

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,

As I write, we are enjoying a particularly lovely early spring. The days are full of hazy sunshine, and one can almost see buds and flowers unfurling. People are visibly more cheerful, and speak of the hard winter as if it had been a long, dark tunnel from which we are now emerging. By the time you read this, the weather may have changed again, and this unusually balmy March become a pleasant memory. However, at the moment it is not hard to make connections between the things we all enjoy about spring, and the resurrection of Jesus we will soon celebrate. Life and light and warmth return after a time of cold and darkness, and we are simply glad.

And yet there is a difference. No one speaks of 'believing in' spring – it happens, eventually, and we see and sense it all around us. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead seems to require a great deal of believing, and for many it is truly beyond belief. It is possible to present arguments about why the events of the first Easter are true, or at least credible. But what if we could somehow start from an Easter faith, instead of struggling to get to it? What would the world look like then? What if from now on we lived *on the assumption* that God has indeed raised Jesus from death to life – would we find our lives felt any different?

Living with two young children who are regularly exposed to Christian stories is very instructive. (Hannah hears them too, I suppose, but we don't get much theological reflection out of her just yet.) For Simon and Karin, mere belief is not a problem; it is already a 'given' that 'Jesus was on the cross and he died, but then he came **back!**' For them, that is the reality of the world they are growing up in. How enviable! Neither Yoko nor I, for different reasons, have come to faith that way, and for us, as for many, there will always be a part of ourselves that is disbelieving. 'Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.'

Yet if we are able, even intermittently, to suspend our disbelief, then a world in which the Easter story is the central truth will transform itself before our eyes. The suffering we see all around us or experience within, and which so often threatens to become the only reality, will still be just as painful but will be out of the grasp of despair. And we shall begin to see a quietly radiant hope and to hear a bass note of joy flowing through everything we are used to thinking of as mundane or fearful or sad.

If that sounds like a worthwhile way to live, then Easter is our annual invitation to attempt the experiment of faith. Without worrying too much about what we believe or how well we believe it, we can act *as if* our own story does not end in pain and loss but has an eternal and glorious destiny. Nothing changes but our point of view, but that changes everything.

May we all be given the grace this Easter to accept the gift of faith, and to see the world through the eyes of the One who has overcome all fear.

With love,

David



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This month's cover

Each year at this time our breakfast tables are a symbolic reminder of the momentous events that occurred between Palm Sunday and Easter Day. With so much good news to herald, perhaps it's no coincidence that the golden daffodil, with its central trumpet, flowers at the same time.

Mothers' Union

At the March meeting Revd Charles Dixon came to talk to us about using sign language. He started off by signing and we all looked blank except, that is, for our two regular signers who soon put us right. It certainly made us all sit up and take notice. Charles is Chaplain for the profoundly deaf. His job is to raise awareness, give support and develop the use of sign language in worship. He made us more aware of the problems deaf people face by asking us first of all how we would know at a supermarket checkout whether some one was blind or had a mobility problem. Of course we all suggested obvious clues. There were no clues, however, that would tell us that a person was deaf.

We all copied him as he went through all the signs for the letters of the alphabet. He explained that most people could learn these in half an hour and then proceeded to 'say' something to us. 'Too fast!' we all cried but he told us he was being very slow!! He explained how important it is to raise awareness of deafness in the community. He told us about a wedding

that had been signed throughout and how a large number attending had been deaf. There is still a great need for more people to learn to communicate in this way. The talk was really illuminating and certainly raised our awareness of deafness in the community.

At our next meeting on April 7 Mary Jepp will be leading us in a meditation for Lent.

Jean Morgan

Wives' Group

I am having to write this report from memory. But what a memory! I don't know what members of Wives' Group decided to give up this year for Lent, but I hope it wasn't chocolate...

Nearly two dozen of us gathered outside the Hotel Chocolat factory in Huntingdon early on the evening of 10 March for a tour of the premises. We had been asked to remove all jewellery and advised we would not be allowed to take anything with us (no pens or paper!). We had to don very fetching protective overalls and hairnets – but it was worth it. After a short introduction (and sample of a couple of the latest confections – delicious) we were split into three groups and taken round. One group was escorted by Olivier, the head chocolatier, another by Rhona, a product development manager, and ours by Dave, the production manager. He was full of enthusiasm for his job (I wonder why?)

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and seemed genuinely pleased to show us round.

The run-up to Easter is naturally a busy time, with two 8-hour shifts each day. At the busiest time of year, as Christmas approaches, the factory is running 24 hours a day. We saw Easter eggs being packed: two halves of chocolate egg, each with its own pack of chocolates, were placed together with a third pack of chocolates, into a box then wrapped and finished by hand. Many of Hotel Chocolat's customers are members of their Tasting Club and, as such, receive boxes of chocolates at regular intervals throughout the year. They are asked to mark these out of ten and to make comments.

As with any factory, there seemed to be several ingenious machines and we had fun watching one particular machine that makes boxes and then shrink-wraps them. Another machine was producing filled chocolates by injecting the chocolate shell into the mould fractionally before the filling; and the moulds themselves were works of art. I was particularly taken by a mould designed to produce chocolate buttons which looked like – well, buttons – complete with holes for sewing them on! There was a glorious smell of chocolate and caramel, orange and spices and, although none were being completed during our visit, chocolates are often decorated by hand, with the factory able to produce 7,000 chocolates per hour.

After a thoroughly enjoyable ninety minutes, we were escorted back to the boardroom where Rhona was on hand to answer more questions. When the time

came for us to leave, we were each given a large box of chocolates *and* a small box of chocolates *and* a slab of something which feels like fruit-and-nut (I've not opened mine yet) to take away with us. This was, if you will pardon the mixed metaphor, the icing on the cake! In my view, this was very possibly the most enjoyable Wives' Group meeting ever – and there have been many enjoyable ones. Many thanks are due to Voirrey Butterworth for arranging the visit – and thanks, too, to everyone at Hotel Chocolat for making us so welcome.

Next month's meeting will be on 14 April, the Tuesday after Easter, when Pat Saunders will give an Easter Reflection. All are welcome to join us in the Church Hall at 8.00pm.

Kate Robinson

Men's Social Group

The group held its AGM at the White Hart at the beginning of the month. We were sorry to hear that David Ferris had resigned as chairman as he had been excellent in the post. In the absence of any nomination for a successor Andrew Fawcett acted as temporary chairman for the meeting. Peter Dawe and Peter Irving were reconfirmed as secretary and treasurer respectively; it was agreed to leave the chairman's post open for the time being. (It would be nice to find another Peter for the committee!) The rest of the meeting was spent considering ideas for the next year's programme, interspersed with the occasional drop of liquid refreshment. *Peter Dawe*

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Charity of the month
DHIVERSE

DHIVERSE, the HIV and Sexual Health charity, works across Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas in the East of England. DHIVERSE was one of the first HIV organisations to be set up in the UK, having been founded by a group of friends as a telephone help line in 1986.

The charity carries out a range of activities to prevent HIV and to promote better sexual health. Dhiverse organises outreach stalls and events; provides talks in schools; provides training and skills development opportunities; supports people on a one-to-one basis and supplies information, leaflets and resources. All of these activities are only made possible through the support of its volunteers.

Through the Positive Options programme, Dhiverse provides a range of services and opportunities to people living with HIV. These services include advocacy and information, peer support groups, drop-ins, hardship funds for those in poverty and urgent need, complementary therapies, befriending, counselling and access to the regional Positive Living Project.

Maybe you are HIV positive or have a friend or family member who is living with HIV, or maybe you are a carer supporting someone with HIV/AIDS. If you would like more information about Dhiverse and the support it can offer please visit the website:

www.dhiverse.org.uk. *Gill Taylor*

Who's who in the parish
Jane Nicholls


I was born in London to Liz and Peter Irving, and lived in Tottenham.. I was extremely fortunate to be a twin and when my sister Kate and I were three we were delighted to welcome our younger sister Emma.

Not long after Emma arrived we moved to Amptill in Bedfordshire and then to Linslade near Leighton Buzzard. My childhood memories are all very sunny and we had a very happy time. Family holidays were spent in South Wales. The Gower coast is breathtaking and we all loved Rhossili beach, the blue pool and the amazing surf!!

I went to secondary school in Bedford for two years and completed my education at Hinchingsbrooke School, as we moved to Godmanchester in 1986. Post Street became home very quickly and I enjoyed both church and school life. I have very fond memories of attending Mrs White's Sunday school.

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One of the highlights of my teenage years was the rather unexpected but wonderful arrival of my youngest sister Rosie. She was born a month before I turned 17 and was a real gift. Growing up in a big family has been wonderful.

I always wanted to be a nurse. I moved to Hampstead in North West London when I was eighteen and started my nurse training at the Royal Free Hospital. I loved the buzz of London life, and the variety of experiences you were exposed to as a student nurse. I qualified in December 2004 and started my career on a gynaecology ward at the Royal Free Hospital.

I met my husband Phil in 1993. He grew up in Perry (his parents still live there) and his mum, Jean, worships at St Mary's. We spent lots of our free time travelling and enjoyed holidays in Europe, Australia and the Caribbean. Our favourite destination is Greece and we love the Greek culture and the beautifully idyllic Greek islands. Phil and I got married in 1997. We had a fantastic Godmanchester wedding and shared our day with my twin sister Kate and her husband Matt. We were the first double wedding to appear in the St Mary's registers!.

Phil and I started married life living in Foxton, six miles south of Cambridge, we then moved to Duxford and enjoyed the air shows from our back garden! I carried on working as a nurse and spent ten years working at Addenbrooke's.

Our first son Oliver was born in August 2001 and a year later we moved back to Godmanchester. Harry was born in June 2004. Family life is very good, and we all love living in Godmanchester. We enjoy bike rides and picnics by the river. The boys really benefit from attending the Community Primary School and they are extremely fortunate to have both sets of grandparents on their doorstep. I continue to work at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital as a nurse specialist. I care for patients newly diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus, stomach and pancreas. I work as part of the Gastroenterology and Macmillan team. It is a challenging job, but very rewarding and the nicest aspect of being a nurse is that you meet so many lovely people.

It has been great coming back to St Mary's Church and seeing so many familiar faces. It is also good to know that the Church is moving forward and I have really enjoyed the Lent MAP groups.

Jane Nicholls

Journey to Jerusalem **

There is still time to go on Christian Aid's virtual pilgrimage to the Holy Land for Lent.

The route takes in many of the locations mentioned as part of Jesus' journey towards Jerusalem. Along the way you can find out more about issues, connect with other users, share your views and take part in actions that will help change lives. To join the journey, go to www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent/journey-to-jerusalem.aspx

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Christmas 2009 – A Christmas with a Difference

I know it's early, and you may not want to hear this but Christmas is coming!

Christmas 2009 however, is going to be different for the Christian community in Godmanchester; this is because Churches Together in Godmanchester have decided to host the Christmas lunch on Christmas Day for individuals who will be on their own and who live in the Huntingdon and Godmanchester area.

Already conversations have started as the organisation and planning of the day needs to be detailed in order to assure success. Many volunteers will be needed both on Christmas day and before. Some of the volunteer tasks will be actually be completed by Christmas and so will not require a time commitment on the day.

Part of the purpose of this article is to ask you to consider supporting this event. We will need five key co-ordinators whose work will begin in the early autumn, and whose work may well be finished by the 25 December and of course we will also need volunteers on the day. Even if you feel unable to offer your time as a volunteer you may wish to support the project financially and of course it goes without saying that the project will need your prayer support.

In the first instance the volunteer co-ordinators needed are in the following areas:

- * Fundraising and publicity
- * Transport (organise drivers for the day)

- * Invitations and bookings
- * Catering
- * Entertainment (not as difficult as it sounds – carols, quiz, Queen's speech)

Please get in touch if you would like to chat about any of these roles.

Mary Jepp

Chilli Chillout

The Chilli Chillout was, I believe, a great success firstly because it was an evening of laughter and good conversations and secondly because, through your efforts, we managed to raise the funds required to pay for the 'interference destroyer' an integral component of our sound system, which was purchased and installed last autumn. This gizmo has made a huge difference to the quality of the sound in our services. So many many thanks. A special thanks needs to go to Jean Morgan who helped organise and cooked for the event.

As requested here is the recipe for cornbread – the perfect accompaniment, I think, to Chilli.

Cornbread

6 oz (170 g) plain flour
 3 teaspoons (15ml) baking powder
 ½ teaspoon (5ml) salt
 2 -3 oz (60-85 g) castor sugar
 6 oz (170 g) yellow cornmeal (polenta)
 1 egg
 8 – 10 fl oz (240-290 ml) milk
 3 oz (85 g) melted butter or 3 fl oz (90ml) vegetable oil

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Prepare muffin tins or an 8 inch (20 cm) square tin by greasing well and lining. Preheat the oven to 375 – 400 degrees F (190-200 degrees C) or gas mark 5-6.

In a large bowl, sift together: flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Stir in cornmeal. In another bowl, beat egg with a fork. Add milk and melted butter/oil. Pour all of wet ingredients into dry. Stir just until combined. Batter will be lumpy no dry flour should be visible. Do not over stir. Spoon into tins/tin. Bake muffins for about 20 minutes or bread for about 30/40 minutes, until lightly browned and firm to touch.

Enjoy and many thanks.

Mary Jepp



Secondhand Book Sale

Saturday April 25

10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Queen Elizabeth School

**Book donations: phone 01480
382144**

St Mary's Church Youth Groups

Youth Group – All Aboard For Chester!

I have very fond memories of when, as members of the Youth Group, we piled into a minibus, attached a trailer and headed up to Chester for a weekend. We were to stay in the church hall of St. Mary Without the Walls, Chester, the living of Mr Irving's brother and sister in law, and, frankly, that's all any of us knew.

My Dad was sharing the driving with Peter Irving, and Liz came too. So, off we went, with every so often a just too nonchalant call of 'Is the trailer still there?' from my Dad, and a bored 'Yeah' reply from the entire gaggle of teenagers in the back. To be honest, I'm not sure we checked half the time, as most of us were surgically attached to our Walkmans (how ancient do I sound now?)...

Halfway there, we broke our journey for a comfort stop and petrol top up. Only when we were about ten minutes down the road, and the conversation between our driver/co-driver revealed that both gentlemen thought the other had paid for the fuel, was it suddenly revealed that nobody had paid at all and we could well be fugitives from justice! We laugh about that still in our house. Well, *most* of us do anyway...

I remember the girls being down one end of the hall, and the boys the other with a yawning gap between us as a kind of *No Man's Land*. I remember John Francis

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coming to drawl a desperate request to us girls that he would really appreciate it if we could stop giggling as he was trying to get some sleep, and I remember none of us fully appreciated how cold it was going to get that spring night.

Caroline Molyneaux and Faye Dunbaven (now both married, and Caroline a mum!) won the impromptu sweepstake on the Grand National that weekend and blew their winnings on cream cakes. We went to the cinema and saw 'Sister Act' I think and then came back to the hall where Liz made us hot chocolate with milk before we turned in. We helped to clear the hall before a parish jumble sale on the Saturday morning, and went on a very long walk around the remainder of the original city walls of Chester. We marvelled at the Rows, and ate local ice-cream with far too much relish for such a chilly season. I also remember scrupulous paying for petrol on the way home too...

Lovely memories, revisited again a few years later, when I was an assistant leader. We relived the visit and were told we could come back any time as Chester FC had finally broken a bad run of luck on the day some of the group went to cheer them on.

The pictures now make us giggle – what were we thinking with that hair? That coat? Those clothes? And even more where did the time go?!

Claire Hurd

It's that time of year again

For the last few weeks our Treasurer and his team have been poring over musty ledgers, myriad bank statements and a temperamental computer to come up with the annual accounts for 2008. The accounts have been approved by our auditor, accepted by the PCC and will be available before the Annual Parish Meeting but we thought that it would be useful to let everyone know where we stand.

Some years ago the stated aim of the Finance Committee was to try and run our church on routine income and, not that many years ago, we *were* able to pay the parish share and run the parish on our regular, relatively predictable income. Unfortunately our annual parish share has risen by over £14,000 in the past 5 years and we now have to rely on various events such as concerts, the summer fête and the Christmas Bazaar to balance the books. The share is the main source of income to the Diocese for the support of our clergy and is by far our largest expenditure at £56,610 for 2008.

At the end of 2008 the church general funds had increased by about £800 but that is not the whole picture as we still have to claim back about £4,000 tax from 'Gift Aid' donations made during 2008 and, as a one-off receipt, we have transferred £4,069 into general funds from other areas considered redundant, such as the Cope Fund and Vicar and Churchwardens' Fund. On balance our overall income and expenditure for the year are about equal

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but unlike previous years we have not been able to transfer any money from the general funds into the Development Fund apart from specific donations and interest earned.

So the message is that we are just about holding our own financially but there is no spare cash to develop our ministry and in 2009 we will have to find an additional £3,000 just to cover the parish share. We are also faced with a substantial bill for essential repair work to the north roof and external stonework after the recent mandatory quinquennial survey by our church architect. This may well require more than we hold in the development fund and parish reserves so a fund-raising effort is likely to be inevitable although we are investigating potential grants and interest-free loans.

So what can we do to improve the situation? If you pay income or capital gains tax then gift aiding your donations allows us to reclaim the tax paid: this is currently about £10,000 per year and is a significant part of our income. You can use the yellow envelopes for one-off payments or sign a simple form for regular contributions. Please contact our Treasurer or myself for a form or more details. More support for our concerts and other fundraising events would also help. However, I feel that the ideal solution is to welcome more people into our church community so that we spread the financial load and build on our church ministry. So over to you!

Colin Thirlwall

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The formal 'Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting' is on the main notice board in the South Porch. The APCM will be held in the Church Hall on Sunday 26 April 2009 starting at 11.30 am. The meeting includes the election of two Churchwardens, three members of the PCC for three years and one member to represent the parish on the Deanery Synod for two years. Nomination forms are available from the PCC Secretary.

All persons whose names are entered upon the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote at the APCM. If you are member of the congregation but are not on the electoral roll please complete an electoral roll form and pass to John Bathurst-Hoile (Electoral Roll Officer) or Trevor Weedon (PCC Secretary).

Members of the congregation wishing to raise any item under 'Any Other Business' are asked to give notice of the item to the PCC Secretary by 24th April.

Trevor Weedon

Bank Holiday break

It's nice to see people with plenty of get-up-and-go, especially if some of them are visiting you!

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Evening Bible Group

After Lent, the evening Bible Group will resume at 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 29 April. We intend to interrupt our study of Paul's Letters to the Church in Corinth for that evening to look briefly at some of the techniques scholars use on the Bible and, particularly, the New Testament. In particular we shall spend time on how translators get hold of a text to translate in the first place.

Obviously someone translating the Bible into English needs to be good at English and good at the language he is translating from. He needs to balance the translation being too literal with its being too much a paraphrase. But most of all, he needs the best possible text to work with. The old Authorised Version is written in beautiful English but the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts available were late and corrupt. Much older manuscripts have come to light in the last 150 years or so.

None of the autographs (the manuscripts in the handwriting of the original authors) still exist. We have only copies of copies and, before the invention of printing in the 15th century, they had to be made by hand. They are, in consequence, full of copying errors and we can easily think what they might be. A scribe might simply misread a word; he might try to correct what he thought was wrong; if a passage included the same phrase twice, his eye might jump and he would leave out a chunk; if he was one of a group taking dictation, he might substitute a word that sounded like the one read out.

We now have about 15,000 manuscripts of New Testament books and they include several thousand significant different readings (called 'variants'). One of the early Fathers of the Church (Origen, who died in AD 254) complained at the number of different readings around in his day, due, as he put it, either to negligence or perversity. The task of the Textual Critic is to compare the texts and decide which of the variants are most likely to represent what was circulating in the earliest days of the Church – ideally to decide what the author originally wrote.

If the subject interests you and you would like to attend that session as a 'one off', please feel free to come. But, so that I can warn our host, it would be helpful if you would telephone me beforehand.

Jeremy Craddock (458011)

Godmanchester in Bloom

In April

Since our last report owl boxes have been sited on Island Hall island and the group is now in touch with experts concerning the siting of boxes for swifts. Sheena Kynock reports that the bird survey is on track with volunteers rising early in the morning! One unexpected problem is the noise of the weir, which makes identification difficult, but this situation will improve when the river level falls. Much rubbish clearing has been achieved at the allotments, and planting shrubs along the boundary fence will take place soon.

John Thackray

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Your Church – stopping the rot!

The quinquennial inspection and report recently carried out by our Architects has revealed a number of items requiring attention.

Areas of stonework and copings need re-bedding and pointing. Other stonework needs repair and, in some cases, replacement.

Repairs are necessary to the leaded windows and frames in the upper part of the south porch.

Saddle bars supporting the leaded light windows to the north and south aisles and the chancel require painting and this work makes it necessary to remove and then refix the wire protective screens.

You may have noticed loose rendering on parts of the walls of the north and south aisles. This too will need to be repaired and then the walls repainted.

The north aisle roof has leaked in various places during the last few years and local repairs have been carried out, both by contractors and by our own team.

However, the recent report revealed accelerated deterioration in the lead roof covering. In 2001, a report by CEL, a leadwork specialist, concluded the roof, originally cast in about 1841 would last a few more years if it were maintained annually. According to our Architect, this timespan is exceptional as this type of lead roof tends to last about one hundred years – so this one, at over 160 years, is past its sell-by-date. Our plan is to replace

the lead covering as soon as possible. This project will include replacing some of the woodwork on which the lead is placed to conform to modern construction practice.

It may be of interest to know the lead taken off the roof is taken to the contractor's works, melted down in a large vat and re-cast on a bed of sand to a thickness of 3.5mm. This is about the same thickness as laid in 1841 but modern designs dictate greater falls in the box gutters and smaller bays of lead, aiming for less expansion and contraction in each bay of lead.

The PCC has approved a plan to carry out the maintenance work in this order:

1. General repairs
2. North aisle lead roof
3. Painting to walls of north and south aisles.

An application for a faculty has been submitted and English Heritage has been notified. Peter Dawe and Colin Thirlwall are investigating the possibility of obtaining grants from outside sources.

These notes are not intended to be a complete list of the work being undertaken. The full specification is available from members of the Fabric Committee or myself.

Malcolm Harris
Chair: Fabric Committee

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Easter services

- Sun 5 **Palm Sunday** – 8.00 am Holy Communion: 9.45 am Procession from School Hill to church – Sung Eucharist: 6.30 pm Sung Eucharist
- Thurs 9 **Maundy Thursday** – 7.30 am Morning Prayer (no 9.45 Holy Communion): 7.30 pm Sung Eucharist with foot washing: Vigil until midnight
- Fri 10 **Good Friday** – 11.00 am Churches Together Walk of Witness (see below) 1.30 pm Good Friday Liturgy: 1.30 pm Children's Workshop
- Sat 11 **Easter Eve** – 7.30 pm Vigil and Sung Eucharist
- Sun 12 **Easter Day** – 6.00 am Churches Together dawn service (see below); 8.00 am Holy Communion: 9.45 am Sung Eucharist: 6.30 pm Sung Evensong

Churches Together in Huntingdon & Godmanchester

April Diary of church activities

- Saturday 4 **Women's Breakfast** 8.30 am in The Barley Mow
- Monday 6 **Christian Aid Lent Lunch** 12.30 – 1.30 pm in the Methodist Church
- Friday 10 **Good Friday Walk of Witness** 10.45 for 11.00 am start at the Methodist Church – this will finish in the Market Square by 12.15 pm. *Please bring banners on Good Friday/Easter theme as in previous years*
- Sunday 12 **Easter Sunday Sunrise Service** 6.00 am – in Coneygear Park on the corner of Buttsgrove Way and Coneygear Road and followed by breakfast at St Barnabas Church

The Editorial Committee meeting for the May magazine will be held on **Sunday, 19 April 2009**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date and if possible not later than **Friday 17 April**.

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)

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February PCC Meeting

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

Ministry News

David Busk explained that the teaching Eucharist on Sunday 22 February was designed to help parents to introduce their children to the Eucharist. Different children's age groups would receive different material resources to help them (ranging from miniature priests, vestments and little books for younger children to more instructive literature for the older ones). David said he is aware that not everybody was in favour of young children receiving Communion. Reports from parents indicate that their children receiving Communion felt more engaged in the Service and, if a child, at his or her own level becomes more aware of the meaning of what is going on, there is some effect, some good in that.

Fabric Committee

Additional Seat in Churchyard -

Following the favourable view of the PCC to the provision of an additional seat, John Thackray has undertaken to seek funding for the project and the Fabric Committee will implement when funds are available. The proposed positioning for the seat is near the path between East Chadley Lane and Church Place – the actual position will be highlighted on a drawing and submitted to the PCC for approval at a later date.

Additional Shed - An additional storage shed (10'x8') has been gratefully received

from St Anne's School. It is in the vicarage garden.

Worship Group

David Busk advised there would be separate meetings to plan Parish Praise services. One hope is that Parish Praise would be a good way of encouraging more lay-led worship.

Church Hall Committee

People need to be aware not to leave anything of value near the kitchen door – a handbag had recently been stolen when people were in the hall.

Churches Together

The new chairman of Churches Together is Revd Mark Savage. An ecumenical Service for Pentecost has been arranged for Sunday 31st May 2009 in Huntingdon Market Square. As a consequence, there will be no 09.45am Service in our church on that day.

Major David Lewis, Minister of Godmanchester Salvation Army, who has been instrumental in arranging a number of Godmanchester Churches Together events, is being posted in July to South Shields.

PCC policy on Concerts

Any bids for concerts in church should be submitted to the PCC as soon as they are received so that an anti-clash check can be carried out and someone can be nominated at the point of contact. An administrative checklist for the named contact to use when making arrangements for the event can be made available whenever needed.

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Any other business

South Aisle Roof - The £700 bill to repair the south aisle roof has been paid by the Friends of St Mary's.

Passover Supper – Wednesday 8 April
– This will be in church starting at 7.00pm with Compline at 8.00 pm. Cost - £3.00 per head, no limit on numbers – the event will be open to all.

Twining Association Concert – 16 May – This will be in church; further details awaited.

And finally

If you want something a little different on your Easter Day this year, and you are missing our own dawn service and breakfast, something similar is happening in the Oxmoor community. Organised by Churches Together in Huntingdon and

St Anne's School -10 year Anniversary
– A 10 year Anniversary Service is to be held in church on the first Sunday of the new School Year, 6 September at 09.45 am and involve the whole school.

PCC Secretary – Trevor Weedon said that he would be standing down as PCC Secretary following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 26th April 2009. David Busk expressed the thanks of the PCC for Trevor's work as PCC Secretary.

Trevor Weedon
PCC Secretary

Godmanchester there will be a Sunrise Service in Coneygear Park followed by breakfast at St Barnabas Church. Get up even earlier and walk all the way from Godmanchester and you will earned your eggs and bacon!

Registers**Funerals:**

6 March Heather Huggins

Weddings

7 March Thomas Richard Lowther and Cheryl Anne Adams
25 March Nicholas John Newman and Sophia Nana Bentsiwa

Lectionary

5 April **Palm Sunday**
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-end of 15

9 April **Maundy Thursday**
Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

10 April **Good Friday**
Isaiah 52:13-end of 53; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-end of 19

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

11 April	Easter Eve Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20-21
12 April	Easter Day Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18
19 April	Easter 2 Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1 –2-2; John 20:19-end
26 April	Easter 3 Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-38

Dates for your diary

April 2009

Wed	1	11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Chestnuts
		1.30 pm	Afternoon Lent Group	Vicarage
		7.30 pm	MAP Group Lent Service	
Thu	2	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	3	9.15 am	St Anne's Easter Service	Church
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	4	8.30 am	Women's Breakfast	Barley Mow, Hartford
Sun	5	Palm Sunday, beginning of Holy Week		
		8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Procession from School Hill to Church	
			Sung Eucharist	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group – Faith in nature	Church Hall
Mon	6	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		7.00 pm	Church open for private devotions & Stations of the Cross	
		8.00 pm	Compline with homily	
Tue	7	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		2.00 pm	MU Meeting	QE School
		7.30 pm	Men's Social Group	Church Hall
		7.00 pm	Church open for private devotions & Stations of the Cross	
		8.00 pm	Compline with homily	
Wed	8	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.45 am	Holy Communion	Oak Tree Court
		7.00 pm	Passover Supper	Church
		8.00 pm	Compline with homily	
Thu	9	Maundy Thursday		
		7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
			No 9.45 am Holy Communion	
		7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist with foot-washing	
		o/c until	Vigil until midnight	

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

Fri	10	Good Friday		
		11.00 am	Churches Together Walk of Witness	Huntingdon Methodist Church
		1.30 pm	Good Friday Liturgy	
		1.30 pm	Children's Workshop	Church Hall
Sat	11	Easter Eve		
		7.30 pm	Vigil and Sung Eucharist	
Sun	12	EASTER DAY		
		6.00 am	Churches Together Dawn Service	Coneygear Park, Huntingdon
		8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
Tue	14	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
Wed	15	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Woodley Court
Thu	16	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
Fri	17		No Choir Practice	
Sun	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
Mon	20	7.00 pm	Main Choir Rehearsal for Ely Festival	Ely Cathedral
		8.00 pm	Parish Praise meeting	10 East Chadley Lane
		8.00 pm	Signing Group Meeting	17 Windsor Rd
Tue	21	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting (TBC)	Church Hall
Wed	22	9.45 am	Holy Communion	McCartney House
Thu	23	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	24	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	
Sat	25	1.00 pm	Wedding: David Dixon/Damaris Barnum	
Sun	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Church Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group	
Mon	27	8.00 pm	Signing Group Meeting	17 Windsor Rd
Tue	28	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
Wed	29	7.30 pm	Pastoral Team Meeting	59 London Rd
Thu	30	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club