

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

Linda writes:

Dear Friends

During a course that I am doing we were asked to take one picture which shows the meaning of Jesus' death, and write a front page article for the Easter edition of our own parish magazine expressing in today's language the message conveyed by the 'picture'. I would like to share my response with you this Easter.

'Jesus is the Lamb of God'

John 1:36b

As Christians, we are Easter people. But to understand the true meaning of Easter we have to ask ourselves, what are we really celebrating?

At the time of the Old Testament lambs were sacrificed as sin offerings. This act of 'atonement' not only took away someone's sins, but that person and God would be reconciled to one another. By the taking away and sharing of the sacrificed lamb with family and friends, their sins too would be forgiven.

For me the 'picture' of Jesus' death brings to mind a sacrificial lamb, because every time we celebrate the Holy Communion, it reminds me of the fact that God gave us His only son Jesus, who unselfishly offered himself as a 'living sacrifice'. As we take and eat the bread and drink the wine, I am reminded that Jesus' body and blood were broken and spilled to take away our sins, and by

sharing in the communion we will be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. I feel truly humbled and privileged to be able to share and to know with others, that this is the pure and unselfish act of God's love.

As Christians, whether we are baptised as a child or as an adult, baptism is the start of our journey with God, which then continues for the rest of our lives. By being baptised we accept Jesus as our saviour, accept that his sacrifice on the cross was made for all of us, and know that through his resurrection we will be raised to new life in Christ. So to me, Jesus' death was not an ending but a beginning.

When someone we love dies, suddenly we are thrown into total confusion. We are shocked by what has happened. We feel numb, yet torn apart. Our whole world comes crashing down around us. Questions arise like – What will happen now? How will I cope? What is to become of me? I think that this is how the disciples must have felt when Jesus was suddenly taken from them and crucified.

If that had been the end of the story the lives of Christians would be meaningless. When Jesus appeared to the disciples for the first time after his resurrection what an amazing and joyous Easter feeling it must have been for them. All their confusion and disbeliefs turning to understanding of what Jesus' life and death was all about. The transformation of the lives of the disciples who claimed they had seen the risen Jesus, is the last

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

thing we should expect, and hence is a powerful witness to the truth of what was said. When we put our trust in Jesus, joining God's family through baptism, our eternal life in Christ starts here and now.

*'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;
Death will be no more;
Mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
For the first things have passed away'*
Revelation 21:4

With love to you all at this Easter time

Linda Watson
Pastoral Visiting Co-ordinator

A special day for a very special lady



The lady is Vera Arnold, a 'very special' lady; well let us see what it is that makes her so very special, not just because she celebrates her 90th birthday on 1 April this

year, although that certainly is special. If you have lived in Godmanchester for many years and played an active role in the recent history of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin for at least 86 of your 90 years that has to be something quite special.

Vera was born in 1916, the ninth child of a family of fourteen children (seven boys and seven girls) of Charlotte and Arthur Arnold; Vera and her sister Joan are the last of this family group. A large family by any standards, but Vera's childhood memories are of a happy family, with always enough to eat and warm clothing, and all loved and cared for by their parents. Their home was a two up and two down in New Street; later they moved to St Ann's Lane close to the school of that name in those days. Vera went to that school until she was 14 years old, the recognised school leaving age for girls; the boys leaving at age of 11 to go to the Queen Elizabeth School. Vera remembers her time at school as happy days, moving through the six large classrooms until her 14th year. She recalls Minnie Hall (née Ashley) as a senior student there who became a trainee teaching student at the school and eventually a full-time teacher there.

Vera never reached the busy heights of ink monitor but was clearly one of the brighter girls in the mind of the Headmistress, Miss Hescroff. In those days there were no handouts of daily milk, but in her last year Vera was one of several girls called on for the special job of preparing the daily tonic of Horlicks for all children. She also gained benefit as

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

one of Miss Hescroff's special pupils, frequently enjoying early supper on Friday evenings at the home of the Headmistress along The Causeway. Vera describes some of the special menu items such as blancmange dessert and a very special hot chocolate. It seems the Headmistress also enjoyed their company by partaking of her own regular pint of stout, probably her regular sustenance 'medicine' to assist in recovery at the end of busy school weeks.

On leaving school, Vera took on her first work in domestic service and remained so until she was 21, her last few years as a live-in parlour maid at a house on Offord Hill. Vera puts all her domestic skills, cooking etc., down to her early work in those seven years. She then took work at a brewery in Huntingdon, which lasted through the years of World War II. Apparently this was classified as important war work, helping to keep the troops happy with ample supplies of beer. Vera carried on with this work for seventeen years, staying with the brewery until it closed down.

It was during the time of her work in Huntingdon that she bought her first new bicycle, having been using an old second hand one previously. She recalls this cycle cost about £2 and she paid it off at the rate of 'two bob a week'. She has a clear memory of occasional travel problems along The Avenue and Post Street on her cycle, particularly during a very bad period of flooding after heavy snow, and tells of long wooden planks placed along the highway, 'one to walk on and the other to push your cycle on'.

After the brewery closed Vera worked for a few short months at Chivers' factory in Huntingdon, but chose to give that up after a discussion with her other brothers and sisters about the health of their mother. Their father had died aged 55 in 1931. Vera then took on the full-time task of nursing mother and all the domestic work in their home, this for the next five years until mother died in 1959 at the age of 78. Her brother Alf also remained living at this home.

Vera then began full-time work again with the firm of Transart first at Godmanchester and, subsequently, when the firm moved to St Ives. She remained with them for 21 years, retiring at the age of 63.

She has very clear memories of her commitment to the Church at Godmanchester. She began with Sunday School at the age of 4, initially held in a classroom at St Ann's School. In due course Sunday School was transferred to the church, held in what is now the south aisle. When asked if she recalled the name of the first Vicar she knew, she immediately answered 'William Stromberg (1919-1925)'. Vera was baptised and, in due course, confirmed at St Mary's. She became a regular member of church groups, was a bellringer for several years and recalls being one of a team that rang a quarter peal on the day of Winston Churchill's funeral.

In 1990, Vera was asked by the Reverend Dennis Clark if she would take on the position of Verger. Initially she thought

GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS

she was not the right person for such work, but agreed to make a start on the understanding by the Revd Clark that ‘If I’m not suitable you will tell me’. She is still the Verger through two later Vicars and remains so today. She has also carried out the duties of sidesperson for a number of years.

Vera has given her time so generously towards the Church for so many years now. When our organ was undergoing a major overhaul during 1994, she and her brother Alf were very generous in their donation towards the work on the organ frontal furniture, which now bears a carved endorsement above the manuals *In memory of members of the Arnold Family*.

If you seek to find an answer to so many features about the Church of St Mary the Virgin, and possibly the town of Godmanchester as well, then Vera can invariably come up with some helpful comment.

Yes, a very special lady in so many ways. Thank you Vera for your friendship to so many and may this long continue.

Nigel Pithey

This month’s cover

Lawrence brings home to us the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the month

The Collect for Easter Sunday

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

**Service of Healing and Wholeness:
Saturday 1 April at 5.00 pm**

How many of us long for a chance to come before God just as we are, even in our sorrow and pain, trusting that God will meet us where we are and offer us his love, his comfort and his peace?

The next service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness takes place on Saturday 1 April at 5.00 pm. This is an opportunity to pray for ourselves, for those who are dear to us, and for the needs of the world. Some come to these services to receive prayer with laying on of hands, or anointing. Others come to light candles, to offer silent prayers, or to share their troubles. Others come simply to be in the presence of God. All are welcome.

Ally Barrett

Midday Prayer

The Ministry team is currently holding midday prayers in church each weekday.

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

This is a change from our former pattern of meeting for prayer each morning at 7.45 am, in the hope that more people might feel able to join us either regularly or occasionally. Midday prayer is a quiet space in the middle of the day, and a chance to meet with God in a simple service held in the south aisle. All are very welcome.

Ally Barrett

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will take place at 11.15 am following the 9.45 am Eucharist on Sunday 23 April. This is the occasion on which church members (those on the Electoral Roll) have the opportunity to elect representatives to serve the Church as churchwardens and as members of the Parochial Church Council and the Deanery Synod.

Everyone on the Electoral Roll is asked to make a special effort to be present for this very important meeting in the life of the Church.

Mothers' Union

At the March meeting, Ally Barrett led us in a meditation entitled 'Women of the Passion'. This took the form of readings with a short talk after each one and time for reflection. Each section was complemented by a hymn led by Ally.

There were few of us there owing to the very wet weather but those who did come really enjoyed the afternoon and we all went home much refreshed and inspired. At the April meeting Angela Samms will give a talk on 'The Work of the Women's Refuge'.

Jean Morgan

Wives' Group

A bitterly cold March evening saw a warm welcome for our speaker, Caroline Jones, who came to tell us something of her life in music and, in particular, in musicals. A semi-professional singer, Caroline is the conductor of the Hemingford Ladies' Choir and she also teaches a variety of instruments and offers singing lessons.

Caroline's love affair with the musical began at the age of 5 when her parents took her to see *The Sound of Music* at the cinema while they were on holiday in Cornwall. For her first rendition of the evening, Caroline sang the title song. This was followed by *Any Dream Will Do* from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, a perennial favourite.

A native of Wales, Caroline lived for many years in and around Llangollen, and initially was more a violinist than a singer. She played in an orchestra which accompanied visiting choral and operatic societies when they visited the area; she delighted us with a couple of good stories told against herself and her violin teacher about their antics! But her singing talent

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

was soon spotted and before long she had left the orchestra pit and was up on stage.

She had to lose her Welsh lilt for the part of Ruth, the nursery maid, in *Pirates of Penzance*, from which she sang *When Fred'ric Was A Little Lad*. She also appeared in *Carousel*, from which she sang *If I Loved You* – and told us that the first choice for the male lead in the film was Frank Sinatra. The Llangollen Operatic Society then put on *No, No, Nanette* – which was not a favourite with many of the cast, despite containing the delightful *Tea For Two* – and Caroline's final performance was with the ever-popular *Showboat*, from which she sang *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man O' Mine*.

By now married, Caroline and her husband moved to Pennsylvania, living on the university campus. She joined a local Gilbert & Sullivan society and performed professionally a few times, but after two years, they returned to the UK and lived in London. Caroline joined the Ealing Operatic Society – two weeks later she was given the lead role in *Kiss Me Kate*. Fortunately, there were no hard feelings with the society's then leading lady, who is now a close friend and godmother to one of Caroline's children! Caroline gave a passionate rendition of *I Hate Men*.

Eight years ago, they moved to Hemingford Grey and Caroline joined SIMADS. In 2002 they put on *Oklahoma!* She never got chance to sing *Oh What A Beautiful Mornin'* on stage, so she did so now, and also sang *Start All Over Again*. By now busy with two small children, she

sadly left SIMADS, her final performance being in *The King And I*, from which she sang *Getting To Know You*. Caroline's one regret is that she has never played Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* – but her final song of the evening was *I Could Have Danced All Night*, which made a splendid finale.

This was a delightful evening and thanks again to Barbara for arranging it – and especially to Caroline for entertaining us so well. Anyone who wasn't able to be there will have a chance to hear Caroline sing soon, as she will be performing in church with the Hunts Male Voice Choir in July. Look out for more details nearer the time and put the date in your diary – you will be in for a treat!

Next month we will be welcoming another speaker, as yet unnamed, from Wood Green, who will come to tell us something of the work carried on at the Animal Shelter. We meet in the Church Hall at 8.00 pm on 11 April; all are welcome.

Kate Robinson

Men's Social Group

'There's life in the old dog yet', though it might be more accurate to say 'old dogs'. Well the saying appears to be true in the case of the Men's Social Group judging from the opinions expressed at their recent AGM. There was an almost overwhelming desire that the group should continue more or less in its present form with a programme of monthly

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

meetings. Although we were sad to lose Andrew Fawcett as our chairman, he did soften the blow by offering to continue to host the very popular annual dinner. Before David Ferris had time to raise any objections he was elected as our new chairman. Thank you, Andrew, for your committed leadership during the past three years; thank you, David, for willingly adding another job to your portfolio. Bob Hurd, Peter Dawe and Peter Irving were re-elected as deputy chairman, secretary and treasurer respectively. The meeting spent some time generating ideas for future meetings and outings and left it to the committee to assemble these into a programme of events for the coming year. Details of the monthly meetings will appear in due course in the newsletters and magazines.

Peter Dawe

They're after your blood!

The National Blood Transfusion Service is doing a trial blood donation session at Godmanchester Baptist Church on 20 April. Come along between 1.00 pm and 3.30 pm or between 4.30 pm and 7.00 pm and help save a life!

Charity of the Month

United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel: its history

It all began on 16 June 1701. The Revd Dr Thomas Bray had visited Maryland, in

North America, on behalf of the Bishop of London and found that the Church of England in the American Colonies was disorganised and had little spiritual vitality.

So, on the above date, Dr Bray obtained the charter from King William III which founded the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts – SPG – to send priests and school teachers to boost the church's ministry to the colonists in America and to take the gospel to slaves and native Americans.

The Society's first missionaries began work in America in 1702 and, by the time the USA claimed independence, SPG had supported the work of about 300 men.



**The
Society's
first
missionary,
The Revd G
Keith, 1702**

From there, SPG extended its reach to the West Indies and Nova Scotia, and then to the rest of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and West Africa.

In the early 19th century, SPG sent its first missionaries to India (1820) and South Africa (1821), and work among indigenous people became a higher priority than the care of colonists.

In the second half of the 19th century, SPG first accepted single women as missionaries, and increasing numbers of indigenous missionaries, both men and women, were supported by SPG.

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

Medical work came to be recognised as an effective means of Christian ministry as it demonstrated that God's love is for everyone. The Society also began to work in countries outside the British Empire, such as China (1863) and Japan (1873).

On 1 January 1965, the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) was founded following the merger of SPG and the Universities' Mission to Central Africa (UMCA). The latter was formed in 1858 and pursued evangelistic, medical and educational work in East and Central Africa, making major contributions in the fight against slavery and leprosy.

In 1968, the Cambridge Mission to Delhi (CMD) joined USPG. Founded in 1877, CMD worked principally through two institutions – St Stephen's Hospital and St Stephen's College, the latter providing an early example of inspired Indian leadership supportive of Indian nationalism, that of S K Rudra, college principal from 1906–1923.

Following the Second World War and, more significantly, India's independence in 1947, mission agencies were being challenged by a rapidly changing world. It was a time of de-colonisation, newly autonomous churches were developing their own lives and a gradual decline of interest in mission started among church-goers in Britain and Ireland.

However, new concepts of mission were developing which emphasised the interdependence of the world church and the sharing by all in its life. Authority and influence were no longer to be held solely

by the mission agencies, but replaced by relationships of equal partners.

USPG's role since 1965 has been to facilitate the movement of people, resources and ideas around the world church. Missionaries leave their home countries to share their lives and skills. USPG transfers funds to enable the work

of the church, and also provides opportunities for church workers to spend time in training or study. This two-way nature of mission and the life of the world church benefits the church in Britain and Ireland.

Noteworthy is USPG's advocacy role on behalf of the church and people of South Africa during the apartheid era. From the 1990s, more advocacy roles have been taken up, including the Jubilee Campaign to cancel the debt of the world's poorest countries.

Since the 1980s there has been increased co-operation with other Church of England mission agencies, especially via Partnership for World Mission, and, during the 1990s, USPG also started to work more ecumenically, notably with the Methodist Church.

In the 21st century the trend of decline in the number of people offering to be missionaries has reversed. More people are now being sent by the Society than have been for some years.

Since 1701 the Society has supported around 15,000 men and women as missionaries in many parts of the world. Together with the financial resources and

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

training opportunities made available by USPG, the Society and its missionaries during the 300 years of our existence have contributed significantly to the growth and life of the Anglican Church, and we will continue to do so into the future.

Roy Norris

Book review

Testament: the Bible odyssey

Philip Law (ed)

Continuum International, 2005

ISBN: 082647991X

One of my lifelong ambitions was to read the Bible from cover to cover. I have tried to do this on several occasions, and once got as far as the Book of Deuteronomy. Then, bogged down by ‘too many words’ and too little time, I repeatedly abandoned the attempt. But when I spotted ‘Testament’ in a book club Christmas catalogue, I made up my mind to try once more, and treated myself to a copy as a present to myself, and I am so glad that I did. This time I think I might make it!

Briefly, ‘Testament’ is an edited version of the Bible, containing all of the stories in chronological order, selections from the Psalms and Proverbs and much of the great poetry and prophecies. All of the text is taken from the Revised English Bible, carefully punctuated and paragraphed, but without the constraints of book, chapter and verse headings, so that it reads like an epic page-turner of a novel!

Whenever I pick it up I find myself racing through to ‘the next bit’ and discovering long-forgotten stories, which enrich my experience and frequently send me back to other translations for comparison.

Every page has a user-friendly heading in italics, so that you know exactly where you are, from ‘Creation and Fall’ to ‘Apocalypse’. A scholarly glossary is entitled ‘Biblical Timeline and Index of Sources’ and gives book, chapter and verse references for every story, and a few useful maps.

Inside the front cover are glowing endorsements from many eminent reviewers and a thoughtful introduction from Philip Law, the editor, commenting upon his motivation for the project. He quotes W.H. Auden, the poet, who said ‘A real book is not one that we read, but one that reads us.’ (Could there be a better description of the Bible?)

I am a spasmodic and fickle reader, with limited storage space. I am usually delighted to pass on enjoyable books and replace them with others. But here is a book which – (sorry, Mr Editor!) – will remain in my collection forever; an irreplaceable resource and a real ‘find’. I love it and I warmly recommend it!

Mary Hardy

* * * * *

Where will I find help? It will come from the Lord, who created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

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

Being Part of an Emmaus Group

In autumn 2005, Pat Saunders asked if I would like to have an Emmaus group in my home. Having no idea what this involved, I said 'Of course!'

Our group is small, just for ladies and our leader, Pat Saunders. We studied the Lord's Prayer, a course which should have taken us till Christmas but which we finished just in time for Lent!

Our fortnightly sessions have been a wonderful source of knowledge, friendship and shared ideas. Speaking for myself, I have learnt an awful lot about prayer and myself. I have valued our shared sense of faith. I hope Pat will ask me to host Emmaus meetings in the future and I thank her sincerely for her quiet, inspired leadership.

Olwyn Hurd

P.S. Pat has asked me if we would like to continue the group after Easter and we have all agreed. Our first meeting will be Wednesday 26 April at 8.00 pm at 10 Croftfield Road. If you would like to join us, please come – you will be very welcome.

A view from the pew

Instigated by Lewis Stretch, the past few issues of the magazine have seen some lively discussion on the Book of Common Prayer. Thank you to all who have contributed to the debate. After such a generous airing, perhaps now's the time to put the BCP to bed – until its next getting-up time,

that is! Let's leave the final word on the subject to Lewis.

May I join John Dillistone in clearing up some misunderstandings, for I was also taken by my mother to Morning Prayer, the real grassroots of the Church of England, before I could understand the words. Yet with regular usage they blossomed into inspiration that has withstood the ravages of time, secular and clerical distractions.

As the Bishop of London has pointed out, young people who easily master the complexities of motorcycle (and computer) manuals have no difficulty with Cranmer's English if they are convinced that it holds some worthwhile information, as my own test, scientific rather than by opinion polls, on the more difficult constructions of Bacon at Aston demonstrated (*Nuclear and Worse Disasters*, page 141). So I am concerned that my grandchildren and their generation are being denied such healthy provision for their spiritual lives.

1. I do not claim that the reintroduction of the *Book of Common Prayer* would by itself attract into our church the large proportion of our nominal membership that never darkens our doors, or shows any interest in religious matters. It will take the Church of England a long time and a hard struggle to regain the ground that it has lost during the last half-century. Yet bringing the best tools to any job is a sound gambit and practice.

2. The belief that Cranmer wrote most of the *Book of Common Prayer* is a fallacy,

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

and a stumbling block to understanding and enjoying our liturgy. Very little, even of his Litany, now heard as rarely as the Athanasian Creed, was his original work. What he did was to translate material that had accrued to the Church over centuries into superb, timeless, memorable English. We need reminding that the Communion of Saints, in which we profess to believe, extends not only across space but throughout time. In our case the most significant event was the founding of the Church of England at Whitby in 664, by bringing together groups started by various Celtic and Roman missionaries. Despite misrepresentation by Romanisers, the Church was not founded by Henry VIII. All that conservative king did was to revive our roots by commissioning Cranmer to open them up to the whole populace, and break the stranglehold of a corrupt Roman curia.

The demand for constant novelty and innovation (which, as Burke observed, is not reform) is the cause of our present rootlessness. Carefully tested adaptations to meet changing circumstances or particular needs have regularly been welcomed, and have contributed to further evolution. Such a pattern of quiet development once enabled the central core of the English people to unite in thanksgiving and worship by means of a common language and format.

Our liturgy should integrate our efforts with those of the great army of Christians, stretching back to Nazareth and our patron St Mary, that is fighting to carry our Lord's command to make all nations his disciples; yet our vision will not

achieve its objective if every unit insists on doing its own thing in its own way.

Lewis Stretch

Youth Fun Day

29th April 2006. (2.00 pm - 5.30 pm) at St Andrew's School, Soham, Ely. Some of the inflatables seen at Rave in the Nave will be there - plus go-karts and other fun competitions and games. The fun starts at 2.00 pm and ends at 5.30 pm following a short act of worship led by a Rave in the Nave band - and the prize giving! Janie and Simon Prince are taking a team of eight from the Youth Group as well as supporters to cheer them on. For more information, contact Janie and Simon Prince (413157)

Greenbelt 2006

The youth group is planning a trip to the Christian festival 'Greenbelt', which takes place on the August bank holiday weekend each year, just outside Cheltenham. If you would like to know more, come along to the Church Hall on 23 April at 6.45 pm so that we can start to plan fund-raising activities, logistics, menus and equipment lists. For more information, contact Janie and Simon Prince (413157).

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for his tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for his winding sheet.
Edward Thomson

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

February PCC Meeting

Minutes in full of all PCC meetings are displayed at the back of the church. Here are some key points from the January meeting.

Finance Committee

- * Bell tower. The second instalment of the loan to the Historic Churches Trust has been paid, leaving an outstanding loan of £2,250.
- * The cost of installing the handrail in the tower stairway was £522.88
- * Free Will Offering envelopes. There has been an increase in the take-up of these.
- * Income from *Parish News* advertisements has risen to £1,687.

Communications Committee

- * Work on preparation of the new Welcome Pack is advancing well.

Church Hall committee

- * Remedial work relating to electrical installations within the hall has been carried out (cost £339.86); and on the advice of the County Fire Service, smoke alarms have been re-sited at the highest point in the room i.e. the roof ridge.

Churches Together

- * Members of the Churches in Huntingdon and Godmanchester met in February to discuss the current youth work scene.
- * It was announced that this is the year Godmanchester churches join Huntingdon churches for a walk of witness in Huntingdon town centre.

Vacancy in the Benefice

- * The wardens reported that the Revd Andrew McKearney had withdrawn from his appointment as Priest-in-charge at Godmanchester.
- * It was the wardens' intention to re-interview the Revd Charles Miller, one of the unsuccessful candidates last time.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- * This will take place on Sunday 23 April 2006
- * There will be an election of three PCC members for 3 years. Nomination forms to be available by the end of February.
- * Trevor Weedon announced his intention to stand down as churchwarden, and to offer his services as PCC secretary to succeed Peter Hartwell, who was also standing down.
- * Electoral roll. New forms will be issued to all wishing to be on the roll. John Bathurst-Hoile feels a revision would be good at this time of change.
- * David Morgan has agreed to prepare his fifth annual report for the parish.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 21 March 2006.

Parish Share

Over the past few months, several people have intimated that they would welcome a detailed explanation of how the Parish Share is calculated. It is a good time to provide this because 2006 is the first year the Diocese is using a new method of calculation. We have moved from a system based on the amount of income a

GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS

parish receives to a system based on the cost of ministry.

The ministry costs for our parish are as follows:

	£
<u>Direct Ministry Costs (Gross)</u>	
Incumbent (average as at 28 Feb and 31 Aug 2005)*	19,553
Curate in training (30% of Incumbent's full cost £39,106)	11,732
Total	31,285
<u>Shared Costs</u>	
National Church (£18.37 per St Mary the Virgin Church Member in 2004 , x 178)	3,270
Parish support programmes (£28.28 per St Mary the Virgin Church Member in 2004, x 178)	5,033
Diocesan Admin (£37.81 per St Mary the Virgin Church Member in 2004, x 178)	6,730
Total	15,033

***Note:** When we have an incumbent for the whole year, the Ministry Cost will be

£39,106 (Incumbent) + £11,732 (Curate) = £50,838 + £15,033 (Shared Costs) + £3,954 (Health & Wealth rating) = £69,825. However, this will not be the case until 2008 and is likely to be mitigated by other factors concerning the Michaelmas Group of parishes (Godmanchester, Fenstanton, Hilton and the Hemingfords). The 'Health and Wealth Rating' is an adjustment to the full costs of stipendiary clergy together with shared Diocesan costs which is an agreed factor to reflect the relative wealth and strength of each deanery.

A further question I am asked from time to time is **where does the money go** when it is given to the Diocese.? I can report the following budget breakdown for 2006:

- 81%** Ministry Costs: clergy stipends, pensions, clergy training and housing.
- 5%** Parish Support: diocese-wide programmes in support of parishes.
- 5%** Diocesan Administration: general administration, finance and trusts investment management.
- 7%** National Church: General Synod and ordination training; contribution towards Central Church Administration.
- 2%** Other Services: professional costs and other legal obligations.

So **where does the money come from** to pay for the above expenditure? I can report the following expected budget income:

- 71%** Ministry Share: contributions from parishes.
- 14%** Stipends Fund: restricted investment income used exclusively for stipends, administered by the Diocesan Office.

GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS

14% Other Diocesan income: fees, investments, property and land managed in the Diocesan Office.

1% National Church: general allocation, parish mission initiative grant.

Well, I have provided the facts and figures but I am conscious that they may

trigger other questions that you would like answers to. I am happy to try and answer your questions personally or through the *Parish News* if the Editor has the space and others are not too bored by these money issues.

Trevor Weedon (Deanery Treasurer)

And finally . . .

You will know by now that this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on 23 April – St George's Day. Whether this will be an occasion for flag waving remains to be seen. What may have escaped your attention is the fact that 23 April is also Shakespeare's birthday. Were he still alive today the poor fellow would be 442 this year. In a recent Sunday School quiz for 11 year olds, children were asked to write down what they knew about our most famous bard. According to one, he never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter! Well there you are. You learn something new every month in the parish magazine. Of these howlers more anon forsooth.

The Registers

Funerals

1 March	Geoffrey Peter Chalk
2 March	Margaret Ann Bowman
8 March	Eileen McNeil
9 March	Joan Margaret Lloyd
21 March	Rose Davey

Baptisms

12 March	Hannah Barkshire
19 March	Gladys Mason

Confirmations

19 March	Emma Cessford, Stephanie Dear, Katherine Heeley, Bethany Laws, Gladys Mason, David Moger, John Satsaengput-Rudd, Heidi Ward, Sophie Ward, Andrew Wright, Angela Wright.
----------	---

GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS

The Lectionary

2 April	Lent 5 Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
9 April	Palm Sunday Mark 11:1-11; Mark Passion (Mark 15:1-39)
13 April	Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; 1 Cor.11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
16 April	Easter Day Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18
23 April	Easter 2 Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
30 April	Easter 3 Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Dates for your Diary

April

Sat	1	9.45 am	'It's your call' vocations exploration day at the Diocesan Office in Ely (ends 4.00 pm)
		5.00 pm	Service of Prayer for Wholeness and Healing
Sun	2	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist
			Children's Church (but no vestry group)
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
		6.45 pm	Youth Group
Mon	3	7.45 pm	Evening Lent Group (5) (Quaker Centre)
Tue	4	2.15 pm	Mothers' Union (Queen Elizabeth School)
Wed	5	1.30 pm	Daytime Lent Group (5) (59 London Road)
Thu	6	9.45 am	Holy Communion
Fri	7	7.15 pm	Choir Practice (adults from 7.30 pm)
Sun	9		Palm Sunday
		8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	All-Age Eucharist, starting in church hall
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
			No Youth Group
Mon	10	9.45 am	Holy Communion
		8.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Tue	11	9.45 am	Holy Communion
		8.00 pm	Wives' Group (church hall)
		8.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Wed	12	9.45 am	Holy Communion
		8.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Thu	13		Maundy Thursday
			NB no 9.45 Holy Communion
		7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist of the Last Supper and watch until midnight
Fri	14		Good Friday

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

		11.00 am	Walk of Witness from Huntingdon Methodist to All Saints, Huntingdon
		1.30 pm	Good Friday Liturgy
		1.30 pm	Children's Good Friday workshop
Sat	15	8.00 pm	Compline
Sun	16	Easter Day	
		5.30 am	Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist (No Children's Church or Vestry Group)
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong No Youth Group
Tue	18	2.00 pm	St Anne's School Easter Service (in church)
Wed	19	11.00 am	Woodley Court Holy Communion by Extension
Thu	20	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion (Oak Tree Court)
		1.00 pm – 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm – 7.00 pm	Blood donation session at Baptist Church
		7.30 pm	Prayer Meeting (36 Old Court Hall)
Sat	22	pm	RSCM Awards Choristers' Evensong (Ely Cathedral)
Sun	23	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist Children's Church and vestry group
		11.15 am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
		3.00 pm	St George's Tide Service
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
		6.45 pm	Youth Group (<i>Greenbelt</i> Planning in the church hall)
		8.00 pm	Children's Church Planning Meeting
Mon	24	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
		7.45 pm	Evening Lent Group (4) (Quaker Centre)
Wed	26	7.30 pm	Bellringers' Practice
		8.00 pm	Post Street Emmaus Group
Thu	27	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
Sat	29	All day	<i>Youth Group at Ely Diocese Fun Day</i> – St Andrew's School, Soham
Sun	30	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist Children's Church and vestry group
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong

The Editorial Committee meeting for the May magazine will be held on Sunday, 16 April. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date:

Peter Irving (Editor), 26 Post Street (pjibooks@aol.com)

Lawrence Back, (lawrence@lionscorner.co.uk)

Dorothy Groves, (dorothy@groves5812.freerve.co.uk)

Joan Jackson, (joan.jackson@ntlworld.com)

Victoria Richardson (DIRandVMR@aol.com)

For advertising enquiries please contact Victoria Richardson