

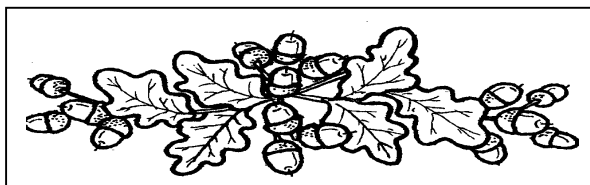
G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S

Clergy Letter

Dear Friends

October is the month where both in England and in Canada we traditionally give thanks for all that the Lord has provided; in Canada families and communities gather to celebrate Thanksgiving and here in churches and schools we celebrate Harvest. In both countries in recent years we have witnessed that as technology and cities and towns grow we have become distanced from the land. As many of you know I have recently returned from a trip to see friends in Toronto. While there I visited a farmers' market in the town of St Jacobs, a community largely inhabited by Old Order Mennonites, individuals who in their dress and habits might be mistaken for being Amish. What a spectacle it was! As we approached the area, horse drawn buggies driven by 'plain clothed' families joined the 21st century traffic of pick-up trucks and cars. The market itself was a show place of the best seasonal produce, bushel baskets of red and green peppers, quart baskets of peaches, beans, tomatoes, summer sausage, and baked goods, all alongside handmade quilts and crafts. Here in the market place the 21st century travelled back in time to savour the produce and skills of a community of another age. The Mennonites who live in North America are descendants of individuals who fled Europe because of religious persecution, the first settling in Canada in 1786. They believe that God is loving and just and they feel called to live lives that reflect this reality. At the heart of their faith is a belief in Jesus. They aim to lead lives empowered by the Spirit in a way that reflects the life and teaching of Jesus, believing that worship is your daily life. Their dress and lifestyle are a testimony to their religious beliefs. However, their living testimony goes further as they are renowned for being peacemakers and are practically involved in voluntary service, especially supporting communities affected by natural disasters. To us looking in it may be hard to fathom anyone wanting to live their life in this way, and I would imagine that there are few converts to the Old Order Mennonites. But at the same time they have much to teach us. We as practising Christians have, for all intents and purposes, become a minority within our society. Everyday, however, just like the Mennonites, we interact with those outside our faith in the wider society. But do we in our lives bear witness to our faith? Some might argue that perhaps it is easier for the Mennonites because they live lives to a large extent separated from society, choosing a lifestyle where God remains central to their existence. But yet, despite ridicule, they continue their witness and remain faithful to their beliefs. So at this time of Harvest let us be thankful for the bounty of the Lord living lives which bear witness to God's blessings in words and actions.

With love,
Mary



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

Who's who in the parish

Ann Tilley



Born in Rowington, Warwickshire, Ann went to boarding schools before going up to Girton College, Cambridge, where she read English. On graduation she taught children, first in London, and then in Warwickshire so as to be close to her mother while her father did military service. Ann later trained as a librarian at University College, London, and for a short time taught library skills to school teachers.

Ann's father, who died while serving in the Home Guard, her brother and niece all qualified as solicitors. But not Ann. Her inclination has always been to help people through her faith, with much of her life spent living in communities. The first of these was the Sister of the Community of St Andrew in London while Ann was on the Southwark Ordination Course, although she didn't take holy orders. Later she moved to Belsize Park - "a community full of lively vicars!" - and finally to the Community of Christ the Sower at Little Gidding, where she met the man she was to marry, Michael

Tilley. The son of a farmer, and a qualified architect, Michael was highly prized for his maintenance and repair skills on the community's buildings. Changes at the Community brought the Tilleys to St Francis House, where Ann cut a striking figure walking along the Causeway. This move marked a turning point in Ann's life. She immersed herself in the church's work and her involvement as a Pastoral Assistant (now retired) and leader of the monthly Prayer Group (certainly not retired!) have been greatly valued at St Mary's. I am only just coming to terms with the fact that we no longer see Ann in a cassock and surplice on Sundays.

At the Chestnuts Ann enjoys her books – art, literature and theology mostly - and keeps in touch with her extended family. Photographs of her younger relatives are much in evidence, and the day I visited Ann was catching her breath following her brother and sister-in-law's golden wedding anniversary celebrations. Other interests include painting – a watercolour of her childhood home hangs in the sitting room - and gardening. Happy to be in Godmanchester, Ann's thoughts are forever with those less fortunate than herself, with the hardships endured by an old university friend in the Middle East never far from her mind. Ann's sunny sitting room is a just reward for a busy life spent caring for others, for which we all say thank you.

Peter Irving.

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

This month's cover

All is safely gathered in. Many thanks to artist Norman Tweedley of Cambridge Street for capturing the moment as we head towards this year's Harvest Festival, details of which appear on page 8.

Gift Day

Our annual Gift Day takes place on **Saturday 4 October**. The church will be open from **10.00am to 3.00pm** and members of the Finance Committee and Ministry Team will be on hand to answer your questions about giving, and to receive donations. Light refreshments will be available.

Please consider coming along, even if not to make a donation, but please do consider that too! Times are hard, and likely to get harder, and giving money to any cause becomes increasingly a test of faith. "How will I manage if I give away any more?" In effect, Jesus says to this perfectly reasonable doubt: "You won't know until you try. *'Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.'*" (Luke 6:38)

In my very limited experience, I know this to be true; it really 'works'. If we make giving in the service of God a priority, not an afterthought, we'll find we're never short of what we truly need. In giving like this, we can almost put God to the test, and can find in the most practical way that He does indeed meet our needs.

David Busk

Charity of the month
Mission Aviation Fellowship

Flying to more destinations than any other airline worldwide, MAF has operated light aircraft in developing countries for over fifty years so that people in remote areas can receive essential help.

MAF was formed in 1945 by former World War II personnel in recognition that aircraft could be used constructively to bring help and hope to those in isolation.

Every three minutes, an MAF plane is taking off or landing somewhere in the developing world. Last year, the MAF fleet of 53 aircraft logged more than 2.9 million miles, transported 120,350 passengers, and delivered 11.3 million pounds of cargo - all on 1,700 rough, unimproved dirt and grass airstrips, or waterways. On a typical day, MAF makes 300 flights, taking people and supplies into remote communities. In times of emergency, planes become air ambulances, speeding critically-ill patients to hospital. For tens of thousands of people, seeing a doctor, or getting a Bible, or having adequate food and clean water only happen when the plane comes. When we give towards the cost of flying MAF planes, we are helping ensure that urgent aid and Christian care reaches those whose need is greatest. In addition to supporting MAF through the church collection plate you may like to sponsor a plane. Contact MAF UK in Folkstone on 0845 8509505 for details.

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

An Evening of Words and Music with Sedici

On the 18th October the SEDICI Choir will be presenting an evening of unaccompanied music and words in the Parish Church. The music will cover a very wide range from sacred through secular to traditional.

The evening will start with canapés and wine from 6.30 pm and the concert will start at 7.30 pm. Tickets (including refreshments) are £6.50 and are available from Colin Thirlwall (457018) or on the door. The proceeds from the concert will go to support the work of our church.

The Sedici choir performs under the musical directorship of Pauline Munford. The members share a love of singing and performing in the challenging environment of a chamber choir, performing both sacred and secular works. Music tastes vary and include classical, liturgical, rock, folk, jazz and medieval.

Many of the singers are also members of local madrigal groups, other chamber choirs, church choirs, community choirs and choral societies. Singers are accompanied by piano, recorder, guitar, autoharp, pipe organ, clarinet and trombone.

Sedici members' careers include former RAF Pilot, teachers, former professional soldier, marketing

account manager, glasshouse design engineer, stockbroker's project manager, doctor, nurses, driving instructor, telecommunications industry manager, recruitment consultant and retired tax inspector.

Performance locations for individual singers include Africa, Latvia, Hungary and Rome. Apart from singing in the more conventional venues of the Royal Albert Hall, the Festival Hall, the Barbican and cathedrals and churches all over the country, individual members have also sung in marquees, on a tractor trailer combination, in a curtain-sided lorry trailer and even in a cave!

Colin Thirlwall
457018

Date for your Diary BOYAN ENSEMBLE OF KIEV

The Boyan Choir will be making their 10th visit to our Church on Wednesday 19th November at 7.30pm

As in previous years we would appreciate offers of accommodation for one night, and help with catering and concert organisation. Contact Colin or Barbara Thirlwall (457018). Tickets £14 (concessions £12) from Godmanchester Town Office (weekdays 10am to 1pm) or by post (contact 01480 457018 or e-mail gmcboyan@thir.demon.co.uk)

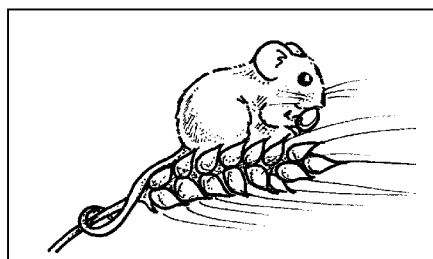
G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S

Godmanchester *Altogether* in Bloom!

As we know nothing worthwhile happens without hard work, and somehow the whole town seemed to be involved in preparing for Anglia In Bloom. It was this community involvement that made it so worthwhile. Everyone was thrilled with a Silver Award for our first entry, but for Godmanchester to receive the Best Town in East Anglia for Environmental Quality was the icing on the cake. We had two experienced judges, and their report said it all – regular street cleaning and litter picks; tidy open spaces, river banks and allotments; litter-free play parks, churchyard and school grounds; and local groups, including schoolchildren, changing the flowers on a well-maintained war memorial. Add to this the 17 semi-finalists in the Front Garden Competition, the hanging baskets, window boxes, and certificate awards for Rectory Gardens, MacCartney House and the Royal Oak pub, and we wondered where it would end!

Many thanks to the Town Council and Godmanchester Community Association for their major contributions. Soon we will see winter flowering pansies along the Causeway as we look forward to 2009. And 2012...

John Thackray (Chair)



Autumn BBQ

This has now been moved to **Sunday 12 October at 12.30pm** in the Church Hall. Tickets £5 (concessions £2.50) available from Val Pithey (454851). Proceeds towards Church funds.

A reading of *A Christmas Carol*: would you like to take part?

This year, in the late afternoon of the five Sundays preceding Christmas Day, we are planning a reading in the Church Hall of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, a chapter a week. Besides being highly appropriate to the season, taking part should be fun; also there will be some kind of refreshments beforehand (perhaps Victorian style). It's hoped that as many people as possible will join in by reading words spoken by one of the characters, by making tea etc., or simply by coming along to sit and listen to the story. There are many characters in the book; some have just a few words to say, others rather more. It will not be essential for anyone to commit to attend on more than one Sunday, and there are no lines to be learned. At this stage we are gathering names of everyone interested so we can agree who might do what and when. Interested? Then please contact one of the following asap.

Andrew Fawcett, Gillian Bathurst-Hoile, John Bathurst Hoile

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

Operation Christmas Child

It is time to ask you and your friends to start thinking about filling shoe boxes again with gifts for some of the world's poorest children, many of whom have never known how special it feels to receive a shoe box brimming with Christmas gifts.

While we can have great joy choosing gifts that will be greatly loved and appreciated, nothing compares to the joy on the faces of orphans, abandoned and terminally ill children when they are given their own shoe-box. No words can describe the excitement many children experience when they are handed a shoe-box for the first time. This year the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable children are much greater with the global food crisis and downturn in world economies. Start preparing your box today.

What should you send? We are asked to include a few items in different categories. **Educational supplies** – something to do; felt tip pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, colouring book, notepad, pencil case, stickers etc. **Hygiene items** – something to use; toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, bar of wrapped soap, flannel etc. **Other items** – something to do or wear; sweets but not chocolate, (the sell-by date must be March of next year), gloves, scarf, cap, knitted beanie hat, bangles, hair ornaments etc. You may choose whether to send a box to a boy

or girl and there are three age categories 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. Can you knit? I have simple patterns available for both a beanie hat (suitable for a boy or a girl) as well as for finger and hand puppets which have proved to be a great hit with the children and are much loved.

Operation Christmas Child is organised by a Christian charity called Samaritan's Purse. Go to their website www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk where you will find more information and pictures and a video showing the children's joy at receiving their gifts. The charity requests a contribution of £2.50 to cover the cost of sending the boxes across the world. This can be done online, or by placing a cheque made payable to Samaritan's Purse in the top of your box. If you would like more information or help please don't hesitate to ring me on 374590.

Last year St Mary's sent off 55 boxes – could we make it more this year? As you fill your box please pray for the child who will receive it – you will find it a blessing both to that child and also to you.

Joan Jackson

Parish Meeting

Sunday 19 October, 11.30am. An opportunity to hear about **planning for the future** of our church. What *you* have to say will be important. Please stay behind for this.

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

Godmanchester Churches Together

The Godmanchester **ALPHA Course** starts on Friday 3 October in the Salvation Army Hall at 7.30pm. The course, which will run for eleven Fridays until 13 December, is designed to help enquirers and doubters find out more about the Christian faith. Each meeting includes a meal, a video and a discussion. Why not come along – and perhaps bring a friend.

On the following day, Saturday 4, **Rachel Thurley** will be the guest speaker at the October **Ladies' Breakfast** in the Barley Mow, Hartford, at 8.30am. Mrs Thurley will be talking about her life as a Christian and her work in India. The next Men's Breakfast is on Saturday 1 November.

Huntingdon Deanery Evensong

On **Sunday 26 October** at 6.30pm, choirs and singers from the Huntingdon Deanery will be combining in Godmanchester Parish Church for a Book of Common Prayer Choral Evensong, conducted by Ken Diffey (Organist and Choirmaster) and accompanied by Ken Laflin (Organist and Choirmaster of Kimbolton Church). The service will be led by the Rural Dean, the Revd Brian Atling, and the preacher will be the new Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt Revd Dr David Thomson, on his first visit to the Deanery. The service will be followed

by refreshments in the church hall. We hope this special service will be supported by our own congregation as well as by congregations from other churches in the Deanery. Further details available from Ken Diffey on 458846 or diffey@homecall.co.uk

Men's Social Group

The visiting speaker at the October meeting will be **Huntingdon Town Centre Manager Katy Sismore**. As the future development of Huntingdon is likely to be of interest to a wide variety of people – not least women shoppers - the meeting is open to everyone. So please come. Tuesday 7 October, Church Hall, 7.45pm for 8.00pm. Coffee on arrival!

Harvest 2008

Our Harvest will take place over the weekend of 4/5 October. Saturday 4 – **Gift Day**, followed by Songs of Praise (6.30pm) and bring-and-share **Harvest Supper** in the Church Hall (7.45pm approx). Bring something savoury if your surname begins with the letter A-L; and something sweet if M-Z! And please be prepared to take away whatever is left of your contribution! Supper will be followed by entertainment, and a brief introduction to Mission Action Planning (MAP).

Sunday 5 – **Harvest Festival Service of Thanksgiving** (9.45am) with an offering of harvest gifts. The service will be adapted for children as there will be no Children's Church.

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

July PCC Meeting

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

Matters arising:

Loudspeaker System. The Radio Links contractor will test all microphones and provide estimates for new wireless lapel microphones, a new chancel speaker and a fixed microphone for the ambo.

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Mary Jepp and Andrew Fawcett have joined the committee. As any re-ordering of the church is part of the Mission Action Plan, a decision on the tower/northwest corner development will be put on hold for about a year.

Ministry News. Mary Jepp's rest day is Friday.

Finance Committee

The balance of regular income against expenditure for year to date shows a deficit of £13,398. The deficit is reduced to £4,904 when all income (ie including receipts from events/concerts) and expenditure is taken into account. At the end of the year, the deficit may be about £12,000.

Fabric Committee

Arising from the quinquennial report: (1) Gravestones are in poor condition. The Town Council may be responsible for these repairs. (2) The cost of repairs

to the east windows may be covered by the Diocese or Westminster Abbey. (3) The poor condition of the north aisle roof. The importance of protecting the organ from dust and debris when work is undertaken was stressed.

Church Hall Committee

New curtains have been obtained for the stage. It was proposed the stage be removed (we could use portable staging when necessary) thus making it easier to store chairs etc. The proposal was passed to the Church Hall Committee for consideration.

Churches Together

Forthcoming activities for the autumn include an Alpha Course and mid-week lunches at the Salvation Army in Silver Street.

Any other business

Following the uncertainty about the date of Harvest this year (Oct 5), Colin Thirlwall will consult David Busk about resurrecting a hard copy of the Church Diary in the Parish Office

*Trevor Weedon
PCC Secretary*

And finally...

Just as we're getting used to the successes of our local schools in this summer's examinations, one party pooper journalist slips in the following schoolboy howler: *In the middle of the 18th century all the morons moved to Utah.*

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

The Registers

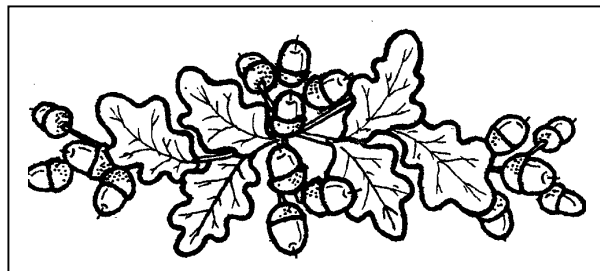
Funerals

8 September Dorothy Heron

Weddings

6 September David Short Katie Sewell

13 September Jonathan Mills Stefanie Skrzypczak



The Lectionary

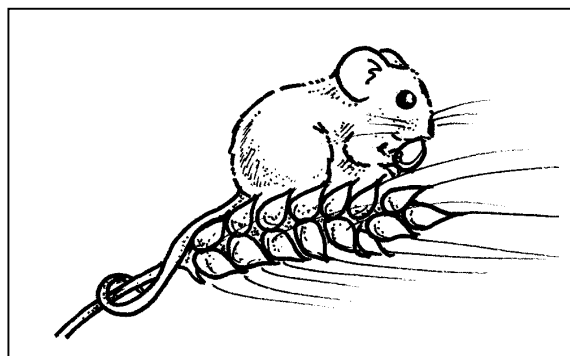
5 Oct **Harvest – Trinity 20**
 Deuteronomy 8: 7–18; 2 Corinthians 9: 6–end; Luke 12: 16-30
 Evensong Proverbs 2: 1-11; 1 John 2: 1-17

12 Oct **Trinity 21**
 Isaiah 25: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14
 Evensong Proverbs 3: 1-18; 1 John 3: 1-15

19 Oct **Trinity 22**
 Isaiah 45: 1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22
 Evensong Proverbs 4: 1-18; 1 John 3: 16-4:6

26 Oct **Bible Sunday**
 Nehemiah 8: 1-4a, 5-6,8-12; Colossians 3: 12-17; Matthew 24:
 30-35

Deanery
 Evensong Isaiah 55: 1-11; Luke 4: 14-30



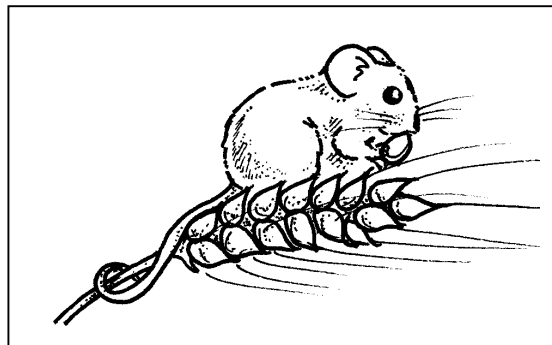
G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S

Dates for your diary

Wed	1	11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Chestnuts
Thu	2	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades Club
Fri	3	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		7.30pm	Alpha Course	Salvation Army Hall
Sat	4	6.30pm	Songs of Praise followed by Harvest Supper	Church
Sun	5	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist (Harvest)	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
Mon	6	9.15am	St Anne's Harvest Service	Church
		1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre
		2.00pm	Churches Together meeting	Salvation Army Hall
		7.30 pm	Fabric Committee meeting	Church Vestry
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Road
Tue	7	10.30 am	Planning meeting for church lunches	Salvation Army Hall
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union	QE School
		7.30 pm	Men's Group	Church Hall
Wed	8	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Oak Tree Court
Thu	9	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	10	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		7.30 pm	Alpha Course	Salvation Army Hall
Sun	12	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Holy Baptism	
		12.30 pm	Autumn BBQ	Church Hall
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group	Church Hall
Mon	13	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre
		8.00pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Road
		8.00pm	Worship Group Meeting	10, East Chadley Lane
Tue	14	7.30 pm	MAP meeting	Vicarage
		8.00 pm	Wives' Group	Church Hall
Wed	15	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Woodley Court
		8.00 pm	Bible Study	10, East Chadley Lane
Thu	16	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group	36 Old Court Hall
Fri	17	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		7.30 pm	Alpha Course	Salvation Army Hall
Sat	18	6.30 pm	Sedici concert	Church
Sun	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Church Meeting to discuss MAP	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group	Church Hall
Mon	20	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre
		8.00pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Road
Tue	21	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church Hall
Wed	22	9.45 am	Holy Communion	McCartney House

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

Thu	23	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	24	9.30 am	Wedding Rehearsal	Church
		10.30 am	MU Coffee Morning	21 Hudpool
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		7.30 pm	Alpha Course	Salvation Army Hall
Sat	25	2.00 pm	Wedding Murton - Gallagher	
Sun	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Holy Baptism	
		6.30 pm	Deanery Evensong	
			No Youth Group (Half Term)	
Mon	27	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre
Tue	28	7.30 pm	MAP Meeting	Vicarage
Wed	29	7.00 pm	Monastic Supper	Church
Thu	30	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	31	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church hall
			NO ALPHA COURSE	



The Editorial Committee meeting for the November magazine will be held on **Sunday,**

19 October. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date, and if possible not later than **Friday, 17 October:**

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

Joan Jackson (joan.jackson@ntlworld.com)

Victoria Richardson (DIRandVMR@aol.com)

Claire Hurd (esmeuk@yahoo.co.uk)