

I am suffering from temporal dislocation. My times and timing are out of joint.

It started in November. On the day I received my first Christmas card, I also received a notice about the next Bishop's Study Day – on preparing for Easter. It got worse in Advent as I tried to observe a season of expectant waiting and meditation, on sometimes sombre Advent themes, while jostled by canned carols, the glitz and hype of a secular Christmas that seems to start earlier every year, and while the 'to do' lists got ever longer.

Now, just before Christmas, I am writing a letter which most of you will not read until the New Year.

As I wrote my annual Christmas letter to friends and family with an overview of the last year in the Barringer household, I became aware of another 'disconnect'. For me personally 2018 has been rather a good year with satisfying work and enjoyable holidays. But as the year went on, I could hardly bring myself to listen to the news (local, regional and national) let alone know how to pray about it.

It has become something of a cliché that "May you live in interesting times" was a Chinese curse. The Chinese probably said no such thing¹ but we do indeed live in problematically interesting times.

I turned to the Scriptures in search of relief and clarity. Peter reminds us that God's perspective is different to ours: ***But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.*** (2 Peter 3:8)

I turned back to Ecclesiastes, a passage I chose for my aunt's funeral

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die...a time for war, and a time for peace...

I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable (some translations have beautiful) for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot

find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

And I looked again at the line:

My times are in your hand. from Psalm 31, where the psalmist expresses his trust in God in a time of acute stress and distress.

I have given up watching *Doctor Who*, even the Christmas Special. My young people have tired of trying to explain the plots. But I rejoice in acknowledging God as the true Time Lord. Lord of time, history and eternity, "the creator and director of time" (St. Augustine). Time is a property of the universe that God made and sustains by His word of power. The Creator of Time has chosen to work within time - a creative artist choosing to work within a particular medium. *God has made everything beautiful in its time.* He works out his purpose in history, in global history, in the rise and fall of nations and in millions of individual life-histories. Every Christmas we celebrate the intersection of time and eternity, the eternal breaking into the temporal. *When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.* (Gal. 4:4).

But how does all this help me now? How does it help me juggle the "to do" lists and the pleasures and pressures of Christmas every year? How does it help me to face the New Year and listen to the news without falling into despair or cynicism?

Our God has all time and eternity at his disposal. Surely we can trust Him to give us, if not all the time we want, all the time we need. If the times are out of joint, then we know that Christ was born to set them right. Christ, our Time Lord and our Time Manager.

Terry

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev. David Maher	351844
Associate Priest	Rev. Judith Gretton-Dann	750013
Assistant Curate	Rev. Mark Osborne	
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
Community Chaplain	Anastasia Sanders	07467 056296
Churchwarden	Guido Barzini	300497
PCC Chairman	Rev. David Maher	351844
PCC Vice Chairman	Guido Barzini	300497
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	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
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	351844
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 JANUARY

Sundays and holy days

- 6 EPIPHANY
Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72: 10-15
Matthew 2: 1-12
- 13 EPIPHANY 2
Isaiah 43: 1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8: 14-17
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-23
- 20 EPIPHANY 3
Isaiah 62: 1-5
Psalm 36: 5-10
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
John 2: 1-11
- 27 EPIPHANY 4
Nehemiah 6: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31
Luke 4: 14-21

Weekdays at 9.30am

- 9 HOLY COMMUNION
1 John 4: 11-18
Mark 6: 45-52
- 16 MORNING PRAYER
Hebrews 2: 14 - end
Mark 1: 29-39
- 23 HOLY COMMUNION
Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17
Mark 3: 1-6
- 30 MORNING PRAYER
Hebrews 10: 11-18
Mark 4: 1-20

REGULAR SERVICES IN JANUARY

- 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.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The church will close after the service on
Christmas morning and reopen fully on
Wednesday January 9. During the closure
period there will be no midweek services and
only services at 10am in December 30 and
January 6

SPECIAL SERVICES IN JANUARY

Wednesday January 23 Memorial Service
organised by Peasegood and Skeates
Sunday January 27 at 10am All Age
Christingle Service. This will be a Civic
Service and we shall be welcoming the Mayor
and local Councillors

EVENTS IN JANUARY

Thursday January 31 Licensing of Rachel
Blanchflower as Priest in Charge of Great
Gransden at 7pm

A Prayer for the New Year from Christian Aid

Ageless one, who created time
And is sovereign over its every passing moment –
Be near to us at this turning of the year.
Help us to look back and celebrate all you have done
And all you have accomplished through us
To build your kingdom of justice and peace.
Empower us to also face the disappointment
And holy frustration of the change we have yet to see
And the injustice that continues to rob so many of their future.
And above all, fill us with your Spirit
That we might look to the year ahead with hope, determination and love
For we need your perspective as we continue to work with you
For an end to poverty, and a future for all.
Amen.

HE ALONE

(first published in Henry Disney's
'TEACH US OF LOVE" 2012,
Pneuma Springs Publishin UK)

We adulate we wish we were,
We long to emulate. For some
It's star of pop, of film or else
Of soap on box. For some it's sport
That fills their empty mugs. For some
A writer, painter, scholar wins
Their prize. There's those for whom their praise
Is aimed at Hitler, Mafia boss
Or like. But most beneath the froth
Adore themselves if only they'd
Attain their idol's high esteem.
A wandering Jew who lived beside
A lake in distant land, in time
That's almost lost in mists of past,
Invited us to worship God
Alone; to walk with Him in trust
For He alone was worthy Son
Of Man, as only He was true
To call to look to God alone.
For Him the will of Father Lord
Was sole concern. It's He who'd found
He's freed from need to bow the knee
To those considered great by mob
Or by decree. He ended on
A cross of dreadful pain and shame:
But still He sought the will of God,
And so He rose again to call
Us all to walk His way of love
And hope towards a goal beyond
The tinsel shows this world purveys.

I AM THE NEW YEAR

By Pastor Barry Black

Deuteronomy 11.12

"...the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."

I will help you to say goodbye to the previous year filled with "yesterdays" and comprised of Disappointments and surprises

Losses and gains

Failures and Successes

Defeats and victories

A year which may be remembered by recalling...

Fleeting moments

Delightful memories and good times

The sobering reality of missed opportunity

The insight gained from daily living

The unexpected surprise of reconnecting with old friends.

The joy of sins forgiven

Golden words fitly spoken (Proverbs 25:11)

And the fruit of obedience and pleasing the Lord

Yes, the old year is a time in which we can recall with gratitude...

Blessings, protection, and rewards from the Providential hand of God

Grace that was sufficient for our every need

Mercy received when justice would have just as easily been fitting for us.

And realizing that even bad things that happened could have been worse...much worse.

May your past productively transition to the future as you experience...

The warm daylight of lessons hard learned,

and the fading sunset of the pain that was long endured while living through them.

The priceless value found in genuine friends,

and the sober understanding of the shackles of superficial people who merely use us.

The glorious journey of...

The unmatched wealth in reading and studying the Bible

The unparalleled stability of Christian fellowship

And the unrivaled enjoyment of serving the Lord.

And as you experience the wise departure from...

The comfortable enticement of procrastination

The deceptive decoy of excuses

The childish pleasure of pettiness

And the dull applause of mediocrity.

I AM THE NEW YEAR.

I am...

The challenge of new goals

The desire for spiritual growth

The continual burden for lost souls

The anticipation of answered prayer

And the eager expectation of Christ's soon return for His Bride, the Church.

I am the New Year, I may only be lived one moment at a time.

I am replete with the unknown

and rife with...

Opportunities to trust

Unexpected moments of blessing and delight

Satisfaction for spiritual truth and hunger

Motivations to give of your time and effort to people and projects

And the joy and privilege of serving the Lord in new and exciting ways.

YES, I AM THE NEW YEAR!

15 EXERCISES WE'D BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT IN 2019...

- ~ Jumping on the bandwagon
- ~ Wading through paperwork
- ~ Running around in circles
- ~ Pushing your luck
- ~ Playing in traffic
- ~ Spinning your wheels
- ~ Adding fuel to the fire
- ~ Beating your head against the wall
- ~ Climbing the walls
- ~ Beating your own drum
- ~ Dragging your heels
- ~ Jumping to conclusions
- ~ Grasping at straws
- ~ Fishing for compliments
- ~ Throwing your weight around
- ~ Passing the buck
- ~ Running with scissors

I am very grateful to Phyl and Terry Barringer who both sent me explanations of the words of The Twelve Days of Christmas. I've selected one of them and it appears on the following pages.



The "Twelve Days of Christmas" are the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany (January 6th) when, it is believed, the Three Wise Men arrived upon the scene of the nativity. The world in general celebrates Christmas for only one day, but the Church celebrates the event for twelve days because it is believed that the gift of Christ is with all people for twelve months of the year.

The musical origin of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is that of a "catechism song." Between the years 1558 and 1829, those of the Catholic belief in England were prohibited from practicing their faith, either publicly or privately. Without regular mass, sacraments, or catechism lessons from the priest, there was little parents could do to help their children learn and remember the aspects of Catholicism. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was created in order to keep Catholic beliefs alive.

The song served as a memory aid, to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith during a time when to be in possession of any "writing" which indicated adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get a person imprisoned, but could also mean death by hanging alone, or by being "hung, drawn and quartered," a particularly brutal and violent method of execution.

Since the words to the song appeared little more than rhyming nonsense, however, it could be sung by young Catholics without fear of retribution. Since the catechism to which it referred was rather ecumenical, the song could probably be claimed as Protestant in religious tone, if questions happened to be forthcoming. In a sense, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an allegory with each of the items contained within the words a symbol of something which bears religious significance

The gifts referenced contain hidden meanings to the teachings of the Catholic faith. The "true love" mentioned does not refer to an earthly suitor, but was meant to represent God Himself. The "me" who is the recipient of the presents was intended to symbolize every person who had been baptized into the Catholic faith.



"A partridge in a pear tree" was representative of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "*Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so....*" A mother partridge will feign injury in order to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. Children hearing these words would know...and understand...the parallel between the acts of this mother bird and the sacrifice of Christ. In other words, it was representative of the one true God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Some believe this to also be significant of the "tree" upon which Christ was crucified. In ancient times, a partridge was often used as a mythological symbol of a divine and sacred king.



"Two turtle doves" was representative of the Old and New Testaments...gifts from God. Since the dove symbolizes peace, it was believed that the Gospel contained in these two scriptures, when practiced, would bring peace.



"Three French hens" was representative of Faith, Hope and Charity...the Theological Virtues...sometimes referenced as Faith, Hope and Love...the three gifts of the "Spirit that abide" (*I Corinthians 13*). The French hens may also represent God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost.



"Four calling birds" was representative of the Four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ and/or the Four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



"Five golden rings" was representative of the first Five Books of the Old Testament (also known as the "Pentateuch" or the "Books of Moses") which relate the history of mankind's fall from grace and chronicle the law condemning humankind for their sins.



"Six geese a-laying" was representative of the Six Days of Creation.



"Seven swans a-swimming" was representative of the "Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit" or the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic faith (*I Corinthians 12:8-11; Romans 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4:10-11*).



"Eight maids a-milking" was representative of the Eight Beatitudes.



"Nine ladies dancing" was representative of the Nine Choirs of Angels or the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit, namely: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (*Galatians 5:22-23*).



"Ten lords a-leaping" was representative of the Ten Commandments.



"Eleven pipers piping" was representative of the eleven faithful Disciples.



"Twelve drummers drumming" was representative of the twelve points of belief or doctrine in the Creed of the Apostles:

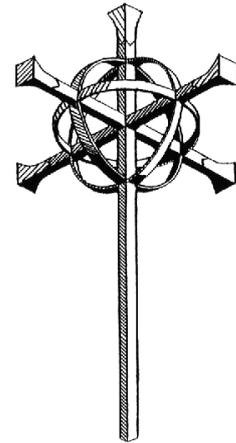
- I.** Believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
 - II.** And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
 - III.** Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
 - IV.** Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried;
 - V.** The third day He rose again from the dead;
 - VI.** He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 - VII.** From thence he shall come to judge the Quick and the dead;
 - VIII.** I believe in the Holy Ghost;
 - IX.** Belief in the communion of saints;
 - X.** The forgiveness of sins;
 - XI.** The resurrection of the body;
 - XII.** And the life everlasting.
- AMEN.**



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)	Anastasia Sanders	07467 956296
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 10am-12 noon	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
February Newsletter:
January 13
(Publication date January 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

