

Saints shaping up

To the church of God that is in Arbury, to those who are sanctified in Christ

Jesus, **called to be saints**, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.¹

What is a saint?

November 1 is All Saints' Day.

But who or what are we celebrating? Wikipedia's article on saints (which is admittedly a good read) starts off, "A **saint** is a person who is recognized as having an exceptional degree of holiness or likeness or closeness to [God](#)". Well I venture to disagree. This is not the primary meaning. Look at Page 4 - which of these is a picture of saints?

The answer is they both are!

The English word "*saint*" comes from the Latin "*sanctus*" which translated the Greek *hagios*, which derives from the verb *hagiazō*, which means "to set apart", or "to make holy".

"Saint" is the New Testament word not for special, super-holy types. But your everyday, 'ordinary' Christian. People like us. When Paul writes to the church in Rome or Corinth he addresses "all the saints in that place". When he writes about collecting for impoverished and distress Christians he writes about "the ministry to the saints" in Jerusalem. When he assures us that "the Spirit intercedes for the **saints** according to the will of God" (Romans 8:27) he is not talking about spiritual superstars but an experience of God's life and love we can all share.

Saints come in all shapes and sizes.

Wikipedia's list of saints runs from Abamun of Tarnut to Zosimus of Palestine by way of Kevin, Ludmila and Margaret the Barefooted.

But what they have in common is that they are all SHAPED BY GOD.

"For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephesians 2:10)

So as we celebrate All Saints, let us remember that we too are called to be Saints. Although, we do not yet "rest from our labours" like the saints in the popular seasonal hymn, God has worked and is working to shape us.

This term's housegroups are for saints in the making, saints who want to shape up and get into shape.

Your SHAPE for God's Service is designed for Christians who want to grow and to serve God more fully in their everyday lives. The series aims to help us, as saints in the making, God's work in progress, discover our unique *shape* of person, our God-given gifts and how God might use us in church and beyond.

SHAPE is an acronym:

Your Spiritual gifts

Heart's desire

Abilities

Personality

Experience

And God is the great Shape-Sorter who can make beautiful patterns out of our miscellaneous and sometimes untidy and jagged shapes. I'm looking forward to seeing what he makes out of us all.

Terry

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
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	Philip Morris	352698
Churchwarden		
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	351844
PCC Vice Chairman	Philip Morris	352698
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	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 NOVEMBER

Sundays and holy days

- 5 ALL SAINTS
Revelation 7: 9 - end
1 John 3: 1-3
Matthew 5: 1-12
- 12 THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE
ADVENT
Amos 5: 18-24
1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - end
Matthew 25: 1-13
- 19 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE
ADVENT
Zephaniah 1: 7, 12 - end
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30
- 26 CHRIST THE KING
Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1: 15 - end
Matthew 25: 31 - end

Weekdays at 9.30am

- 1 Revelation 7: 9 – end
1 John 3: 1-3
Matthew 5: 1-12
- 8 Isaiah 2: 1-11
Matthew 2: 16 - end
- 15 Titus 3: 1-7
Luke 17: 11-19
- 22 Isaiah 10: 20-32
Matthew 8: 1-13
- 29 Daniel 3: 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
Luke 21: 12-19

REGULAR SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

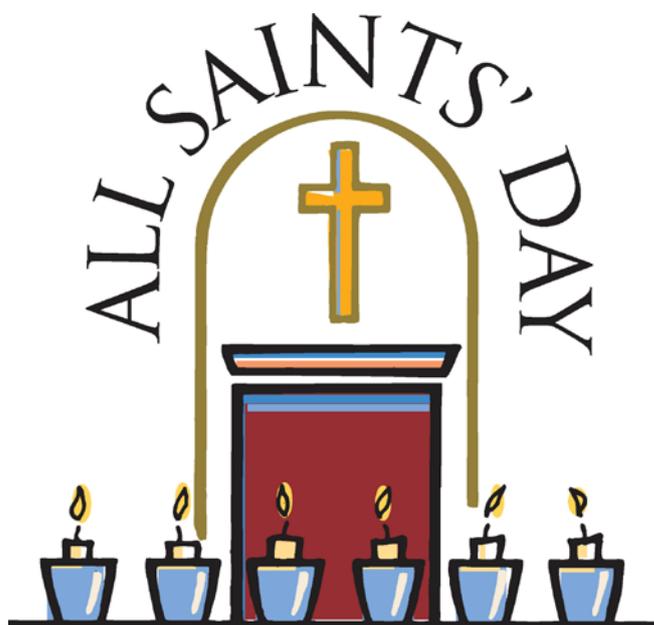
- Sundays 8.30am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion
- Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
Morning Prayer, when said in church, will
be at 9.15.
Second Monday of each month will be set
aside for Staff Prayer.

SPECIAL SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday November 19 All Age service for
Shoebox Sunday at 10am

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Sunday November 5 at 12 noon Sunday
Lunch Club meets in the Church Hall
Saturday November 25 Christmas Market
at 2pm



Which of these is a picture of saints?



Or



The Good Shepherds of England

A couple of years ago, I took the boys to the Alban Pilgrimage, a lively parade held annually in St Albans to commemorate the life of the eponymous saint. At one stage we watched as representatives of ten churches from around England marched past with banners held high. The churches were all named after (i.e. dedicated to) St Alban, England's first martyr, and made the yearly pilgrimage to the spot where their patron saint was killed. Was this all of England's St Alban churches, asked Rachel's mother? How many are there? Genetically incapable of resisting a fact-quest I endeavoured to find out and, discovering that there is no easy resource to give the answer, I created my own with the help of the CofE website *achurchnearyou.com* to find that there are 52 churches dedicated to St Alban in England, so it's perhaps disappointing that only ten turn up for the festival!

So on to the more pertinent question of our own dedication with a quest to track down the Churches of the Good Shepherd. In fact there are 62 overseen by the Anglican Church in England, plus a number of churches and chapels of other denominations. This makes it the 44th most-common dedication, just behind St Thomas Becket, but ahead of St Wilfrid, St Augustine, St Clement, All Hallows, St Christopher and the panoply of others that make Anglican-church names so distinctive. Many saints' dedications are found clustered in particular areas of the country, but the Good Shepherd is certainly used across England, with instances in 30 of the 41 dioceses. A look at the map does however suggest a cluster around London and some other major cities. This in turn is a clue to the fact that most Good Shepherd churches are relatively modern foundations, with the earliest

It's worth mentioning a few other Good Shepherds from around the country. The Church of the Good Shepherd in Gloucester is the only Ukrainian Catholic church in the south west, whereas The Good Shepherd in Leicester is a specialist church for the deaf and hard of hearing. And

probably that at Hewish in Somerset which was built in 1868. After that there are around 20 from the late Victorian era, around 20 in the first half of the 20th century, and the same number since the Second World War.



Location of the Anglican Good Shepherd churches

down in Devon, the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Galmpton was originally a barn used for making cider, converted by the local "Pick and Shovel Brigade" in 1961!

One church stands out from among the list of modern Good Shepherds; the parish church of Lullington in Sussex is extraordinary in many ways. Measuring only 16 feet by 16 feet it is certainly one of the smallest churches in England, squeezing 20 people in on a good day. The church there was built in the late 12th century but at some stage was damaged by fire, probably after the Civil War, with the present church formed from the remains of the chancel. But even here we have not found the original Good Shepherd church; with the medieval dedication lost, the Bishop of Chichester dedicated the church to the Good Shepherd at a service in 2000, so this 800 year-old church is actually one of the newest members of the Good Shepherd family. Whenever you come across a Good Shepherd church,

feel proud that its name stands as a testament to the continued life of the church with new buildings and congregations still appearing wherever populations grow.



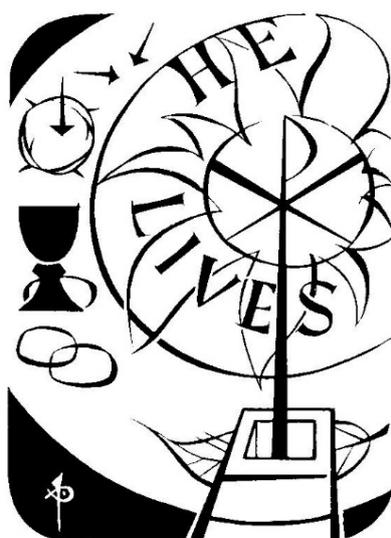
Good Shepherd, Lullington, East Sussex

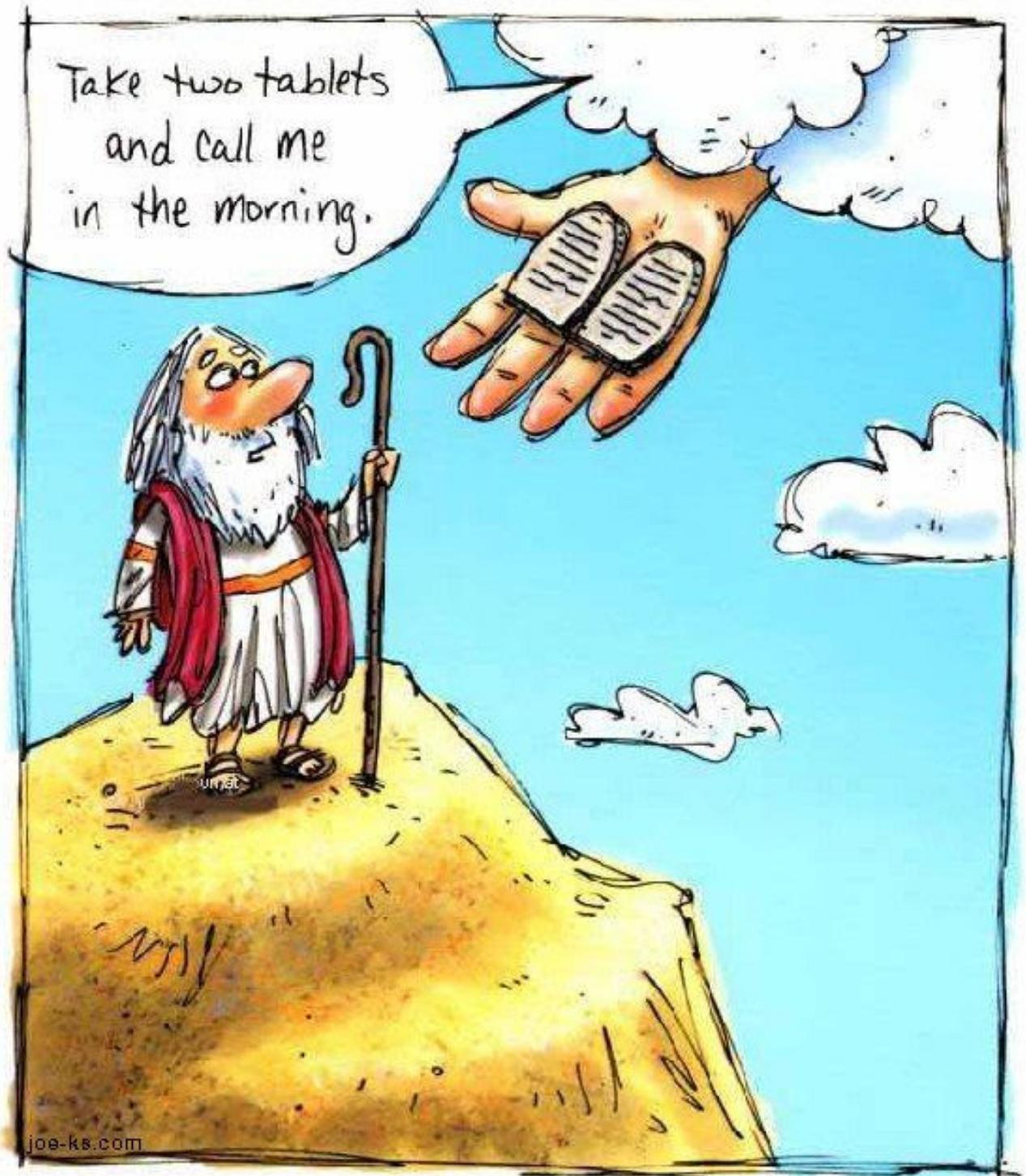
Sean Blanchflower

TIME BOMB

(First published in 2012 in 'TEACH US OF LOVE'
Pneuma Springs Publishing,
admin@pneumasprings.co.uk)

To be alive today we're blessed
With lots that's good and much to ease
The grind of daily chores. The news
Ensures we hear the crying pleas
Of those in need of aid, so more
Respond than in the past. Instead
Of war we could provide each child
With all their meals and bed
To sleep each night. We squander cash
On arms for fights we could avoid
Or sell them over internet
To gangs of thugs. So null and void
Are windy words about the aid
We proudly tell the world we give.
It's merely crumbs we can afford.
I doubt the future will forgive
The seeds of conflict sown by those
Who trust in force to deal with rage
Of those who feel deprived of right
To share in wealth of present age.





The Oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve.
It was an Apple.
But with an extremely limited memory.
Just one byte.

Cameron Abernethy (Westcott House)

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” These words, spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, have accompanied me throughout my life, but especially during the past few years. If you had said to me three years ago that I would be training for ordained ministry within the Church of England in Cambridge, I would have thought you were mad!

I was born and brought up just south of Edinburgh, and attended church with my family as both my parents were church elders. From a young age, I was encouraged to grow in my faith through the support of family and friends in developing a close relationship with Jesus.

After leaving school, I decided to take a year out before going to university. I spent time working as a church intern with children and youth in a large Presbyterian church in Seattle, USA. I made the decision not to continue on to university and, instead, spent a couple of years as a youth worker for a church project in Banchory, Aberdeenshire. This experience led me to train as a primary school teacher in Aberdeen, subsequently teaching in the city centre of Edinburgh for thirteen years.

Whilst working as teacher, I noticed within myself the desire to develop my understanding of my faith and this led me to complete a theology degree from Oxford Brookes University through distance learning. The chance to study theology awakened within myself lots of questions about the direction of my life.

After many conversations with family and friends and listening to God, I decided to finish teaching and intentionally explore what God might be wanting me to do with my life. This led me to spend time working in a retreat house on Lindisfarne, followed by working in a church in central London as a pastoral assistant. I became aware of an ever deepening sense of wanting to serve Christ, to enable others to encounter the God who loves them beyond words.

During my time in London, my vicar strongly encouraged me to formally explore my sense of calling and wanting to serve Christ. This enabled me to take a year or so examining what it might mean for me to truly follow Christ and ultimately led to being recommended for training to the ordained ministry. This is where I find myself now, starting my final year at Westcott House in Cambridge and being on attachment with you this year.



What do you enjoy reading?

I recently attended a funeral at The Good Shepherd and was delighted that a poem by Auden was read in the service. I have always loved reading poetry – and can quote reams of it! As far as Auden is concerned I have sung a number of his poems, many of them set by Britten. Poetry concentrates us on small details but also gives us the grand sweep of huge concepts. Both make us think. I had forgotten how much I loved the poetry of Auden. You think you don't know any? I'd be surprised if you didn't know the one quoted below – famously it was movingly included in *Four weddings and a funeral*. But what do you enjoy reading? Care to share it with the rest of us? We might enjoy it too.

Ruth

Funeral Blues

Wystan Hugh Auden

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone.
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message He is Dead,
Put crépe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

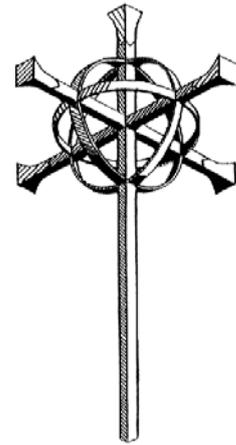
He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song,
I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong

The stars are not wanted now, put out every one;
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood.
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

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
THE 18th & 25th GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
DOG TRAINING CLASSES Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 3 rd Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm January to November	Mr. Gawthrop	351855
PILATES Thursday 1.10-2.10pm	Lexi	367639
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 3.15-4.15pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**Submission date for
December Newsletter:
November 12
(Publication date November 26)**



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

