

## What's God got to do with my computer?

This was going to be a letter about the season of Epiphany. But then....

My email system failed. *Onesimus*, my really useful computer, was whisked away to computer hospital for a week. I could not access my carefully filed emails (professional and personal), could not copy and paste from the internet and I discovered I had forgotten how to write the old fashioned way with pen and paper, how to compose without moving blocks of text around a screen. I was thoroughly discombobulated as I got farther and farther behind with various work commissions and overwhelmed by frustration. I berated myself for my ineptitude. My intercessions would begin with the Koreas and Syria, the sick and bereaved and quickly slide into "Please God, fix my computer. Please God fix it now, Please God don't let me lose all those emails and contact details. And please God don't let me look a total idiot in front of my employers and all those technologically savvy young people."

And the accusing voices said, "The world is in desperate need of peace, justice and a cure for cancer and all you can think about is your wretched computer and your personal convenience. Do you think God cares about your trivia?"

But perhaps God has a different perspective on what is and what is not trivial. After all, Jesus had something to say about the value of sparrows and common flowers.

Dave has told us that a key to his recovery has been to ask after each problem or set back: what have I learned from this? I'm trying to follow his example and ask myself what have I learned about myself, about others

and, above all about God through this episode. Why does a malfunctioning computer bring me to the verge of panic? It is a Christian commonplace that the most common command in Scripture is "Fear not" but it is also, like "Do not be anxious", one of the hardest to obey. Apparently the most common phobias are: flying, enclosed spaces, insects, snakes, dogs, needles, heights, storms and speaking in public. Well I'm OK with most of those though I'm not keen on thunder and I huddle under the blankets when noisy fireworks are going off. But I do have phobias about technology – and they are bound up with fears of loss of control, of looking stupid and letting people down.

Yet naming our fears, acknowledging them to ourselves, to one another and to God is the way to overcome them, the way to self-knowledge and the way to let God in on our situation in a new and deeper way. I pray something of that has been going on in me this week. I keep coming back to two favourite verses

*Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)*

*Do not worry **about anything**, but **in everything** by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. (Phil 4:6)*

I can end with thanksgiving because my computer has been returned to me, functioning better than ever, thanksgiving for the skills of the 'computer-doctors' and their patience in explaining matters to me. And above thankfulness for those words

### **Anything and Everything.**

Nothing is trivial for God. As a former vicar of mine use to say, "No problem is too big for God's power, nor too small for his love".

*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	Fiona Blows	329822
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 FEBRUARY

### Sundays and holy days

- 4 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT  
Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31  
Colossians 1:5-20  
John 1: 1-14
- 11 SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT  
2 Kings 2: 1-12  
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6  
Mark 9: 2-9
- 14 ASH WEDNESDAY (at 7pm)  
Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17  
2 Corinthians 5: 20 – 6: 10  
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
- 18 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
Genesis 9: 8-17  
1 Peter 3: 18 - end  
Mark 8: 31 - end
- 25 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16  
Romans 4: 13 - end  
Mark 1: 21-28

### Weekdays at 9.30am

- 7 HOLY COMMUNION  
1 Kings 10: 1-10  
Mark 7: 14-23
- 14 HOLY COMMUNION (ASH WED)  
Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17  
2 Corinthians 5: 20 – 6: 10  
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
- 21 MORNING PRAYER  
Genesis 42: 6-17  
Galatians 4: 21 – 5: 1
- 28 HOLY COMMUNION  
Jeremiah 18: 18-20  
Matthew 20: 17-28

### FIRST CALL

- 4 5-6pm in the Chapel

## 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

- Ash Wednesday (April 14) Holy Communion at 9.30am and 7.30pm  
Wednesday 21 and 28 at 6.30 Coffee, cake and compline

## EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- Sunday February 4 at 12 noon – Sunday Lunch Club  
Wednesday February 14 Family Activities and Lunch 11-1  
Saturday February 24 Jumble Sale at 10am



Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.

## LONELINESS

When we act out of loneliness our actions easily become violent. The tragedy is that much violence comes from a demand for love. When loneliness drives our search for love, kissing easily leads to biting, caressing to hitting, looking tenderly to looking suspiciously, listening to overhearing, and surrender to rape. The human heart yearns for love: love without conditions, limitations, or restrictions. But no human being is capable of offering such love, and each time we demand it we set ourselves on the road to violence.

How then can we live nonviolent lives? We must start by realizing that our restless hearts, yearning for perfect love, can only find that love through communion with the One who created them.

*This is taken from a daily meditation published by the Henri Nouwen Society*



***Bless again this day the mysterious computer***

*which awaits your power and my human effort.*

*Grant wisdom, knowledge and a clear memory to my mind*

*as I sit before this new creature of your infinite power.*

*Bless my heart with endless patience whenever needed.*

*Guide my hands that I may be your faithful servant in every key I press.*

*Enable my limited efforts to bring glory to your Name*

*and blessings to your people everywhere.*

*Delete me not from your Kingdom*

*and save me from all fear and from all error of sin and ignorance.*

*I whisper this prayer, mindful of the needs of all with whom and for whom I work,  
through the power of your Word and the life-giving energy of your Spirit.*

*Amen*

## **Jumble Sale Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February @10.30am**

Here comes the first fundraiser of 2018, so the time has come to have a good sort out as the seasons change to make room for all those new Spring and Summer clothes you're going to buy.

We would also be very grateful for any children's clothes that are outgrown but still wearable, as these were very popular at the Christmas Market and will keep if we don't sell them at the Jumble

Our Bric-a-brac stall is always very popular too, so now is the time to hunt out those odds and ends that hide at the back of drawers and cupboards and re-cycle them on to new owners who can find a use for them. Kitchenware always sells well and also gadgets of any sort. Whatever you don't need or want, we'll do our best to sell it!

We always need help on the day and it can be fun, too, so if you would like to get behind the counter and sell, sell, sell, just ask any of us.

Ruby, Evelyn & Paula



## Book Review

Henry Disney, *Regaining Life's Winding Trail* (Austen Macauley Publishers Ltd, 2017)

Readers of this Newsletter will have come across Henry Disney's poetry on many occasions over the last few years. In this book, they come as part of a continuous narrative of Henry's life and work, of his ups and downs both with regard to his faith and to his career and to the enduring importance of his family and especially his dearly beloved wife, Audrey, in this idiosyncratic and fascinating memoir.

As a scientist and naturalist, it was inevitable that Henry could never accept a literal interpretation of the Bible and Good Shepherd friends will not be surprised that he went through a period of doubt and difficulty with organised religion. He came through this and was led to feel that he was called to ordained ministry. However, this was not to be (half of the selectors considered him "heretical") but his bishop obviously thought that Henry's talents were vitally needed in the Church and recommended him to be a selector himself – a role Henry fulfilled for some years.

Henry's early years were not easy – he was born in 1938 and his parents' circumstances meant that he hardly saw anything of them during the war years. He was sent to boarding school very young and no doubt this contributed to him developing a strong sense of his own self worth and a need to challenge authority whenever he felt he was in the right and misjudged. Fortunately Aunt Sheila provided a secure base and home for him leaving him with happy memories of times on holiday with her in Norfolk. Not surprisingly Henry was a somewhat shy boy who developed a fascination for natural history and gained release by writing poetry. But if you're not a fan of poetry, don't worry – this book is full of fascinating stories which certainly left me with a burning desire to find out what happened next!

No sooner had he left school than Henry received his call up papers and before long - it was 1957 - he found himself in Cyprus where he not only discovered that he had leadership skills, but he also received an injury to his hearing that still troubles him today. He had little time for the MoD who later refused him any compensation for this injury. When Barbara Castle visited Cyprus in 1958 she accused the Army of torturing EOKA suspects – she was denounced by the Establishment but of course events have shown that she was right. Henry engaged his comrades in debate over the value of torture and was clear that it achieved nothing – something fully borne out by modern research.

Henry's life work as an entomologist has been with scuttle flies, not a field of interest that the average reader will be familiar with. However, as a result of his notes on the insects to be found in dog poo in urban areas a colleague investigated the toxicity of parasites in the dog poo that finally led to a change in the law, such that today dog owners are obliged to clear up after their dogs. In this case the impact of Henry's work has been huge in this country alone, although this has not been publicly recognised and only the later research by others has been given the "impact" accolade!

Good Shepherd friends will be interested to read of Henry's run-ins with the MoD over his efforts to get Stephen Salter's design for a landmine destroyer accepted – sadly they preferred an alternative system. Through all his life experiences, trials and tribulations, Henry has triumphed – in no small part due to his own strength of character, but also because of the strength of his and Audrey's faith in the saving grace of God. A moving and uplifting read enlivened by Henry's dry comments and wry humour. And it is certainly a book that I can thoroughly recommend to members of this church and beyond.

*Rosalind Lund*

## **EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM A JIGSAW PUZZLE**

By Jacquie Sewell (with apologies to Robert Fulghum)

1. Don't force a fit - if something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return.
3. Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
4. Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.
5. When one spot stops working, move to another. But be sure to come back later (see #4).
6. The creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Refer to the Creator's guidebook often.
7. Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colors and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
8. Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.
9. Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
10. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
11. Take time often to celebrate your successes (even little ones).
12. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.
13. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.  
*(This reminded me of a dear friend, Jeanette Lee, who loves jigsaw puzzles)*

## REGARDLESS

(first published in COME WHAT MAY in  
2014 – Pneuma Springs Publishing UK)

There's hints of winter on its way  
As chill begins to claim the nights.  
I snuggle closer to my wife  
In cosy bed while thoughts, in flights  
Of fancy, merge with dreams that weave  
The past with future hopes and fears.  
My youthful search for truths of life  
Remains. Persistent doubts for years  
Prevented keeping eye on way  
Those blessed by simple faith have found.  
I wandered off the track in hope  
Of finding better grounds, as hound  
Who's led astray by diverse scents.  
But still I hear the inner call  
To learn to yield to love that claims  
My mind and heart, my soul, my all.  
Compassion sweeps away the need  
For tidy dogmas cased in ice.  
Its source is more than pulses born  
In brain, which can't alone suffice  
To generate the grace received,  
Regardless whether thanks and praise  
Are offered on our knees to God.  
The Holy Spirit's spark will blaze  
Wherever conscience stirs and hands  
Are reaching out to help relieve  
The pain and lack of needs fulfilled,  
Regardless what we might believe.

*Henry Disney*





During Lent

### **COFFEE (OR TEA), CAKE AND COMPLINE**

During Lent we shall be celebrating Compline each Wednesday. So that's February 21 and 28 and March 7, 14 and 21.

We meet in the North Aisle at 6.30pm, chat, enjoy a drink of tea or coffee and have some cake. We enjoy our time together. This Lent we shall also have short talks as people tell us of God's work in their lives during the past year. Then we move on to Compline.

What's Compline? It's a service of Night Prayer, a service that has been celebrated for centuries. It ends in silence and that's why we have our talking (and cake) beforehand. If you haven't tried it, do give it a go. I met Compline when I went up to University, it was a wonderful settler at the end of a busy day.

Hoping to see you there.

*Ruth*



At the Carol Service we had a collection for the Angel Tree Project. This provides gifts for the children of those who are in prison. Just after the Carol service the Choir was invited to sing Carols for the Grovebury Ladies at Arbury Community Centre. The Ladies took a collection and the Choir decided that would also be given to the Angel Tree Project. Together we raised the sum of **£219.08**

We received a lovely thank you and some information about the Angel Tree. In 2017 they sent 154 gifts and most parents accepted the offer of a Christian book to be included for each child.

Do continue to pray for the families who receive these gifts, pray that they may experience God's love, care and reconciliation. It is a proven fact that strong family relationships are instrumental in reducing offending



## IN THE CHURCH HALL (to book call 352151 (evenings))

<b>THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month noon – 1.30pm	Jinty Keir	572303
<b>RED HEN</b> Monday 8.15 – 11am	Christine O'Reilly	<a href="tel:07816444439">0781 6444439</a>
<b>SANG</b> Monday 10– 11.30 (meets in Haven in Church)	Rachel Blanchflower	523066
<b>THE MONDAY CLUB</b> Monday 2.00 – 3.30pm	Ruby Leyshon	352151
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD CUBS</b> Monday 6.30 - 8pm	Charles Brown	07720 441123
<b>DOG TRAINING CLASSES</b> Monday 8.15 - 9.15pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
<b>LINE DANCING</b> Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45am	Deborah Walker	01954 231382
<b>KEEP FIT 50+ GROUP</b> Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm	Margaret Briggs	01954 250870
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD RAINBOWS</b> Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm	Miss Rachel Marsh	574520
<b>DOG TRAINING CLASSES</b> Tuesday 7.30 - 9.30pm	Susannah O'Hanlon	235281
<b>THE 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> GOOD SHEPHERD BROWNIES</b> Wednesday 6 - 7.15pm	Mrs Pat Marsh	574520
<b>YOGA STRETCHING AND MOBILITY</b> Wednesday 12.10am – 1pm	Lexi	367639
<b>TAI CHI</b> Wednesday 12.50-1.40	Lexi	367639
<b>ROYAL BRITISH LEGION</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2.30 - 4.30pm January to November	Mr. Gawthrop	351855
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD BEAVERS</b> Thursday 6.15 - 7.30pm	Emma Roberts	426043
<b>THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCOUTS</b> Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm	Chris White	0700 891511
<b>CHURCH TODDLERS' CLUB</b> Friday 9.15 – 11.30am	Claire Duell	0787 4850867
<b>PILATES</b> Friday 12.50 – 1.40pm	Lexi	367639
<b>TAI CHI</b> Friday 2 – 3pm	Mike Tabrett	503390
<b>SIN CRU</b> Friday 5-7.30pm (Term time only)	Lucy Crowe	<a href="tel:07989927706">07989 927706</a>
<b>DOG TRAINING CLASSES</b> Friday 3.13-4.15pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**Submission date for  
March Newsletter:  
February 12  
(Publication date February 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](http://www.churchofthegoodshepherd.co.uk)

