

## GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS

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### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

I have been asked if I could reproduce the sermon I gave at the Good Friday liturgy this year, so here is the essence of it.

In the Vicarage garden at the moment, a large Japanese cherry tree is just coming into full bloom. It is a glorious sight, and I love it not only for its beauty or because it reminds me of this time of year in Japan, when people will be holding picnic parties under the flowering cherries, but also because it seems to me to speak of the God who made it. This is what a tree is for. It is created by the God who has made all things well to reflect something of the 'fair beauty of the Lord.'

But today we are contemplating a piece of wood which embodies the very opposite of beauty and usefulness. Even by the standards of its day, the cross used for crucifixion in the time of Christ was a piece of crude technology, and it was made solely to inflict hideous pain and a sordid death. There is a great irony in the fact that Jesus, who as the son of a carpenter could no doubt turn his own hands to producing good woodwork, was put to death on rough pieces of timber probably slapped together with contempt by whoever got them ready.

This is not what wood is for, and not what trees grow for. It seems to be one of the great and tragic themes of the human story that we continually misuse our God-given talents to make out of God's good materials harmful things that distort the beauty of Creation. Having lived for ten years in Nagasaki, my thoughts often turn to the atom bomb dropped on the city. The bomb was not made by monsters, but by decent men working at the very pinnacle of scientific endeavour. Yet it was an undeniably evil thing, causing misery and destruction. It seems we have no choice but to agree with the philosopher Immanuel Kant, who said, 'Out of the crooked timber of humanity no straight thing can ever be made.'

And yet today we affirm that this is not the final reality. Out of the crooked timber of the cross, devised from the crookedness of men's hearts, has come the truest and straightest path to the heart of the God of love. The cross of Jesus Christ reveals the extent of God's love for me, and for the whole of humanity. No matter what devious and crooked paths I may follow, no matter how corrupt and deceitful my heart may become, God will pursue me with His relentless compassion, and if when finally He confronts my iniquity with His self-giving I respond by willing His destruction, He will go even to that end – and beyond. God in Jesus Christ submits Himself to our worst. We misuse, and God restores.

If you look at the stained glass window nearest the memorial altar in the north aisle, you will see a depiction of Christ on the cross. There is the instrument of torture, and there are the nails in the hands and feet of Christ. But Christ Himself is not the naked, broken figure we sometimes see, but is robed in splendour, crowned as a king, and with upright body seems to reach out His arms from the cross in mysterious triumph. Underneath it says in Latin, 'Christ reigns from the tree.' God has the power to turn even our worst depravity, even our most terrible cruelty, into a channel for His inexhaustible love. For that, on this Good Friday, let us give everlasting thanks.

With love,

*David*

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### **This month's cover**

A lamb next to a cross was used in early Christian art as a symbol of the redeeming death of Christ and was drawn from the book of Revelation. It was used, for example, in the catacomb of St Callistus who became bishop of Rome in AD 217, and who was either reviled or respected because of his liberal attitudes towards penitent sinners. We might be amused by the fact that, before his election to the papacy, he was an unsuccessful banker.

### **Mothers' Union**

At the April meeting Mary Jepp led us in a meditation for Holy Week. We all sat in a circle around a small table on which there was a glass cross and glass holders containing tea lights. Mary concentrated on the women who were involved at the time of Jesus' passion. She chose three readings the first of which was the story of the woman with the costly ointment which she pours over the head of Jesus. After the reading Mary came round with a jug of water and a bowl and we all had our hands washed and then dried by Linda to symbolise the washing of the feet of the disciples by Jesus. After the next reading, which was from Mark's gospel chapter 15 and which mentioned the women who were present at the crucifixion, we were all invited to place a stone on the table. This represented a Jewish custom, that of placing a stone near a grave to symbolise that you were there. The last reading was about the resurrection and how Mary thought Jesus was the gardener. After this reading we

were all given an Easter Egg as a sign of new life. We ended with prayer.

It was a very thought provoking meditation and extra special because of the way we were all invited to take part.

At our next meeting on 5 May Nicholas Leigh Smith is going to talk to us about his work as a judge.

*Jean Morgan*

### **Wives' Group**

Wives' Group invited Pat Saunders along to our April meeting for what was billed as 'an Easter reflection'. We were delighted that Pat brought along some of the Godly Play materials, with which we were familiar from a previous visit, and told us once again how much the children enjoyed hearing the stories and looking at the materials. I remember being very taken with the liturgical clock last time; it was equally fascinating the second time around. Other materials which the children seem particularly to like are a double-sided jigsaw of the Cross: one side is purple and the other white; a representation of the Last Supper and an assortment of crosses and eggs – all different shapes, sizes and colours and all very tactile.

Pat then proceeded to tell us the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. This short story tells how two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after the Crucifixion. They were joined by a stranger on their travels and at first did not realise that it was the risen Jesus;

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but, once they understood what had happened, they returned to Jerusalem to tell of what they had seen. We were all both captivated and uplifted and the proverbial pin could have been heard dropping whilst the story was being told.

There were a few notices – the next meeting is on 12 May when there will be a visit to a nursery and garden near St Ives. We will be leaving Godmanchester at approx 6.30 pm in shared cars. If you would like to go, please contact Barbara Thirlwall (457018) as soon as possible. Committee members are asked to don their collective thinking caps to come up with suggestions for the June meeting and Barbara will be hosting the Charity Coffee Evening in July.

Finally, we were all saddened by the recent death of Ann Sodeaux, whom we remember with love and affection. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

*Kate Robinson*

### **Men's Social Group**

We didn't meet in April, but normal service will be resumed in May when we meet at 37 Post Street on Tuesday 5 at 7.30pm for an illustrated talk entitled 'How to shake hands with the Queen'.

*Peter Dawe (392188)*

### **Charity of the month**

### **Tearfund**

We live in a world where poverty often looks the same wherever you encounter it – it has the same kind of causes, and it creates the same problems.

*Tearfund* are focussing on five main areas. They are considering the fundamentals that need to be addressed in the fight against poverty.

**HIV:** According to current estimates, nearly thirty three million people are living with HIV, a disease that is devastating communities across the globe. *Tearfund's* aim is to stop and reverse the impact of HIV in areas where they work by 2016. They are supporting those affected, promoting access to health care and treatment, and tackling the stigma so often associated with the disease.

**Tackling disasters:** When disasters strike, it is poor communities who suffer the most. *Tearfund* is working with vulnerable people to prevent, respond to and recover from disasters. The charity is expert in helping communities prepare for disasters, as well as being there to respond when they happen, dealing with the practical and emotional trauma they bring.

**Challenging injustice:** *Tearfund* is campaigning as the local and global church at regional, national, and international levels, to challenge and change unjust policies and practices that keep people in poverty. It is working to ensure fairer trade laws, lobbying for

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good governance, fighting corruption and empowering communities to stand up for themselves.

**Restoring the environment:** In the midst of climate change, *Tearfund* is always concerned with creating a sustainable environment where it possible, which is crucial for poor people dependent on its resources – water, crops and fish, for example. Its programmes include helping communities adapt to climate change, addressing environmental degradation and tackling water and food shortages.

**Water, sanitation, basic services:** While 1.1 billion people live without clean water, basic services are the essentials of lifting people out of poverty. Ensuring access to education, good healthcare, sanitation and water are all vital to halving poverty by 2015. *Tearfund* is focussing on water and sanitation, education and literacy, livelihoods, health and nutrition.

Let us do all we can to support *Tearfund* in its fight against all of these issues that still exist in our world.

*Bizz Thackray*

A happy marriage is a union of two  
forgivers.

*Robert Quillen*

**Who's who in the parish**

**Chris Higgins**



Chris was born on 21 September 1947, the only child of Harold and Peggy Higgins. He was born in the house that had been in the family since 1825. The family owned a miller's and baker's business which was run from the family home. The land where the windmill stood at the end of Berry Lane before it was moved to the other side of Lee Brook (formerly known as Leeds Brook).

Chris went to Godmanchester and St Peter's Schools. On leaving school at 15 he worked for a short time at the Lion Garage in Hemingford Abbots before, in 1963, joining the Grenadier Guards as a band boy and becoming a Drum Corporal Bugler. Chris saw action in Northern Ireland and Cyprus as well as doing ceremonial duties in London. He served also in Turkey, Germany, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, The Lebanon, Africa, Singapore and the Arabian Gulf. In the 1970s Chris left the Army to become a steeplejack, rising to Master Steeplejack working on masts, church steeples, chimneys and other high

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structures. While in the Army and attached to the Household Cavalry, Chris's interest in horses started and this continued all his life. His particular interest was breaking in horses.

Another of Chris's jobs was that of undertaker, both working for himself and running his own business, as well as working for other undertakers as driver/bearer.

In 1977 Chris went to work for Whitechapel Bell Foundry, where he learnt the ancient art of church bell ringing. Chris was a member of the Junior Church Choir until, at the age of twelve, he became a bellringer. He was taught by Albert Davey, and for fourteen years until 2000 was Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper.

Chris's lifelong interest in church bells included not only ringing, but the mechanical side as well. In his teens he cycled round the county looking at the bells in many towers. In 1979 Chris became a founder member of the Huntingdonshire Church Bell Restoration Society, and in 2004 a service of celebration was held in Godmanchester Church to celebrate the Society's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Owing to declining health Chris now spends more time working out the jobs and deciding how they should be done rather than doing some of the harder tasks. He is also researching and writing up the history of church bells.

*Ruth Ball*  
**Easter '09**

### **Passover Supper**

When we went into church at 7.00 pm on Wednesday of Holy week we were invited to sit at tables arranged across the nave altar platform and spread with white tablecloths on which were lighted candles and places set with wine glasses, plates and knives. In the centre of each table were bowls and dishes containing unleavened bread (matzos) and various other items of food, each of which would symbolise a part of the story of the Passover, the night that the Israelites were set free from slavery in Egypt. A spare place had been set and a child opened the door for Elijah, as is the Jewish custom.

'Close your eyes and imagine you are a slave held captive by a cruel master in a foreign country, exhausted by your day's work .....'; thus began our celebration of the Passover, led by Gillian Bathurst-Hoile. We were told that we would follow the traditional **Seder** (Order), and, after a prayer, commenced with the dipping of our fingers into bowls of water to cleanse our hands

The retelling of the Exodus to children is one of the objects of the Seder experience, to arouse their interest and curiosity. One of the children asked the traditional question 'Why is this night different from all other nights?' and the leader answered, explaining the story of the Passover and the escape from slavery to freedom.

We then each took a piece of parsley and dipped it into a bowl of salt water to serve as a reminder of the tears shed by

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the Jews for their enslaved ancestors and also for the first born sons of the Egyptians who had been killed during the Passover night. Red wine (or grape juice) was poured into our glasses but, before drinking it, we dipped our finger in the glass and let a few drops of liquid fall on to our plates as the leader recited the names of the ten terrible plagues, from blood and locusts to the killing of the first born sons of the Egyptians.

The unleavened matzo bread from the centre of the table was broken by the leader and shared, and we were asked to spread some horseradish on it and to eat this. Maror – bitter herbs – are eaten as symbols of the bitterness and harsh conditions of slavery endured by the Jews in Egypt. One small piece of matzo, the afikoman, (that which comes after), was hidden in the church and the children were later asked to find it. Also on the table were, a lamb bone – to symbolise the lamb sacrificed in the Temple – and hard boiled eggs to symbolise the harshness of the conditions endured in the desert. We were also invited to taste **haroset**, a lumpy dark coloured sweet dish made from apricots, honey and nuts, which represents the sweetness of freedom.

We concluded our Passover celebration in the traditional Jewish way by singing a Hallel – song of praise – ‘Let us go out with joy’ then, holding lit candles, we walked into the chancel to end the evening with our service of Compline.

I would like to thank Gillian and all involved in the organisation of this enjoyable evening of fellowship and a

reflection of the Passover meal shared by Jews through the ages and by Jesus and his disciples before the first Good Friday.

*Catheryn Turrell*

### **Churches Together Walk of witness on Good Friday**

‘What you need is some fresh air’ was my mother’s predictable response when I was hanging around the house looking bored. ‘Go outside and do something’. Not a bad piece of advice for Christians on Good Friday either. From time to time we all share our pet grumbles about Huntingdon shopping centre, but on Good Friday the town centre really comes into its own.

The narrow thoroughfare, broken up by small squares and passageways, is an ideal setting for the annual re-enactment of the march to Calvary. ‘Join us on the way: telling the story of Good Friday,’ is what it said on the order of service – and that’s exactly what we got. At 11 am sharp the procession moved off from the Methodist Church car park and proceeded along the High Street to the Market Square with pauses at St Mary’s Church, St Benedict’s Court and Chequers Court for dramatised readings and unaccompanied singing. At the head of the procession a rough wooden cross was carried high on the shoulders of various volunteers; and banners, some in languages other than English, proclaimed the Easter message. My lasting impression of this pilgrimage from one end of the High Street to the other was its simplicity. But sometimes

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it is the simple things in life that make the most impact. Who knows what the Huntingdon shoppers thought of it all, particularly those in Clintons buying 'Non-religious Easter cards!' But there was no heckling or animosity, just respectful observation. In actual fact it appeared to me that there were more people in the Market Square at the end of the walk than outside the Methodist Church at the beginning, so perhaps we picked up some extras on the way. The procession over, we adjourned to All Saints' Church where four hundred hot cross buns were waiting for us!

Many thanks to the Churches Together team, and particularly Graham Haldane, for giving us another opportunity to share in the events of Good Friday in this way.

*Peter Irving*

### **Good Friday Children's Workshop**

Pat Saunders led another very enjoyable activity for children, in the Church Hall on Good Friday. Seventeen children took part, and the first thing they all did was to shape an enormous batch of dough into hot cross buns. Then everyone gathered together and Pat talked about the first Good Friday, re-telling how Jesus shared out his love with Mary and the disciple at the foot of the Cross. Love was like a candle flame, not diminished by sharing. She also showed the children many different types of cross.

After a song and prayer, the children were invited to choose craft activities. Some created a lovely Easter garden to

put in church, helped by Jane Nicholls. Others made clay crosses, coloured in beautiful illuminated crosses or made Easter cards with candles on. For the first time this year, children were able to make their own small wooden crosses, helping to nail them together, sand them and varnish them. This activity was very kindly prepared and supervised by Mike Grice, with the help of Dave Watts, and was very popular indeed.

By the time the adults came over to the Hall after the Good Friday Liturgy in church, the kitchen was full of the delicious smell of freshly-baked hot cross buns which Deb Watts and her mother Ann had made ready for the children to hand round, and very good they were, too.

I would like to record thanks to Pat and all who helped, and I am sure they would agree it was very satisfying to see the pride on the children's faces as they shared out the buns and took their crosses home.

*Victoria Richardson*



### **Yoga classes**

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Some years ago I raised some funds for St. Mary's by teaching a series of yoga classes. I should now like to do the same for the Society of Friends (Quakers). These classes will begin on Friday 8th. May 3:30 – 5 pm and possibly also at 5:30 – 7 pm. Cost : £5 per class. Enquiries may be made by telephone 458730 or by email [stella.howard306@btinternet.com](mailto:stella.howard306@btinternet.com)

*Stella Howard*

### **Sounds of the 60s .....and 80s!**

*Continuing our series of articles on the Youth Group past and present, Colin Hardy reminds us what was happening 46 years ago!*

Reading Flick's article in the March issue of the Parish Magazine reminded me of many happy times at the Godmanchester Church Youth Fellowship. I was one of the first members of the group when it was started in 1963 by Flick's father, Rev Neil Munt. We met every Saturday evening in the Church Hall where two very dilapidated table tennis tables and a rather sorry-looking snooker table vied with the crisps and bottles (yes bottles!) of Coke for our attentions. But for me perhaps the most important feature (until I got a girlfriend!) was the Dansette record player and the LPs that members brought to the club to share. Music was a very important feature of the Youth Fellowship evenings. Labyrinthine debates into weighty subjects such as the

relative merits of new bands like the Beatles and Rolling Stones, whether the Beach Boys really would tour England and the chord sequence of the House of the Rising Sun occupied much of our time.

Not that all of the music was on vinyl – we also made our own. I was in a band



called The Vermen – I think we were trying to use the same sort of word-play as The Beatles. We were composed of (from left to right in the picture), John Gill (guitar), Bob Woollven (guitar), Ian Stuart (drums), me (organ) and David Terrell (electronics engineer). One of our regular gigs was the Beat Service, held in the church once a month on Sunday evenings at 8 pm. Despite our initial concerns this event proved to be quite popular with older members of the congregation as well as the teenagers.

The Youth Fellowship also held regular dances in the church hall. Perhaps the most popular visiting band was Group D, so-named because they hailed from Diddington. The bass guitarist was

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Marion Lees, also known as Benni, who went on to be a professional rock musician with a group called Soulyard. She also wrote music for television programmes and is perhaps best known for composing all the music for Pigeon Street.

Although my association with the Church Youth Fellowship ended in 1968 when I left to go to University it was to resume in the 80s and 90s when I helped Brenda Parcell to run a new youth group.



My life-long love of music continued and, together with Linda Sach (now my wife) we produced a couple of Youth Group musical extravaganzas. In the picture above of a concert in support of the Church Urban Fund in November 1990 you may be able to spot Kate, Jane and Emma Irving, Claire Hurd, Julia Sach, Hannah Sneath, Heidi Shepherd and baby Rosie Irving in a mob cap!

I am delighted that St Mary's still has an active Youth Group and wish you all the

greatest possible success in this very important part of the Church's work.

*Colin Hardy*

### **Plant Sale '09**

I don't know about you but April and May are my favourite months. They herald the coming summer with a vibrance of fresh growth and colour that is, in my view, breathtaking. But time passes so quickly you only wish you could slow it down so that you can absorb the beauty of it all. On the other hand, it is a time that encourages you to get into the garden to get to work to re-establish your own plot of colour. And no doubt you will be visiting the garden centres to buy your plants. But don't rush. As you know we have been running a plant sale during the Whitsuntide Holiday for the last sixteen years. This year's is being held on Sunday 24 May in the drive of Island Hall, by kind permission of Christopher and Lady Linda Vane Percy who open their garden as part of the National Garden Week at the same time. The objective of the plant sale is not only to encourage people to garden but to raise funds for the church.

We held the first event in 1993 and we have continued each year ever since without a miss in spite of the odd wet day that, surprisingly, did not deter the keen gardener. The usual team of Peter and Liz Irving, Roy and Sandra Norris and Daphne Dobson will be orchestrating the event. In addition, John

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and Linda Watson will be providing their 'carnivorous' plants. We would welcome help to man the stalls on the day. Even better, if you are a budding 'nurseryman', we will take any plants you have to offer. If you are interested please contact one of the team. So make a date for your diary and come buy some of the plants from the wide selection that will be available. They will bring additional colour to your own garden and add to that breath of fresh air.

*Roy Norris*



### **Pentecost (Whit Sunday) \*\***

Pentecost was the old Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which took place at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly fifty days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – the day the Church was born. Jesus had told his apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles

– but he knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need his help. And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. Then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent. Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus fifty days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**Godmanchester in Bloom**

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During May we will be encouraging neighbours to get together to decide on colour schemes for front gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets. The Front Garden Competition will take place in the last fortnight of June, with the Anglia in Bloom judges presenting certificates during their visit to Godmanchester on 9 July. Gardeners are, of course, being encouraged to buy their bedding plants at the Church Plant Sale on 24 May! With a pair of owl boxes now well established in Island Hall gardens we can look out for their inhabitants on the Recreation Ground as they return at dusk. We are hopeful, too, that the positioning of swift boxes around the town will bring us the sights and sounds of these long-haul migrants as they return from Africa.

*John Thackray*

### **Ascension Day – Forty Days with the Risen Christ \*\***

May continues the season of Eastertide, and 40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day.

It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! – but these are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He

strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

### **March PCC Meeting**

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

### **Matters arising**

David Busk announced the appointment of David Richardson as Stewardship Advisor.

### **Ministry News**

Our Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers), Pat Saunders and Paul Sibley, for different reasons, are having to reduce their ministerial workload over the next few months. Pat will continue to lead the Emmaus house group and assist in Children's Church. Paul remains in poor health: however, he will continue to prepare sermons for Evensong and will be on the ministerial rota for that Service. Mary Jepp will be ordained Priest on 27 June at Ely Cathedral. It is planned to hire a coach for all who would like to attend the Ordination Service. Mary will celebrate her first Communion Service as Priest on Sunday 28 June at 09.45am. There will be further celebrations in the Church Hall after the Service.

### **Finance Committee**

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Following discussions, David Busk proposed acceptance of the 2008 Church Annual Accounts and thanked Colin Thirlwall and Peter Ballantine for their hard work in producing such meticulous and clear accounts. Malcolm Harris seconded and the PCC unanimously voted in favour.

### **Fabric Committee**

**Pigeon Deterrent** – A model hawk has been purchased and would be put up high on the tower walls to see if it has any effect in deterring the pigeons from landing above the west door.

### **Worship Group**

David Busk advised that the Worship Group wished to revise their Terms of Reference (TOR), drawn up in April 2002, slightly expanding their remit. Keeping with trends in the Church of England as a whole, he wished to encourage lay members to be involved in the planning of worship. Thus, the Worship Group would like to have this specifically acknowledged in their TOR. David also said that the planning of worship was for the whole church family and also those who are not there – so that others may be drawn into the life of the Church. The need to be aware of the wider community when planning acts of worship should also be acknowledged in the TOR. After discussion, the following TOR were agreed unanimously: ‘The Worship Group (or Committee) exists as a sub-committee of the PCC to assist in the planning of worship, and to discuss any worship-related issues, on behalf of the whole Church family and the wider community.’

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

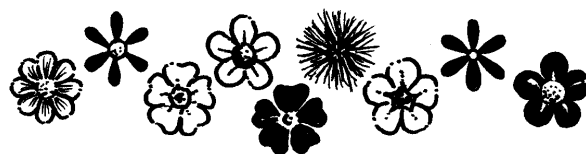
The Secretary advised that three members of the PCC have completed their periods of office: Gillian Bathurst-Hoile, Peter Ballantine and Malcolm Harris. Malcolm said he would not be seeking re-election. He had been on the PCC for ten years or more and twelve years on the Fabric Committee, six or seven years as Chairman. On behalf of the PCC, David Busk expressed profound thanks to Malcolm for his expert leadership of the Fabric Committee and the conscientious and careful way he had carried out his tasks. The well-maintained fabric of the church was testament to Malcolm’s excellent leadership.

### **Any other business**

It had been noticed that there was a dearth of Servers for the 09.45am Services in recent weeks. It was agreed that we should have a recruitment drive amongst 11-12 year olds.

Malcolm Harris wondered whether it would be possible to re-form a group to ring the hand bells on special occasions. It was agreed that it would be good to have a hand bell-ringing group again.

*Trevor Weedon*  
PCC Secretary



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### And finally..

Those of you who enjoy the church hall film nights in February may be interested to hear that the AGM of the Oundle outreach cinemas takes place soon. This is an opportunity for members of the village picture house scene to come together (no red carpet) to compare notes and recommend movies for the forthcoming year. Godmanchester is the only church-based cinema, and as such is something of a celebrity. Some members have even suggested we have our own film festival, for which there appears to be no shortage of forthcoming attractions. *April in Parish; The Last of the Pew; Cloister Encounters; An Officer and a Gentle Nun; The Seven Deadly Synods; A Fistful of Dog Collars; Silence of the Banns*. Watch this space. Or not, as the case may be.

### Registers

#### Funerals:

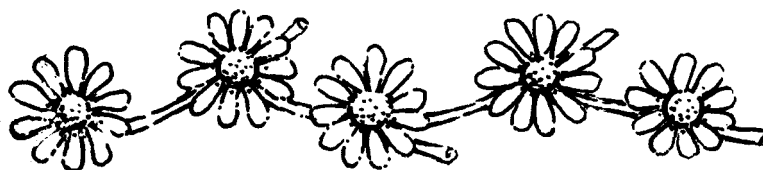
30 March	Fred Moore
17 April	Peter Hurst

#### Wedding

25 April	David Dixon and Damaris Barnum
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### Lectionary

3 May	<b>Easter 4</b> Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-end; John 10:11-18
10 May	<b>Easter 5</b> Acts 8:26-end; John 15:1-8
17 May	<b>Easter 6</b> Acts 10:44-end; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
21 May	<b>Ascension Day</b> Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-end; Luke 24:44-end
25 May	<b>Easter 7</b> Acts 1:15-17, 21-end; John 17:6-19
31 May	<b>Pentecost</b> Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



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**Godmanchester Community Association**

presents

*The Last Night of the Proms*  
*With*

*The Foss Dyke Band*

**Saturday 9 May 2009**  
*At*

**The Comrades Club, Godmanchester at 7.30 pm**

**Tickets £11 adults £5 children**

**Churches Together in Huntingdon & Godmanchester**  
**May 2009 diary of church activities**

- Sat. 2      8.00 am Men's Breakfast, Barley Mow, Hartford. David Rootham will speak on 'Recession, money and being a Christian'.
- Tue. 5      12.15 pm Monthly CT prayer meeting in All Saints, Huntingdon
- Wed.6      7.30 pm CT members' meeting at St Mary's, Godmanchester
- Thu. 7      7.00 pm '*Thursday at 7*' at All Saints, Huntingdon. Speaker: Ally Barrett
- Sat. 9      World Fair Trade Day – Why not make this a target date for applying for 'Fairtrade Church' status?
- Sun 31      11.00 am **Pentecost Sunday** joint open air service, Market Square, Huntingdon. Please bring flags and streamers to join in the celebration of the church's birthday.

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

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### Dates for your diary

#### May 2009

Fri	1	7.30 pm	No Choir Practice	
Sat	2	8.00 am	Men's Breakfast	Barley Mow Hartford
Sun	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group – Prayer Collage	Church Hall
Mon	4		Stepping Stones	22 Porch Close Tel (436737)
Tue	5	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union Meeting	Queen Elizabeth School
		7.30 pm	Men's Group	37 Post Street
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	17 Windsor Road
Wed	6	11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Chestnuts
		7.30 pm	Churches Together Members' Meeting	Church Hall
Thu	7	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	8	10.30 am	MU Coffee Morning	2A Earning Street
		7.15 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		8.00 pm	Ely Choir Festival Rehearsal	Church Hall
Sun	10	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist with Baptism	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Film making	Church Hall
Mon	11	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	22 Porch Close Tel (436737)
		7.30 pm	Governors' Meeting	St Anne's School
		8.00pm	Signing Group	17 Windsor Road
Tue	12	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
			Salvation Army Lunch Group visit	Wisbech
		Leave	Wives' Group Visit	D'Arcy and Everest Garden and Nursery
		6.30 pm		
Wed	13	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Oak Tree Court
Thu	14	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
Fri	15	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	16	5.30 pm	Ely Diocesan Choirs Festival (900 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	Ely Cathedral
		7.30 pm	Musica Beata (Szentendre) Concert	Church
Sun	17	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		12.30 pm	Spring BBQ	Church Hall
		2.30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group – Chocolate fondue	Church Hall
Mon	18	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	22 Porch Close Tel (436737)
		8.00pm	Worship Group Meeting	10 East Chadley Lane

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

Tue	19	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.00 pm	PCC Communion & Meeting	Church
Wed	20	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Woodley Court
Thu	21	<b>Ascension Day</b>		
		7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
		7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist	
		7.30 pm	Mayor Making Ceremony	Town Hall
Fri	22	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	23	12.00 noon	Wedding: Matthew Nickerson / Gemma Twigden	
Sun	24	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		11.00 am	Parish Praise	St Anne's School
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
Mon	25		NO Stepping Stones	
Tue	26	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
Wed	27	9.45 am	Holy Communion	McCartney House
Thu	28	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
Fri	29	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	
Sat	30			
Sun	31	<b>Pentecost</b>		
		8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		11.00 am	Churches Together Ecumenical Service	Market Square, Huntingdon
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
			No Youth Group meeting	



**The Editorial Committee meeting** for the May magazine will be held on **Sunday, 17 May 2009**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date and if possible not later than **Friday 15 May**.

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Any enquiries regarding advertising should be addressed to Victoria Richardson