

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

Ally writes:

Dear Friends,

As many of you will have heard, we are, finally, able to look forward to the arrival of a new parish priest – Revd David Busk will be licensed in early September, and immediately will be in at the deep end with the civic service (17 September) and the Harvest Festival celebrations at the end of the month. He will no doubt be looking forward to meeting everyone here, too, and to becoming part of the life of this town.

Thinking ahead to David's arrival made me think about what people experience when they come to a new place, and especially when they arrive in Godmanchester. How do we welcome new people into our midst, and what makes them glad to call Godmanchester 'home'? Some of you reading this will have been born and bred here, and others, myself included, arrived much more recently.

As a newcomer, my impression of Godmanchester is that we are very blessed to have a town that is still a community, when so many other small towns seem, from the outside at least, to have lost their 'personality'.

Part of the answer lies in the tireless work of our town council, and in the imaginative and energetic activities of the community association. And part of the answer lies in the wealth of groups, clubs,

and societies that meet regularly here, catering for almost all interests and age-groups. Certainly part of the answer can be found in our local shops and businesses, who care about the place they serve, and in the two wonderful primary schools where the children of the town spend so much of their time, and learn to love learning, but also to love their community and respect each other.

But, of course, a community is created by its members, and it is the people who live and work here who make the place what it is. In the Bible, Jesus talks a lot about the 'kingdom of God' – it's not a geographical place, like Godmanchester, but rather it is a way of living, a way of 'being', that reflects the values of God: values such as peace, justice and mercy, and love. The kingdom of God is anywhere where God – rather than wealth or status, or any other 'false gods' – is king. The kingdom of God is wherever God's people are trying to live his way, to be the people they were created to be. The kingdom of God is wherever all people are treated equally, with respect and care.

All this means that God's kingdom isn't just some dreamland that we have to wait for heaven to experience. It's something that can start here and now, in your house, in your street, in our town.

So may God bless you all as you build his kingdom here, and make it a place that all his people will be happy to call 'home'.

Ally Barrett

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Prayer of the month

In the evening

Now that the sun has set,
I sit and rest, and think of you.
Give my weary body peace.
Let my legs and arms stop aching,
Let my nose stop sneezing,
Let my head stop thinking.
Let me sleep in Your arms.

*A prayer of the Dinka people, of
Southern Sudan*

The next meeting, on Tuesday 4 July will take place at St Anne's School, where we will be entertained by the children and served tea.

Jean Morgan

MU Cake Stall – Summer Fete

May I thank all those who give so generously to our stall – and usually Anonymously – therefore we cannot thank the donors. Some have their own stalls to provide for, but still find time to make us a cake. Thank you – we are very grateful.

Molly Jones

Mothers' Union

At the June meeting Hilary Street came and gave a talk about the work of AFIA, the *Away From It All* holiday scheme, funded by members of the Mothers' Union, to help people who wouldn't otherwise be able to have a holiday. The Scheme aims to help people who are under stress for one reason or another and takes the form of organised family weeks, time at a Mothers' Union caravan, staying at a guest house or breaks at a holiday camp. A single day out can also be arranged. These breaks make all the difference to families or individuals where the stress of daily life has become almost too much to bear, and can give people the renewed energy to simply carry on. This is another example of the work the Mothers' Union does to improve the lives of people who are less fortunate than we are.

Wives' Group

The Wives' Group June meeting is usually a garden visit and this year we went to the Manor at Hemingford Grey, former home of the author, Lucy Boston, who wrote the *Green Knowe* series of children's books. The air was heavy and the clouds threatening as we arrived, so the current owner, Diana Boston (Lucy's daughter-in-law), suggested that we looked around the gardens first and then went inside for a tour of the house.

Although I do enjoy wandering in gardens, I'm not a gardener myself, so couldn't name many of the plants and flowers, which created a riot of colour and scent in the beautifully tended and extensive grounds. Even, I, though, know a rose when I see one – and there were many different varieties in a lovely old-

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fashioned rose garden. Other highlights were the so-called 'hidden garden' and the wonderful, old and gnarled trees – more than once I found myself wondering 'and just how old is that one?' Another very striking feature is the hedges carved into giant chess pieces, which line the walk up to the house from the river.

The Manor is reputed to be the oldest continually inhabited house in England, having been built around the year 1130. Much of the original Norman house still exists – you can see the original front of the house from the hidden garden – and that was built from stone shipped from Barnack in Lincolnshire. Nowadays, it's a half hour up the A1; nine centuries ago, the stone would have had to be shipped via the Wash, indicating that the original owner of the house must have been very wealthy indeed.

The house was extended and altered throughout the years, particularly in Tudor times, and the north elevation was rebuilt in the 18th century – although much of this was later destroyed in a fire in 1798. Lucy Boston moved in at the end of May 1939, just before the outbreak of the Second World War. We entered through what was at one time a kitchen and scullery area, and were first shown into a sitting room downstairs; here among other items of interest, were two paintings by the artist Elisabeth Vellacott – an old friend of Lucy Boston, who stayed at the house throughout most of the Second World War, after her studio in Cambridge was bombed.

Upstairs – in a room which still has an original Norman window – there is a bed, covered by a collection of Lucy's famous patchworks. This was her winter hobby, she was busy in the summer laying out and tending to the gardens, and I think we were all captivated. The patchworks were exquisite; some had themes, such as the compass, the moon and stars, and animals and birds. The final patchwork was completed when Lucy was 92, by which time her eyesight was failing so she sewed 'by feel', and on their way home from school, children would call by the house to thread needles for her.

Leaving that room we saw two watercolours painted by Peter, Diana's late husband, who illustrated the *Green Knowe* books for his mother. We then went into the music room, so-called because during World War II, Lucy would host twice-weekly musical evenings for the airmen posted at RAF Wyton. Directly above the music room is the children's bedroom, which contains many items actually referred to in the books. The tour concluded with a visit to the small shop, which you pass as you return to the kitchen/scullery area.

This was a most enjoyable visit and thanks are due to Diana Boston for showing us round. If you would like to visit, the house is open all year by appointment only. Tel: 01480 463134.

Our next meeting is on 11 July at the slightly earlier time of 7.30pm. This is the annual Charity Coffee Evening; this year our hostess is Linda Hardy (65 London

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Road – opposite St Anne’s School). All are welcome.

Kate Robinson

Men’s Social Group

The weather was perfect for the evening visit to Elgood's Brewery and Gardens at Wisbech at the beginning of June. The excellent guided tour of the brewery provided a fascinating insight into some of the mysteries of the brewing process using lots of large tanks and vats, some of which were over a hundred years old. However, as one followed the sequence of the various operations moving from room to room and up and down stairs, it became very difficult to orientate oneself within the Georgian building. This feeling of disorientation continued into the garden when we ventured into the rather simple looking maze. After several false turns, and with an air of desperation setting in, we were beginning to wonder whether anyone would come and rescue us, but eventually we did manage to find the exit and were able to continue our exploration of the garden. This has been restored after years of neglect to something like the condition it was in when it was created in Georgian and Victorian times. There is a lot to admire, the colourful herbaceous borders, the long 'tunnel' through yellow trailing laburnum, several spectacular specimen trees from various parts of the world, some over two hundred years old, and a number of new water features in addition to the established lake.

Afterwards we retired to the refreshment room to sample a few of the beers from

Elgood's extensive portfolio; we were able to taste Cambridge Bitter, Black Dog and Golden Newt but, maybe due to the presence of a number of spouses, some of the party seemed to prefer coffee to beer! After refreshing ourselves we were sufficiently recovered from the maze experience to be able to find our way back to Godmanchester.

Next month, on Tuesday 4 July, we are visiting the Ramsey Rural Museum. The museum is housed in 17th century farm buildings on the edge of the town and gives visitors an opportunity to step back in time and discover how our ancestors lived, worked – and shopped! – in this part of the Fens. An invitation is extended to all members of the church to join us for the evening. Shared cars leave the Chinese Bridge at 6.30 pm: visit starts at 7.00 pm. Cost per head £2 (children £1.50). For bookings and further information: Peter Irving, Tel.382144

Peter Dawe

Church Fete

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the fete a success, including the Deputy Mayor and Ally, the people who ran the stalls and the games, provided teas and ice creams, donated items for the stalls or the Grand Draw, played in the Band and organised the Draw, not forgetting all the people behind the scenes who helped set up and clear away and those who attended the event. The exact sum has not been confirmed yet but we made somewhere in the region of £1,700 which is excellent.

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Christine and Mike Parker

Charity of the Month

Our charity for this month is DISH.

DISH (Disability Information Service for Huntingdonshire) is an independent registered charity run by five part-time members of staff and a team of volunteers, most of whom have either a disability themselves, or experience of caring for a disabled relative.

Many disabled people face financial hardship, as their disability may mean that they are no longer able to work, and they are faced with the increased costs associated with ill health, transport, heating, costs of aids and adaptations to the home. One of the main aims of DISH is to optimise the income of disabled people in Huntingdonshire through the provision of welfare benefits advice. Since June 2004 the two advisors have dealt with over 1000 enquiries, and raised more than £200,000 of additional income for those who were entitled to benefits. The advice service is provided over the telephone, or by appointment in facilities at Papworth, or at outreach locations in Huntingdonshire. In addition to this, home visits can be offered for the frail or housebound.

DISH provides a central point of information for disabled people and their carers, and can give information about a wide range of subjects – employment,

benefits, holidays, mobility, aids and adaptations to name but a few.

Many parents of children with disabilities face financial hardship and need information from a specialist advisor. The family advisor at DISH is there to provide advice and support to these families. Issues that often arise include the availability of local services, how to tackle problems concerning schooling, where to go for more detailed information about a child's diagnosis, and financial support. The latter problem is often helped by assistance in completing welfare benefit applications.

For further information about the work or how you can help support this local charity, please call the manager on 01480 930833.

Gill Taylor

Parish News invited our two local head teachers to tell us what's been happening in their schools this year.

Life at Godmanchester Community Primary School

As we reach the end of another academic year our thoughts reflect on the past and look forward to the future. Both are full of excitement, challenge and success.

Last November we underwent the latest Ofsted inspection regime, the inspectors were certainly impressed and gave us an outstanding report. The positive and supportive comments by parents and the

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community were noted as contributing to the strength of the school. Other successes include joint musical events with St. Anne's, achieving the ICT award and winning medals for swimming, rugby and cricket.

Excitement in school has ranged through Victorian days, talent shows, the introduction of drum and electric guitar tuition, school council, the Roman invasion, radio fame, the making of the school film, productions, sport events, gala parade and the top secret arrival of moon rocks and meteorites – sssh, don't tell anyone!

Through all of this the staff and pupils have again achieved above academic expectations in a happy, positive community. We have challenged our own teaching styles, invited parents to view our lessons and involved pupils in the assessment of learning. Our new Kids Club Centre, now providing more facilities, opened in September with much excitement and continues to be a great success.

While we come to the end of an academic year, in many ways it is not an end but part of the ongoing life of the school and community. The future is both exciting and a challenge. Godmanchester has been chosen as one of twenty-two Children Centres in the County, providing facilities and service to the whole community. Our vision is to join this with the extended schools programme, add in our Kids Club and create a Kids Centre providing a wide range of services for families and children 0 – 11yrs.

Godmanchester town, churches and community are fortunate. Fortunate in having a town with '*community heart*', visible in the churches, council, association and schools. Education in Godmanchester is a reflection of the community it serves, relies on, and is part of. School is certainly something to be proud of.

So not the end of a year, but the beginning of more challenges, assured success and hopefully plenty of excitement!

Philip Ellington (Head Teacher)

St Anne's Church of England Primary School

How time flies! This year sees the first cohort of St Anne's pupils in their final year. The Reception pupils we welcomed in September 1999 are now in Year 6, having completed their full primary school education at St Anne's. We are planning some special events to celebrate this occasion – one of these being a performance of the musical '*SMIKE*'. Although an ambitious production for the pupils, they are working hard and looking forward to their performances on 11, 13 and 14 July.

Our partnership with the Parish Church continues to develop and we thoroughly enjoy welcoming members of the local community as they share in our services and special events. The staff and pupils appreciate the many kindnesses that are

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afforded our school by the skill, time and generosity of the local community.

Once again we have enjoyed a busy and exciting year at St Anne's with much to celebrate. We continue our success in all aspects of music with all our groups performing well. Yet again we were well represented in the Rotary Young Musician Final at Melton Mowbray on May 7 with Millie Harris performing in the solo section and the Recorder Quartet and the Wind Band winning the ensemble and group sections, respectively. Our sporting teams continue to enjoy great matches and successes. In particular our Tag Rugby teams and Cross Country runners have continued to do well. We have several pupils who represent the County at tennis, football and cricket. Katherine Singh was a finalist in the National Primary Maths Challenge having been a member of the Year 5 team that represented St Anne's at the final of the Cambridgeshire Maths Challenge last summer.

We remain an active partner in HuntSNet – the learning community based on our local schools. We continue to meet with the Community School here in Godmanchester and have increased the joint activities throughout the year. It was a particular joy this year for the schools to meet throughout the Rotary Young Musician Competition and for us to share in the success of Matilda and Phyllida at the final. We have great plans for further joint activities next year.

Everyone is welcome at St Anne's at any time. Please visit us often. Thank you all for your prayers, continued support and enthusiasm.

Anthea Kenna – Head Teacher (375300)

'Now,' said the exhausted teacher, who had been trying her best with her students all term, 'give me a definition of space.' James stood up, flustered and red in the face. 'Space', he began, 'is where there is nothing. I cannot explain it exactly, but I have it in my head.'

Book Review

Blood Brothers – *Elias Chacour with David Hazard*

Chosen Books (a division of Baker Book House Company) –
(ISBN 0-8007-9321-8)

As a child, Elias Chacour lived in a small Christian Palestinian village in Galilee. His father Michael was a farmer, poor, but possessing great spirituality and wisdom, which the young Elias never forgot. His family and community were proud of their ancient Christian heritage, which they could trace back to the first century, and had lived in peace with their Jewish neighbours. However, in 1947, as the State of Israel came into being, Chacour and his family were forced by Zionists to leave their homes and flee into exile. Tens of thousands of their fellow countrymen were killed or forced into refugee camps. His father and brothers were taken away but managed to escape and make their way back to a deserted village, which had not been requisitioned by the soldiers.

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At the age of twelve Elias, an exile in his native land, began his long struggle to reconcile his love for the Jewish people with the world's misunderstanding of his own people, the Palestinians. He found his inspiration in the beautiful but challenging words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount – 'Blessed are the peacemakers' – and devoted his life to the building of communities formed of 'living stones'.

Chacour's ministry has continued for almost forty years in dynamic dedication on behalf of those who are oppressed, marginalized and suffering. Former US Secretary of State James A. Baker, refers to him as 'softening one heart at a time'. This book is both the biography of a man of faith and courage, and a history of a little known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the birth of modern Israel. It raises controversial questions such as: What behind-the-scenes politics ignited the turmoil in the Middle East? What does Bible prophecy really mean? Can bitter enemies ever be reconciled?

In a world increasingly threatened by terror and racial hatred, this book offers hope and insight that can help each of us to learn to live in peace. It is a most interesting and uplifting read.

Catheryn Turrell

We will remember them...

May I make a further appeal for help in maintaining the placing of flowers on the

war memorial during the summer months each year. Since the demise of the Godmanchester WI a small group of us have kept this practice going, but we do need more support. *Please!* I think that most people would agree that these small touches do help to enhance our town. I would very much like to hear from anyone who would consider helping in this project. In the meantime there will be a coffee morning (all welcome) at 10.30 am on Tuesday 4 July at Rectory Gardens, by kind permission of the residents, to raise funds towards the cost of flowers and to provide a wreath for Remembrance Sunday each year.

Stella Howard (458730)

Churchyard Notice Boards

Following comments by one or two parishioners regarding the present appearance of the Churchyard Notice Boards, I have been asked by the Fabric Committee to give a brief explanation.

The wood which was used is iroko, which has very similar characteristics to teak, but is more readily obtainable from sustainable resources. This was specified by the church architect and approved by all concerned.

One of the main characteristics of iroko is that it contains a 'resin', which makes it more suitable than other woods for outside use. This 'resin' prevents any surface coating, such as oil or varnish, from penetrating the wood and, therefore, after a very short time, it starts to look

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and remain ‘patchy’. It is therefore common practice to leave iroko to ‘weather’ naturally to take advantage of its durability; during this time it appears ‘patchy’ until the weathering process has developed completely.

This normally takes about two years, after which time the wood takes on a ‘silvery grey’ appearance. This is the process which is currently taking place.

Paul E. Wells

PCC Minutes

May PCC Meeting

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

* A Visitors’ Book has been placed on the table near the South Door

* Being the first meeting after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting the following parish appointed officials were:

Lay Chairman David Ferris
PCC Secretary Trevor Weedon
PCC Treasurer Peter Ballantine
Assistant Wardens Peter Hartwell,
Roy Norris and Trevor Weedon

* The appointment of members to PCC sub-committees was approved. A list will be found on the south door notice board.

* Vacancy in the benefice. The chairman advised that the Revd David Busk will be our new priest-in-charge. Licensing will probably take place in September, but the family hopes to move into the vicarage as soon as possible.

* Vicarage and grounds. The PCC is still awaiting proposals from the Diocese.

* Children and Holy Communion. Revd Ally Barrett flagged up the forthcoming issue of separating Holy Communion from the prior requirement of being confirmed. It would be discussed by the PCC when the new priest is in post.

* Youth Group. Members are planning a trip to the Greenbelt summer camp, and financial support is being sought from the Town Council and the PCC. The Group was informed that £300 is available in the church budget.

And finally

Don’t forget Worship in the Park at 10 am on Sunday July 2 as part of our Gala Week.

If you want to sit down please bring something to sit on! There were not enough chairs to go round last year.

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The Registers

Funerals

8 June	Mary Underwood
22 June	Flora Kan

Burial of Ashes

15 June	Mary Underwood
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Baptism

11 June	Karen and Isla Maurice
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Holy Matrimony

3 June	Charles Best and Harriet Gurney
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Holy Baptism

14 May	Lara Violet Treharne-Jones
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The Lectionary

2 July	Trinity 3 Lamentations 3:23-33; Hebrews 10:35-11:1
9 July	Trinity 4 Ezekiel 2:1-5; Mark 6:1-13
16 July	Trinity 5 Amos 7:7-15; Mark 6:14-19
23 July	Trinity 6 Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
30 July	Trinity 7 2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

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Dates for your Diary

July

Sat	1	2.00 pm	GALA DAY – Churches Together Stall
		2.30 pm	Marriage of Stuart Vaughan and Carolyn Ellwood
Sun	2	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.00 am	Worship in the Park (No 9.45 am Sung Eucharist)
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong No Youth Group
Mon	3	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
Tue	4	2.15 pm	Mothers' Union (Queen Elizabeth School)
Wed	5	1.30 pm	Foundations Bible Study Group (59 London Road)
Thu	6	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
Fri	7	7.15 pm	Choir Practice (adults from 7.30 pm)
Sat	8		'The Noise' Huntingdon (day 1)
Sun	9		'The Noise' Huntingdon (day 2)
		8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist
		11.30 am	Grassroots with Holy Baptism
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
		6.45 pm	Youth Group
Mon	10	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
Tue	11	8.00 pm	Wives' Group (Church Hall)
Wed	12	7.30 pm	Bellringers' Practice
Thu	13	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
		8.00 pm	Youth Group planning meeting
Fri	14	7.15 pm	Choir Practice (adults from 7.30)
Sat	15	7.30 pm	Hunts Male Voice Choir concert
Sun	16	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	All-Age Eucharist with the Baptism of Sophie Herbert (guest president and preacher: The Bishop of St Albans)
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
		6.45 pm	Youth Group end of term chillout
Mon	17	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
Tue	18	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting (church hall)
Thu	20	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s Teddy Bears' Picnic in the vicarage garden
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion (Oak Tree Court)
		7.30 pm	Prayer Meeting (36 Old Court Hall)

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Fri	21	7.15 pm	Choir Practice (adults from 7.30)
Sat	22	12.00 pm	Marriage of Daniel Howard and Laura Dooley
		2.00 pm	Marriage of Mike Weedon and Jen Watson
Sun	23	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	All-Age Eucharist
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
Wed	26	7.30 pm	Bellringers' Practice
Thu	27	9.45 am	Holy Communion
Fri	28	1.00 pm	Marriage of Richard Allan and Maria Kvasnickova
			Choir Barbecue
Sat	29	12.00 pm	Marriage of Matthew Varey and Karen Vinsen
Sun	30	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong

Not everyone's favourite saint is St Swithun (or Swithin), who we remember this month on 15 July. Much maligned for being associated with washed-out summer holidays, he was in fact a saint in every sense of the word, being responsible for charitable gifts and getting many churches built during his lifetime. His association with rain goes back to the 10th century. Having died in 862AD, Swithun's remains were moved on 15 July 971 by the monks from his chosen resting place outside the west door of Winchester Cathedral to a new location inside the building. That's when the heavens opened, and it continued to remain so for forty days. The rest, as they say, is history. There are fifty eight dedications to St Swithun throughout England – but don't go looking for his most famous church in the City of London. Hitler took care of that.

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

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