

## Moving on...

During the month of January – and the season of Epiphany – I have been away on a placement at another church. It is a strange experience to have last presided in the Good Shepherd at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, and then returned to preside on the first Sunday of the season after Candlemas, known as ‘Ordinary Time’. It is as if I have been in a mysterious time warp! It has reminded me again of the rhythms that church seasons provide in connecting and moving us on in our faith journeys.

Not only has my own spiritual journey through Epiphany been a full one, but I have been deeply moved by the different journeys many of you have been travelling since Christmas. A month can feel like many. The Epiphany season encompasses not just the arrival of the Magi at its beginning, and the presentation of Jesus in the Temple at its end, but also significant events such as Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana; Jesus’ own baptism and St. Paul’s conversion. It is a season in which the costliness of giving over our humanness to divinity is made real: the magi’s risky journey to an unknown end; Mary and Joseph’s unconditional offering of their baby back to God’s service; the physical needs and shame of hosts being desperately entrusted over to a guest; a public rite of repentance being given into the hands of a nomad; a dangerous religious zealot’s life being knocked into reverse by the very person whose name he wanted to extinguish. This season of utter transformations is one in which we see the possibility of our human fragility being caught into the very Being of generous, glorious Love at work.

Now, after a brief breather of ‘ordinary time’, our sights and steps are heading into the wilderness of Lent. I wonder if you, like myself, sometimes feel that you go there kicking and screaming! I would like to spend more time in Epiphany. I would like to have a chance to see more of myself in that glorious light, not the

piercing desert sunshine in which anything exposed will shrivel and be scorched. We do not want the discipline of hanging on in there as the situations of our inner and outward lives gain almost a sort of seasonal permission in further testing and tormenting us!

And yet....this is how and why the church liturgical seasons can be such a blessing for whatever journey of faith we are currently experiencing. Their very movement onwards – even before we are ready for them to change – reminds us that indeed they are ‘seasons’. The great Story of our faith standing over and above, and in spite of, our own stories, *has* seasons, *has* a movement of its own – which refuses to let us get stuck in one place. No matter how hard it is to move into Lent, its shape reminds us that there is a Holy Week at the end of it, and that if where we find ourselves now is somewhere in the blank grief of an Easter Saturday, nevertheless, Easter Sunday must and will come.

Christ’s leaving promise to His disciples was that He would be with them until the very end of the age. The Church’s seasons are patterned on His life’s journey to remind us that His Story – with all its joys and pains – can be ours too.

Lent is a season in which to discover anew that the cycles and patterns of life which we fear will always trap and burden us are surely no match for the power of Christ’s seasons of life, transforming us ever onward from glory to glory. The only way forwards from wherever we are now, is to keep moving....to keep in step with a Spirit who calls us on in hope. *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	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 MARCH

### Sundays and holy days

- 4 LENT 3  
Exodus 20: 1-17  
1 Corinthians 1: 18-25  
John 2: 13-22
- 11 MOTHERING SUNDAY  
1 Samuel 1: 20 - end  
2 Corinthians 1: 3-7  
John 19: 25-27
- 18 LENT 5  
Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
Hebrews 5: 5-10  
John 12: 20-33
- 25 PALM SUNDAY  
Palm Gospel
- 29 MAUNDY THURSDAY  
Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14  
John 13: 1-7, 31-35
- 30 GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION  
?

### Weekdays at 9.30am

- 7 MORNING PRAYER  
Genesis 49: 1-32  
Hebrews 6: 13 - end
- 14 HOLY COMMUNION  
Isaiah 49: 8-15  
John 5: 17-30
- 21 MORNING PRAYER  
Exodus 9: 1-12  
Hebrews 12: 3-13
- 28 HOLY COMMUNION  
Isaiah 50: 4-9  
Hebrews 12: 1-3  
John 13: 21-32

### FIRST CALL

- 4 5-6pm in the Chapel

## REGULAR SERVICES IN MARCH

- Sundays 8.30am Holy Communion  
10am Parish Communion
- Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion  
or Morning Prayer
- 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 MARCH

- Wednesday March 7, 14, 21, Monday  
March 26 and Tuesday March 27** Coffee,  
Cake and Compline at 6.30pm  
**Sunday March 11** at 10am All Age Parade  
Service for Mothering Sunday  
**Sunday March 25** (Palm Sunday) at 7pm  
An evening meditation with music for Holy  
Week  
**Thursday March 29** at 7pm Maundy  
Thursday Communion with foot washing  
**Friday March 30** (Good Friday) United  
Act of Witness in Arbury Court at 10.30am  
and afternoon meditation in Church at 2pm

### EVENTS IN MARCH

- Sunday March 4** at 12 noon in the Hall a  
Bring and Share Lunch in aid of the  
Cambridge Churches Homelessness project.  
Jon Canessa will speak





# THANK YOU!



THANK YOU for packing a shoebox gift in 2017. You were part of a celebration which shared a message of love with 678,942 children in 13 countries, and we think that's something special!

For another year running, we've been overwhelmed by your generosity, as have the children who will always treasure the moment they experienced great joy as they received and unpacked your gift.

*Silvana comes from an extremely poor family, and her mother couldn't afford to buy her a pencil case with coloured pencils and felt-tip pens for the first day of school. Silvana had always dreamed of having one, especially as she saw all the other kids who had pencil cases. When she opened her shoebox, she was beside herself with delight to find a big pencil case full of beautiful coloured pencils and felt-tip pens.*

Our partners in more impoverished communities relay many similar and touching insights. We've shared some of our favourite photos and videos to date, and we hope you'll be as moved by them as we were...

Thanks again for your generosity in partnering with us to share God's love with children in need around the world. We'd like to stay in touch so we can tell you about the impact you have made and also share opportunities to help others in need. Whether it is responding to an emergency, engaging in children's ministry, providing clean water or helping people out of poverty, your support is vital and very much appreciated. We'll always be mindful of how often we communicate and you can update your preference at any time.

## Dedication's what you need

In the November issue of the Newsletter I wrote about the 52 Anglican churches dedicated to The Good Shepherd in England. Since then a few of you have asked me more about other church dedications, so here goes.

All churches are dedicated to God, but certainly by the 4<sup>th</sup> century Christian places of worship were often also dedicated to one or more patron saints. An early example of this was in 386 when Saint Ambrose dedicated Milan Cathedral to Gervasius and Protasius whose graves he found nearby, and during the early centuries of the Church in England this practice continued, with St Peter and St Mary early favourites. By the middle ages, churches would often celebrate the feast day of their patron or patrons in what is now known as the 'patronal festival', with local parishioners taking a holiday or naming children after their patron.

The Protestant Reformation of the 16th century swept away centuries of church tradition; the whitewashing of sacred images led to a backlash against saints associated with the church. By the 18th century many churches had even forgotten their dedication entirely, so that when the first books were published listing church dedications many of them had been lost, and others erroneous guesses.

It was the Victorian era that finally revived the interest in patron saints. By this stage many churches had rediscovered their original dedication, whereas others changed the dedication to a new patron saint for any number of reasons. By the 20th century, the dedication's continued usage was once again assured, with common usage referring to "St Andrew's" as opposed to "Girton Parish Church". In many cases these are names that have been used at that site for well over a thousand years.

### *Most common dedications in the Church of England*

St Mary	2368
All Saints	1425
St Peter	1327
St Michael	816
St Andrew	801
St Paul	667
Holy Trinity	578
St John the Baptist	573
St James	467
St Nicholas	436

### *Most common dedications in the Diocese of Ely*

St Mary	70
All Saints	48
St Peter	38
St Andrew	30
Holy Trinity	14
St Paul	13
St Michael	11
St James	11
St John the Baptist	9
St Mary Magdalene	8

Looking at the 354 churches in the diocese of Ely, the same saints top the list but there's still plenty of regional variation.

There are two saint dedications that are unique to our diocese:

The parish church in March, Cambridgeshire with its wonderful angel roof is dedicated to **St Wendreda**, believed to have been a daughter of King Anna of East Anglia in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Anna was one of the first Christian kings of East Anglia and one of Wendreda's sisters was Etheldreda, who went on to found the monastery at Ely that became Ely Cathedral.



*March's angel roof (Photo: David Iliff)*



*Eltisley Parish Church*

And the church at Eltisley is dedicated to **St Pandiona** and St John the Baptist. Little is known of Pandiona, but she was perhaps a Celtic princess who took refuge at Eltisley in the late 9<sup>th</sup> century.

Ely diocese also has one of only two churches in the country dedicated to St Vigor – that at Fulbourn. Similarly St Neot is only found two churches; one being the parish church of St Neots whilst the other is all the way down in Cornwall!

On the other hand, a few saints have yet to find local favour. There are over a hundred churches in the country dedicated to each of St Cuthbert and St Anne, and 87 to St Francis of Assisi, yet none are in the Ely diocese. And the church on Victoria Road from which the Good Shepherd's parish was created is the diocese's only occurrence of St Luke, despite 242 such churches in the country.

## Mater Dolorosa

I climbed the hill alone. No-one would come with me. None of my family. None of my 'friends'. I had to come. For my boy. I had not been a good mother. But I was here for him now. The crowd were hostile, jostling, jeering. I was afraid.

Then I saw a little knot of women, with a young man standing nervously beside them. "May I stand with you?" I said to the woman in the centre. "That's my boy up there". She took my hand and drew me among them. "That's mine", she said, "The one in the middle". We stood in silence for a long time. Mostly I watched my boy. From time to time, I stole a glance at her face. It was strangely calm and...strangely familiar. At last I said, "Have we met before? Where are you from?"

"Nazareth."

"Can't have done then. Never been up north. We're from Bethlehem".

"My son was born in Bethlehem."

Then I knew.

"You...you were the girl in the stable weren't you? It was all you son's fault".

The memories came flooding back. I was at home, nursing my first born. My man was a shepherd. He came home early one morning, babbling about angels and a special baby. Well, I thought he had been at the bottle again. And he had never taken much interest in my baby. "You have to go and see", he said. He kept on about it and eventually I did go and take a peek. But I didn't see anything special. Just another young mother and her baby. And not as beautiful as mine.

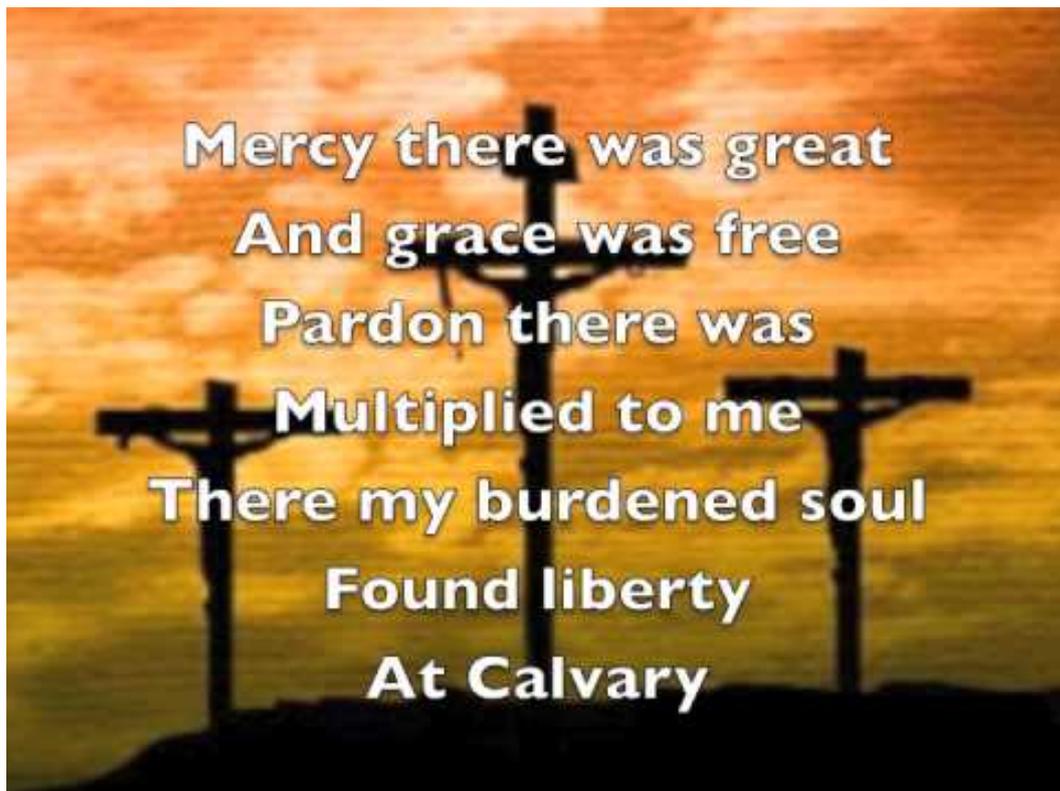
Everything settled down again. I was wrapped up in my Isaac. Didn't go out much. The family from the stable kept themselves to themselves though they said the man was a good jobbing carpenter. Until the strangers came. Rich travellers with foreign accents. And then not long after Herod's thugs. Isaac was crawling by then and I was pregnant once more. I heard them yell, "There's one here". And then one of the brutes picked up Isaac and swung him against a rock.

They said Herod's men were looking for the same infant as the strangers. Something about a prophecy. They got my Isaac and a few other children from the surrounding villages. But not the baby in the stable. His family did a midnight flit the night before. Seems they got a tip-off. But why didn't they warn the rest of us?

Ben-Oni was born not long afterwards. But something was dead within me. I couldn't love him the way I loved Isaac. I went through the motions, did the necessary but I did not bond with him. I dare not love a child again. I think he knew it. Perhaps that's why he grew up wild and got into bad company and bad ways. And ended up here. On a cross.

Then the woman spoke. "Listen, they are speaking to each other." I heard her son say to mine, "Today you will be with me in Paradise". She looked into my eyes and said "Your son and my son; my Son and your sons".

*Terry*



## GLOVE

February morning:  
frost's sharp signature  
on leaf and stem;  
level air bladed  
with shafts of papery light.  
And on a post  
of the path-side railings  
knitted, bright  
with squirrels, rabbits, flowers  
a child's glove  
rescued, pulled down tight  
in hope no doubt  
its owner might retrieve it  
in following hours.

And thought how love  
so often sows itself  
in simple things:  
the hands that fashioned  
and the hands that saved  
and placed it there:  
token of faith, of care  
that there might come  
some moment of elation,  
of loss restored,  
at a frosted fence post  
in the winter air.

*Rex Collinson*



## Sleepout

On Sunday night, two weeks ago, I slept in the grounds of St. Giles Church – Am I crazy? – some people think so, my being an enthusiastic camper! But this time, I had joined a group of about twenty people for the camCrag sponsored sleepout. We raised money to help rough sleepers – both local homeless and refugees stranded at Calais.

So I left my tent at home, having acquired an army surplus basha (glorified tarpaulin) which I pegged to the ground and wriggled underneath.

The sleepout was preceded by an afternoon event. Tea and coffee and soup were to be had and there were stalls, including an Amnesty petition and my favourite ponchos for sale (buy one for the price of four – three go to refugees). Also, there were speeches by local politicians and by Jon Canessa, Chaplain to the homeless.

Later, we sleepers and volunteers joined together to make a hot meal for ourselves.

Then it was time to 'bed down'. The weather was good – no rain at all and the temperature mild for January. So there were no missing faces at the survivors' photo in the morning. But then we didn't get a taste of what it is like to sleep rough in really bad weather.

Morning brought a welcome breakfast of bacon rolls at which we were joined by a homeless gentleman. He had seen the derelict tents pitched in the garden by the organizers to attract attention – and taken advantage of the 'camouflage' provided, to spend the night.

'Fred' (I will protect his identity) said that he survives by selling the Big Issue, eating soup at Wintercomfort and sandwiches, given by local cafes at closing time. He has been sleeping rough for four years, two years on the waiting list for Council housing. He is determined to find a way back into the settled community. As he waved goodbye, he thanked us and we wished him luck!

This was a fun event, very well organised and everyone friendly. The total sum raised was an amazing £11,331! I think this illustrates public concern about homelessness and the plight of refugees. People really do die of hypothermia on our streets, and, of course, increasing numbers are denied what many of us take for granted as our right – a home.

Thanks again to everyone who sponsored me.

*Jane Copping*

## Homelessness in Cambridge

A trip into Cambridge can be a distressing experience during the inclement winter months due to the disturbing presence of 'rough sleepers' left to find shelter in shop doorways and, during the night, in car parks.

In 2016 Cambridge Council set up a charitable fund, well publicised, to enable a real difference to be made, rather than just giving the individual a few coins for a cup of tea! This fund has now made grants to enable some street people to find accommodation. To donate visit [www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity](http://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity). Anyone without electronic means to contribute, should they wish, can send a cheque to Cambs. Community Foundation, Hangar One, The Airport, Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8TG

Also other Town and Gown Associations and City Churches contribute valuable time and money to help the homeless.

The Good Shepherd Church has been associated with Jimmy's since it began in the basement of East Road Baptist Church, supporting it with gifts of all kinds, but mainly food, and now continues with a delivery of donations of food to new Jimmy's on Sunday evenings.

A chat with many of the street people nearly always ends with "Jimmy's is full up. They are sleeping on the living room floor in there." This is often quite true. Jimmy's is the assessment centre and there may be beds elsewhere in Cambridge. I wonder if some become too depressed to chase them up after a cold day in a doorway.

Now for the Good News! The Cambridge Churches Homeless Project Chairman, the Revd. Jon Canessa, is newly commissioned as Bishop's Advisor for Homelessness. Even better news, he has kindly agreed to come and share his news and ideas with us at our 10am service on **March 4** and afterwards at the Bring and Share Lunch. So please come along and bring your questions and suggestions for ideas on how to relieve *next* winter's rough sleepers. Perhaps a coordinated approach can achieve great things and rough sleepers may become a very rare sight in Cambridge

***Ann Callear***



## AN "ANODYNE" GOSPEL?

First published in 2001 and reproduced  
In my 2011 collection REITERATION.

We're mostly glad to have a job,  
While purging urge to make a mark.  
We pass our time in tiny tasks  
That from afar appear absurd.  
Each birth and death a bookends pair;  
But are the volumes in between  
A load of junk for Oxfam shop?  
And will those still unsold at end  
Of month be sent for pulp, which in  
Its turn will form the sporting page  
Of daily rag? And who will care  
In ten years hence which team had won  
That empty cup? And will my kids,  
Who now delight, be jobs, or just  
More hamsters in their wheels, or will  
They give me pride in their success?  
And is success a worthy aim?  
Or is the only goal that's worth  
The game a life that love will fill  
And overflow - to link us all  
In fellowship that scorns the grave?  
And that's the question Jesus gave!

***Henry Disney***



A young lady named Sally, relates an experience she had in a seminary class taught by her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons. One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day. On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts

Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone they disliked or someone who had made them angry in the past. Then he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's friend drew a picture of a girl who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased at the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, but was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats.

As Sally sat down, thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target, Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall. Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus.

A complete hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced.

Dr. Smith said only these words, "I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" (Matthew 25:40)

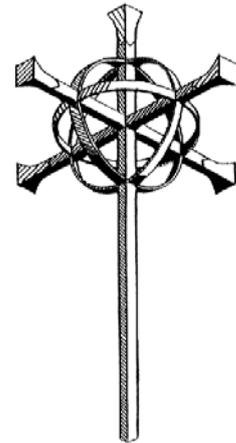
No other words were necessary...the tear-filled eyes of each student focused only on the picture of Christ



## 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  
April Newsletter:  
March 11  
(Publication date March 25)**



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)

