
to know my will,
my hand to guide.
Give up your pride,
your need to show
all that you know
to them you fear
may want to hear
more proof of worth.

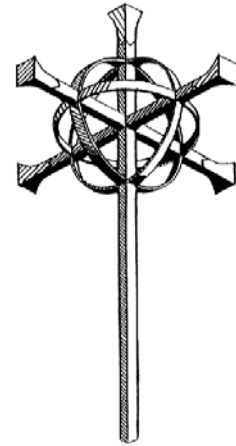
You are as you are, made by me.
Accepted, forgiven and free.

Alison Phillips, January 2017

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
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Monday 8.15 - 9.15pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
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
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
YOGA STRETCHING AND MOBILITY Wednesday 9.25-10.15am	Lexi	367639
TAI CHI Wednesday 12.50-1.40	Lexi	367639
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
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
PILATES Friday 12.50 – 1.40pm	Lexi	367639
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 3.13-4.15pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**Submission date for
May Newsletter:
April 16
(Publication date April 30)**



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 our administrator, Ruth Banger. She will be able to tell you what is involved and arrange for a meeting with you if you then wish to take things further.

She can be contacted on 07764 613862

Church website: www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk

