

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

Editorial

When Peter Moger announced his resignation unexpectedly on Palm Sunday last year, one might have been forgiven for thinking that the austere days of Lent were about to be continued into a second half. The light at the end of another interregnum tunnel looked weak and distant. The evidence of the following sixty-five weeks suggests that our fears may have been ill founded. Our familiar acts of worship continued to take place regularly, PCC and other church committees met as usual, fund-raising events, particularly at Christmas and in the summer came and went, flower arrangements appeared in church when required, the choir fulfilled its commitments to a high standard, church groups continued to meet, the weekly *Newsletter* kept us in touch, the church magazine came out on time. Things on this scale don't just happen – someone, somewhere was working on our behalf. The Godmanchester flock may have been without a shepherd for all these weeks, but his crook was picked up and passed from one pair of hands to another. We know to whom these hands belong, and to you all we say 'thank you'. For much of the time the crook has been carried by the three churchwardens – one in poor health – who have been in post since Peter's departure. They have eased us through a difficult period with care and efficiency. But for most of the time, the crook has been held by Ally. She has led her flock from the front, dutifully and lovingly, and her selfless example has been rewarded, not that she sought reward, with a parish of her own. Next

spring she will be vicar of Buckden. Anyone still sitting on the fence where women priests are concerned will surely jump down on the right side now. The light at the end of the tunnel at last shines brightly. By the time you read this David Busk will be just ten days away from stepping into Peter's shoes. We wish him, and his family, all God's love, joy and happiness.

Ministry Team Letter

Dear friends

I am writing this the night before my annual summer holiday, (yes, as usual, I have left everything till the last minute!), but by the time the magazine reaches you, most people will probably have finished with their holidays and be gearing up for the start of a new school term, or perhaps have already returned to work after a well-earned bank holiday weekend. Members of our church youth group will have spent the last few days of August at Greenbelt, the Christian arts festival in Cheltenham.

Whether you have been on holiday, or are yet to go, or even if you've not been able to manage a holiday this year, my hope for you all is that you have, somehow, found refreshment and renewal, an opportunity to pause and gather strength.

Each time I go on holiday I am torn between looking forward to the break from routine, and trepidation at how I will fill the time, and whether I will get so out of the habit of working that it will be hard

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to get going again afterwards. But even those who thrive on activity and busyness (and I'm one of them) need time out every so often: time to think, time to enjoy the world around us, time to 'be', rather than to 'do'.

I was reminded of this the other day in church, when in our gospel reading Jesus welcomed his disciples back to him after they had been busy teaching and healing the sick. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place by yourselves and rest a while'. It's good advice. We all need balance in our lives, and if we are very active and busy, we need to take time out to rest, to be ourselves, and for ourselves, even if this sometimes feels like an unjustifiable luxury.

This is the heart of the idea of the Sabbath: one day in seven that isn't about work, but is about life – ourselves and our relationship with the God who created us. It can be hard to find a Sabbath in this 24 hour, 365 day culture, but we do need something like it if we are to stay healthy in body, mind and spirit.

If, because of the work you do, or through caring for someone close to you, you're not able to have a 'real' holiday or a weekly 'Sabbath', I hope and pray that God will give you other opportunities to find refreshment, to enjoy his world in all its beauty, and to spend even just a moment 'being' rather than 'doing'.

Yours in Christ,

Ally Barrett

The Revd David Busk will be licensed by John, Bishop of Huntingdon, as Priest-in-Charge of St Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester at 6.30 pm on Sunday 10 September.

This month's cover

Lawrence Back's delightful family portrait, was recently taken in the vicarage garden. David, his wife Yoko, and their two children Simon (3) and Karin (18 months) have been settling in at the vicarage over the past few weeks, and we now look forward to having them among us.

Parish Festival of Thanksgiving

On Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October we will be holding a Parish Festival of Thanksgiving. It will also provide an opportunity for people to meet our new vicar, the Revd David Busk.

It is most appropriate that this weekend should be thought of as a Festival of Thanksgiving as we have much to be thankful for. By the time we hold the Festival we will have completed a period of interregnum that has shown that we have a clergy team and congregation of great ability and enthusiasm. We will have a new incumbent with new ideas, who will be able to lead us into the next phase of our parish life. We have a beautiful building in which to worship but

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we must remember that the church is there for the whole of the parish, so one of the main purposes of the weekend event will be to raise awareness within Godmanchester of the work of the Parish Church and make the link with Gift Day and Harvest Festival. The building will be open throughout the Saturday and Sunday with displays and events for visitors to enjoy. Everyone will be welcome.

Another aim of the weekend is to emphasise that we are not merely a number of individuals who usually attend one or other of the services held every Sunday or during the week, but a group of people who come together to worship and try to bear witness to the Christian message in our town. The 11 am service on the Sunday morning, followed by a parish lunch, is particularly aimed at bringing us all together as a 'family' – you may meet someone you haven't met for a while or even someone new! The evening service at 6 o'clock is intended to be more traditional, with well-known hymns but also featuring readings, possibly of poetry, as well as from the Bible.

Of course the Gift Day is an important element of the whole weekend and the clergy and wardens will be in church to receive your donations. This is one of the major fund-raising events of the year: as I am sure we are all aware, to run, maintain and improve our church requires a great deal of money. As well as donations of money, we will be asking for volunteers to help run the various events over the two days so please look out for details in

the Newsletter.

Let us hope that the whole weekend will show the Parish church at its best – with a joyful congregation, willing to give as well as receive – the sort of group that others would want to be a part of.

Proposed Programme

Saturday

Flower arrangers in church during the morning

11.00–11.15 am Coffee followed by a demonstration by a member of the Flower Guild.

12.00–2.00 pm Informal tours of the church building

2.00–3.00 pm Talks by the Revd. Jerry Craddock and Christopher Vane-Percy about the stained glass windows in the church.

3.00–4.00 pm Children's activities: bread-making in the church hall and a treasure hunt in church.

4.00–5.00 pm Refreshments, with music from the Grassroots Band

7.30 Film Night in the church hall, featuring 'Keep Mum' starring Maggie Smith and Rowan Atkinson

Sunday

8.00 am – Eucharist Service followed by coffee for the congregation

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11.00 pm – Informal family service for the whole congregation with contributions from the Children’s Church

12.30 pm – Shared parish buffet lunch in the Queen Elizabeth School

2.00–4.00 pm Church open for visitors

4.00–5.00 pm Quiet Hour. Clergy and members of the congregation available for private discussion, space for prayer and lighting of candles.

5.00–6.00 pm Music leading up to the evening service

6.00–7.00 pm Harvest Songs of Praise

Available throughout the weekend – stalls with church merchandise, refreshments and books.

Overall, the events we are putting on across the weekend are ideal opportunities to invite along your friends and neighbours who perhaps rarely, or never, come to church.

We hope you will find time to support this important weekend. If you have questions about the Parish Festival of Thanksgiving, please speak to us, or one of the other people on the small team responsible for putting the programme together. They are the Revd Ally Barrett, the Revd David Busk, Peter Irving and Jen Weedon.

David Ferris and Penny Jones

Mothers’ Union

The Garden Party

As August comes round once again
 Provided that we don’t get rain
 The Mothers’ Union gets together
 Praying hard for lovely weather
 To plan a summer garden party
 Inviting all those hale and hearty
 Members to turn out and come
 To Trish and John’s ancestral home.

This year as usual the morning found
 A group of people standing round
 Ready they were to put up some tents
 To shelter us all from wet events.
 A new gazebo proudly stood
 Its shiny windows looking good.
 So all we had to do was try
 To put two pull-out ones nearby.
 We did this really quickly, so
 We thought that it was time to go –
 But no, it might just rain we bet
 And that piano can’t get wet.
 So with John’s guidance we erected
 (That entertainers be protected)
 A green gazebo strong and tall
 Until we found we had not all
 The poles we needed for it, so
 The green gazebo had to go.

Deep in the shed, though, Trish had found
 Another shelter, old but sound
 Which we did try with all our guile
 To put up, but it took a while
 As corners kept on blowing in
 And soon we all began to grin
 The wind blew in, the sheet bowed out
 ‘Look out!’ we all began to shout,
 ‘It’s take-off time, get on your bike!
 A Mary Poppins look-alike.’

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Thus with regret we had to stow
The shelter in the shed and so
We all decided that we'd pray
For nice, dry weather all the day.

At two o'clock the guests arrived
And sat themselves around inside
The white gazebo, where they found
Tables and chairs arranged around.
But what was this? A pole was falling –
Action needed without stalling,
The walls were being blown about
And now the poles were coming out.

The walls were easy ones to fix
But then the centre one unclicks
And so the roof began to sag
We'd thought we'd got it in the bag.
A chair was brought and then a ladder
Everyone raised such a clamour
Of advice on how to mend it
'Push and pull' but 'Don't you bend it!'
As I stood there with much doubt
While lots of poles came falling out
I really began to feel quite like
The boy with his finger in the dyke.
'Twas with relief, I spied a man –
With luck, I thought, this fellow can
Put all these poles back, for you see,
He will have stronger arms than me.
*(I know the 'me' is wrong this time
But I do like my lines to rhyme.)*
So with our tent once more intact
We started on the second act.

Our entertainers were the best
They sang and played with such real zest
They didn't seem to mind the noise
When one or other of the boys,
Trying not to make a sound,
Hammered a peg into the ground.
They kept on coming out you see

And we needed the shelter intact for tea.
And then it rained and the sun went in –
It would wet the piano and violin
But no, our ladies were well prepared,
The entertainers from rain were spared,
A trio of brollies arrived to stay
Over all the performers, saving the day.

The sun came out and tea was served;
Although we'd been a bit unnerved
By all the happenings we'd seen
'Twas just as if they'd never been.

We ate the cakes and drank the tea
And drew the raffle with great glee.
But all did say and that right soon
It had been a memorable afternoon!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5
September when Jean White will give a
talk entitled 'The same under the skin'.

Jean Morgan

Men's Social Group

We will be holding a barbecue for
members and those who have helped with
the churchyard grass cutting on Tuesday 5
September. The venue is the garden of
John and Trish Pope's house, 34a West
Street – partners welcome. Please contact
me no later than 3 September.

David Ferris (385070)

Wives' Group

Members are reminded that the
September meeting will be our Annual
Dinner at The Cock in Hemingford Grey,

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on 12 September. If you would like to come along, please get in touch with Barbara Thirlwall (457018)

Charity of the month

The Cogwheel Trust

The 'Cogwheel Trust for Destitute Children' was founded in June 1995 and registered as a Scottish charity in 1996. It was after the International Director, Kevin S.R Hammond, made an initial visit to India in 1994, that the decision was made to set up the 'Trust', as he had been much affected by the poverty of so many children.

The Cogwheel Trust has a purpose built home in South India. It was opened on June 11 2000. Although it was built to accommodate up to fifty children, they now have over a hundred living there, such is the demand upon them. In addition to this they run a further two homes. These have been selected in areas where the children are safe, the water is clean, and where the children do not have to travel far to school. The Trust believes in sending the children to local schools, so that they can mix with other children in the area and they do not become institutionalised. To care for the children in the homes they employ managers, wardens, cooks, cleaners and laundry workers, who have all been trained to give the best standard of care for the children. Although the Trust is a Christian organisation, a child's religion or caste is not a deciding factor in their admission to

the home, only the child's need is taken into account.

The children's work in Uganda started in January 2003 with the sponsorship of thirty children in their own homes. The need for a children's home soon became evident and the new children's home in Namugongo was purchased in January 2005. Here the Cogwheel Trust can accommodate over a hundred children, with a separate baby unit, which is at present at the planning stage.

Christianity and prayer time is so important to the children that they are up by 5.30 am for a time of prayer, chorus singing and thoughts on God's word. Before going to school, time is spent singing choruses and praying for the Lord's help during the day. Again in the evening, after study time, thoughts return to Jesus as they sing together, meditate on a passage of scripture and pray.

Help change a child's life forever by sponsoring a child or by making a generous donation to this charity of the month. For further information contact The Cogwheel Trust on 01346 571149.

Gill Taylor

Great Ouse Valley Challenge Walk – walking for water!!! (June 20 to June 24)

A big thank-you to everyone who sponsored me for this long distance walk for Christian Aid. The aim was to try and raise money to provide safe water for

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poor communities throughout the world. For every £800 we raise, Christian Aid partners can construct a well that could change a community's way of life. As I write, the total amount I have been sponsored is over £600 which I'm sure you will agree is a remarkable sum and a wonderful conclusion to a remarkable experience for me.

I was born and brought up in the 'concrete jungle' of London which is saved, in my eyes, by its beautiful parks and commons. So, in my childhood, the countryside was always a 'holiday experience' – a romantic place to visit and enjoy. It will always be that way with me. It's why I love Godmanchester so much. And there is always something uplifting about being down by the riverside. Perhaps it's a primeval thing, deep in our psyche, which is stirred when we see a beautiful, clean and flowing river.

Given my view of the countryside and of the river Great Ouse, in particular, it wasn't difficult for me to get my walking boots on for the Great Ouse Challenge Walk – 87 miles in 5 days. Five people were to attempt the whole walk: Andrew Milton (Team Rector of Huntingdon), David Shaw (Methodist Minister for Huntingdon), Deborah Ballantyne from Worksop, Martin Thompson from Alconbury and me. We were joined by Mark Savage (Team Vicar Huntingdon) and others during the walk.

Day One – June 20 Syresham to Wolverton (21 miles)

I stayed in the lovely home of Margaret

and Keith White at Middleton Cheney on the night of Monday June 19. I felt a bit of a fraud because the walk hadn't started yet, but we needed to start early on Tuesday morning. It was a great blessing to receive the warm, Christian hospitality from strangers who welcomed me and instantly made me feel at home.

The first day took us past Stowe, with its beautiful monuments, arches and bridges, and Buckingham, ancient market town where even the old jail is elegant. On to Thornton and Beachampton, where I had to say farewell to my comrades because Michael, my son, was going to pick me up and take me to Godmanchester so that I could take the minutes at the June PCC meeting.

Day Two – June 21 Wolverton to Turvey (21 miles)

Chris Emerson of Christian Aid took me to where the others were staying in Wolverton. After the 21 miles on day one, we were suffering from pains in knees, hips or had blisters to contend with. Debby, a chirpy Yorkshire lady, was feeling particularly sore and uncomfortable. Nevertheless, she is made of strong stuff and was determined to struggle on. We passed Newport Pagnell and entered the lovely village of Sherington. As we were walking through, one old gentleman called out from his car that the road we were just about to go up was indeed 'the right road for Glastonbury!' Good joke we thought, he seemed the archetypal village character. As we continued, I noticed that he had turned his car round and was passing us with a jovial grin. Later on, we reached

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his house and there he was standing at the gate. He enquired about our walk and then said, ‘The Lord said, take my yoke upon you for my yoke is easy and my burden is light’. We had not told him we were a bunch of Christians walking for Christian Aid. He just seemed to know. He then gave Debbie a thumb stick, in which you put your thumb in the Y of the hazel branch specially hewn to help you walk. Debbie was delighted and throughout the following days she would thank God for the old gentleman she called the Saint of Sherington! We walked on to Turvey where we stayed the night together at the monastery. The monks provided a much needed meal of fish and chips followed by cheesecake – it all tasted marvellous!

Day Three – June 22 Turvey to Bromham (18 miles)

If you look at a map, you will see that Bromham is only 4 miles from Turvey. However, we were following the Ouse Valley Way and here it takes a significant detour to the north before turning south again through Stevington to Bromham. The English countryside looked superb as we went through several fields full of different crops: barley, wheat, beans, borage and those less welcome, rape and linseed; not forgetting the animals all tending their young: cows with their calves, mares with their foals and ewes with their lambs. And the birds: herons, swans and plenty of mallards, coots and moorhens – all playing their parts in the rich tapestry of the English countryside.

Day Four – June 23 Bromham to St Neots (17 miles)

This turned out to be the hardest day of the walk. Perhaps the first three days were taking their toll. We started out at 9.00 am and did not reach St Neots until 8.00 pm. The river at Bedford was a revelation to me – wide and handsome, with beautiful bridges and a lovely long park on the banks of the river.

Day Five – June 24 St Neots to Godmanchester and Huntingdon (10 miles)

For Andrew, David and me, it was a pleasure to walk these last ten miles knowing that we had now walked the whole of the Ouse Valley Way. You may remember that last year we walked from St Neots to Kings Lynn (76 miles). It was a strange feeling as we walked the first ten miles of last year’s challenge but really satisfying knowing that we had accomplished our aim. The walk was concluded by a short thanksgiving service in Huntingdon Methodist Church. Thanks again for sponsoring me, it was a pilgrimage experience!

Trevor Weedon

<p>Thanksgiving is good but thanks-living is better.</p>
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Matthew Henry

Wanted...your photographs!

At our Festival of Thanksgiving weekend (30 September – 1 October) we’d like to give a flavour of the life of our Church community through the year and include photographs (old and new) of the people and activities of our Church for visitors to look at. Do you have pictures from events

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like the Summer Fetes, Christmas Bazaars, barbecues, coffee mornings, pancake races, plant sales, choir festivals and concerts? Do you have photos of the donkey on Palm Sunday or the stars of the show at the Children’s Church Nativity service? If so, we would like them! Any pictures you think help depict the life of our Church would be most welcome. All photographs donated for display purposes would be carefully looked after and returned to their owners after the festival weekend. Hard copy photographs can be passed to me in an envelope with a note of your name, address and/or telephone number. Envelopes containing photographs and your contact details may also be left in the ‘W’ pigeonhole in church or delivered to 16 Cob Place, Godmanchester. Digital photographs may be emailed to Jen Weedon at: jen_mike_22@yahoo.co.uk. Please note that any photographs of the younger members of our Church must be given by permission of their parents. Many thanks.

Jen Weedon (tel. 384019)

Diocesan Choirs’ Festival, King’s College Chapel, 16 September

The biennial Diocesan Choirs’ Festival in King’s College Chapel will be held this year on Saturday 16 September and will be conducted by Tim Brown, Director of Music at Clare College. Our choir is taking part, and we hope that we will be supported by many members of our congregation in what promises to be a most uplifting event. The doors open at

5.15 pm and the service starts at 6.00. It will finish by 7.00, in plenty of time to use the ‘Park and Ride’.

Ken Diffey

As a new school year starts



We send all our best wishes to the teachers and children of our local schools at the beginning of their new term, and also to those who are going back to, or starting at university very soon. You are asked to remember them all in your thoughts and prayers.



Food for thought

Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

Allen Bartlett

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And finally . . . the end of the magazine (almost) but a time for beginnings – new schools, new universities, new jobs and above all a new beginning for our Vicar and his family. So . . . lots of people to be added to your prayers, then.

The Registers

Funerals

27 July Jack Mason

Burial of Ashes

25 July Barbara Pedley

4 August Desmond and Georgina Hensby

Holy Matrimony

22 July Daniel Howard and Laura Dooley

22 July Michael Weedon and Jennifer Watson

28 July Richard Allan and Maria Kvasnickova

29 July Matthew Varey and Karen Vinsen

5 August James Davies and Caroline Molyneaux

The Lectionary

3 September

Trinity 12

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8,14,15, 21-23

10 September

Patronal Festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Isaiah 61:10-11; Luke 1:46-55

17 September

Trinity 14

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Mark 8:27-38

24 September

Trinity 15

Jeremiah 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

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Dates for your Diary

September

Sat	2	1.00 pm	Marriage of Philip Malley and Lucy Clarke
Sun	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism
		6.30 pm	Evensong
Mon	4		No Stepping Stones this week
Tue	5	2.15 pm	Mothers' Union (Queen Elizabeth School)
Wed	6	8.00 pm	Communications Committee
Thu	7	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
Sat	9	9.45 am – 4.00 pm	Authorised Lay Ministry Module (Ely Methodist Church)
Sun	10	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist – Patronal Festival
			Children's Church and Vestry Group
		11.30 am	Grassroots with Holy Baptism
		6.30 pm	Licensing Service for the Revd David Busk, followed by light refreshments in the church hall
Mon	11	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
		7.30 pm	Churches Together Meeting (Baptist Church Centre)
Tue	12	8.00 pm	Wives' Group (church hall)
Wed	13	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice
Thu	14	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
		7.30 pm	Children's Church leaders' meeting (59 London Road)
Sat	16	6.00 pm	Royal Schools of Church Music Festival Evensong (King's College Chapel)
Sun	17	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist
			Children's Church and Vestry Group
		11.15 am	Civic Service
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
		6.45 pm	Youth Group: chillout and film night at Janie and Simon's house)
Mon	18	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
Wed	20	11.30 am	Holy Communion by Extension (Woodley Court)
Thu	21	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
		9.45 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion (Oak Tree Court)

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	7.30 pm	Prayer Group Meeting (36 Old Court Hall)
Sat 23	3.00 pm	Marriage of Tom Colledge and Liz Crooke
Sun 24	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Sung Eucharist
		Children's Church and Vestry Group
	4.00 pm	Rectory Gardens Ecumenical service
	6.30 pm	Sung Evensong
	6.45 pm	Youth Group: Superheroes Bible Study at Ally's house
Mon 25	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)
Wed 27	9.45 am	Holy Communion (McCartney House)
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice
Thu 28	9.30 am	St Mary's 0s-5s (Comrades' Club)
	9.45 am	Holy Communion
Sat 30		PARISH FESTIVAL OF THANKSGIVING (see separate listing for details)
		GIFT DAY
Oct 1		HARVEST FESTIVAL
	8.00 am	Eucharist Service followed by coffee
	11.00 am	Family Service for whole congregation
	12.00 noon	Shared Parish Buffet Lunch (QE Hall)
	6.00 pm	Harvest Songs of Praise



The Editorial Committee meeting for the October magazine will be held on **Sunday, 17 September**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date:

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Any enquiries relating to advertising should be addressed to Victoria Richardson.

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