



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER
goodshepherd@chogs.plus.com

Vicar:
The Revd Joan Hicks

www.chogs.org.uk

Letter from the Churchwarden

February 2012

Dear Friends,

The year is moving on! February brings with it a looking forward to spring and the end of the cold dark months of winter, though winter often has a sting in its tail! For me it means starting to plan the spring and summer season at the allotment, what to plant where and when, and, of course, the digging and the perpetual battle with weeds!

February also signals the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday on 22nd Feb. This is marked at the Good Shepherd with a solemn Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes as we enter the six week build up to Easter. Lent is a time for reflection, meditation, and sometimes austerity as we think of the tragic and miraculous events commemorated on Good Friday and Easter Day. During Lent there will be a course of study and discussion at groups to which all are encouraged to attend.

Maundy Thursday in Holy Week leads us into the Passion of Good Friday and is marked by special services and a night vigil (known as 'The Watch') based on the events and arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

This year at the Good Shepherd for the Maundy Thursday service we have decided to re-introduce a communion service incorporated in an 'agape' supper which was for some years our regular practice. Many of us will remember this service well and recall the solemnity, calmness and fellowship it invokes. For those who don't, it involves a two course cooked meal with wine (if you wish) with hymns and prayers, between courses and after the meal Holy Communion.



The meal and service end with the reading of The Gospel of the Watch. After this, if you wish, you can spend some time in prayer and meditation at 'The Watch' in the Pastoral Room until midnight. Personally I find this a very moving service and would recommend it to you all. If you have never experienced this very special service why not give it a try!

Please give some thought as to how you are going to participate in the activities and challenges of Lent so that the wonder of Easter can be fully appreciated.

With best wishes

Rob Winlo

FEBRUARY 2012 READINGS

Sunday 5th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

The Gospel: Mark ch 1, vv 29 – 39

Sunday 12th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

Proverbs ch 8, vv 1 & 22 – 31

Colossians ch 1, vv 15 – 20

The Gospel: John ch 1, vv 1 – 14

Sunday 19th February – The Sunday before Lent

2 Kings ch 2, vv 1 – 12

2 Corinthians ch 4, vv 3 – 6

The Gospel: Mark ch 9, vv 2 – 9

Sunday 26th February – The First Sunday of Lent

Genesis ch 9, vv 8 – 17

1 Peter ch 3, vv 18 – end

The Gospel: Mark ch 1, vv 9 - 15



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Church Office:
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SERVICES & DIARY DATES

Church Office Open: Tues, Weds, & Fri. 10am-12 noon

Weds 1st **9.30am** Little Fishes
Thurs 2nd **10am** Holy Communion at the
 Vicarage
Sat 4th **9.15am – 2.15pm** Marriage
 Preparation Day

Sunday 5th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

9am Prayer for the Parish
10am Family Service (followed by
TRAIDCRAFT Stall)
12pm Baptism of Sophie Lauren Tull
6pm Evensong for Education Sunday at St
Luke's
Tues 7th Luncheon Club
 8pm Bible Study Group
Weds 8th **9.30am** Little Fishes
Thurs 9th **10am** Holy Communion at the
 CHOGS
Fri 10th *Schools break up*
Sat 11th **10.30am** Church Jumble Sale

Sunday 12th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

9am Prayer for the Parish
10am Parish Eucharist, Sunday a.m! & Youth
Grp
4pm "Celebrating Marriage" Service
Mon 13th **8pm** GIFT Group Meeting
Tues 14th Luncheon Club

Deadline for March's Church Newsletter

Weds 15th NO Little Fishes
Thurs 16th **10am** Holy Communion at the
VICARAGE

Sunday 19th February – The Sunday before Lent

9am Prayer for the Parish
10am Parish Eucharist & Sunday a.m!
6pm Evensong & Benediction at All Saints'
Deadline for March's hymns being chosen by
Kath Winlo
Mon 20th *Schools return*
7.30pm Management Committee Meeting
Tues 21st Luncheon Club
ASH WEDNESDAY **9.30am** Little Fishes
8pm Ash Wednesday Service – Conference
Room
Thurs 23rd **10am** Holy Communion at the
Good Shepherd

Sunday 26th February – First Sunday of Lent

9am Prayer for the Parish
10am Parish Eucharist, Sunday a.m! & Youth
Grp
3pm Deaf Church Service
6pm International Taizé Service at St Luke's
Mon 27th **8pm** GIFT Group Meeting –
Vicarage
Tues 28th **12.30pm** Community Praise &
Luncheon Club



PRAYER CHAIN 2011

By Gill Chivas

For as long as many of us can remember, Meg Widdicombe has been the careful and committed person responsible for the prayer chain at the Good Shepherd. Under Meg's guidance, the group of pray-ers has grown to 22, and the number and range of requests has also blossomed.

Very sadly, Meg's health suffered a setback in the spring of 2011, and Helen Getley agreed to take over the prayer chain from Meg in April. Helen did an excellent job for several months, but then redundancy and a new job in Aldershot forced Helen to leave the co-ordinator post behind.

I offered to take over the prayer chain and have been responsible for it since August. It was not my intention to become the long-term co-ordinator, having done the job for several years when the prayer chain first started, but I was anxious that this most important service to our community did not falter.

We are all truly thankful for the wonderful ministry both these ladies provided, and the systems they set up have set me in very good stead. Thank you, Meg and Helen, and may God bless you both richly.

Following Meg's example, I have set out below an analysis of the prayer requests received during 2011. Some people and situations remain in our prayers for a long time; other requests are time-dependent and short-lived, for example job interviews or special



services. All are treated equally, with complete confidence and great thoughtfulness.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Medical problems (appointments, tests, sickness, accidents etc)	62	59
Bereavements (including people first prayed for when	22	27
Life events (job-related, births, marriages, exams,	46	22
Miscellaneous (services, church events, natural disasters etc)	27	31
TOTAL	157	139

For the first time in a number of years, there was no street visiting during 2011. In 2010, when the last roads in the parish were visited, to complete the first full 'sweep', a total of 23 requests were collected and passed down the prayer chain.

I want to thank everyone on the prayer chain. You continue to pray faithfully day by day for those who entrust us with their anxieties and concerns. Answers to prayer are not always what we hope for, but God promises us His peace in all circumstances. Many of our prayees express their gratitude that strangers are willing to pray for them, or that they have felt uplifted by our prayers.

The prayer chain is always open to anyone who would like to join this special ministry. No prior experience or special qualifications are needed! Please contact me if you feel called to join us.



People who come to CHOGS Ian Allen

What is it, I wonder, about the North East in general and Geordie Land in particular that makes Cox Green so appealing. Ian is another escapee, in his case, from South Shields. When he was 18 and doing his “A” levels, but without any clear career goals, he applied for a variety of jobs whilst keeping the idea of university open. One of the jobs was with BP in their cartography department and, after a drawing test and interview, he was offered a job as the office junior without a clear knowledge of what cartography was.

From that happy chance grew one of the big loves of Ian’s life: map-making. It turned out that the department took the geological and geo-physical information sent back from BP’s exploration surveys and drew and printed maps mostly of the seabed of possible oilfields. During the next four years, Ian worked his way through each of the processes and was given day-release to study map-making formally.

Those early years were very testing personally. He came from a lively family home of 4 brothers and sisters and to find himself alone in London – first time away from home on his own – came as quite a shock. Fortunately, another of the loves of Ian’s life came to the rescue. BP prided itself on the sports facilities for its staff and that included a number of football teams. So Ian was able to build a social life on the game which he had always played and a game which, Ian being Ian, he always played “to win”.

Times changed rather rapidly and after only eleven years, he was made redundant. Firmly hooked on cartography by then, he found a job with British Gas when they were working through a programme of laying new gas pipes or re-siting old ones. Ian now found himself doing some field surveying and back in the office



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drawing the maps for the pipe-layers to follow. During this time, he was introduced to computerised map-making, something which quickly became another excitement.

From BG, he moved to smaller companies engaged in a wide variety of map-making. Up-dating Land Usage maps for local authorities; producing illustrated maps for the Camping Club and doing work for oil exploration companies are examples he talks about. By now, the maps were digitalised and Ian smiles at the memory of turning down some jobs where the soft-ware was not adequate. Finally, and partly because they offered him the very latest soft-ware, he joined Rio Tinto Mining and returned to mapping exploration surveys across Europe, Africa & Asia.

In all of those jobs, it was essential to achieve absolute accuracy under time pressures and considerable tensions built up in the teams, but mistakes could have been very costly if, for example, a multi-million pound drilling was sited in the wrong place.

In the meantime, social life had widened a bit. He married in South Shields in 1989 and moved to Cox Green in 1990 (the year clearly remembered because it was, of course!, the year the World Cup was played in Italy). Sadly, by 2007 the marriage fell apart and life became very hard for Ian.

It was about this time that Ian started coming to the 10.00am service, really as a result of bringing his daughters to Sunday a.m. Although he does not come from a church-going household it suddenly felt "the right thing to do" and has become "just a part of his life": "it's what I do" and he feels that it has lifted a habit of intolerance. He was confirmed in 2008. It is fair to say that whatever support Ian feels that he has got from CHoGS his contribution to the life of the church has been just as important. So life is now full, map-making is still essentially fun especially with advanced computer software and to relax there are pub quiz's P. 7



and five-a side football – the team competitor is still alive even with two arthritic hips. And underpinning it all now is CHoGS. In 2009, he met Bev with whom he is now buying a home for their families, based fortunately for us in the Cox Green area

By Eric Widdicombe

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY

Saturday 4th February

Is there anyone who would be interested in getting involved in Marriage Preparation – either to help as a ‘one-off’ or to become part of a team? We will be running our next Marriage Preparation Day on 4th February with around ten couples attending – mostly Cox Green couples, but also some couples from All Saints and St Luke’s. Help is needed in welcoming couples as they arrive, serving drinks, washing up, chatting to those who come, and leading or assisting with different parts of the day. The session is from 9.15 am to 2.30 pm with a short break for lunch. It requires a minimum of two people (and ideally more) to be there throughout the day. If you are interested, or could help even for part of the day – please talk to the Vicar.



We only run one session a year here. The others (to be held in May and November) are hosted at All Saints and St Luke’s using the same material. Help is appreciated at all of them.



Parochial Church Council Updates

The Church has two Trustees representing the Oxford Diocese on the board of Trustees of Cox Green Community Centre. Other bodies represented are the Community Association and the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. Earlier this year, one of our Trustees, Roger Crick, tendered his resignation and Rob Winlo was nominated. His appointment has now been approved by the Bishop's Council of the Oxford Diocese and he along with Paul Holifield are now the Diocesan Trustees. As Rob represented the Church on the Community Centre Management Committee, a new rep had to be found and Joan Black bravely volunteered. So thank you to Roger for his past work (he was also secretary of the Trustees), Rob, Joan & Paul as they all do so much behind the scenes for our Church.

It has been agreed to purchase a new green altar frontal and designs and fabrics have been considered and decided upon. The frontal is by the same designer of the banners - Juliet Hemingray Church Textiles. The purchase is being funded from donations received and we give special thanks to the Leonard Family for their donation in memory of Alan Leonard.

At the last meeting the PCC agreed by a majority to increase the Share we pay to the Deanery to £25000 for 2012, representing an increase of £1000. This will be a challenge but we must continue to make substantial increases year on year as we need to pay a realistic Parish Share which covers the cost of parish priest and Diocesan services

Following the departure of Helen Getley we need a representative to Deanery Synod which meets about four times a year. Our



other representative is Jenny Hopper. Please consider if you can fill this role.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on Sunday 22nd April 2012 immediately following the 10 am service. We intended to follow the meeting with a meal but we need people to coordinate this.

Kath Winlo , PCC Secretary.

OUR NEW AREA BISHOP

will be coming to lead our 10 o'clock service and preach on Good Shepherd Sunday, 29th April. This will be Bishop Andrew's first visit to us. Do put the date in your diaries and make a special effort to be there to share our Good Shepherd Sunday celebrations.

OUR NEW AREA DEAN

The Revd Michael Smith, Vicar of The Cookhams, has been appointed to serve as our new Area Dean following the departure of the Revd Jeremy Hyde to Coventry diocese. Please pray for Michael as he takes on this new role and extra responsibilities within our deanery, in addition to his parish commitments; pray also for our deanery of Maidenhead and Windsor.



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EMMAUS 2012



An opportunity to explore and grow in the Christian faith

As usual, there will be an Emmaus course on offer during the year. This is particularly suitable for adults wanting to find out more about the Christian faith, for those considering Confirmation, and for those wanting to 'refresh' their faith. More details about the course on the church website: www.chogs.org.uk. Please talk to Joan H if you are interested or phone/email the Church office.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Colin Rayner, who came to our 10 am service on Advent Sunday:

'I was delighted to attend the Advent Sunday service at the Church of the Good Shepherd. It was good to meet you and your congregation and to learn more about the important part you play in community life in Cox Green. I was made to feel very welcome and was pleased to be able to spend a little time with you all. Thank you for your kind hospitality. I wish you and your team a very happy and peaceful 2012.'



LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT....

ASH WEDNESDAY – 9th March 8 pm
Eucharist (with imposition of ashes for those who wish) in the Conference Room. All welcome.

For those unable to attend the service in the evening, you would be very welcome at the 10 am Eucharist with imposition of ashes at All Saints, Boyne Hill.



LENT GROUPS

This year to link with our focus on worship, we are using a course called 'Living Bread' which is about the Eucharist. Lent groups will start the week beginning 27th February. Details about this year's Lent course will be available shortly.

If you are able to host a Lent Group, please talk to Joan.

STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES

We invite you to bring back your stewardship responses from this year's Stewardship Sunday on or before Sunday 12th February. They will be brought up as part of the Offertory during our 10 am Eucharist that day. Please do take time to read through the letter and leaflets given out on Stewardship Sunday, and reflect prayerfully on your response for this year. If you have any questions, do talk to Joan H or one of the churchwardens.