

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

The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

Here are two pieces of recent church news, one national and one parochial. At the time of writing, the Church of England is considering suing Sony Corporation over a video game in which it is said that the players are supposed to slaughter hundreds of virtual aliens inside a virtual Manchester Cathedral. As you probably know, there were two attempts to break into the church in May. They were unsuccessful, but windows in the vestry and the north porch were broken. (It was presumably the same people who caused greater damage to the church hall at the same time.)

Both these events seem to show how our culture has lost its sense of sacredness. When I was a child, I felt a terrified fascination for the sanctuary of the church behind the altar rail, as I believed the power of God was concentrated there and that something dreadful would happen to me if I stepped inside it. I would not want to go back to that rather primitive fear, but it was a crude recognition of the *meaning* of the church building. It seems as if our churches, when they are noticed at all, are increasingly seen either as exotic locations for spooky fantasies or as vulnerable and isolated museums inviting plunder.

In other words many, perhaps most, people no longer feel connected to the churches that punctuate and, in many cases, still dominate our national landscape. This is obviously not a particularly original insight of mine, and I do not want to indulge in a bout of false nostalgia and hand-wringing. The point is that we have a challenge, and an opportunity, to give back to the community these wonderful buildings that are both a joy and a burden to us.

At the Annual Meeting in April, and again at the PCC in June, I spoke of my hope that we could soon begin to move forward with plans to reorganise the west end of our church. We have a beautiful, very large, under-used and inflexible building in our care. There is, quite obviously, nothing remotely like it hereabouts. Wouldn't it be marvellous to see it filled with activity on every day of the week, not only at times when worship is being conducted? Couldn't it become a place where everyone feels they belong and have a right to be, whatever their beliefs or lack of them? Rather than being, all too often, the hollow space in the centre of the town, couldn't our church be *the* centre?

For the moment I only want to float the idea of remodelling part of the church, not propose detailed plans, though I would be very glad if we were able to offer visitors fairly soon the minimal courtesy of lavatories. Any work we might undertake would require a great deal of commitment and energy, and it would be vital to keep as our focus the mission and the worshipping life of the church, rather than any particular building project. The whole purpose would be to make our church a place which by its life and its layout draws more people a step closer to the presence of God.

With love,

David

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Charity of the month

You may recall that last year we provided a history of USPG. USPG continues God's worldwide mission. With partners in over 40 countries, USPG has, through the years, been able to build up the sensitivity and understanding that is necessary to support the world church as it lives out the gospel in a variety of cultures and contexts. By teaming up with USPG, churches in Britain and Ireland can connect with the world church without making mistakes. They can put you in touch with long-established church projects, experienced ministers and those whose life work is to facilitate international exchange.

At the heart of its ministry is the message that mission should be 'from everywhere to everywhere'. They believe that each part of the world church is able to learn from every other part. For this reason, a USPG programme is as likely to see an AIDS worker from South Africa educating young people in England, as a construction expert from England helping indigenous communities to build houses in Chile.

Its work is always done in response to direct requests from the world church. Over the years they have responded to requests for grants, personnel and advice in fields as diverse as education, health care, pastoral care, advocacy, agriculture, child care, women's empowerment, and much

more. In many cases, USPG is supporting work in developing countries where there is little or no social welfare, so it is often the Anglican Church – with its huge network – that is best placed to reach the impoverished and marginalised.

USPG is also involved with advocacy – speaking out for justice on behalf of the marginalised. During the 1980s the Society was deeply involved with the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and was a founding member of Jubilee 2000, the organisation set up to campaign for an end to Third World debt. USPG has also been at the forefront for AIDS awareness and is heavily involved in educational and health issues in a bid to eradicate this horrendous pandemic sweeping across many parts of the world. The Society continues to engage in issues of justice by relaying the voices of Christians around the world to the churches and governments in Britain and Ireland.

USPG has adopted a new 'supplementary name' that will help us to inform church-goers and the general public exactly who we are and what we do.



Roy Norris

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Brass for a Summer's Evening

Cambridge Brass Band will be giving a summer concert in Church on Saturday 21 July 2007 at 8.00 pm. Members of the band are providing their services at minimal cost to help spread the word about the art (and science) of British brass band music. The concert will cover a wide range of brass band music under the directorship of Peter Bassano. Refreshments will be available during the interval. Tickets £6 (£5) are available from Colin & Barbara Thirlwall (457018). Please help to support this welcome initiative by one of our regions top brass bands.

Colin Thirlwall

Summer Fete

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the Summer Fete a success; the Mayor, David, the Churchwardens, the people who ran the stalls and games, or provided teas and ice creams, those who donated items for the stalls or the Grand Draw, played in the band or organised the Grand Draw. Many thanks go also to all the people behind the scenes who helped set up and clear away and those who attended the event. We had a reasonable turnout considering the weather and made somewhere in the region of £1400 net (£1900 gross) for Church Funds, which is excellent.

Christine Parker

This month's cover

If you didn't realise it already, Lawrence's cover prompts you that Godmanchester is about to go into Gala mode. For those of you that live outside the parish, and therefore don't automatically receive a copy of *The Bridge* – our annual guide to the town – here are some key dates and times for Gala weekend.

Sat 7 July

1.00 pm Gala Day Parade

2.00 pm Arena events on the Rec'

Sun 8 July

10.00 am Worship in the Park

12.00 pm Duck Race

12.30 pm Picnic in the Park

For details of all events visit the Community Association website:
www.godmanchester.net

Well done, chocoholics!

Next time you spend your pocket money at Gill Taylor's Fairtrade stall in the church hall, give yourself a pat on the back.. You are helping to push Britain to the top of the Fairtrade League. According to the American Christian Science Monitor, the UK is experiencing a Fairtrade revolution with sales in 2006 up 46% from the previous year. According to Traidcraft, Britain has overtaken Switzerland to become the largest Fairtrade market in Europe. For more information on this exciting development turn to the Fairtrade Foundation's website at:

www.fairtrade.org.uk

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Wives' Group

On a beautiful June evening, we visited Adams' Plants of Buckden. Mrs Adams has an amazing nursery, including 250 varieties of clematis! The earliest of these - Jingle Bells - flowers from January to March. Mrs Adams shared her love of plants, especially clematis, and gave us useful information about getting the best from them - on position, sunlight and soil. Most of the new varieties come from Latvia and Estonia.

Mrs Adams told us the English and Latin names of the varieties and who grew them first. Our favourites included Holkdeen (producing 1000 flowers in three months), Blue Angel, Victoria and Little Nell. After the tour, we had a hanging basket demonstration and then Mrs Adams showed us how to do clematis cutting and seed collection: a seed can take between three weeks and three years to become a viable plant. Patience needed! Anne Mair gave our thanks and presented Mrs Adams with a token of our appreciation. If you love clematis, visit Adams' Plants, Taylors' Lane, Buckden (Weds, Thurs or Fri, 9.30am – 6.00pm), or ring 01480 810366. Our charity coffee evening is on Tuesday 10 July (7.30pm) at Jean Lenton's home, Corpus Christi Farm, Offord Hill. Usual raffle, cake stall, bring and buy. Everyone welcome!

Olwyn Hurd

Mothers' Union

At the June meeting Dr Shirley Hall gave a talk entitled "From Passover to Eucharist". The chairs were arranged around tables so that everyone felt they were sharing a meal. Shirley explained that the meal is full of symbolism reflecting the time of slavery in Egypt and the eventual escape to freedom. Children ask questions and the adults re-tell the story as the meal progresses. Unleavened bread is eaten because there was no time in the rush to freedom to allow the bread to rise. Bitter herbs remind everyone of the bitterness of slavery. Food is dipped into salt water to recall the tears shed in cruel slavery; and into harsh tasting horseradish and sweet tasting Charoset, (made of apple and nuts), to remind us that it is God who changes cries of sorrow into shouts of joy. Wine also plays an important part in the Passover Seder and it is sipped at key points along the way. We all broke the bread and passed it from person to person and we dipped one piece into the bitter herbs and the other into the sweet Charoset as a reminder of the bitter experience of slavery and the sweetness of redemption. There were many reminders during this celebration of the way we celebrate the Eucharist and we came away with a deeper understanding of our own faith. Our next meeting will take place at St Anne's School on July 3rd at 2pm.

Jean Morgan

For those in peril on the sea

On a beautiful day in May, five intrepid travellers arrived at the Seafarers' Mission in Felixstowe docks. We were there to rekindle our ties with the mission, as links seem to have faltered a little. On previous visits we have taken sweaters, gloves and hats and we were keen to see if such offerings were still needed.

We were met by the chaplain and we discussed what was still relevant. Present requirements are knitted hats (not mittens), sweaters, jigsaw puzzles, games, magazines (with *Readers Digest* and *National Geographic* being particularly popular), paperback books, (e.g. sea and adventure stories) and, of course, our prayers for all who work in such a hostile environment.

We hope the chaplain will come to visit us in the autumn, when we will be able to send him back loaded with the items on the list. Please watch for an appeal in the church magazine and the *Newsletter*.

After our visit to the Mission, we made our way into Felixstowe for a light lunch at the Spa Pavilion, followed by a stroll along the prom, and a large Mr Whippy ice cream. We know how to enjoy ourselves! Our day finished at the port lookout, where we watched the vessels coming and going. What a great day - warm sunshine and great company. We just wish all our readers could have been with us. Perhaps next time?

Olwyn Hurd and Peter Ballantine

Men's Social Group

The Men's Social Group chose a fine June day for another outside visit, this time to the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden. Although not a 'flying' day there were plenty of interesting exhibits to see and marvel at. Seven hangers hold the collection including one for restoration and maintenance – a rather slow process by the looks of it! This unique collection of flying historic aircraft contains planes dating from 1909 up to World War II and beyond, including a Spitfire and a Hurricane. The collection also includes a wide range of veteran, vintage and classic motor cars, motorcycles, bicycles and horse drawn carriages. There was much to admire in the delicate craftsmanship which had gone into the very flimsy looking planes constructed from canvas, wood and wire – a complete contrast to the more modern all-metal planes with their stressed skin construction. A fine example of the latter is the 1934 DH Comet which captured a number of long distance records in its day. The collection illustrates how much aircraft and motor vehicle design has developed, although it's doubtful whether present day machines are as much fun to fly or drive as earlier ones!

Our next outing (3 July) will be an evening cycle ride with a stop at a local hostelry for refuelling. Please see the *Newsletter* for details.

Peter Dawe

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Dorothy Groves, 1931-2007

Dorothy died on 9 June, thus sharing her deathday with Charles Dickens, and printed below, with the family's permission, is an extract from David Busk's funeral address on 19 June.

Dorothy was born Sunderland, above her father's chemist shop, and grew up there. She was evacuated to rural Yorkshire with her cousin Bill, who was the nearest she had to a brother. She was an only child, born after two earlier children had died in infancy, and so was a great blessing to her parents.

Though she never returned there to live, Sunderland remained a big part of her life, not least through her large family there and her loyalty to the football team. Here is a short piece, clearly intended to be part of a longer article, which Dorothy wrote about her childhood.

The first sound I heard on waking as a small child, was often the gloomy note of the fog horn warning ships at sea of the dangerous rocks. Occasionally the next sound would be a distress rocket from a ship which had gone aground. This was an occasion for the older boys to shout 'ship ashore' and run down to the harbour mouth to see what they could see. The next inevitable sound would be the raucous croak of the shipyard buzzer, followed by the sounds of hundreds of pairs of boots clattering over the cobblestones on their way to work. These sounds of childhood, linked me inevitably to the sea.

On Sundays, my father's only day off from the chemist shop he kept, we would often wrap ourselves in towelling robes and take the tram to the beach, have a quick dip and return home, before going to church. It was a treat sometimes to go to church by rowing boat (the steam ferry

didn't operate on Sundays) and our church was situated on the other side of the river. How we managed to keep our Sunday clothes dry, I can't imagine.

From childhood Dorothy was an excellent pianist, and she achieved her Royal Academy Diploma at 17. She read Classics and Music at Sheffield, and went into teaching, chiefly Latin. She was always an excellent linguist, and went to Sweden for three years in the late 1950s to teach. She came back and worked in educational administration in Essex, where she met Alan, a headmaster. They married in 1963, and their three children were born 1966, 1968, and 1970.

Music was a very important part of her life. All the music in this service was chosen by her, and she left some very precise and characteristic instructions. I particularly liked one line: "NOT in any circumstances should the hymn 'Love divine, all loves excelling' be used, and particularly not the tune 'Blaenwern', which I hate." Dorothy's particular gift was accompanying, and she formed part of an ensemble which performed around London in the 1970s. She also conducted the local Gilbert and Sullivan society in Ealing for several years. She passed on her musical talents to all her children, and her linguistic abilities to her daughter in particular.

Family was also very important to Dorothy: she was an avid genealogist and family historian, and spent endless hours poring over wills and registers in the Public Record Office. She was horrified to discover that her Sunderland family had originated in Essex in the 17th century!

As her children grew up Dorothy trained as an indexer and copy-editor, and helped to found the Society of Freelance Editors and Proofreaders.

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The Church was always a major part of her life. She had a Methodist upbringing, and became an Anglican by marriage. She thought she had “strange views”, but didn’t really. She had trouble with the Holy Trinity, but so do many of us. Her scruples meant that she did not allow herself to receive communion, but I believe that in the deepest sense we did all share in communion with Dorothy. God is not bothered about words, and Dorothy is not going to be quizzed at the Pearly Gates on the doctrine of the Triune Majesty of the Deity. In the reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians that we heard just now, St Paul declares that “in Christ all will be made alive.” He does not say, “all who believe” or “all who understand” or “all who hold the correct doctrines”, but simply *all*, Dorothy and you and me and all who pass through the doorway of death.

Dorothy had a musician’s concern for everyone to be able to sing the tune, which meant she didn’t want the musically somewhat tricky hymn “How shall I sing that majesty” at this service, but she said that the following verse from it reflected her views well:

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
 inflame it with love's fire;
 then shall I sing and bear a part
 with that celestial choir.
 I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
 with all my fire and light;
 yet when thou dost accept their gold,
 Lord, treasure up my mite.

Dorothy may have felt that what she had to offer was a mite, but I am quite certain that as far as we are concerned what Dorothy has given us, what she has left us in memories and in all we have received from her, is a great treasure. As a reflection of that legacy, the collection today is for a favourite charity of hers, Practical Action (formerly Intermediate Technology), which helps people in the developing world find practical

solutions to the problems of daily life, and which she has supported for many years. It is typical of Dorothy to contribute to something so down-to-earth and yet far-reaching in its effect.

In her funeral notes, Dorothy speaks of the puniness of humankind – adding her doubt as to whether there is such a word as ‘puniness’, a typical Dorothy touch reflecting her care for words. She contrasts that with God’s loving kindness and mercy and his sustaining presence in adversity. She and Alan knew both that adversity and that sustaining presence. Probably I am not alone in feeling that, sad and shockingly swift as Dorothy’s death was, it seems somehow fitting that she should have followed Alan so soon. It was not that she had nothing to live for – far from it. She was thrilled at the birth of her first grandchild, Michael, and also very much wanted to see Catherine’s baby, due in October. Yet in the end she was ready to go, and we can let her go confident that her faith has, with Alan, now found its fulfilment.

At the end of her funeral notes, Dorothy writes this.

Most important of all. Whatever references are made to my life, I wish three things to be stressed (the order is chronological, not order of importance):

- 1) The enormous influence of a Christian home with two loving parents and a very large and close (even now) extended family, plus a selfless Christian foster-mother in wartime, and
- 2) the great happiness I have had in a wonderfully loving marriage, with the most lovely husband any one could have, with whom I have shared much joy and some sorrow and to whom I owe
- 3) our three children, *of all of whom I am very proud.*

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

**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN
HUNTINGDON and
GODMANCHESTER.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 7th July 2007.
8am
Barley Mow, Hartford.

Speaker- Alison Craven.

**Subject- "As there are no men
available will you..."**

(Alison has spent 28 years in Nepal involved in agricultural work and community development. She has seen much growth in the Nepali Church)

The cost is £7 to cover your meal, a tip for the staff and a free meal for the speaker.

Please make a definite booking with the person in your Church who gave you this leaflet, by July 3rd. so that we can book an accurate number of meals.

We plan to finish by 9.30am

Helping local Girl Guides and Brownies

The Girl Guide Ripton Lodge at Abbots Ripton has launched an appeal for £100,000 in order that the centre can be brought up to a standard that will allow disabled guides and brownies, together with their carers, to use the centre for weekend accommodation.

The Lodge is already used by guides and brownies from all over West Cambridgeshire, including Godmanchester, for camping and pack holidays. £2000 has already been raised, but more funds are required.

As a start towards raising this money, you are invited to support a reception and four-course black-tie dinner, including professional entertainment and an auction, in Hemingford Abbots Village Hall on Saturday 22 September 2007. Tickets are £40 per head, with tables for up to eight people available for pre-booking. There is a 10% discount when four or more places are requested. The contact for further details and bookings is Gillian Bathurst on 01480 465442, or email: [**gillianbathurst@dsl.pipex.com**](mailto:gillianbathurst@dsl.pipex.com)

For other donations towards the project, please make cheques payable to Friends of Ripton Lodge, and send to Gillian at 25 High St, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 9BJ.

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May PCC Meeting

Minutes in full of all PCC meetings are displayed on the south door noticeboard. Here are some key points from the May meeting

Matters arising

- Loudspeaker System – it was reported that views on the sound quality of the new system were variable. Some people said it was fine, others that it was muffled or indistinct. The wired microphones were working perfectly but, on occasion, there seemed to be problems with the radio microphones.

Appointment of Parish Officials

- The following appointments were proposed and carried unanimously:
Lay Chair – David Ferris
PCC Secretary – Trevor Weedon
PCC Treasurer – Peter Ballantine
Assistant Wardens – Peter Hartwell, Robert Hurd and Trevor Weedon.

Appointment of all members of PCC sub-committees

- The appointment of all members of PCC sub-committees was approved. The list is posted on the south door noticeboard.

Finance Committee

- Regular income was down compared to last year. It looks likely that non-routine income (e.g. from Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar) will have to go into the budget to help make ends meet.

Fabric Committee

- Someone had tried to break into the church – grills on various windows had been vandalised and some glass broken. Immediate action was taken to make the church secure.

Church Hall Committee

- There was a problem with the outside wooden planking to the rear of the hall. Cost estimates to rectify the matter were being obtained.

Trevor Weedon

And finally...

Tea on the lawn. Music for a summer's afternoon will be provided in church by the **Valentine Singers** on Sunday 29 July (3.30 pm) followed by cream teas in the vicarage garden (weather permitting.) The programme will range from sacred to secular music including a selection from *HMS Pinafore*. Free admission with a retiring collection for the Development Fund. CDs available. Contact: Colin Thirlwall (457018)

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The Registers

Baptism

3 June	Lucas Roy Madge
10 June	Jack Peter James Lunn Katie Victoria Jordan Henry Edward Foxton Thorne Emily Florence Thorne
17 June	Lois Faith Edwards

Holy Matrimony

2 June	Raymond Clausson and Lynsey Tate
16 June	Mark Kember and Krystyna McCarthy
23 June	Karl Bland and Heidi Shepherd

Funerals

18 June	Madeline Iris Lancaster
19 June	Margaret Dorothy Groves

Burial of Ashes

6 June	Gertrude Storey
7 June	John Pope

The Lectionary

1 July	Trinity 4 1 Kings 19:15-16,19-end; Galatians 5:1,13-25; Luke 9:51-end
8 July	Trinity 5 Isaiah 66:10-14; Luke 10:1-11
15 July	Trinity 6 Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Luke 10:25-37
22 July	Mary Magdalene Song of Solomon 3:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; John 20:1-2,11-18
29 July	Trinity 8 Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13

GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS

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The Editorial Committee Meeting for the August magazine will be held on **Sunday 15 July**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following people by that date, and if possible not later than **Friday 13 July**.

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

Lawrence Back (Lawrence@lionscorner.co.uk)

Joan Jackson (joan.jackson@ntlworld.com)

Victoria Richardson (DIRand VMR@aol.com)

Any enquiries concerning advertisements should be addressed to Victoria Richardson