

These are the days of John. Our gospel readings on Sunday mornings have been taken from the fourth gospel. I've been reading John's Gospel for half a century and it still has the capacity to surprise and delight.

Earlier this year I (along with Alison Phillips) attended a short course on *The Gospel of John for Today*, led by Professor David Ford at St. James', Wulfstan Way. We looked at reading, praying and living the gospel of John. Our minds and imaginations were stretched and our hearts 'strangely warmed'. Do ask us about it.

Professor Ford asked us what were the most important theological words in John's Gospel.

I thought perhaps 'The Word' – 'The Word' who was in the beginning and who 'became flesh and dwelled among us' in Chapter 1.

I thought perhaps **I AM** – John gives us the great 'I AM' sayings of Jesus, an avalanche of titles, showing us **who** Jesus is – and when we know who Jesus is, we know **who** God is.

I thought perhaps **Love** – a word that comes 39 times in the gospel.

Or **Glory**. And of course these are important.

But Professor Ford urged us to meditate upon two little words - **as so**.

Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomsoever he wishes. (5:21)

For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; (5: 26)

Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. (6:57)

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. (15:9)

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. (17:18)

As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (17:21)

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one (17: 22)

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' (20:21)

John's characteristic turn of phrase takes us into the relationship between the Father and the Son – that's enough to keep theologians occupied for centuries. But there's more. Because 'as...so' catches us up also and folds us into the amazing, abundant, overflowing love of God. As Jesus, so the disciples, so us. We are enabled to love and be loved. As Jesus, so his disciples, so us – we are called and enabled to love one another and the world. Our prayers and our lives become an improvisation on the theme of love.

Those who warn us about fake news and internet scams tell us that if something is too good to be true, it probably is. The gospel is not like that. It is good and true beyond all that we can hope or imagine.

John's is the gospel of abundance and fullness. From wine at Cana to overflowing nets on the Galilee shore. The gospel of the Good Shepherd who came that we may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10)

John calls us to go ever deeper, to go on asking the big questions. Don't be tied down by a neat passage of affirmations and commands. There's always more.

And that's why, during the course, we prayed for ourselves and each other, using Paul's words in Ephesians 3.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family^[h] in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Terry

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
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Assistant Treasurer	Bill Elsey	357622
Chalice Bearers	Bill Elsey	357622
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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	Guido Barzini	300497
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 JUNE

Sundays and holy days

- 4 PENTECOST
Acts 2: 1-21
John 20: 19-23
- 11 TRINITY SUNDAY
Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27 – end
2 Corinthians 13: 11 - end
Matthew 28: 16-20
- 18 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Exodus 19: 2-8
Romans 5: 1-8
Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8
- 25 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Jeremiah 20: 7-13
Romans 6: 1b-11
Matthew 7: 6, 12-14

Weekdays at 9.30am

- 7 1 Peter 1: 18-25
Mark 12: 18-27
- 14 2 Corinthians 3: 4-11
Matthew 5: 17-19
- 21 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
- 28 Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18
Matthew 7: 15-20



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 11 All Age Parade service at
10am

EVENTS IN JUNE

Sunday June 4 at 12 noon Sunday Lunch
Club meets in the Church Hall

Saturday June 11 Arbury Carnival



ODD?

(First published in 2014, in COME WHAT
MAY Pneuma Springs Publishing)

I've relished many sights
And met a range of men
And women varied way
Beyond my rampant pen
Can hope to paint. And black
Events I've not escaped,
While life and children brought
Delights. I've most been shaped
By love of lass who's been
My wife for many years.
She's been the sun that shines
Again when rainstorm clears
As passing griefs. The work
I've done has gifted sense
Of self esteem. And yet
A feeling most intense,
That's brought me inner peace,
Is thought our loving God
Accepts this fool despite
The view belief is odd.
But those devoid of faith
Are thus deprived of aim
Beyond the petty ploys
Of life as fleeting game.
When love imbues each task
With Holy Spirit's grace
Enriching people's lives,
I glimpse an angel's face.

Henry Disney

FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT

The new pastor decided to visit the children's Sunday school. The teacher introduced him and said, "Pastor, this morning we're studying Joshua."

"That's wonderful," said the new pastor, "let's see what you're learning. Who tore down the walls of Jericho?"

Little Billy shyly raised hand and offered, "Pastor, I didn't do it."

Taken aback, the pastor asked, "Come on, now, who tore down the walls of Jericho?"

The teacher, interrupting, said, "Pastor, Billy's a good boy. If he says he didn't do it, I believe he didn't do it."

Flustered, the pastor went to the Sunday school director and related the story to him.

The director, looking worried, explained, "Well, sir, we've had some problems with Billy before. Let me talk to him and see what we can do."

Really bothered now by the answers of the teacher and the director, the new pastor approached the deacons and related the whole story, including the responses of the teacher and the director.

A white-haired gentleman thoughtfully stroked his chin and said, "Well, Pastor, I move we just take the money from the general fund to pay for the walls and leave it at that."



When my son graduated from high school, he had to give a speech. He began by reading from his prepared text:

"I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she has had on my life. She is a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words could ever do justice."

At this point he seemed to struggle for words. After a pause, he looked up with a sly grin and said, "Sorry, but it's really hard to read my mother's handwriting."

A young woman brought her fiance home to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man. The father invited the fiancé to his study for a talk.

"So what are your plans?" the father asked the young man.

"I am a biblical scholar," he replied.

"A biblical scholar, hmmm?" the father said. "Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?"

"I will study," the young man replied, "and God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?" asked the father.

"I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replied, "God will provide for us."

"And children?" asked the father. "How will you support children?"

"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replied the fiance.

The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned, the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

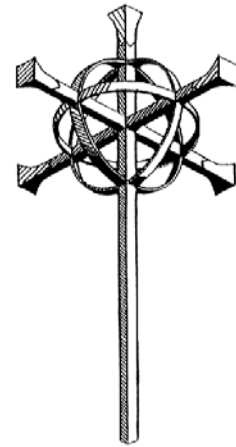
Later, the mother asked, "How did it go, honey?"

The father answered, "He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I'm God."

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
July Newsletter:
June 11
(Publication date June 25)**



Vicarage 01223 351844

Church Hall bookings
(evenings) 01223 352151

Newsletter Ruth Banger 07764 613862
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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

