

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,

This year the Diocese of Ely celebrates its 900th anniversary – I think that's a nonacentennial. The story of the church in Ely goes back much further, at least to the foundation of a monastery by St Etheldreda on Eel Ey (eel island) in 673 AD, although it is said that she built her church on the ruins of an even earlier one. However, for most of this early period Ely was part of the vast diocese of Lincoln. In 1109 Henry I carved the Diocese of Ely out of Lincoln, and it is this bit of ecclesiastical re-ordering that we commemorate this year. (Godmanchester and much of Huntingdonshire remained in Lincoln diocese until 1847, so we are relative newcomers and should perhaps wait until 2747 before holding our own nonacentennial event.)

To be able to look back at 900 years of anything is rather wonderful, but like all such celebrations it will only be of any real value if it is used as a source of inspiration and vision rather than self-congratulation. Longevity does not in itself guarantee vitality. Unless the church today is alive with the Risen Christ, nine centuries of history will be simply a matter for archives and antiquarians. The Jews rightly delighted to look back, and still do, at the mighty works of God in delivering them from bondage in Egypt and establishing the people of Israel in their land, but their prophets were constantly reminding them that these things were done in the past and remembered in the present in order to reveal who God eternally is and shall be. Whatever we find to celebrate this year, and it will be much, it is to the God of *our* salvation that we turn in praise and longing.

Here in Godmanchester, as you will know, we are trying to discern God's guidance for His church in this place by carrying out Mission Action Planning. This Lent, we hope to further the process by forming special Lent groups. Four groups will meet four times, each time looking at a different aspect of church life. These topics are the ones that have been identified by the MAP process so far. The groups will rotate each week, meeting each time in a new location with new leaders and with a fresh topic, so that everyone has a chance to discuss all of them. Only the leaders will stay in the same place and with the same matter for discussion, so that they can collate the views of all four groups on their particular theme.

2009 MAP Lent groups - Wednesdays at 7.30 pm, beginning March 4th

Topic	Group Leaders	Venue
Church Buildings	Peter Irving Simon Prince	Peter Irving's home 26 Post Street
Outreach	Peter Dawe Andrew Fawcett	Peter Dawe's home 37 Post Street
Church Family	David Busk John Thackray	John Thackray's home 7 Allen Farm Close
Worship	Gill Bathurst-Hoile Mary Jepp	Mary Jepp's home 59 London Road

Please seriously consider taking part in this. You can start at any one of the venues, since you will rotate to the others in due course together with those who came to the first group with you. In this way, we hope to begin to clarify how we see God leading us. If you have any questions about this, please talk to me or Mary Jepp. We need *your* participation to make this work. May we find this Lent that God speaks ever more clearly to us, and so may the celebration of His saving acts continue to ring down the ages in this place and in all the world.

With love, *David*

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This month's cover

Many thanks to Vera Arnold for bringing some much-needed colour to this dullest time of the year. Her harvest floral arrangement on the church font was much admired in October, and the photograph of her handywork is a welcome feature on the cover of our February magazine. This is also an opportunity to thank all the members of the Flower Guild for their magnificent contributions to our church life throughout the year.

They were approachable and articulate and they engaged many of us in conversation quite naturally. We had a really positive and thought provoking afternoon with them and were really enthused by the commitment and hard work undertaken by those who run and work in the centre.

At our next meeting on 3 February Ros Wright is coming again so we can engage in more bead work.

Jean Morgan

Mothers' Union

At the January meeting Jackie Norton Jones came to talk to us about her work at the Hostel for the Homeless in Huntingdon. She brought two young people with her, Hannah and Tom both aged 18. The centre takes people aged from 16 to 35 and it runs resettlement programmes so that the people living there can take their places in society once more. People are there for many reasons but what ever the reason Ripton Court is their home while they are there. First they are assessed and then they embark upon the resettlement course which teaches them life skills such as housekeeping, cooking, shopping budgeting etc. The centre welcomes help from anyone with a skill that they can teach from cooking, sewing and knitting etc to Maths and English. The centre is government funded and the residents do get allowances which they have to manage carefully. Our young guests were very interesting and told us confidently why they were there and what they wanted to do next with their lives.

Wives' Group

I seem to remember remarking the last time we had a Beetle Drive something to the effect that 'if the Martians had landed on Godmanchester that Tuesday evening, they'd have probably wondered what was going on but at least it looked like fun' – and this time was pretty similar. There was a great deal of merriment but sometimes not too much in the way of conversation as the dice were furiously passed around the tables amid mutterings along the lines of: 'I've already got three heads;' 'I only need one more leg;' 'Has this thing got a 3 on it?' and so on. At the triumphant cry of 'BEETLE!' usually from Sheila Hartwell) we had to tot up our scores and the winner of each table moved on to the next table. At the end of the evening we totalled our scores and the overall winner was, not surprisingly, Sheila, who took home a small prize.

Our Charity of the Year for 2009 is the East Anglian Air Ambulance and at our

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next meeting on 10 February (8.00pm in the Church Hall as usual), we look forward to welcoming Barbara Magee who will tell us something of the work of the organisation. Please do come along and listen to what promises to be a very interesting talk. And please bring along any old mobile phones or foreign currency (coins or notes) as these can be used to raise funds for the charity.

Kate Robinson

(Kate's report was written shortly before her husband died so suddenly. Though we were aware that Kevin was unwell, his death has saddened us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kate, William and Alexandra at this time.)

Men's Social Group

Not much to report from the MSG this month apart from a bit of hard labour taking down the Christmas tree, followed by very welcome refreshments at the Irving residence. There will be more eating, and erudite conversation, in February when we hold our postponed Christmas dinner at Fawcett Towers.

Peter Dawe

Charity of the month

Corrymeela

The **Corrymeela Community** is a Christian community whose objective is the promotion of reconciliation and

peace-building through the healing of social, religious, and political divisions in Northern Ireland. It runs programmes aimed at establishing a shared society defined by tolerance, where differences are resolved through dialogue in the public sphere and where there is equity, respect for diversity and recognition of interdependence.

Corrymeela works throughout Northern Ireland and beyond, developing and delivering focused community relations work through single-identity, cross-community and cross-border community and residentially based programmes. Each year over 8,000 participants take part in programmes at the Corrymeela Ballycastle Centre, which can host over 100 residents.

Corrymeela offers participants the opportunity to engage in dialogue, build a sense of inclusive community during their programme, listen to different stories and perspectives and explore ways of moving out of violence while finding more constructive ways of working together.

In addition to providing a model of reconciliation, Corrymeela seeks to offer a language around relationships and reconciliations which can be applied to politics, conflict transformation, and faith. This language around relationships and reconciliation has been taken up in political discourse.

The Community is doing sterling work for reconciliation, not only in Northern Ireland but also in other parts of the

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world. We are happy to support them with our February giving.

Who's who in the parish

Victoria and David Richardson



We were born within six months and ten miles of each other, in North Manchester. But it wasn't until eighteen years later that we met, at university in Durham.

Victoria spent the intervening years in Swinton, where her father was Vicar and Area Dean. She went to Bolton School.

David moved from Lancashire when he was five. His father's job took the family first to Kent, and then to Norfolk, where David went to secondary school at Wymondham College.

In 1976, we both arrived in Durham as undergraduates: Victoria reading French with Russian and David, Economic History. Colleges at Durham were single sex then, and Victoria was in St Aidan's and David in University College. We met via mutual rowing friends. Victoria had

taken up rowing, and David (somewhat lighter then) had found his voice as a cox.

A hiatus came in our third year, when Victoria went to Nice as a teaching assistant for her year abroad. However, we got back together in Victoria's fourth year. After graduating, David joined the Civil Service, working at first in Norwich, while Victoria did a trainee year in the library at Nottingham University and then went to library school in Leeds. For a couple of years David could be found haring up and down the A1 each weekend.

We were married in 1982, in a little village outside Darlington, where Victoria's father had moved as Vicar after twenty six years in inner city Manchester. It was very special to us that he conducted our wedding – all the more so, as he suddenly and unexpectedly died six weeks later.

We began married life in Reepham, a small market town in North Norfolk. David was working in Norwich and then Kings Lynn, and Victoria at the University of East Anglia. We enjoyed exploring the country lanes on bikes and in Victoria's Citroen 2CV.

Two years later we moved to London, with David's job. We bought a flat in Teddington, overlooking the lock. Victoria got a job at Shell and then in the library at ACAS. We enjoyed London, but found ourselves increasingly driving round the M25 at weekends to visit friends and relations. And in 1988 we

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moved from our suburban flat to a cottage in Hemingford Abbots.

David has been commuting to London ever since. Victoria got a job with Cambridgeshire library service, and has worked in Peterborough, St Neots and Huntingdon. She is currently working in the team that plans new library buildings and refurbishments. David this year will have been in the Civil Service for thirty years, the last four as a Director of HM Revenue and Customs.

In 1995 we moved to Godmanchester, to a family home with a bigger garden. Our daughter had been born 18 months before and our son was born three years later. Nearly fourteen years on we feel very settled here. But we do need to see hills occasionally, and so enjoy an annual walking holiday in Scotland with a group of friends from Durham.

We have always been actively involved in the parishes in which we have lived. In Teddington Victoria was PCC Secretary, and David a server. In Hemingford Abbots Victoria was on the PCC and David was a sidesman and reader. Parenthood gave us a different perspective on church life, and Victoria has been joint leader of St Mary's children's church for the last eight years. She also organises the advertising in the church magazine. David was elected to the PCC last year.

Victoria and David Richardson

What have church magazines in common with wooden spoons? **

In the 150 years since the Rev J. Erskine Clarke launched what is thought to be the first 'parish magazine' on the world, they have grown, expanded, and diversified. Nowadays church magazines come in all styles. Some aim at their communities, while others are more specifically church-focused.

Over the years, church magazines have run from one page in length to a whopping 48 – or more – pages. Whereas once stout-hearted parishioners laboured long hours with the stencil duplicator, nowadays many press a few buttons and presto: full colour laserwork.

Church magazines come in all prices. They have ranged from ¼d, to 35p, to £1, to totally free. Some have adverts to help towards costs; others eschew such worldly methods. Some are crammed full of information: a glorious jumble of material squeezed in anywhere; others are meticulously organized, and expansively laid out, with 50% white space.

But amidst all the variety, one thing remains the same: each church magazine is based on a real local church, aiming at its very own local readers. It is (or should be) unpretentious. You could almost call it 'folk literature'.

On *Flog-It* (BBC-2 22 September last) Paul Martin visited a specialist workshop in Tenby and made himself a love spoon in the local tradition. Contemplating his handiwork, 'It's slightly naïve,' he admitted. 'But there's a lot of heart and

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soul in it. And that's what it's about in folk art.' That's what the church magazine should be, too.

There's the apocryphal story of the Archdeacon who, when asked what he thought of church magazines, replied: 'If ever I see one, I burn it before it can do any more harm.' He was obviously missing the point: yes, church magazines may be slightly naïve, but what does it matter? Just so long as they have 'local heart and soul'.

Mission England

In our January magazine we invited anyone who remembered Billy Graham's campaign to England twenty-five years ago to share their experiences with us. One reader has a somewhat longer memory!

I don't remember Mission England 25 years ago but I do remember Billy Graham's first 12 week Evangelistic Crusade to Gt. Britain 55 years ago in 1953/54 !!

I was still at school and belonged to a Sunday afternoon bible study group called 'The Crusaders', which was popular at the time when you got too old to go to Sunday School anymore. Our leader became very excited about the Crusade and arranged to take a group of us to Haringay Stadium in London one Saturday afternoon to hear Billy Graham preach. The stadium was huge, and had a raised platform, similar to a boxing ring,

on which the speaker stood. He was surrounded on the ground by his minders and helpers but we could all see him, although we were sitting high up in the tiered seats. He was a tall, good-looking man with a thick head of hair, which I think he has retained to this day.

He preached his gospel message forcefully and talked for quite a while, after which he invited those in the audience who had been 'saved by his words' to come forward into the arena. Hundreds flocked down the aisles, several people fainted and a few got trampled in the rush; I now realise that it was a sort of mass hysteria that broke out. The St. John's Ambulance and Red Cross had their work cut out dealing with all the casualties.

As people reached the arena Billy Graham's helpers were taking their names and addresses and embracing them while stirring American gospel music was played. One of our group, Marion, who was a non-practicing Jewish girl, went forward and then became separated from us; it was a good hour before she made it back to our leader and we were able to leave for home.

About a month later Marion received an invitation from the vicar of her local church to attend a service there; her name had been forwarded from the campaign team and I know that she started to attend regularly. I wonder how many of the hundreds that were 'converted' that afternoon carry their faith today or did to the end of their lives?

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Billy Graham recently celebrated his 90th birthday; his long life has been dedicated to 'spreading the gospel to all corners of the world.'

Jean Miller

The dustbin men

Ever wondered what happens to the litter generated by the church and churchyard? A small army of Dustbin Managers works tirelessly on your behalf, under the supervision of a leader, whose latest directive to the ranks is reproduced below:

From the Commander-in-Chief, St Mary's Recycling Corps. 2008 has been another good year for the Corps, resulting in a high rating at the annual Ofbin inspection. As a consequence Ofbin has decided that the level of inspection can be reduced to the occasional unannounced one day visit. However, we must be alert at all times, keeping our shoulders to the wheel and our noses to the grindstone, as well as keeping our eyes on the ball and our feet on the ground. You are aware that the Anglia in Bloom judges' were very complimentary about the state of the churchyard. This was due to the excellent work of the Recycling Corps ensuring that rubbish left lying around was quickly dealt with. Well done.

In light of the present economic downturn a decline in the amount of rubbish handled by the recycling plant is anticipated. However we must be vigilant to ensure that rubbish hitherto taken to

Buckden is not dumped on our patch. Cases of unauthorised dumping must be reported to the Provost Marshal who will advise on increases in security. These may include the employment of highly trained dogs from the J.R. Kennels.

General Orders for Dustbin Managers (DMs) 2009

Duty Rota for DMs

Jan/July	P. Dawe
Feb/Aug	M. Harris
Mar/Sept	P. Ballantine
April/Oct	P. Irving
May/Nov	A. Fawcett
June/Dec	T. Weedon

DMs unable to carry out duties should make alternative arrangements from the rota. When sick, a medical certificate from the MO is not necessary.

DMs will be issued with the necessary white plastic bags (MOR 990506) at the start of their duty periods. These bags remain the property of the MOR and should be stored in a safe place. The Motorised Recycling Brigade has strict orders not to collect anything which is not encapsulated in the regulation white sacks. Failure to comply could be regarded as conduct prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline, and lead to the offender appearing on a charge before the Commander-in-Chief.

Peter Dawe, Adjutant.

St Mary's Recycling Corps

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Churches Together in Godmanchester
include

*St Mary's, The Baptist Church, The
Salvation Army and The Quakers*

Coffee Mornings and Senior's Lunch Club

Under the banner of Churches Together in Godmanchester we are pleased to report the re-establishment of a weekly Coffee Morning and weekly Lunch Club. Both of these activities have been achieved through the voluntary services of a small team of people from the Godmanchester churches under the leadership and guidance of Major David Lewis of the Salvation Army.

Coffee Mornings on a 'drop in' basis commenced in April of 2008 and have taken place every Tuesday morning from 10 am to 12 noon at the Salvation Army Hall in Silver Street. Slowly the number attending grew with many staying on for lunch. The volunteers who came together at the coffee mornings used the opportunity of meeting to plan the provision of lunches for seniors on a regular basis every Tuesday. However, a certain amount of remedial work had to be undertaken to the kitchen of the hall in Silver Street over the summer months. A number of generous donations were received to support the cost.

The lunches recommenced on Tuesday 14 November. Letters of 'invitation' were sent out to some fifteen people and individually followed up. Eighteen people attended the initial lunch with the number of regular attendees rapidly increasing to above twenty. A three course hot meal is prepared and cooked at the Salvation Army Silver Street Hall and served by volunteers who come together from the St Mary's, Godmanchester Baptist and the Salvation Army churches.

On the 16 December 2008 a Christmas Lunch was provided followed by Christmas cake and a small gift for everyone. The Mayor of Godmanchester, together with the clergy from the churches, joined the group. Lunch was provided for over forty people, including guests and volunteers. After lunch there were readings and carols.

Following the Christmas break coffee and lunches recommenced on Tuesday 13 January and will continue to be available every Tuesday. Coffee is served from 10.00 to 12.00 and lunches (cost £3.50) at 12.30. If you are not yet on the lunch list and would like to come along at 12.30 on Tuesday, please contact John Callaghan on 01480 354188. Also if you are interested in joining the small group of volunteers, without whom the coffee and lunches would not be available, please contact John in the first instance.

In 2009 we look forward to the growth of this fellowship group.

John Callaghan

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Film Night 2009

It's that time of year again!
Come and see 'The Titfield Thunderbolt'
On Saturday 7 February at 7.00 pm

Our fourth movie extravaganza presented by Oundle Cinema will be held in the church hall. The main feature will be the Ealing classic 'Titfield Thunderbolt'. When a branch line is threatened with closure, the villagers take it over as a private concern. The cast includes Stanley Holloway, John Gregson and Sidney James, and is a colourful film showing a side of England that sadly is no more.

Generally regarded as one of the cult Ealing comedies, the film's action works up to a fine climatic frenzy! Our evening's full supporting programme opens with a Wallace and Gromit animated film, and ice creams will be on sale during the interval!

Tickets (£4.50) will be on sale in the
South porch after the 9.45 services
and also following Parish Praise at St
Anne's School.

Contacts: Gillian and John Bathurst-Hoile
(465442) and Liz and Peter Irving
(382144).



Youth Group in 2009

Youth group for the last few years has generally had the feel of an extended family, with up to ten young people aged 11-16 and a few young-at-heart leaders involved. The emphasis of the group is very much on fun and enjoying each other's company, especially since the group members go to a variety of schools. We meet in the Church Hall, in leaders' living rooms or out somewhere, and wherever we meet we are usually the happy recipients of home-made cakes, courtesy of master baker Janie Prince (whose other job is that of GP!).

We are usually up for any sort of game, be it Cranium or Unihoc (indoor hockey bequeathed by previous generations at St. Mary's) and the advent of the Nintendo Wii has opened up new possibilities. Murder mystery parties have become a regular feature at Christmas. Detective work has also been called upon in visits to 'Spy Masters' at Bar Hill. ('One and half hours of exciting, nerve jangling mission. You and your friends will be hacking computers, cracking safes and avoiding security gadgets in order to *SAVE THE WORLD*' – no we're not on commission!)

Perhaps it is partly because of our enthusiasm for games that we are regularly called on to run things like the coconut shy, splat-the-rat, balloon-making, face-painting etc. at church fêtes. Films are also a popular pastime, whether catching up with old releases on DVD or new ones in the cinema, and we have also tried our hand at making our own films

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using stop-frame animation of Lego and plasticine characters. We also like to try new things; recently we went to London for the day and were introduced to some weird and disgusting objects at the Wellcome Museum; earlier in the term we had some visitors from the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Great Britain come and teach us some basics of their martial art.

In terms of spiritual development, we've enjoyed contributing to services, and getting to know our ministry team through question times and special sessions and events such as when Gill Bathurst-Hoile helped us make prayer beads and hold our own Passover Supper. We usually link Bible studies to films and popular culture to help us get to grips with the key messages and what they mean for us today. We've ventured further afield from Rave in the Nave at Ely cathedral to attend the Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival for the last three years running and it has become a favourite thing for the group to do over the summer. We've also got stuck into some projects closer to home, such as making up gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child, helping to run the Fairtrade stall, making bird boxes for the Churchyard and planting 1000 bluebell bulbs in the churchyard in 2008 to contribute to Godmanchester in Bloom.

We welcome new members and leaders at any time!

Jen Weedon



Churches together in Huntingdon and Godmanchester

February

Monday 2. CT members meet in All Saints Hartford Church Room, 7.30 pm

Saturday 7. Women's Breakfast at the Barley Mow. 8.30am. Speaker: Claudette Simcoe

Topic: 'Something good is going to happen through you'.

Cost: £6

To book, contact : Chris Harter 01480 412304

Saturday 28. Fairtrade Lunch at Methodist Church



NB Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)
falls on Tuesday 25 February this year

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Godmanchester in Bloom:*In February*

Tues 3. QE School, 7.30pm
 Training session with Neil Renwick (RSPB) on forthcoming survey of breeding birds at the osier beds. Volunteer bird watchers required.

Sat 7. Working parties required for planting and pruning the osier beds, and for planting snowdrops. Come with wellies, cutters, spades etc. and a flask of coffee! 10 am to 12 noon. Assemble on play-area side of Chinese Bridge.

Contacts:

Bird survey – Sheena Kynoch 01480 395688. email sriver@ntlworld.com
 Planting – John Thackray 01480 420007/457722.
 email jcthackray@hotmail.com

As the new American president begins his job **

The four pillars of government are religion, justice, counsel and treasure.
Francis Bacon

Every country has the government it deserves.
French proverb

We must warn ourselves, over and over, that we cannot have something for nothing.
R. Moley

Patients tell it like it is **

A website that presents people's real-life experiences of health and illness is attracting over 600,000 visitors every month. Set up as a charity by a research group at Oxford University, the project is called DIPEX and features a collection of interviews illustrated with video, audio and written clips from patients who have been affected by a range of common diseases and health issues. Patients, carers and health professionals are all finding the site a valuable resource.

The charity's patron is the broadcaster Jon Snow. Commenting on the 'tell it like it is' case histories, author Philip Pullman says that these true stories 'feed the mind with information and the heart with hope and strength.'

The site* now has nearly 50 modules online, including the major cancers, heart diseases, autism, mental health and the sexual health of young people, as well as health issues such as screening. Parkinson's Disease is one recent addition. Other topics currently being tackled include pregnancy, the PSA test for prostate cancer, stroke and HIV.

'The stories on the website are there because people have volunteered to be interviewed,' says Dr Ann McPherson, co-founder of DIPEX. 'At present we are looking to interview women about their experience of the menopause, and people bereaved by sudden traumatic death.' The latter covers such causes as shooting, stabbing, drowning etc.

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The researchers also want to hear from young people who have experienced being overweight, or who are depressed. There is a separate website** for young people aged 16 or over. Readers who would like to take part (or donate to the charity) can use the email address below or write to DIPEX, PO Box 428, Witney OX28 9EU. The telephone number is 01865 289328.

**healthtalkonline.org*;

** *youthhealthtalk.org*

Why sticks are no fetching matter **

Next time you begin a game of 'fetch' with your dog, be careful. Many vets now warn against using a stick, because it can seriously damage your dog.

Sticks are often sharp and dirty, and can easily damage a dog's mouth and throat. There are horrific stories told of piercings which lead to extensive bleeding, infections, and even death. Instead, vets encourage people to use a ball (too large for your dog to swallow), or a rubber toy, such as a Frisbee. One family who ignored the advice, ended up paying £5,000 in vet fees - and still their dog died.

Where are your grown up children? **

Did your children grow up, move out, and then – move right back home again? If so, your family is not unusual. Young adults in their 20s in Britain are twice as likely to move back home to live with their parents as those elsewhere in Europe,

according to a recent study.

Among 20 to 24 year-olds, 58 per cent of men and 39 per cent of women now live with their parents, according to the Office for National Statistics. The high cost of housing and the continuing economic crisis are key factors in this.

Are you killing your children? **

One child in four is now overweight by the time they start school. One in three is overweight by the time they leave primary school. The Department of Health is so concerned by these statistics that it has launched a campaign, Change4Life, to urge parents not to 'kill their children with kindness' by letting them eat unhealthy food and sit around playing computer games. Obesity brings the increased risk of heart disease and diabetes.

November PCC Meeting

Minutes in full of PCC meetings are displayed on the south door notice-board. Here are some key points from the November meeting.

Future of the Parish Praise Service

Parish Praise is a success in its own terms, with large numbers regularly attending, including some who do not attend any other service. About 60 MAP questionnaires have been returned and, of those who expressed any opinion about Parish Praise, there is a 50:50 split, with half not in favour and half very much in favour. Revd David Busk said that his only conclusion, thus far, is that we do not need to be afraid of creating separate congregations – it does seem to be the

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way the Church, as a whole, is going and where Churches are growing as they meet the needs of different constituents. In any Church, there are always parts that do not meet (eg those who attend 8.00 am Communion only and those who attend 9.45am Sung Eucharist only). So, whilst we should try to be inclusive, we should not be afraid of having separate constituencies which come together at special occasions, ensuring sufficient overlap of the majority to enable the whole congregation to be a Church family.

Parish Praise is two-monthly – it was felt that there needs to be something every month. David Busk said it is proposed to have children in church for the whole 9.45am service on the alternate fourth Sunday of the month, the children sitting with their parents using helpful aids to guide them quietly through the service. There will always be an element of noise from the children but we want them to be in church and, therefore, this needs openness from the rest of the congregation.

A general view was held that, as a church, we have gone through a lot of change and we are currently proceeding with the MAP process. It was therefore proposed to continue Parish Praise as it is (but starting at 10.30 am) and to run for half a year at least the alternate fourth Sunday Service with all the children in church. We would then be in the closing phases of the MAP process and have a clearer idea of what we will be doing in the future. This proposal had the full agreement of the PCC.

Ministry News

There are two new members of the choir, which is encouraging. They come from Godmanchester Community School whose pupils regularly visit the church to look round and ask questions.

Fabric Committee

South Aisle Roof Leak – A hole in the lead roof has been located and repaired. Some re-pointing to flashings is necessary and will be carried out shortly.

North Aisle and Nave Roof Leaks – Temporary patches have been applied to cracks and splits in the lead coverings.

Communications Committee

Photographic Displays – A list will be put at the back of the church for people wishing to buy photographs at £3 each.

Sponsored Cycle Ride – The riders this year raised £333.49, half of which will come back to our Church.

Worship Group

Deanery Evensong – This had been a resounding success. Many thanks to Ken Diffey for all his hard work.

Trevor Weedon – PCC Secretary

And finally . . .

Ann Tilley has written to the magazine requesting we publish the following letter. She writes: ‘What a joy it was to be worshipping with you on Sunday. AND what a lovely surprise when I was called to the altar to be thanked for my work in the parish over the years. AND what a joy your lovely cards and very generous presents are. May I now thank all of you for your friendship over the years.

With love from Ann

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Registers**Funerals:**

6 th	Maurice Godley
8 th	Roy Chandler
20 th	Florence Stacey
26 th	Lilian King

The Lectionary

1 st February	Candlemas Malachi 3:1-5; Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40
8 th February	3rd Sunday before Lent Isaiah 40:21-end; Mark 1:29-39
15 th February	2nd Sunday before Lent Proverbs 8:1, 22-31; Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1-14
22 nd February	Sunday before Lent 2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
25 th February	Ash Wednesday Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6.10; Luke 15:11-end

Why sparrows, hedgehogs, frogs, butterflies and bees need your help **

As you plan the garden this year, spare a thought for the remaining residents of your flower beds, pond and trees. Here are some sobering statistics from the chairman of Natural England:

Bumble bees: the number of species in lowland Britain has halved since 1950.

Hedgehogs: are losing an estimated fifth of their population every four years.

House sparrows: have declined by 68 per cent in the UK since 1977.

Moths and butterflies: numbers are declining rapidly; moths by nearly a third since 1968.

Frogs: loss of ponds and habitats means just one thing: loss of frogs!

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

February 2009

Sun	1	Candlemas		
		8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group – Martial Arts	Church Hall
Mon	2	1.30 pm	NO Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre
		7.30 pm	Churches Together Members Meeting	All Saints Hartford
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	3	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		12.15 pm	Ecumenical Prayer	All Saints Huntingdon
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union	QE School
		7.30 pm	Men's Social Group - Meal	9 Porch Close
Wed	4	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Chestnuts
		7.30 pm	Pastoral Meeting	59 London Rd
Thu	5	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	6	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	7	8.30 am	Women's Breakfast	Barley Mow
		7.00 pm	Film Night	Church Hall
Sun	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group – Family History	Church Hall
Mon	9	1.30 pm	NO Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre
		7.30 pm	Fabric Committee	Vestry
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	10	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.45 pm	MAP Committee Meeting	Vicarage
		8.00 pm	Wives' Club – East Anglian Air Ambulance	Church Hall
Wed	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Oak Tree Court
		8.00 pm	Bible Study	10 East Chadley Lane
Thu	12	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	13	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		7.30 pm	Curry Club	Ali's, The Causeway
Sun	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
			No Youth Group	
Mon	16		No Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	17	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church Hall

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

Wed	18	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Woodley Court
		7.30 pm	Deanery Synod Meeting	
Thu	19	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
			No St Mary's 0s – 5s	
Fri	20	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	21	7.30 pm	Chilli Chill-out	59 London Rd
Sun	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist (Teaching Eucharist)	
		o/c	Pancake Race	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
			No Youth Group	
Mon	23	1.30 pm	NO Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	24	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.45 pm	MAP Committee Meeting	Vicarage
Wed	25	Ash Wednesday		
		9.15 am	School Eucharist	St Anne's School
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	McCartney House
		7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist & Ashes	
Thu	26	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	27	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		8.00 pm	Crucifixion Rehearsal	Church Hall

The Editorial Committee meeting for the March magazine will be held on **Sunday, 15 February 2009**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date and if possible not later than **Friday, 13 February**.

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