

## GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS

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### The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is now a year since Mary Jepp came to St Mary's as our Curate, and a few days since she was ordained priest. During the past year, we have all become aware of just how fortunate we are to have Mary with us, and now is a suitable moment to thank God for all the gifts he has given her, and to thank her for what she has given to us all.

All journeys to ordination are noteworthy in their own way – as are all the other journeys people make towards a vocation or a career or a way of living – but for Mary to be now a priest in the Church of England is something especially remarkable. Mary can tell you much more about this, but when as a girl she was being raised in the Catholic Church in Canada, the likelihood of her being where she now is would have seemed nil. This, I think, reveals something about the way God works in all our lives. We may not find our own lives particularly astonishing – but God has done a truly astonishing thing in us, creating us as an expression of His life, and choosing us as the most direct revelation of Himself. The very special journey that Mary has taken, and the very special life she now assumes as a priest, are emblems of God's calling of each one of us towards an ever deeper identification with Him.

Here are some of the words that were read by the Bishop at the ordination service:

With all God's people, priests are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

At face value, these words of commission seem to imply that a priest is a special kind of person, of whom almost superhuman efforts will be required. Actually, priesthood is not about being superhuman but truly human, and it is not for a special kind of person but for someone who represents us as we are. The clue is in the first words of that paragraph above: 'with all God's people.' Although for the sake of good order the church entrusts certain specific tasks to priests, everything a priest does is done with and on behalf of the whole Christian family. The priest may preside over the rites of baptism or of the Eucharist, for example, but it is the church, the whole body, that baptises or celebrates the Eucharist. We are not let off the hook by having priests to do it all for us! We all preach God's word by what we do and say, we all are called to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. A priest is there to remind us all of our common calling to be Christ-ians, that is to be fully human beings made in the image of God.

Mary, we look forward with joy to what you will reveal to us of God's life through your priesthood. It will be through your 'Mary-ness', to coin a phrase, that we see more clearly how together we are all called to be priests to God's world.

With love, *David*

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**This month's cover**

Peter Ballantine at The Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon. Colin Thirlwall pays tribute on page 7.

**Mothers' Union**

At the June meeting Joan Cameron came and talked to us about her recent visit to Uganda. Joan was one of eight diocesan presidents (whose names were drawn out of a hat) to attend a meeting in Kampala. The Mothers' Union in Uganda celebrated its centenary last year and it has an important role in the support and education of families out there. All its members wear uniforms, which are quite distinctive, and Idi Amin did say that the MU was a subversive element in Africa.

Everyday life is quite different in Uganda. One of the staple foods is the banana and Joan said that she didn't know that bananas could be eaten in so many different ways or that hands of bananas could be so big. Conditions for driving are dangerous and living conditions very primitive. Often women have to walk miles to get water each day. Education is free but children must have a uniform before they are allowed to go to school. Joan said that in spite of the shortage of water children were always smartly turned out.

People live in danger a lot of the time especially in the north where the Resistance Army is active. They kidnap children, train the boys as soldiers and use

the girls as prostitutes. The MU has set up hostels to help some of these children.

Most problems in Uganda stem from poverty and HIV. Many children are orphaned and widows there are not supported. The MU is active in helping to educate the people; basic hygiene is taught, houses are built, literacy is developed and family life projects are managed.

Joan attended a Eucharist while she was there. There were about three thousand people attending and it took place in a field. Joan said she was amazed at the number of women priests. At their meeting groups were formed to discuss the various problems and how they could be addressed. Ideas ranged from posters and other advertising to letters to politicians.

We went home with much to think about and very mindful of our plenty in a world of great need.

Our next meeting will take place at St Anne's School where we will be entertained by the children.

*Jean Morgan*

**It is helpful to think through our priorities in life:**

Faithfulness is our business, fruitfulness is the issue we must be content to leave with God.

*J.I.Packer*

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### Wives' Group

If you were taking a walk on Tuesday 9 June at about 8.15 pm, you might have seen some of the ladies of the parish walking briskly along Post Street, Chadley Lane or Park Lane, holding a sheet of paper which held clues to a Treasure Trail.

Here's a question: Which building along Post Street is the same back and front architecturally?

The answer is at the end of this article!

Two teams were competing for a Golden Treasure (chocolates!) and I am sad to say our team did not win, but in the best traditions of the Wives' Group, the winners shared the spoils with the losing team. Over a cuppa, Anne Mair, she who had researched and made the Treasure Trail, tested our brain power even further with a sweet based quiz and finally a flower quiz.

After a super evening we thanked Anne and presented her with a plant arrangement – one of Thelma's finest! Our next meeting on Tuesday 14 July at 7.30pm is our Coffee Evening, in aid of our charity for this year – the East Anglian Air Ambulance. This will be held at 49 London Road the home of our Chairman, Barbara Thirlwall. We will have a Bring and Buy and Raffle. Entry is £2, including refreshments. Please come and bring a friend or two, gentlemen very welcome!

Answer to the question: Island Hall.  
*Olwyn Hurd*

### Men's Social Group

A goodly crowd assembled at Thackray Towers one evening at the beginning of June for the Men's Social Group early summer barbecue; it could also be described as a godly crowd as it included two of the clergy! While enjoying our aperitifs and the fine weather in the attractive garden, obviously being groomed for the Godmanchester in Bloom competition, we were able to admire the skills of the recently retired fabric committee chairman as he ensured that the sausages were done to a turn, cooked but not cremated. We then took our places at table in the baronial dining hall to sample the sausages and other delicacies as well as one or two glasses of wine. It proved to be a most enjoyable evening with good company, good food and plenty of erudite conversation. The topics ranged from lawn mowers to narrow boats together with a lightning tour of the major cities in eastern Europe. Thank you, John and Biz, for your hospitality and hard work in making it such a splendid occasion – we are already looking forward to next year!

*Peter Dawe*



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**Charity of the month****USPG**

The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) is the oldest Anglican Mission Society, founded in 1701 by Dr Thomas Bray, who also set up SPCK, the religious publishing and distribution society. USPG works in direct partnership with Anglican Churches in over 50 countries, helping to support vital church work, including healthcare, education, leadership training and action for social justice.

In Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, the charity is enabling Anglican Churches to reach out to poor and marginalised communities in practical and life-changing ways. In practice, this means they are helping local churches to run schools and hospitals, build houses and dig wells, and provide agricultural training for subsistence farmers. They also support church outreach, theological training and youth work programmes.

They do not dictate what priorities their partner churches must follow. Instead, they encourage shared decision-making among equal partners. Furthermore, where grants are provided, they are given on a long-term basis so that churches have a secure financial base from which to plan for the future.

Here are two examples of their work, one for emergency relief and one a long-term project (I was myself a USPG project – no. 298 – when I worked in Japan, having

gone there through USPG's mission partner programme).

**Helping refugees in Sri Lanka**

A grant of £2,000 has been sent to the Diocese of Kurunegala, in Sri Lanka, where hospitals are struggling to treat thousands of refugees who fled fighting between the government and the Tamil Tigers in the north-east of the country.

The Rt Revd Kumara Illangasinghe, Bishop of Kurunegala, said: 'Hospitals do not have sufficient staff, medicines, food or beds to treat the daily arrivals. The injured are now being evacuated to hospitals across the country. Here in Kurunegala there are severe shortages of medicines, staff, beds and mosquito nets, and not enough food or clean drinking water. Patients are currently undergoing emergency medical treatment without pain relief because none is available. The evacuees are not only in need of medical care; they have been forced to leave everything behind, are separated from their families, and have no clothing, money or belongings. Our local clergy and congregations are organising relief parcels for the evacuees and sending parcels of clothes and food, but this is a poor rural area and resources are limited everywhere.'

The Revd Jessie Anand, USPG's Regional Desk Officer for South Asia, said: 'These dreadful and unexpected situations move our hearts. Natural and unnatural disasters are unavoidable. Though our emergency funding is small it creates a space for USPG to be in communion with our partner churches as

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they put mission into practice with heartfelt passion.'

### **Improving Christian-Muslim relations in Africa**

Religion is a force for social action and reconciliation but it can also be a source of serious conflict. The two biggest religions in Africa are Islam and Christianity. While many Muslims and Christians live side-by-side, there are also instances where religious differences have led to violence and the loss of life.

The Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) was set up to foster dialogue between religious leaders, both Christian and Muslim. Founded in 1959, PROCMURA is dedicated to promote a faithful Christian witness in an interfaith environment and to enable constructive engagement with Muslims for peaceful coexistence.

Support from USPG enables PROCMURA to build peaceful relations between Christians and Muslims through workshops, conferences, youth programmes and more. In September 2008, Christian and Muslim leaders from eastern and central African countries gathered to talk and plan their involvement in regional peace issues in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

### **Why support USPG?**

USPG is a small force for good in the world, doing work through local churches that is not only practical but which also bears the imprint or 'brand' of Christ. This is something only a mission agency can provide, and while missionary work

does not have much popular appeal today, the reality is life-changing for many people, and I am proud that St Mary's supports USPG. Perhaps as a church we could think about supporting a particular project – there are dozens to choose from, in fields such as educational work, health care, or church training – and in this way we could have far more contact with the work and the people involved.

*David Busk*

### **Funeral music goes pop! \*\***

If you attend a funeral nowadays, you are much more likely to hear chart hits, anthems from the talent show X Factor, or even TV theme tunes rather than the traditional hymns such as Abide with Me or Amazing Grace.

A survey of 30,000 funerals last year found that hymns were most popular at only 35% of services, down from 41% in 2005. 58% of all requests were for contemporary songs, with only seven per cent of requests being made for classical music.

'My Way' by Frank Sinatra is overall most favourite. Next comes 'Wind Beneath My Wings' by Bette Midler, and 'Time to Say Good-bye' by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman. Other, more unusual requests have included Radio 4's 'Shipping Forecast', and the themes from 'Only Fools and Horses', 'Top Gear' and Channel 4 'Racing'.

The survey was carried out by Co-operative Funeralcare.

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### Who's who in the parish



#### Olwyn & Robert Hurd

Olwyn is a Gumcestrian, born in West Street in the house where Mr and Mrs Caroe now live. She went to the Primary School in St. Ann's Lane (now Woodley Court) where her first teacher was her Aunt and Godmother, Mrs Olive Sawyer. After teaching Olwyn's older and much quieter sister Iona, I'm afraid Mrs Sawyer found her goddaughter a different, and, I dare say, a more difficult pupil! Aged 8, Olwyn moved to the new Primary School in Park Lane. The move to the Hinchingsbrooke Grammar School, now the site of a housing estate by Huntingdon Railway Station, saw Olwyn and Jennifer Darnell, now Shepherd, bike to school together.

After finishing school, Olwyn joined the Civil Service and spent eleven happy years in the (then) Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, first at Castle Hill and then Chequers Court.

Robert was born in Alconbury and went to the Primary School there, followed by attendance at Brookside School and then St. Peter's Secondary Modern. Work with

his father, who had a joinery/undertaking business in Alconbury then followed. When Mr Hurd senior's health meant giving up the business, Robert moved to F.B. Thackray in St. Peter's Road, Huntingdon.

Robert and Olwyn met in 1965 because Olwyn's father, Bert Brader, also worked for F.B. Thackray. They married at St. Mary's in March 1968, and moved to 2 Offord Road, a lovely cottage belonging to the Lenton's farm. In 1973 Claire Lorna was born. In 1975 they moved to Fairy Avenue and the family became complete in January 1978 when Neil Simon arrived.

Robert joined the Civil Service in 1975 as a Clerk of the Works at RAF Wyton, moving on promotion to RAF Alconbury in 1986. He retired for the first time in 2004, but returned via agency work to both RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth, from where he finally retired in 2008. Robert was Churchwarden from 1990 to 1998.

Olwyn joined St. Anne's staff in 2000, first as a Teaching Assistant and then working in the office with the School Administrator. Robert is a Governor at St. Anne's, and enjoys going on the residential holidays with the children as well as sports days and days out to museums.

Robert used to cycle for St. Neots & District Cycling Club, and still enjoys his bike. Olwyn enjoys reading and cooking.

We feel very privileged to live and worship in our beautiful town.

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Olwyn was christened, confirmed and married at St. Mary's, and both Claire and Neil were christened and confirmed there too!

*Olwyn and Robert Hurd*

### **Peter Ballantine**

*The sudden death of Peter on the 15 May was felt by us all at St Mary's and our sense of loss is summed up by Colin's heartfelt tribute to a much-missed friend.*

First impressions of Peter were of a quiet, courteous gentleman with a rather mischievous sense of humour who was very good at getting all sorts of things done without any fuss or bother, and who never expected overt recognition for the work he did for the church and for other organisations. It was only after knowing him for a while and working with him on the church finances that I got to know the full extent of his and, until she died five years ago, Barbara's involvement in so many different activities. Animal welfare was one of their favourites and they were keen and active supporters of the World Wildlife Fund and the Devon Donkey Sanctuary. Peter enjoyed listening to the children reading at St Anne's school and often compared the benefits of modern education to that in the schools around his home-town of Chichester in his youth.

He was the invariable recipient of desperate telephone calls when the church boiler failed; he ordered and collected candles and oil for the church altars; he booked the electrician if there was a fault,

ordered fuel oil and helped change the light bulbs in the sanctuary and ordered draw tickets and licences for the church events. He was a kingpin in the management of the churchyard mowing group and the Men's Group and, as a most conscientious Treasurer, kept an eye on the bills from the utility companies to make sure that we didn't bank with them, and he formed the Finance Committee to ensure that we had best advice on managing and investing church fund. He managed the Street Prayer mission and was the instigator and operator of the 100 Club Draw run by the Friends of St Mary's to provide finance to maintain this magnificent church.

As a friend, Peter was always willing to offer his experience and time, to change his busy schedule to fit in with others, and to do that little bit extra to make life easier for someone else or to make sure that things happened. If you called at 16 Saxon Close you could always guarantee a cuppa and a Rington's ginger biscuit or, if the time was right, a dram from one of his bottles of fine malt whisky. It is sad that only in his passing do we realise how much Peter did for all of us and how much his family and friends will miss his convivial company, influence and support.

*Colin Thirlwall*



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**Mary Jepp's ordination as a priest  
– Saturday 27 June**

On the wall of the North West Transept of Ely Cathedral is a magnificent sculpture called 'The Way of Life' by Jonathan Clarke. It shows a winding and twisting path leading to the cross, just as Mary's journey of faith has done, until it had now brought her to be ordained as a priest. The ordination service for us was to last for two hours, but for Mary it will last her a life time.

At the sound of a bell we all stood up and started to sing the first hymn as the Cathedral party and Bishops processed up the aisle. The copes, mitres and crooks of the two Bishops glistened with gold. The Bishop of Ely introduced the service by telling us about the role of deacons and priests; their 'job descriptions' are certainly awesome.

The sixteen candidates to be ordained – eight deacons and eight priests – processed from the west end and made their way up the aisle with the choir singing the Litany. The main Cathedral choir sang from the Alter while the Octagon singers sang from the south side near to the congregation filling the whole cathedral with sound. It made everyone feel part of the whole service.

The Liturgy of ordination was very moving. The eight deacons made their declarations to the Bishop of Huntingdon, the eight priests to the Bishop of Ely. They then faced the congregation who were given the solemn responsibility to

continually pray for them and uphold and encourage them in their ministry.

The Bishop of Ely reminded the priests that they are being entrusted with Christ's own flock, brought by the shedding of his blood on the cross, and that to him they would have to render account for their stewardship of his people. Both the deacons and the priests were reminded that they can not bear the weight of their calling in their own strength but only by the grace and power of God.

The newly ordained priests took turns to kneel before the Bishop who laid his hands on them, followed by other priests who came forward and did the same to show their support. After this they all received their stoles.

After the communion we all sang the hymn 'In Christ alone my hope is found', which we again sang in St Mary's on the following day at the first Eucharist service at which Mary presided. Mary was finally presented with a Bible by the Bishop who said: 'Receive this book as a sign of the authority which God has given you this day to preach the gospel of Christ and to minister his holy sacraments.'

Mary, now ordained priest, is expected to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before her as the pattern of her calling. She is to sustain and minister through word and sacrament to the community of the faithful.

It is wonderful and a great joy to us all that Mary should continue her journey

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within the 'fold' of St Mary's. We all have a duty to uphold and encourage her in her ministry here with us. I am sure we will all keep her in our prayers as the next stage of her life begins.

*Linda Watson*

On the Sunday following her ordination Mary presided for the first time at the 9.45 am Eucharist. It was a great joy to see so many of her friends from Ramsey and Upwood, where she used to live, as well as a large congregation to celebrate this most special occasion with Mary. As usual St Mary's came up trumps when providing the most delicious refreshments including a glass of wine and soft drinks after the service. Very many thanks to all who were involved in that.

*Joan Jackson*

### Friends of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester

#### Planned Future Events

Sat 11 July. Cantores Novae, a young ladies choir from Sheffield, in concert with Huntingdon Male Voice Choir

Sun. 16 August. Treasure Hunt

Sun 4 October. Friends AGM to be followed by Harvest Celebration with Schools Choirs.

Saturday 31 October Huntingdon Male Voice Choir in concert with Cotswold Male Voice Choir.

Tuesday 1 December Pilgrimage Tour of Ely Cathedral followed by Compline.

### Godmanchester in bloom

#### In July

By the time you read this the 2009 award winners will be just days away from success.. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the town in this year's events – litter pickers, bird watchers, members of the allotment, osier bed and wild flower meadow working parties and war memorial flower arrangers. And if you tidied your front garden and/or put out a hanging basket or window box, thank you for that too. You all deserve a medal as your hard work really has made a difference. The Anglia in Bloom judges arrive on Thursday 9 July. If you want to go the extra mile, please join us for a final litter pick on the evening of Monday 6 July. Meet at the Town Hall at 7 pm.

*John Thackray (420007)*

### May PCC meeting

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

**We make no apology for the length of this month's PCC Minutes. We felt sure you would want to read in detail what is proposed for the vicarage.**

### Salvation Army Hall

A visit is awaited from a Legal Officer of the Salvation Army to further assess the possibility of the continued usage of the Salvation Army Hall.

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### **Re-launch of the Friends of St Mary's Godmanchester and 100 Club**

There are plans for an exciting full year of events, which will be advertised widely.

### **Appointment of Parish Officials**

Jean Morgan was appointed unanimously as Lay Chair. Andrew Wright was appointed unanimously as PCC Secretary. In view of the recent death of Peter Ballantine, the position of PCC Treasurer is vacant. Colin Thirlwall agreed to act as temporary Treasurer and will review the paperwork prior to the next PCC meeting. Robert Hurd, Malcolm Harris and Trevor Weedon were appointed unanimously as Assistant Wardens.

### **Appointment of all PCC Sub-Committees**

The amended list for PCC Sub-Committees for 2009/10 was agreed unanimously.

### **Briefing on the plans for the Vicarage**

Malcolm Griffith, chair of the Diocesan Houses Committee, attended the meeting and gave a summary of the aims of the Houses Committee, which reports to the Finance Committee. There are four issues when considering clergy houses:

- a) The cost of clergy living in Victorian houses and a trend away from living in such houses
- b) The cost of the Diocese owning property i.e. large item of maintenance and the aim of reducing ongoing maintenance costs.
- c) Privacy for the occupier of the house i.e. a study separate from the living accommodation

- d) Access for the disabled i.e. level access and disabled toilets.

Malcolm stated that the specification for new clergy buildings is set out in the 'Green Guide', and then went on to discuss the issues regarding the current Vicarage in Godmanchester:

- a) Maintenance of boundary walls – a considerable amount has already been spent and the aim is to reduce the liability
- b) The excessive cost and time spent in maintaining the grounds
- c) It is more expensive to run than a 'modern vicarage'
- d) No access for the disabled
- e) No separate access for parishioners
- f) Study is currently situated within the main body of the house and the Parish Office is in a lobby space.

The Houses Committee have been looking at the options for the existing house for a considerable time – including redevelopment of the site for a new vicarage, church hall and mews. This option has not been pursued in view of the concerns of and for the residents of Chadley Lane and the loss of income from the Church Hall.

A new scheme has been proposed. This involves demolishing the lobby space that currently houses the Parish Office, having roadway access between 58 and 59 Post Street to a new 'green guide' vicarage in the existing garden – which would include a four bedroom family house and a separate entrance leading to a vestibule, waiting room, disabled toilet and study.

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Malcolm stated that this would allow the diocese to pass on responsibility for the boundary walls at the front of the current house and some at the back. Malcolm clarified that the responsibility for the provision and funding of a Parish Office lies with the PCC/Parish and not the diocese and reiterated that the current arrangement is only possible with the agreement of the priest-in-charge.

Following discussion it was agreed that the current Parish Office was not ideal for the purpose. It was acknowledged that considerable changes would need to be made to the current plans for them to be agreeable to the Planning Authorities. The possibility of an agreement being made to incorporate space for a Parish Office separate from the house was raised. Malcolm Griffith stated that this could possibly be negotiated, but he could not speak for the Houses Committee without further discussion. David Busk stated that the lobby space in the current house could continue to be used as the Parish Office whilst he was priest-in-charge.

Malcolm Griffiths stated that the Houses Committee wanted to discuss with and reach agreement in principle with the PCC for the scheme before discussion with the Planning Authorities. There were concerns raised that the Vicarage was in a Conservation Area. David Busk stated that he had concerns re access in the new scheme and the reduced size of number 59. There were concerns expressed about the potential loss of the use of the vicarage garden for events and the boundary wall for placing signs. Malcolm stated that the Houses Committee did not

feel that renovating the current vicarage to make it suitable was possible.

It was agreed that a decision could not be made at this meeting and that further discussion within the PCC was necessary. Malcolm Griffith stated that he would wait to hear back from the PCC whether it agreed in principle to the plans. He agreed that the PCC would be involved at an early stage once discussions were started with architects and planners. The likely timescale is 1-2 years. Malcolm acknowledged that the House Committee did not need PCC agreement to proceed with the project, but that they would not like to proceed without PCC support. David Busk stated that when he accepted his post he was aware that he may move in to a new Vicarage in due course and is therefore honour bound not to oppose the Houses Committee. It was agreed that further discussion be left until the next PCC meeting

### **Mission Action Plan**

There is a plan to approach groups in the town and ask:

- a) How they see the church
- b) What they want from the church

Thirty six ways have been identified in which the church is of service in the town, these will be produced in a colour brochure. The MAP Committee plan to hold fund raising events to fund the production of the brochure.

### **Ministry news**

Linda Watson is currently being trained in the Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM). The PCC unanimously agreed to the renewal of her Authorised Lay Ministry which

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needs to remain in place until her LLM is completed.

### **Worship Group**

The fourth Sunday of every month alternating with Parish Praise, will be a new service of Parish Communion, loosely based on the AAE. It is hoped that families will attend. The order of service has been agreed by the Worship Group. The first service will be on 21 June 2009. The order of service will be reviewed at the next PCC meeting.

### **Churches Together**

David Busk reported that a group of Catholics in Godmanchester, who worship at a variety of churches in the locality, are keen to be involved in Churches Together in Godmanchester.

*Andrew Wright*  
PCC Secretary

### **Our warmest congratulations**

To Janie and Simon Prince on the safe arrival of their daughter Alexandra Isobel on the 6 June

### **It's that time of year again**

Details of all **Gala Day** and **Picnic in the Park** events are to be found in the current edition of The Bridge. Many thanks to everyone who works in the background to make **Worship in the Park** a Churches Together success.

### **Sponsored Walk**

We are holding a Sponsored Walk on Porte Holme on Saturday 18 July in aid of church funds. All are very welcome to join in – there's plenty of space, though we're not planning to use the whole meadow for the route! – and we also need plenty of sponsors. If the weather is good some may wish to picnic afterwards, but the main aim is for as many people as possible to join together in this purposeful, though not too strenuous, fund-raising opportunity. More details will follow, but if you are interested, please contact Louise Allen on 450440 or Victoria Richardson on 451450.

Everywhere I find the signature, the autograph of God.

Joseph Parker

### **And finally...**

#### **Overheard at a recent christening.**

'Mummy, how much was Charlotte when she was born?'

'About seven pounds, I think'

'How much was I when I was born?'

'You were only three pounds'

'Mummy, why was Charlotte more expensive than me?'

Out of the mouths and all that....

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You are invited to...

# Picnic in the Garden

FREE  
ENTRY

Sunday 12 July 2009

12'noon onwards

Godmanchester Vicarage Garden, 59 Post Street

Treasure Hunt

Tug-of-war

Games and races

Balloon modelling

Free teas and cakes

Church building open

Competitions...

Fancy dress -  
come dressed as a  
superhero!

Best-decorated  
hat and best-  
decorated bike or  
trike!

(Rosettes at 12.30)

BRING YOUR OWN BLANKET, LUNCH AND DRINKS



Come along and relax!

<http://www.stmarysgodmanchester.org/>



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### Registers

### Baptisms

7 June                    Dominic Adams  
14 June                Thanksgiving service for Lydia Williams  
21 June                William Robert Jones  
                             Timothy Reuben Jones  
                             Freya Elizabeth Jones  
                             George Thomas Wilson

### Weddings

12 June                Gareth James Barry and Juliet Rachel Bird  
13 June                Robert Lloyd Dimmock and Lisa Irene Irving

### Funerals

9 June                 Denis Moore  
25th June             Paul Burbridge

### Lectionary

5 July                 **Trinity 4**  
                             Ezekiel 2:1-5; Mark 6:1-13  
12 July                **Trinity 5**  
                             Amos 7:7-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29  
19 July                **Trinity 6**  
                             Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-end; Mark 6:30-34, 53-end  
26 July                **Trinity 7**  
                             2 Kings 4:42 to end; John 6:1-21



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### Dates for your diary

#### July 2009

Wed	1	11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Chestnuts
Thu	2	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades Club
Fri	3	10.30 am	MU Coffee Morning	2 Hayling Close (Liz Morgan)
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	4		Godmanchester Gala Day	
Sun	5	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	Ecumenical Worship in the Park	
			Picnic in the Park	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
			No Youth Group	
Mon	6	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	22 Porch Close (436737)
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	7	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union	St Anne's School
		7.45 pm	MAP Meeting	Vicarage
Wed	8	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Oak Tree Court
Thu	9	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades Club
		7.30 pm	Deanery Synod	t.b.a.
Fri	10	10.00 am	Class 3 wedding re-enactment	Church
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		7.15 pm	Youth Group – Rave in the Nave	Ely Cathedral
Sat	11	pm	<i>Cantores Novae</i> Practice	
		evening	Concert – Huntingdon Male Voice Choir & <i>Cantores Novae</i>	
Sun	12	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		12 noon	Picnic in the Garden	Vicarage Garden
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
			No Youth Group	
Mon	13	11.30 pm	Stepping Stones Service	Church
		o/c	Picnic	Vicarage Garden
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
		8.00 pm	Worship Group Meeting	10 East Chadley Lane
Tue	14	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.30 pm	Wives' Group Charity Coffee Evening	Church Hall
Wed	15	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Woodley Court
Thu	16	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
		8.00 pm	Service of Benediction by Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary	Church
Fri	17	2.00 pm	Leavers' Service	St Anne's School

## 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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		7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sat	18	11.45 am	Visit of Anglo-Catholic History Society	
		t.b.a.	MAP Social Evening	Vicarage
Sun	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
Mon	20	6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
			No Stepping Stones until September	
		8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	21	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church Hall
Wed	22	9.45 am	Holy Communion	McCartney House
Thu	23	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
Fri	24	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sun	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		10.30 am	Parish Praise	St Anne's School
		2.30 pm	Holy Baptism – Frederick & Abigail Greaves, George Atkin	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
Mon	27	8.00 pm	Signing Group	18 Windsor Rd
Tue	28	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		7.45 pm	MAP Meeting	Vicarage
Thu	30	7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		9.45 am	Holy Communion	
Fri	31	7.30 pm	Choir BBQ	Church Hall

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

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Any enquiries regarding advertising should be addressed to Victoria Richardson