



# Fairland News

No. 487

October 2009



Fairland United Reformed Church  
Wymondham

**Fairland United Reformed Church  
Wymondham**

**Primary Minister**      Revd Alison Davis  
The Manse  
28 Norwich Road  
Wymondham    NR18 0NS  
Tel (01953) 609971

**Church Secretary**    Mrs Jennifer Shakesby  
'The Pedlars'  
38 Bentley Road  
Tacolneston    NR16 1DL  
Tel (01953) 788983

**Treasurer**              Mr John Butcher  
176 The Avenues  
Norwich        NR4 7DR  
Tel (01603) 457861

**Asst Treasurer**        Mrs Jill Brown  
78 Norwich Road  
Wymondham    NR18 0SZ  
Tel (01953) 603979

**Bookings for**            Mrs Jill Brown  
**Fairland Hall and**  
**Fairland Church Centre**

**Services** are held every Sunday at 10.30 am  
On the first Sunday of the month, the Service includes **Holy Communion**

**Fairland Searchers** Youth Club meets at the Fairland Hall every Monday at 6.30 pm

Dear Friends,

Autumn is upon us, not that our weather gives much indication of that. It is still warm and sunny, yet the nights are drawing in and leaves are turning to their glorious autumnal colours. It makes me wonder where did the summer season go, that period which is supposed to be quieter, less rushed, rather than holidays and good weather.

However let's be realistic. Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century seems to be faster and more hectic, despite all the time saving gadgets one can buy and the use of computers and the latest technology.

So what do we in the church have to say about that? Do we bemoan the fact and come across as out of date curmudgeons or do we accept it and offer to the world an oasis of calm and quiet, where the pressures of the pace and the speed of life are put on one side and all of us can focus on what is important in our lives, in the world?

It's a challenge for us to face and meet if we can, and that may mean providing space, sacred space where we and others can just be for a while, not doing, allowing God's spirit to refresh our souls and recharge our batteries.

If we allow that for ourselves, we will deal with the faster pace of life, the busyness of the world without resorting to exploitation of ourselves and others, without rancour and stress.

In the natural world, autumn is a time of slowing growth, preparation for winter sleep/refreshment. May we allow the autumn to refresh and refocus us on God.

*Alison*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **September Lunches**

### **First Friday Lunch**

There were 34 people present and a profit of £30.75 was made. Thanks to all who prepared and served lunch on that day.

### **Community Lunch**

Forty-nine people appreciated a tasty meal prepared by Kenny and his team. Results were: Tickets (after expenses) - £102.66; Bring and Buy - £32; Raffle - £45 - making a profit of £179.66.

The following letter has been received by our Assistant Treasurer from the charity Hope and Homes for Children:

Dear Mrs Brown

Please pass on my sincere thanks to all the members and friends of the Fairland United Reformed Church for your very kind gift of £145 that we recently received. Your gift will help toward achieving our very exciting plans for 2009. Here are a few examples of what we hope to achieve:

We are working to close the first ever institutions in Ukraine and Moldova. Our experience in other countries has shown that the first closure is the most critical and it marks a tipping point - the beginning of the end for institutions in the country.

We plan to close three more institutions in Romania and a baby home in Belarus. Baby homes are often seen as the 'front door' to the institutional system, so completing this closure is particularly critical in our goal of transforming childcare in Belarus.

We are working with the Rwandan Government to put together a nationally accredited minimum care package for orphaned and vulnerable children which is based on our Family Support programme. Through this work we have the potential to transform the lives of thousands of children across Rwanda.

Your support has a direct and long-lasting effect on individual children's lives. All these achievements are only possible because of your kind support and for that we are extremely grateful.

Kindest regards

Janette Rennie  
Hope and Homes for Children

**\* Please remember to keep collecting small change for this charity \***

## Communion Offerings for October

The offerings for September and October are in aid of the causes in India and Madagascar which benefit from the sale of Revd Eileen Ritchie's cards. Eileen will be talking about them when she leads worship at our church on 4th October.

One of the charities she supports is **The Vidiyal Trust** which, since 1990, has been serving the poorest in rural and city areas of Southern India. It also helps families in Sri Lanka who were affected by the Tsunami. Its founder, Canon Pat Atkinson, has made well over thirty visits to India since 1990, many of these visits lasting several weeks. She has lived with, and been part of, the communities with which the charity works and continues to visit India and Sri Lanka twice every year.

The following information has been taken from the Trust's website at [www.vidiyaltrust.com](http://www.vidiyaltrust.com)

'Our philosophy has been, since Pat's first visit in 1990, Matthew 25.40 "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me." However, we do not seek to proselitise, but to show God's love to all of those we meet and are privileged to work with.

As a smaller charity **we send every penny donated** to our work in India and Sri Lanka. We do not have an office, or overheads that cannot be met by bank interest and a portion of tax repayments on donations. We take our position of stewards of donated funds very seriously. With our very regular time in India we will always be able to ensure your funds are used properly.

We work with known Christian churches in Northern Kerala and Sri Lanka. We also have a training and development link with a Cancer Centre in Kerala and supply, equip and fund 2 ambulances for outreach clinics to poor cancer patients.'

There is more information about both charities on the noticeboard.

## **Life in the Home Guard with Pikes**

In the summer of 1939, coming up to the age of 16, I had to choose between being evacuated with my school, Sydenham Central, or leaving school to start work.

After talking it over with my parents, I decided to stay with them in Sydenham and look for work. I had no clear idea what I wanted to do and one of the opportunities available was working in a local factory doing war work, at a £1 per week.

However, I opted for a five-year apprenticeship as motor fitter in the Southern Railway's Road Motor Maintenance workshops at Battersea where the fleet of motor and horse drawn vehicles operated by the railway was overhauled. My wage was 10 shilling (50p) a week. I recall seeing in my first year the last, two-horse, heavy dray being built for brewery work.

As I worked for the railway I was in a Reserved Occupation and not called up for military service. I joined the Local Defence Volunteers which was soon renamed the Home Guard. The railway had its own section of the Home Guard and I was allocated to the platoon based at Forest Hill station, the next station up the line from Sydenham station where we lived. At Forest Hill there was, adjacent to the station, an electricity sub-station about the size of a large house through which electricity was fed into the railway's electrified network.

The principal task for my platoon was to safeguard the sub-station thought to be a likely target if enemy paratroopers were dropped or if saboteurs became active. For this purpose our platoon of 20 men had one First World War Ross rifle and two clips of 5 rounds of ammunition. We did night patrol duty two men on duty at a time, one had to carry the rifle and 5 rounds, the second man to have the other 5 rounds. We were not told why.

After a time we progressed from armbands to full uniform with cap badges, Royal West Kent Regiment — still no rifles. Then came a surprise. A large coffin type box was awaiting us one training evening in the station waiting room. The rifles? Under the strict eye of our sergeant the heavy box was prized open and the packaging removed. No rifles but pikes — steel tubes with bayonets welded in one end. Not exactly the most sophisticated weapon for dealing with storm troopers with sub-machine guns — but definitely better than

parading with broomsticks for rifle drill.

A second surprise was the order that every platoon must have a dispatch rider, anticipating a breakdown in normal communications if an invasion started. “Wilkinson — you have some knowledge of motors. You will be our Dispatch Rider”. My mother proudly sewed a Dispatch Rider badge on the arm of my uniform. I enquired from my sergeant about a motorcycle. He said, “Well, we have requisitioned one from the Army and it should arrive anytime now. Meantime, if the balloon goes up, just go out and take the first one you can find.” The war ended and still no motor bike had arrived, so in someone’s Awaiting Attention file, in a pigeon-hole in the War Office, there is a requisition marked ‘Home Guard, Forest Hill — motor cycle needed’.

This story, written by **Horace Wilkinson**, was submitted to the BBC People’s War site by Wymondham Learning Centre.

'WW2 People's War is an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at [bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar](http://bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar)'

\* \* \* \* \*

## Singing Group

We have decided to meet once a fortnight on a Monday (which can be changed if it suits the group better). We will prepare some Christmas music as our first project but also learn some new hymns. If we progress well enough we would hope to sing in worship over the Christmas period. Please come and join us if you just enjoy singing . We do not envisage being a highly professional group but a group that sings for pleasure.

The first date is Monday 5th October at 3.00 in the Lounge.

Jennifer

**Flower Rota**  
October / November

4 October	Horace Wilkinson
11 October	Sheila Eaglen
18 October	Olive Blowers
25 October	Celia Banton
1 November	Shirley Adams

\* \* \* \* \*

Gifts of flowers from the Communion Table have been received by:

Rev David Shakesby, Pat and Keith Forder, Kathy Liversidge and Jenny Jones.

I would like to express my thanks to all my friends at Fairland for your good wishes in my spell of ill health. The cards and telephone calls were very encouraging as were the flowers. Thankfully I'm on the mend.

David

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you for the flowers and the best wishes from the friends of Fairland UR Church. That was a nice surprise and the colours of the flowers were lovely.

from Keith and Pat Forder

Dear Netta

Thankyou very much for the flowers from church last Sunday. We were just back from holiday, and they made the house feel very cheerful.

Best wishes to everyone

Kathy Liversidge

\*\*\*\*\*

**Operation Christmas Child**



Wonderful news! Plus donations, we raised **£420** at our Coffee Morning on September 3rd. This will mean more gift-filled shoe boxes can be sent this year. A very big thank you to all my helpers and to everyone who came or supported in any way.

By the time you read this, Operation Christmas Child will be in full swing and boxes will be piling up ready to be sent to the very needy children in Serbia. Just a reminder that chocolate and other sweets can be put in if the sell by date is after 2010.

If you are unable to fill a box but would like to contribute, small packets of sweets or chocolate would be lovely.

Please spread the word to neighbours and friends. Leaflets are in churches and shops. If you need to know more, please phone me on 01603 810323 or contact Ann Scott.

Thank you

Shirley Adams

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thanks for donation**

We would like to express our thanks to the person who has sent us a donation towards the cost of producing this newsletter. Your support is very much appreciated.

## An Eventful Cruise

Our taxi driver collected us from the Fairland on a fine sunny morning for the three hour journey to the cruise terminal at Dover to board the Balmoral for a ten day cruise around the British Isles.

As we headed up the east coast towards Scotland we experienced rough seas and force 7 gales but the ship was very stable and we ate a hearty breakfast before attending the Sunday service. The captain apologised for not coming but he was needed on the bridge due to the severity of the weather.

On Monday we berthed at Invergordon but there was such a long walk from the ship to the taxi rank that we opted to stay aboard. We braved the wind to walk on deck and get some exercise. We had some fine entertainment during the afternoon when a group of Scottish girl dancers, a piano-accordionist and his vocalist wife and a man who played the bagpipes came aboard.

Just before dinner that evening the captain made two announcements: one, that there was viral sickness on board and that extra precautions were being taken to contain it; two, that due to severe weather conditions the ship would not be going to the Orkneys. During our evening meal Joe, one of our table companions, suddenly left the table feeling unwell. It was later confirmed that he had gastro-enteritis so we did not see Joe and his wife for a few days as they were both confined to their cabin. Our extremely sympathetic waiter from Bali told us to come to his table at every meal and he would look after us.

The captain announced that to compensate for not going to the Orkneys we would go to Portree instead. However, that was soon altered as there was a force 11 hurricane heading our way. The captain, being Norwegian, said that he would find shelter in a “fjord”. Another announcement came to say that seventy-three people were now affected with gastro-enteritis. It was very difficult to contain as some passengers who called the doctor were simply sea-sick and others, who thought they were sea-sick, mixed with other passengers until they became really ill.

During the hurricane we were entertained by the Rosario Trio, three brothers who played keyboard, violin and bass. It was an excellent performance despite the sea getting very rough and a music stand falling

over! We sheltered for five hours in the “fjord” and halfway through, the captain turned the ship around to lessen the buffering. Fortunately in our cabin mid-ship and on deck 4 there was very little movement but a lady on deck 10 said her cabin swayed a lot and there were bursts of spray against the window. During the night we rode a gale as we made for Tobermory, Isle of Mull and clothes fell off the hangers in the wardrobe! Our rolling gait was entirely due to the weather and not the whisky!

At Tobermory, where we anchored, it took three hours for the authorities to make up their minds to give us clearance as there were now seventy-nine with the virus. We declined to leave by tender and stayed on board.

Thursday was a beautiful day for our visit to Dublin. We had a grand three hour tour of the city and its parks. It was so clean and well kept. There was not even one beer can or crisp packet to be seen.

On our way to Cornwall we had some interesting entertainment when the pilot of a hovering rescue helicopter asked if he could have a practice trip and pick-up from the ship, so three of his crew members were duly lowered and then collected.

Warm sunny weather awaited us at Falmouth, which was crowded with holiday-makers, and we spent a most pleasant time there. However, that evening the captain announced that, due to a significant escalation in the number of gastro-enteritis cases, the Guernsey authorities refused to give us clearance. He had therefore decided to cut short the cruise by a day and head straight for Dover to get the ship fumigated in readiness for the next cruise.

Despite all the problems we truly enjoyed ourselves and did not miss a meal!

*Daphne and Spencer*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **End of Year Service**

It has been decided that for the last Sunday in December we will provide our own Worship. If you have anything you would like to contribute please let Ruth know. It could be poems, meditations, articles, music to listen to etc.

Please be thinking about this . We could prepare a very interesting time of worship if the material comes in to us. Thank you.

*Jennifer*

## Hearing

These days we seem to be bombarded with sounds of some sort morning, noon and night. I say bombarded with ‘sounds’ but in my definition, sounds are what we want to hear, and noises are what we don’t want to hear.

As with the other senses, some people will like a particular sound whilst another person will not hear any merit in it. I sometimes feel like the little boy who could not see the emperor’s new clothes. I have heard it said many, many times that the songs of the skylark and nightingale are very beautiful and someone has set them to music, but give me the sound of the blackbird any time.

With all the technology of our scientific age the need for memory to recall sounds we appreciate seems almost unnecessary, when we are able to record and replay anything from anywhere at the touch of a button (this saying ‘at the touch of a button’ usually turns out to be several buttons and in a particular order! I pass.)

There is, however, one sound I recall from long ago. In the 1950s and 1960s Ralph Reader produced a Boy Scout Gang Show in a London theatre. I can recall, very clearly, a single boy soprano, on stage in a spotlight, singing the Boy Scout Hymn. It was very moving!

*John Adams*

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you have a favourite sound - or a sound you hate? We’d love to hear your suggestions.

As a result of John’s article in last month’s newsletter, **Netta** has written the following:

‘Unusual perhaps, but not unpleasant, smells I particularly remember from my childhood were those produced from passing steam trains, kitchen scraps being boiled up by neighbours for their chickens and my dad’s garden shed where wood and various carpentry tools were kept. Later on in life the various scents of wild flowers and two freshly bathed and powdered baby daughters particularly come to mind.’

## **ALAN GREEN**

### **Handyman Service**

**For all your DIY tasks  
around the house,  
assembling flat packs  
and gardening**

**★★★**

***Hire me by the hour,  
or day, or week  
- reasonable rates,  
estimates given.***

**PHONE:**

**0788 1694188**

**01953 600758**



### **Gardener**

**available**

**in Wymondham**

**Basic maintenance -  
mowing, weeding,  
pruning etc  
reasonable hourly rate**

**Contact Mr Westlake**

**01953 423243**

Mr Green has been recommended by members of our church. Mr Westlake is a member of City Church and has also attended services in our church.

---

### **Ecumenical Rally**

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the rallies in the past.

Regretfully, the decision has had to be made to cancel the October rally and there will be no more Ecumenical Rallies in the foreseeable future, owing to a large decrease in the number attending.

Thank you once again.

*Jill Buckenham*

Fairland United Reformed Church

# Autumn Fair

Saturday 31st October

10am - 12.30pm

Refreshments

Books

Garden Stall

Bric-a-brac

Cakes

Groceries

Tombola

Gifts & Toiletries

Games

Raffle

Competitions

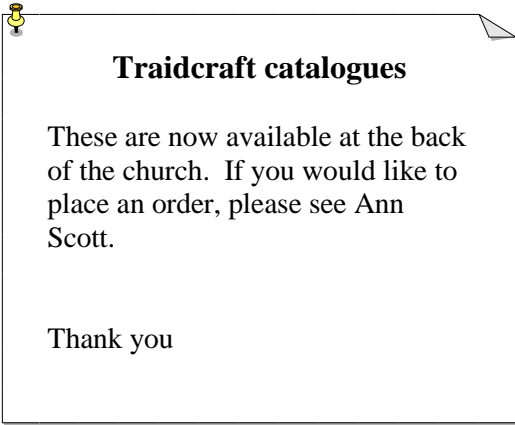
It's not long before our Autumn Fair, so please start collecting items suitable for sale on the stalls or for the raffle and tombola. As you will see from the above advert, we will be having the usual stalls, plus some games and competitions. For the cooks among you, there are two competitions:

4 x fairy cakes/cupcakes and/or 4 pieces of shortbread

There will also be a competition for a holiday photo - any size - but the photo must be taken by the entrant!

There will, of course, be delicious refreshments served throughout the morning.

Please make a note of this date - and **tell your friends and neighbours!**



**Traidcraft catalogues**

These are now available at the back of the church. If you would like to place an order, please see Ann Scott.

Thank you

### **Magazines and books for 2010**

Please let me know if you would like to order copies of 'Reform' magazine, 'Words for today' (Bible notes) or 'Light for our path' for next year.

'Reform' magazine will be £18.90 for the year whereas 'Words for today' and 'Light for our path' are each priced at £8.50. Maybe you would like to share a magazine/book with someone instead, and pay half each?

Please contact me for your orders. Thank you.

Jill Buckenham

\* \* \* \* \*

We have been asked to publicise the following:

#### **Ipswich Road Christmas Fair**

Saturday 28th November 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ipswich Road URC

Gift stall, books, toys, preserves, indoor plants, cakes, sweets and Bric a Brac

Snacks and hot lunches

Children's activities

Father Christmas with a bran tub of gifts

Traidcraft stall

## October / November

4 October	Revds Eilleen & Roy Ritchie
11 October	Worship Group
18 October	Mr David Ingham
25 October	Revd Alison Davis
1 November	Mrs Josephine Lenton

## Dates for your Diaries

*Details of these events can be found within the newsletter*

### October

1 October (7.30pm)	Elders' Meeting (Church Lounge)
2 October (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)
5 October (3.00pm)	Singing Group (Church Lounge)
5 October (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
7 October (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
9 October (10am-2pm)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
16 October (12.30pm)	Community Lunch (Fairland Hall)
22 October	Area Partnership Meeting (Bungay)
23 October (10am-2pm)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
31 October (10-12.30pm)	Autumn Fair (Fairland Hall)

### November

2 November (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
4 November (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
5 November (7.30pm)	Elders' Meeting (Church Lounge)
6 November (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)

Items for inclusion in **November** newsletter (to be available on 1 November) should be given to Ann Scott **by 25 October please.**