

G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S

Ministry Team Letter

Pat writes:

The Sundays of February bring us to a short period between Epiphany and Lent known as Ordinary Time. There is a much longer period of Ordinary Time later in the year between Pentecost and the Kingdom Season, but for us now February is a month in which we stand between the festivities of Christmas and the seriousness of Lent.

But before the time of Lenten preparation begins, we have these four weeks of Ordinary Time. The colour for Ordinary Time is green. Our service booklets are green, the priest's vestments are green, the various hangings in the church are green. They are all a reminder that this Church season is about growth – the growth of our faith and understanding and the growth of our commitment to Christ, both as individuals and as a church community.

Each year at this time we have a service for Education Sunday. This is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in the world of education, and it has been celebrated in this country every year since 1878. It is the day when churches join to offer to God the work of education, in schools of all kinds, in colleges and universities and in the church. It is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of education, to recognise the challenges, and to support and pray for all who are involved with teaching.

This year Education Sunday falls on 12 February, and at the 9.45 Eucharist the preacher will be Mrs Anthea Kenna, head teacher at St Anne's School. We look forward very much to hearing what she has to share with us about her work here in Godmanchester.

We often associate education and learning with children and schools, but in fact all of us have opportunities to learn all the time in a variety of situations. Learning doesn't stop when we leave school – and the church is one of the many places where we continue to learn. Sunday by Sunday the readings and sermon offer opportunities for reflection and challenge, not only for the adults, but also for the teenagers in the Vestry Group who disappear for twenty minutes after the Gospel reading for their own time of discussion. The members of Children's Church look at these same readings and do their own reflecting and craft work, which they share with us at the end of the service.

We also have weekday opportunities for learning, especially through the Emmaus Home Groups, which meet fortnightly for Bible study, discussion and prayerful fellowship, and through the Foundations Groups for those who would like to explore the basics of Christianity. Meeting once a month are the Bible Study Group and the Prayer Group – both providing opportunities for growth. The forthcoming season of Lent provides weekly study groups – see the details later

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in the magazine. There is, too, our newly-named group for under-fives and their carers, now called Stepping Stones, which meets at the Baptist Centre at 1.30 pm each Monday in term time.

Each of these activities provide us with opportunities to listen to God's word and to develop healthy attitudes towards God, towards others and towards ourselves. They are built on our conviction that in his earthly ministry Jesus was a wonderful teacher, whose life continues to inspire and teach us today.

The weeks of Ordinary Time are a good time for us each to consider the growth of our own Christian faith. Any member of the ministry team can tell us more about the opportunities for learning and growth in our own church. After all it's what these green Sundays are all about.

Yours in Christ,
Pat Saunders

Some prayers appropriate for Education Sunday you may like to choose from:

We pray for all those around the world who want to learn, but are denied their right to education. We pray too for those who teach, especially those who work with few resources and little support. We give thanks for the knowledge, skills and understanding we have, and we ask your help to remember how much we have still to learn. Teach us to respect wisdom, wherever we find it. As you walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, walk with us as we try to

understand. Open our hearts and minds to new learning even when it challenges us to change. Give us courage to tackle injustice and guide us towards a new, shared future, where everyone has the chance to learn, and all may grow in wisdom and understanding.

Linda Jones, CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

www.cafod.org.uk/resources/worship

Learning to live is such a wonderful but difficult business, Lord:

learning to know and to understand,
learning to love and to care.

We so often fall short,

but you prompt us to try and try again.

So, bring us to that day when we know as we are known, and love as we are loved.

the day of the joy of your kingdom.

In the name and grace of Jesus we ask this.

O Jesus

Be the canoe that holds me in the sea of life.

Be the steer that keeps me straight.

Be the outrigger that supports me in times of great temptation.

Let thy spirit be my sail that carries me through each day. Keep my body strong, so that I can paddle steadfastly on, in the long voyage of life.

A New Hebridean Prayer from *The Oxford Book of Prayer* edited by George Appleton

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Interregnum – the end is in sight!

Welcome to our new parish priest

The Revd Andrew McKearney will be licensed at a special service at 7.00 pm on Thursday 27 April. All are welcome at this joyful occasion, at which our Patrons (Westminster Abbey) will present Andrew to us, and he will be licensed by the Bishop of Huntingdon.

At a reception in St Anne's School after the service there will be an opportunity for representatives of the local churches, schools and the community to welcome Andrew and Sarah to Godmanchester.

Andrew's first Sunday with us will be the 30 April.

On 6 January, our parish priest elect, Andrew McKearney (pronounced to rhyme with McBernie), and his wife Sarah, very kindly took time out to give an interview for the *Parish News*. Primed with Andrew's entry from *Crockford's Clerical Directory* and armed with a set of questions (and camera!), Peter Irving, Lawrence Back and I set off for Andrew's vicarage in Cambridge. You will read below all that you are looking forward to knowing.

Andrew McKearney b.1957

Education

Selwyn College, Cambridge. Edinburgh Theological College. Ordained deacon 1981. Ordained priest 1982.

Previous posts:

1982 – 84: Precentor, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, St Andrew's Diocese
 1984 – 88: Chaplain, St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, Edinburgh Diocese
 1988 – 94: Rector, Hardwick, Toft w Caldecote and Childerley, Ely Diocese
 1994 – 06: Vicar, Church of the Good Shepherd, Chesterton, Cambridge, Ely Diocese

You've spent a long time in Scotland.

Are you Scottish?

The name McKearney is actually Irish! My grandfather was a dockyard worker on the Clyde; he was brought up a Roman Catholic but married a Presbyterian girl, and then came south and brought up his children as Anglicans as a compromise!

Tell us about your children.

We have four children. Our elder son is married, and is a doctor in Exeter with three children, two sons and a baby daughter (she is of course the most beautiful baby you could imagine!). Our two daughters are in their twenties, the elder is a physiotherapist in Manchester and was married last July, and the younger is a teacher in London. Our younger son has just started at university this academic year.

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What are your leisure activities? Do you have any hobbies, and what would be your idea of a good day off? What did Santa bring you for Christmas?

My favourite leisure activity is visiting the opera, and I enjoy going to the opera in Cambridge and in London. My best Christmas present was a pair of opera glasses, which were given to me by Sarah. I do lots of reading, Dostoevsky is a great favourite, and I enjoy walking, swimming and cycling. I have sung with Cambridge University Music Society and have been known to play guitar solos at Harvest Suppers!

Sarah, could you tell us something about your work.

As you know, I am a licensed lay minister (the modern name for a Reader) and do work with Andrew in the parish. However, I was trained as a dance movement therapist, and I now work four days a week with adults who have profound and multiple learning disabilities. I work in association with Royal Mencap, and in March of last year started an Advocacy Project for people with profound learning disabilities in Cambridgeshire.

How did you get into this work?

I felt called to this work about thirty years ago and worked in the Ida Darwin Hospital at Fulbourn in the 1970s. The project that I am working on at present is probably the only one of its kind in the country. The word 'Advocate' is often linked with the law, but our role is not legal; we are the voice of those who are

are not able to put their thoughts, wishes and feelings into words.

Did you enjoy your time as cathedral precentor and chaplain in Scotland?

Yes I did. I served two curacies in Scotland, both in Cathedrals. This was partly because Scotland is very different from England in that churches have to pay for their own curates, so it is really only larger congregations in big city churches and cathedrals that can offer curacies. A particular highlight was sorting out the arrangements for the consecration of Richard Holloway as Bishop of Edinburgh. I enjoy liturgy very much and consider it very important; it is for me something of an artistic thing, including the planning of music, words, movement and colour. It needs almost an intuitive sense to get right.

Hardwick, Toft with Caldecote and Childerley seem a million miles away from Edinburgh.

Yes! They were a huge jump from a large city parish, but I absolutely loved my time there. I particularly enjoyed being a known person in a known community, and experiencing parish ministry, which I had not experienced in Scotland; this is something that I am looking forward to again in Godmanchester.

According to your web site you have the biggest parish in the diocese with a population of 16,000 people. How has the parish developed since you've been here?

I have been here for eleven and a half years. The Church of the Good Shepherd

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is situated in the middle of a very large and mixed estate, consisting of social housing, rented housing and a smaller proportion of privately owned houses. The church is a small congregation in a very large parish! But we have sustained a small Sunday School, a church choir, an excellent ministry team and a caring, generous and welcoming congregation. We hold Parade Services and Healing Services in addition to Parish Communion. The Healing Ministry has been an important development for us, given the nature of the parish, and we were delighted to be asked to prepare a presentation for the diocese on how we have developed the Healing Ministry here. Opportunities for ecumenism are limited, but we are part of an ecumenical Youth Project, funded in part by the Church Urban Fund to which we were able to apply for money because we are a 'container parish', containing an area of urban deprivation. In addition I helped to establish and run the Red Hen Project, employing a Home School Worker for three of the five schools in the parish. There are eight Homes for the Elderly, with many of which we have good relationships, and take monthly services there. We are committed to being a parish church in challenging circumstances!

Can you tell us something about the post of Diocesan Adviser for Spirituality. Will you be able to carry on with this post when you come to Godmanchester?

I was appointed by Bishop Anthony. The post has a number of dimensions. A network of spiritual directors works within the diocese and I am responsible

for trying to keep in touch with that network, helping people find a spiritual director who are looking for one, helping train people to be spiritual directors on a two-year ecumenical training course, putting on one-off diocesan days and publicising events, courses and retreat houses. Parishes and deaneries which are wanting to put on courses on prayer and spirituality might ask my advice, and I help to promote weeks of guided prayer in parishes and deaneries. Spirituality is rather the flavour of the month and the work load is increasing to such a point where the Officer for Spirituality will either have to be a part-time appointment or develop into more of a team approach.

What is it about Godmanchester that attracted you to the post?

When I left Scotland I had only worked in cities, and coming to my three villages I really enjoyed working in rural ministry. I then felt called to my present inner-city church, where my role has been very different from either my time spent in Cathedral ministry or my time spent in rural ministry. Godmanchester feels different yet again and that is a real gift to me. I like the idea of working in a parish which is also a town, with a civic dimension to the ministry of the church, and a lively and committed congregation.

Do you like living on main roads?

Well, in Edinburgh we lived on the main Edinburgh to Glasgow road, and it was also the road to Murrayfield, the rugby stadium! So neither of us envisage any problems living in a double-glazed vicarage in Godmanchester!

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What are you going to miss most?

The people. Having spent such a long time here there are so many people whose joys and sorrows I have shared, and I shall miss them very much. I found it very hard to tell them that I had been appointed to Godmanchester and would be moving on.

What are you looking forward to most?

Again it is the people I am looking forward to meeting. I am a team person, I have a good ministry team here and I am looking forward to working with the good team you already have in Godmanchester.

Do you expect that we shall be able to continue our role as a training parish?

I'm not sure there is any such thing as a training parish any more, rather a training vicar. I have had one non-stipendiary and three stipendiary curates and students from both Westcott House and from Ridley Hall, and I hope that will continue in Godmanchester in some form.

A question for Sarah. Could you sum Andrew up?

Well, he is an excellent parish priest; but he can be too tidy!

At the end of the interview Lawrence took some photographs of Andrew and Sarah, which we hope to use in a forthcoming issue of the magazine. The overriding impression we brought away with us was that Andrew and Sarah are both really looking forward to coming to Godmanchester. They are a charming couple, who, we feel sure, will settle in well here. Sarah smiles easily and

Andrew possesses a delightful sense of humour, and laughs a lot! Well done humour and laughs a lot! Well done Penny and Trevor for finding them. Sometimes during the grey months after Christmas we are desperate to find something to look forward to in the spring. Well, in Andrew and Sarah, I think we may have found it.

Joan Jackson

Prayer of the month as our thoughts turn towards Lent

Let me hold fast to you, beautiful Lord, whom the angels themselves yearn to look upon. Wherever you go, I will follow you. If you pass through fire, I will not flinch, I fear no evil when you are with me. You carry my griefs, because you grieve for my sake. You passed through a narrow doorway from death to life, to make it wide enough for all to follow. Nothing can ever separate me from your love.

Bernard of Clairvaux 1090-1153

Mothers' Union

Our January meeting this year took a 'Do you remember?' format. People were invited to bring along things to look at and ideas to talk about, from the past in Godmanchester. Molly Jones had moved to the town before she went to school, and she had some very interesting tales to tell about her childhood here. She had

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brought a framed picture, which showed The Causeway with the old vicarage still in place. We were all fascinated by old school photographs and had great fun trying to identify different people. We all passed a very enjoyable afternoon.

At the February meeting Sylvia Watson and Jeanne Day will talk about 'The Work of the Action and Outreach Unit.'

Jean Morgan

Wives' Group

At our January meeting Joan and Jack Hicks gave us a most interesting talk about the life and work of John Fox. Many people in Godmanchester will remember John, who was Joan's first husband. Jack and John were work colleagues in their early careers. John first started woodcarving as a hobby, using off-cuts from his job as a pattern maker, but his skill soon became apparent and he eventually made woodcarving his career. He and Joan moved to Godmanchester when they found a suitable house with adjoining workshop. Jack and Joan brought many examples of John's work which illustrated the progression of his career. They ranged from small animal carvings to life size heads and large human forms. One of John's carvings can be seen in church by the St Ann's altar. John's career sadly ended when he became terminally ill, but Jack and Joan's presentation and display gave us a fascinating insight into his life, and made a fitting tribute to his creative skill.

Next month the date of our meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7 February** at the request of our speaker Maggie Gillett. Maggie will bring along her puppy Lyric, and tell us what being a puppy walker for Guide Dogs for the Blind entails. The meeting will take place in the Church Hall at 8.00 pm and new members are always welcome.

Barbara Thirlwall

Charity of the Month –Corrymeela

The Corrymeela Community began in 1964, when a small group of Christians were inspired by the need to bridge the gap between the Catholic/Nationalist, Protestant /Loyalist groups in Northern Ireland. It's significant that the terms get muddled: the hatred between the two groups arises from misunderstanding, and has a long history.

The founders bought some property near Ballycastle on the Antrim Coast – surely one of the most beautiful coasts in Europe. They used it to spread their message of reconciliation in Ulster; and they have encouraged others in the rest of the UK to share their vision.

Of course they hold conferences, write papers and so on. But one of their most promising contributions to the peace process has been to organise holidays for children, from both sides of the religious divide, so that they get to learn by experience that the others don't have horns and tails. In a generation's time or

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so, that may pay off; it's worth investing in.

Jenny Craddock

This month's cover

On 3 February we celebrate Candlemas, the Festival of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, and for our cover, Lawrence Back has featured part of the window above the altar dedicated to St Ann, the Virgin's mother.

All Age Worship at St Mary's

Our provision for children continues to go from strength to strength, and all children are welcome to come along to Children's Church, which meets in the Church Hall during the 9.45 Sunday Eucharist (during term-time). Most children prefer to be in children's church, where they do activities and receive Christian teaching appropriate to their age, rather than to stay in church with their parents.

We also have a regular All Age Eucharist at 9.45am (approximately once a month), which is more informal, and more accessible to all ages. There is also a monthly 'Grassroots' informal service at 11.30 am, in which most of our baptisms take place.

Here are the dates of the All Age Eucharist and Grassroots services over the next few months:

All Age Eucharist (9.45am)

Grassroots (11.30am)

5 February	12 February
5 March	12 March
9 April (Palm Sunday)	

(no service in April, because of Easter)

21 May 14 May

25 June 11 June

Lent Groups

As usual, those who wish to, are invited to come together for discussion and fellowship during Lent this year. We plan to have one evening group, meeting at the Quaker Centre, from 7.45 until 9.30 pm on Mondays (beginning 6 March) and one daytime group meeting at 59 London Road from 1.30 until 3.00pm on Wednesdays (beginning 8 March). For the daytime group it would be wonderful if we could offer a crèche for those who need to bring pre-school children with them. If you might be able to help with a crèche on one or more of the dates, and you have CRB clearance, please contact me (450852). Each group will meet for five sessions, and the themes for this year's discussions will be published in next month's magazine and in the weekly newsletters.

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Lewis Stretch's thought-provoking letter to churchwarden Trevor Weedon, and Trevor's reply, will, I hope, have stirred others to comment in the magazine. I cannot share Lewis's confidence that the *Book of Common Prayer* will encourage more people to come to church (to be fair he did not seem to be recommending use solely of the *BCP*). That 'devotional power-house', containing some of the 'most majestic and beautiful prose in the English language',¹ is none the less

¹ Quotations from the Prayer Book Society's website.

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couched in 17th century language with many unfamiliar words and would, I fear, exclude more people than it attracted. (We still use it at Evensong, where the few who attend find inspiration and comfort in its use, though it has not noticeably improved the attendance.)

Nevertheless, some of the points Lewis makes deserve attention. It is not for me, a non-communicant, to comment upon the main service being always a Eucharist, and a weekly Eucharistic main service is now well established and accepted not only at St Mary's but in the Church of England generally. But it might help to narrow the generation gap for those who have grown up with a weekly Eucharist to know that some of our congregation are old enough to remember when a monthly communion was the norm (and in some places it was celebrated only three times a year) and it is only over the last fifty years or so that a return to the weekly communion of the early church has gradually become generally accepted. I am not advocating any change, simply pointing out that some of us still have to come fully to terms with the 'new' way of doing things. It is not enough simply to say 'You can't turn back the clock' – we are in fact deliberately doing so and some of us need help to understand why.

On the 'effectiveness of our ministry', there is something for us to learn, and here Lewis's analogy with the 'fixed liturgies' of sport is quite a telling one. There is much to be said for newcomers being able to follow the service without difficulty and, if they return the following

week, with or without friends or relations, not to find too much difference. I think on the whole we have achieved this with our seasonal booklets, but it can easily be forgotten if we are not always conscious of the need to cater for the stranger in our midst. Even more is there a need to reach out to those who have perhaps *never* been in a church. I believe we have made significant progress over the last few years to be a less exclusive body of people – but what is each of us doing for the 95% who don't attend?

Just a few thoughts to ponder on

Dorothy Groves

I, too, was very interested to read the correspondence which has passed between Mr Stretch and Trevor Weedon as printed in last month's magazine.

I am not sure how long Mr Stretch has lived in the parish of St Mary the Virgin, but when my husband and I, with our three children, came to Godmanchester and the church, now over 35 years ago, the morning service was always a eucharistic one. At that time it was the ASB, (which has since given way to *Common Worship*), and not the *Book of Common Prayer*, which was in regular use.

Coming from the evangelistic Round Church in Cambridge, we had never been used to a main eucharistic service, but a service of Morning Prayer from the *BCP*, and a monthly communion service as Dorothy has mentioned in her article above. We did not know what to expect in

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our new church, and certainly the service was unlike any that we had formerly experienced. However, what was so delightful for us, was the very friendly way in which we were greeted and received. Not only did the then Vicar, Neil Munt, chat with us at the door and welcome us, but individual members of the congregation also came up to us, greeted us, and made themselves known (in particular I remember dear Peter Summers and Barbara Sibley).

I agree entirely with Trevor's view that not only would returning to the use of the *Book of Common Prayer* more frequently not bring any new members into the church, but we might well lose some of those who already worship with us. What is very important indeed, I feel, is the way in which we as individuals welcome any newcomers to our church and show them that our parish is a place in which Christian love abounds. This is important not only during our service, but, perhaps even more so, during the coffee time in the church hall afterwards. That friendship and love will bring newcomers in, and keep them in, as it has in the past.

Of course, I would agree with Mr Stretch that it is very important that we should extend our mission to the large number of those in the parish who, at the present time, do not worship with us. This has been happening already to some extent, as those who worship at 9.45 am will be aware, with the much larger number of young parents who now regularly fill our pews with their children. It is delightful to see them, and to hear the children tell us

of their doings and their craft activities in the Children's Church under their inspired leaders. I am sure our new vicar will come with his own ideas of how we can continue to enlarge our mission to reach those in our town who at present are outside any church community.

Joan Jackson

This month's book review

***My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult**

This is a heartbreaking novel raising ethical and moral questions. By the age of thirteen Anna has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions and injections to help her sister Kate fight leukaemia. Anna was born to this purpose her parents tell her – which is why they love her so much. However, the novel opens with Anna seeking an attorney (the author is American) because she is refusing to give her sister one of her kidneys. She wants to sue her parents for the rights to her own body.

The author takes us carefully through the reaction to this decision by a profoundly stressed family. The characters are all well defined and the question is always there. 'Where does the patient's right to stay alive infringe upon the life of someone else dear to her'? I am still (weeks later) reeling over the ending of this poignant and beautifully written story.

Jean White

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Valentine's Lunch

There will be a Valentine's Lunch in the Church Hall on Sunday, 12 February. Tickets (£5.00 and £2.50) are available from Val Pithey (Tel.454851).

Closed Doors – Hotels

Regrettably, there are some Hotel Groups in the United Kingdom that have decided not to allow Gideon Bibles in their bedrooms. Indeed, one chain has taken a decision to remove all Bibles from guest bedrooms. The reason given is that 'they have decided not to promote any particular religion in favour of any other religion. If a guest would like the use of a Bible, there will always be one available from the hotel's reception desk'.

The Gideons are powerless to do anything about this without the help of fellow Christians. We know how important it can be to have access to a Bible when one is in a hotel room away from home, alone and possibly under stress. There is a Bible in the Gideon National Office with the following words written inside the front cover: 'In the summer of 1978 a woman entered the third floor room of a Brighton hotel intending to throw herself to death on the pavement below. However, she saw this Bible and read about the love of our Heavenly Father and later told the proprietor how He had prevented her from committing suicide.'

What if no Bible had been in the room?

This situation is an urgent matter for prayer, remembering that God 'is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or

imagine, according to His power that is at work within us' Ephesians 3: 20.

If you stay in a hotel or guest house in the United Kingdom and there is no Bible in the room, please speak to the hotel staff or complete a 'comments card', to register your disappointment at not finding a Gideon Bible in your room. Thank you.

Trevor Weedon (Gideon Member)

Food for Thought With Valentine's Day in mind

Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person.

Anon

The very first Valentine card – a legend *

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that married men wanted to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could – until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. Whilst he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on

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14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'Your Valentine'.

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

Love is ... *

What do children know about love? When questioned, some four to eight year olds came up with the following:

- When you're born and see your mummy for the first time. That's love.
- Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.
- If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who hates you.
- Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.
- I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.
- You have to fall in love before you get married. Then when you're married, you just sit around and read books together.
- I let my big sister pick on me because my Mum says she only picks on me because she loves me.
- Love goes on even when you stop breathing and you pick up where you left off when you reach Heaven.
- Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying it.
- When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.

World Church continues to grow *

The world Christian population continues to grow. It stood at 2,140 million people in the middle of 2005, the latest published figure, some 140 million more than five years earlier. This is one-third, 33%, of the world's population, which stood at 6,450 million in 2005.

Furthermore the increase in Christian numbers is growing slightly faster than the population generally, 1.3% per annum against 1.2%. This is because of the huge continuing growth in Asia and Africa (respectively growing at 2.6% and 2.4% per year). It is only in Europe where the numbers are decreasing.

However, although they have smaller numbers overall, the Muslims and the Hindus are growing faster than the Christians. There were 1,310 million Muslims in 2005, growing at 1.9% per year, and 870 million Hindus, growing at 1.5% per year, but it will be many decades before these overtake the number of Christians! The charismatic independent churches are growing the fastest (2.4% per year), something which is also seen in the growth of the charismatic black churches in the UK.

Dr Peter Brierley, Executive Director, Christian Research.

* Taken from *The Parish Pump – Church News Service*

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ChildLine in your Community

ChildLine 0800 1111

ChildLine is the UK's free 24-help line for children and young people.

Everyday well over 800 children and young people from the Midlands and East Anglia region call ChildLine.

Unfortunately due to a lack of funds our trained counsellors are only able to answer about half of those calls. To date ChildLine has counselled over 1.5 million children in the UK on issues including bullying, abuse and family concerns.

Children and young people can call ChildLine at any time. The largest proportion of calls come from young people aged 12-15, though ChildLine does receive calls from children as young as 5 years old.

This year it will cost ChildLine £15 million to operate its service nationally. As we receive only 10% of our income from statutory funds we rely heavily on the support and generosity of people like yourselves to keep the help line running.

It costs ChildLine £3 to answer each call, £330 to answer all the calls a volunteer counsellor will receive in one year and £1,598 to recruit and train just one volunteer counsellor. Our aim is the answer every child who calls. You can help us to achieve this.

A sobering thought for the New Year

Martin, 13, called ChildLine from a

phone box at 3.00 am on Christmas Eve. He told the counsellor that he was very cold and didn't know where to go, and explained that his mum had thrown him out of the house after an argument. She had been very angry, sworn at him and hit him on the head a number of times. Martin had been to a friend's house but hadn't been able to stay the night.

Martin said that his mum suffered from mental health problems and had hit him before, but this time was worse – his head was hurting and he felt very ill. The ChildLine counsellor was concerned about Martin's health and asked him to describe how he felt. Martin said he was dizzy and really cold and he was finding it hard to stay awake. The counsellor explained to Martin that he might be in danger and that it was important for him to see a doctor as soon as possible. At first Martin was reluctant to say where he was but he finally agreed to be picked up by ambulance and taken to hospital. The counsellor stayed on the line, reassuring Martin, until the ambulance arrived to take him to safety.

Every penny raised by you will make a difference to children in the Huntingdonshire area.

*ChildLine Midlands and East Anglia, Units
2/2A, Prince of Wales Court, 6 Church
Street, Nottingham NG6 0GD Tel:0870 336
2955 Fax:0870 336 2956*

* * * * *

If you fall, your friend can help you up. But if you fall without having a friend nearby you are really in trouble.

Ecclesiastes 4:10

G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S

November PCC Meeting

Minutes in full of all PCC meetings are displayed at the back of the church. Here are some key points from the November meeting. Please note there was no PCC meeting in December.

The Finance Committee report was presented by Colin Thirlwall, Chairman of the Finance Committee. The following points were stressed:

There is an urgent need to increase personal giving.

* Future budgets should include provision for an organist/choirmaster

* As the running costs of the church cannot be financed out of personal giving the importance of fund-raising through social events should be highlighted. It was agreed the Social Committee should be convened as soon as possible to address this problem.

* A key objective for the future should be fund-raising for specific projects e.g. roof repairs. It must not be assumed that money can be taken from general funds or reserves.

* Catheryn Turrell has taken over from Roy Norris as Secretary of the Fabric Committee.

Work has begun on re-patching the north aisle roof, and replacing accompanying stone-work.

The three new churchyard notice-boards are now in place, and commemorative plaques will be fixed shortly.

Trevor Weedon reported that our Parish share for 2006 would be £53,258. This will be reduced by 2.5% because we pay by direct debit.

Penny Jones reported that twelve applications had been received for the vacant benefice, and four candidates (two men, and two women) were short-listed for interview, which would take place on 2 December 2005

JohnThackray proposed a vote of thanks to the Revd Ally Barrett for all the work she has done during the interregnum.

Peter Irving

And finally ...

Still writing your Christmas thank you letters? Cliff Michelmore, the former BBC broadcaster and writer, likes to tell the story of a letter he received from his nephew. 'Dear Uncle Cliff, I am sorry it has taken me so long to thank you for my Christmas present. It would serve me right if you forgot my birthday, which is next Tuesday'.

(With thanks to Phyllis Shinder and her 100 favourite after-dinner stories.)

G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S

The Registers

Funerals

2005

23 December Anthony John Brown
30 December Raymond Campbell

2006

10 January Marie Carter

Baptisms

1 January Tom McKie

The Lectionary

5 February **4 before Lent**
Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

12 February **3 before Lent (Education Sunday)**
2 Kings 5:1-14; Mark 1:40-45

19 February **2 before Lent**
Proverbs 8:1,22-31; Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1-14

26 February **Next before Lent**
1 Kings: 19:1-16; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Mark 9:2-9

Dates for your Diary

February

Wed	1	1.30 pm	Foundations Group (59 London Road)
Thur	2	9.30 pm	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
Fri	3	7.15 pm	Choir Practice (adults from 7.40)
Sat	4	10.00 am	Youth Confirmation Day (Hemingford Grey Parish Centre) – ends 3.00 pm
Sun	5	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	All-age Eucharist
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
		6.45 pm	Youth Group (Chuch Hall)
Mon	6	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
Tue	7	2.15 pm	Mothers' Union (Queen Elizabeth School)
		8.00 pm	Wives' Group (Church Hall) Please note amended date.
Wed	8	3.30 pm	Pastoral team meeting (9 Dovehouse Close)
		7.30 pm	Bellringers' Practice
Thu	9	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
Fri	10	7.15 pm	Choir Practice (adults from 7.40)
Sun	12	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist – Education Sunday (Preacher: Anthea Kenna)
			No Vestry Group (Half term)

G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S

		11.30 am	Grassroots with Holy Baptism
		12.00 pm	Valentine Lunch (Church Hall)
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
		6.45 pm	No Youth Group
Mon	13	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
Wed	15	11.00 am	Holy Communion by Extension (Woodley Court)
Thu	16	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion (Oak Tree Court)
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group (36 Old Court Hall)
		7.30 pm	Communications Committee (59 London Road)
Fri	17	7.15 pm	Choir Practice (adults from 7.40)
Sat	18	10.00am	Youth Confirmation Day (Hemingford Grey Parish Centre) – ends 3.00 pm
Sun	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist
			No Children's Church and Vestry Group (Half term)
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
		6.45 pm	No Youth Group
Mon	20	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
Tue	21	12.45 pm	PCC (Church Hall)
Wed	22	9.45 am	Holy Communion (McCartney House)
		7.30 pm	Bellringers' Practice
		7.45 pm	Churches Together Meeting (All Saints, Hartford)
Thu	23	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion (Mothers' Union)
Fri	24	7.15 pm	Choir Practice (adults from 7.40)
Sat	25	pm	RSCM Bishop's Award Day (Ely)
		3.30 pm	Children's Church Mardi Grass Party
Sun	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist
			Children's Church and Vestry Group
			Followed by the annual Pancake Race in aid of Christian Aid and East Anglian Children's Hospice
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
			Youth Group chillout (time to be confirmed)
Mon	27	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
		8.00 pm	Worship Group (59 London Road)

The Editorial Committee meeting for the February magazine will be held on **Sunday, 19 Febuary**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date:

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