

Moving from A to A: Annunciation to Ascension

*We give you thanks and praise
That the Virgin Mary heard with faith
the message of the angel,
And by the power of your Holy Spirit
Conceived and bore the Word made
flesh.
From the warmth of her womb
To the stillness of the grave
He shared our life in human form.*

These are words that come in the special Eucharistic prayer for the 'Feast of the Annunciation', the day when we wonder afresh at the extraordinary grace of a God who was prepared to be loved in and through the frail flesh of our own humanity.

This year the enormity of the annunciation's implication has brought me to a standstill, as we as a church reel in shock at the sudden loss of one of our church family. From warmth to stillness, from womb to grave, if our Lord has shared in our fragility – not from a sympathetic distance but in His own self, in every physical aspect of living and dying – then this journey we are now experiencing is one He does not just share, but remembers. He knows what it feels like.

It makes me think again of what ended for Mary when she said 'yes'. What would no longer be open for her – perhaps plans and hopes she had to put aside for the rest of her life. Certainly her reputation. Later, her 'rights' as a mother to keep her child safe. As a sword pierced her own heart too, with the costliness of her witness to a life that was so brief, and cut off just at its prime, – knowing what she now knew – would she have changed her answer to that angel?

When death stops everything so unexpectedly, we reel in time – thrown back into past memories, decisions and actions – then are relentlessly dragged forward again into the searing realities of the present and fear of the future. We wonder perhaps what our faith demands of us, when every part of our humanity insists that this ending cannot be right, cannot be how things are supposed to be and is not fair.

This is perhaps what it means to be caught in a moment of annunciation. Because what the Word made flesh affirms with us with every ounce of His own flesh, is that death is indeed *not* fair, *not* right and *not* how things are supposed to be. Gabriel's visit to Mary is not just announcing the arrival of new life, but the beginning of a kingdom that is never to end, in which all things are to be upturned and restored to fullness of life and holiness.

Later this month, we will reach the 'Feast of the Ascension', when we remember Jesus returning home safely to the heart of His Father's bosom, taking with Him our frail flesh now resurrected in all power and glory. In this, all our moments of annunciation become complete.

In annunciation, we are invited to trust that our ending will become a beginning. In ascension, we move past the ending of all suffering and death, into this beginning that can truly never be ended again.

*May our dear brother Phil rest in
peace and rise with Christ in glory.
Amen*

Rachel

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher until further notice please phone	07764 613862
Associate Priest	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann	750013
Assistant Curate	Rev. Rachel Blanchflower	523066
Honorary Curate	Rev. John Polkinghorne	360743
Honorary 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
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	see above
PCC Vice Chairman	Philip Morris	352698
PCC Secretary	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
PCC Treasurer	Jinty Keir	572303
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Terry Barringer	424584
Administrator	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Convenor PCC Buildings and Grounds Team	David Wilson	07899 917831
Convenor PCC Children and Families Team	Judith Gretton-Dann	750013
Convenor PCC Discipleship and Teaching Team	David Maher	see above
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
Children's Society	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Church Hall Bookings	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Coffee Makers	John Phillips	502969
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Ruby Leyshon	352151
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	Evelyn Walker	364067
Fund Raising Events Co-ordinator	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 Area Deanery Synod	Guido Barzini	300497
North Cambridge Council of Churches	David Maher	see above
Registrar of Planned Giving Envelopes	Lilas Davison	354300
Rural Development Movement	Henry Disney	359396
Sacristan	Stuart Keir	572303
Safeguarding Officer	Paula Carter	07952 919701
Sound System	David Wilson	07899 917831
Sunday Lunch Club	Jinty Keir	572303
Sunday Lunch Club	Ruth Banger	07764 613862
Welcomers	Fiona Blows	329822

READINGS FOR MAY

Sundays and holy days

- 6 EASTER 6
Acts 10: 44 - end
1 John 5: 1-6
John 15: 9-17
- 10 ASCENSION DAY
Acts 1: 1-11
Ephesians 1: 15 - end
Luke 24: 44 - end
- 13 EASTER 7
Acts 1: 1-15-17, 21 - end
1 John 5: 9-13
John 17: 6-19
- 20 PENTECOST
Acts 2: 1-21
Romans 8: 22-27
John 15: 26 27, 16: 4-15
- 27 TRINITY SUNDAY
Isaiah 6: 1-8
Romans 8: 12-17
John 3: 1-17

Weekdays at 9.30am

- 2 MORNING PRAYER
Acts 15: 1-6
John 15: 1-8
- 9 HOLY COMMUNION
Acts 17: 15, 22 – 18: 1
John 16: 12 - 15
- 16 MORNING PRAYER
Acts 20: 28 = end
John 17: 11-19
- 23 HOLY COMMUNION
James 4: 13 - end
Mark 9: 38-40
- 30 NO SERVICE

FIRST CALL

- 6 7-8pm in the Chapel

REGULAR SERVICES IN MAY

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 MAY

Sunday May 3 at 10am Holy Communion
with the laying on of hands for healing

Thursday May 10 at 7pm Holy
Communion for Ascension Day

Sunday May 20 at 10am All Age service
for Pentecost

EVENTS IN MAY

Sunday May 13 at 12 noon Bring and Share
Lunch



The Passsion of Jesus

On Good Friday a friend and I caught the train to London to watch this play in Trafalgar Square. It is a production put on at 12 noon and then again at 3.15pm with a large cast. It is very professionally produced with a donkey and a horse for Pilate. The weather was dreadful with steadily increasing rain and steadily decreasing temperatures, which was bad enough for us, but must have been really hard for the actors. It lasts 90 mins and is free.

I would really recommend it together with a longer production, The Life of Christ, which I saw at the Wintershall Estate near Guildford a couple of years ago.in June. This is an all day event with a break for lunch. The drama moves around the estate to different scenes such as a real stable and a boat on the lake. On each occasion a professional actor plays the part of Jesus and he is word perfect. Tickets are needed for this event which will take place on 19-23 June this year.

There is also a Nativity play in December in a barn on the estate at Wintershall.

Further information can be found on the website:
<https://www.wintershall-estate.com>

Janet Witting



MYTHS OLD AND NEW

(First published in 2012 in
Henry Disney's 'Teach us of Love',
Pneuma Springs Publishing)

Today we've shed the myths, which in
The past had linked discordant bits
Of varied lives, to tell a tale
That made a patterned sketch that fits
In wider scheme we'd learned was part
Of plan our loving Lord desires
We weave. Despite our selfish roots
In lowly forms of life, the fires
Of Holy Spirit's lights allow
A glimpse of what we're called to be,
Both now and far beyond the deaths
We fear through lack of faith. To see
This way ahead we only need
To follow Christ, a step at time,
In trust. It's in the smallest things
And lesser loves we learn to chime
And sing along with other folk
As full of doubts as we ourselves.
We wish to walk the pilgrim's road.
We don't require those dusty shelves
Of books that scholars write to hear
The Gospel's call to each and all.
It's not to propositions forged
By minds above our own, so small
And feeble, Christ appeals. It's how
We live our lives and how we care
For people, justice, building hope,
Promoting peace that all may share.
But many turn their backs, avert
Their gaze, and worship idols made
From myths espoused by cheap success;
Or curse their fate with crude tirade.

Henry Disney

TEN THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN CHURCH

1. "Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!"
2. "I was so enthralled, I never even noticed your sermon went 25 minutes overtime."
3. "Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf."
4. "I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I've been sending to TV Evangelists."
5. "I'll volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class."
6. "Forget the denominational minimum salary. Let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do!"
7. "I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before."
8. "Since we're all here, let's start the service early!"
9. "Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas."
10. "Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment to the Lord like our annual stewardship campaign."

BUT SERIOUSLY ...

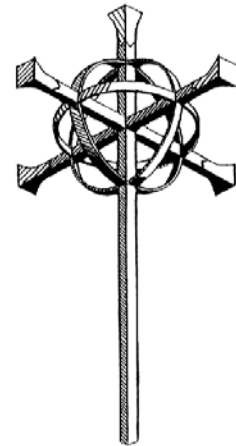
we need help from everyone to keep things going. It's no good thinking that things have been done so they will continue to be done. What could YOU do?



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
PILATES Thursday 12.40-1.40	Lexi	367639
TAI CHI Thursday 1.40-2.40	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 3.13-4.15pm	Arbury Road Vet. Surgery	361911

**Submission date for
June Newsletter:
May 13
(Publication date May 27)**



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

