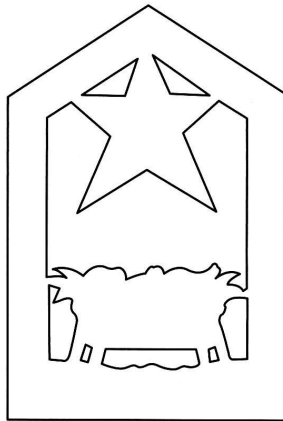




# Fairland News

No. 489

December 2009 /  
January 2010



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,

Christmas is coming! I don't know about you, but my reaction is to wonder where the year has gone to; it seems no time since I was thinking about Christmas 2008 and here we are approaching fast Christmas 2009.

It has been a busy year, with lots happening in our churches and in the world, good and bad. It seems like yesterday that we were preparing for our celebration weekend in July and that's 6 months ago. Likewise it is over 6 months since Chris' death, a challenging time for us all with many adjustments and changes. Maybe it's not much wonder the year has seemed to fly by.

Before we celebrate Christmas, we have the season of Advent to celebrate. A time, a season which we can use to reflect on the year and its events, and to prepare ourselves, not just with the buying of presents and the preparation of seasonal food, but to prepare our hearts and lives to once again welcome Christ, the son of God who became a human being, full of grace and truth.

If we use this coming season profitably and prepare ourselves then it doesn't matter that time seems to fly by. We will be using our time and our lives to the full in God's service and can look forward to the New Year with joy and hope, believing that once again we step into that period with God in and around us.

So I wish you all a joyous Christmas and God's blessing on the coming year.

Yours

*Alison*

## Autumn Event

Thanks go to everyone who contributed items for sale, prepared the hall, cooked and served refreshments and ran the stalls. A grand total of **£604.03** was raised for church funds. A special 'thank you' must go to Elizabeth Portsmouth who was the main organiser of the event.

The amounts raised by each stall were as follows:

Bric-a-brac	£28.15
Teddies game	£7.70
Cake raffle	£24.00
Books	£22.25
Gardening	£63.10
Gifts	£80.95
Cakes	£62.80
Groceries	£72.38
Football game	£13.50
Sweets in a jar	£7.20
Tombola	£73.60
Raffle	£56.00
Refreshments	£55.40
Donations	£37.00
Total	£604.03

### Competition Results and Winners:

#### Cookery competitions

Shortbread	1st Prize	Ted Gibson	2nd Prize	John Adams
Cupcakes	1st Prize	Jennifer Shakesby	2nd Prize	Netta Darkins

#### Holiday photo competition

1st Prize     David Shakesby

Christmas Cake raffle	Mary Ayton	
Teddies game	Ivan Lovewell	
Football game	Adult: Martin Scott	Child: Sian Kerton
Sweets in a jar	Jennifer Shakesby	

There were lots of raffle prizes and the winners included:

Georgia Brown (jewellery); John Butcher (chocolates); Madeleine Morgan (biscuits); Norma (plant) and Angela Butcher (sweets)

We should like to thank the local traders who supported this event by providing items for the stalls and for donating prizes. Without their help, we would not have been able to raise all this money for church funds.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **October Lunches**

#### **First Friday Lunch**

Thirty-one people attended and there was a profit of £52.50.

#### **Community Lunch**

Thanks to Sheila and her team for a lovely meal.

Result: tickets (after expenses) - £107.50; raffle - £51; Bring and Buy - £51.90; Profit - £210.40.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Remembrance Sunday**

I enjoyed (if that is an appropriate word) the Remembrance part of our service on November 8th. For me, it was the best of both worlds. Our country and the BBC manage pomp and pageantry so well but, instead of sitting at home listening or watching the cenotaph service with Shirley, or standing in church as an isolated congregation, I found the experience of the mixing of the two very moving.

I hope it may be repeated.

*John Adams*

### **Freewill Offertory Envelopes 2010**

There is still time to join this scheme. Please see Netta Darkins if you would like a set of envelopes for next year. A regular weekly commitment is of great help to the church.

## Communion Offerings

The charity **Teenage Cancer Trust** will be receiving money from our collections in **November and December**. Information about this charity was included in last month's newsletter and there is also more to be found online on the website at [www.teenagecancertrust.org](http://www.teenagecancertrust.org):

'Young adults contract some of the most aggressive cancers, which can be made worse by their growth spurts. Yet because only 0.5% of all cancers occur in teenagers and young adults, they are often misdiagnosed initially--decreasing their chances of survival, and excluding them from clinical trials.

Even after finishing treatment, teens can struggle with personal and professional issues that are inadequately addressed. There is a lack of ongoing support from the NHS and other services once treatment is finished and there can be difficulty pursuing a chosen career because they are considered a health risk. Insurers or pension schemes can be reluctant to provide cover, and ex-patients often find it a struggle to get a mortgage—the list goes on and on. Teenagers need support beyond treatment, and general awareness of the issues they face, to help them move forward.'

'Cancer is the most common cause of non-accidental death at this age. Incidence rates are now higher in teenagers and young adults than in children, yet survival rates fall behind those of children and older adults. Teenage Cancer Trust exists to ensure that teenagers and young adults are diagnosed efficiently, treated effectively, and have the support they need to make it through their treatment and rebuild their lives after cancer.'

\* \* \* \* \*

The offerings in **January and February** will be in aid of the charity **Guide Dogs for the Blind**.

'The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association consists of stakeholders, including our customers, volunteers, donors, employees and trustees. We work as a team to deliver mobility and access services that meet the needs and aspirations of blind and partially-sighted people in the United Kingdom.

Guide Dogs was founded in 1931, and is a charity that receives no government funding for the guide dogs service. The guide dog service is entirely dependent on

voluntary donations. The guide dog service costs the guide dog owner a nominal fee of just 50 pence to ensure equality for all in the UK. We are a world leader in breeding and training guide dogs and are a co-founder of the International Guide Dog Federation.

The charity employs 1000 professional staff in the UK supported by 10,000 volunteers, including puppy walkers, brood-stock holders, dog boarders and thousands of local fundraisers.'

*(the above information was taken from their website [www.guidedogs.org.uk](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk))*

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### **Day Trip to The Lakes in September**

We left Wymondham train station at 6.50am to travel to Ely, where we had to wait for an hour before we boarded the next train, which would take us all the way to the Lakes.

We travelled through parts of the Yorkshire Dales and then on to the outskirts of the Lake District. Sheep were grazing on the large areas of pasture land we passed through. It was very green - they had had more rain than us in Norfolk.

We arrived at Appleby where all 121 of us from the train transferred to three coaches, which took us to Pooley Bridge, and we were really looking forward to our boat trip on the lake at Ullswater. It was raining at the start, but not too hard, and by the time we arrived at Glenridding the rain had stopped and the sun was shining.

Unfortunately we had just a short time to enjoy the Lakes as we had to leave at 3.30pm to catch our train at Penrith.

I had previously had two holidays in the area and was pleased to be able to return there. It was well worth the very early start and late finish - at 11pm!

One of the assistants on the train had been working from 3.45am and did not finish until 1am the following day. Who would work all those hours? I must admit she did look tired. We also met another girl who had fallen asleep on her way home, travelling from Norwich to Thetford. Unfortunately she did not wake up until Ely so then had to travel back to Thetford on our train.

It just shows you what can happen on a journey. Let us be thankful that we have a travelling companion - God our Father.

*Jill Buckenham*

*Continuing with John's series of articles on the five senses, this month's sense is:*

## **Sight**

Using our eyes all day everyday inevitably means that our brain has to process a multitude of images. It is also inevitable that some of these images will be unpleasant. This I think is more so than with hearing or smell etc.

I think it is true to say that I have never come across any scenes that shocked me in real life, although I have seen them "second hand" in pictures and on television.

I know that I have seen many beautiful scenes, landscapes, sunsets, etc. I know when and where some of them were, but the picture in my mind is not detailed enough to recall them in all the glory I know they showed at the time.

Memory tells me to return to some of the places I remember to enjoy them in their detail again. There is one place in Sussex called High and Over (sometimes Hindover) between Alfriston and Seaford, which I have been to many times, and to which we took all our visitors when we lived in Sussex. It is a high escarpment overlooking the valley of the River Cuckmere with its great meanders and oxbow lakes.

Another sight which I found quite delightful is quite small and private. It is one I shall not see again. It was my children and grand children suckling at their mothers' breasts. Quite wonderful!

*John Adams*

\*\*\*\*\*

John's series on the five senses is reflected in the November edition of "Reform". Rosemary Lain-Priestly writing on her mid-life reflections says, "For me, mid-life is about nostalgia and crying easily. I only have to smell, see, touch or hear something innocuous and I'm transported to a moment in my childhood or a period of time that was formative .... I regret the passing of the past just because it's gone and because, more pertinently, there is now less to come."

For me, the sound and smell of steam engines brings back my childhood. I lived with my parents in Stationmaster's House at Sydenham Station in South East London. It was on the main London to Brighton line and it had four sets of tracks running through the station - two local, two express. I grew up with

the sight and sound of steam engines day and night.

My maternal grandparents lived at Eye on the Norfolk/Suffolk border and every school summer holiday I would spend with them working on the farm. This involved going to that cathedral of steam, Liverpool Street Station, and seeing the giant leviathans belching out clouds of black smoke and plumes of white steam as they built up heads of steam ready for heading to the east coast and the north. As they stood there it seemed to me that they were panting, anxious to be off - I learned later that this was the sound of their water pumps. I remember being told that as the train got under way, the puffs from the engine were saying 'I think I can, I think I can' then as they got quicker changed to 'I know I can, I know I can.'

Getting smuts in your eyes, getting your fingers trapped in the leather strap that hoisted the windows up and down, and sitting in the dark of Ipswich Tunnel with no lights on, were all part of the hazards to be expected.

One feature of those days was that at the end of a long journey, passengers - adults and children - would cluster round the locomotive as they left the train to thank the sweating driver and fireman for a safe trip. The drivers always regarded their magnificent machines, gleaming with highly polished brass, with great affection, confident that if they were properly fed with coal and water they would give all the power required.

For me, there is nothing like the smell of burning steam coal to bring back memories of a bygone era.

*Horace*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **On sharing**

If nobody smiled and nobody cheered,  
And nobody helped us along,  
If each, every minute looked after himself  
And the good things all went to the strong,  
If nobody cared just a little for you,  
And nobody thought about me,  
And we all stood alone to the battle of life,  
What a dreary old place this would be.

(origin unknown)

## Flower Rota

December/January/February

6 December	Sheila Eaglen
13 December	Olive Blowers
20 December	Patricia Lithgow
27 December	Jill Buckenham
3 January	Edith Childerhouse
10 January	Ken Eaglen
17 January	Jill Buckenham
24 January	(No service at Fairland URC)
31 January	Vacant
7 February	Kathleen Crossman

*If you can help to fill the vacant date in January, this will be much appreciated.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Gifts of flowers from the Communion Table have been given to:

Peggy Sturman, Lorna Morris, Ken and Sheila Eaglen, Alison Chalcraft and Irene Fitches.

Kenny Eaglen would like to thank everyone for all the cards, chocolates and flowers (especially the church flowers brought to him and Sheila by Netta) he has received, following his recent operation, and for all the kind thoughts and prayers.

He and Sheila also very much appreciated all the phone calls, enquiring after Kenny's health.

Kenny says (in his own words) that he is 'nicely on the mend'.

I just wanted to say thank you so much for the beautiful white roses given to me on Remembrance Sunday. They were a symbol and a reminder of beauty, peace, and simplicity in the middle of this time of uncertainty and weeks of investigations. Thank you so much too for your prayers, wishes and kind thoughts. I am still trusting in God's loving purposes described in the text that Mrs. Lenton gave us the Sunday before I was told about my diagnosis..... Romans 8 v 28  
"All things work together for good to those who love God"

Alison Chalcraft

\* \* \* \* \*

### Operation Christmas Child




So many needy children - children who have never had a present before - will be very happy this year. We have collected 2,138 gift-filled boxes so far, which is wonderful.

I am sorry that I don't always see you leave your gifts, to say a personal 'thank you', but I thank you all on behalf of the children for your love and generosity.

Shirley Adams

\* \* \* \* \*



**Salvation Army Toys and Tins Appeal  
in conjunction with Radio Norfolk**

If you would like to donate any Toys and Tins for this appeal, they can be dropped off at 15 Park Drive, Hethersett during the first two weeks in December.

Thank you.

## A trip to London

Early in November, Alan and I took a trip to London and our visit took us first to St Paul's Cathedral. I was last there as a child with my Mother and she took us up to the Whispering Gallery - on our visit we simply sat beneath it, admiring the high dome, the stained glass windows and the beautiful murals. While we sat quietly, I watched two ladies arranging red poppies in large pedestals ready for their Remembrance Day Service.

From St Paul's we went on to Westminster Abbey and once again, the first thing we saw was a sea of red poppies. They were attached to small wooden crosses and placed in the grass outside the large main door leading into the Abbey. Many regiments were listed and the names of those lost in two world wars were marked on each cross. It was moving to see a photograph attached to those lost in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We were among many tourists and the reason for our visit to the City was to see 'Annie Get Your Gun' at the Young Vic. The Old Vic and the Young Vic are near to each other in Southwark. My fingers and toes were soon tapping to the familiar songs, 'I Got The Sun In The Morning', 'There's No Business Like Show Business', 'Anything You Can Do' and 'Doin' What Comes Naturally'. I am sure we can all remember seeing the film in our younger days, and a happy story and good music lift the spirits, don't they, and the full house thoroughly enjoyed the show.

We stayed overnight and in the morning, on our way to Liverpool Street Station, we went to Borough Market where we saw an abundance of fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meat. Everything was so well displayed and there were several exotic vegetables that I hadn't seen before. Among these were mushrooms and fungi, their colours and shapes were varied, but I wasn't tempted to bring any home.

We always enjoy our short visits to the bright lights of London because it is such a contrast to Silfield, and I look forward to going again.

*Anne Alston*

# **SANTA'S GROTTTO**

Our tenth Grotto will be taking place on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 10.a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The stalls will be Cakes and Sweets, Toys, Tombola and a Christmas Hamper Raffle and we would be pleased to receive donations for any of these stalls. A box will be placed at the back of the Church Nov 29<sup>th</sup> and Dec 6<sup>th</sup> to collect items for the Hamper. There will be the usual craft activities, face painting and games for the children. Please make an effort to come and support this event. There is usually something of interest for adults as well as children and Refreshments will be available. We will be setting up stalls on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am. Please see Jennifer if you can help and we look forward to seeing you on the day. At least half of the proceeds will be going towards our chosen church charity for the next two to three years " Hope and Homes for Children"

## **CHARITY TABLE TOP SALE**

**SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER**

**9-30 TO 1.00**

**Fairland Church Centre**

**Local Charities will be selling Christmas Cards, Christmas Gifts  
and a wide range of Craft Items**

**Admission Free**

Charities taking part:

Break all about caring

The Big C

Friends of Browick Road Infants School

Fairland Pottery (Supporting Children in Need)

Hope and Homes for Children

The Children's Society

RSPCA

Operation Christmas Child

East Anglian Children's Hospice

Wymondham & Attleborough Talking Newspaper

Children in Need (Projects in Akany Avoko and Mamre in

Madagascar and The Vidyal Trust in India)

Event supported by Rosedale Funeral Homes

Refreshments available

## 50 Christmas Trees in a Church, Dickleburgh

50 Christmas Trees in a Church features up to 60 individually decorated trees created by local organisations. The event has a competitive edge, as each organisation has the chance to win cash prizes in the public vote. There is also a prize for the most innovative tree.

This year's festival has an African theme featuring cultural displays from Rwanda, Zimbabwe and West Africa. Local organisations and children's groups enter decorated trees and have the chance to win a cash prize for being voted best tree.

Admission: adult £3.50, senior citizens + concessions £3, pre-booked groups £2.75, child free. Supports local churches and First Responders.

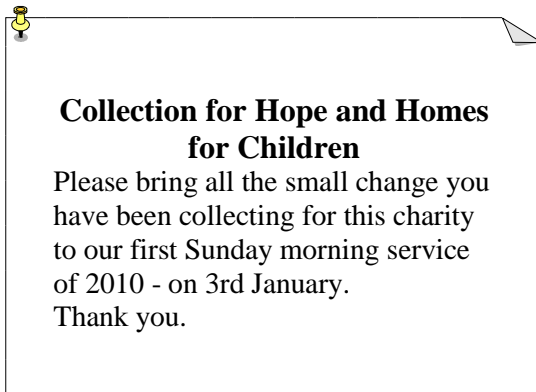
Sunday December 6, 2009 to Sunday December 13, 2009

Open 10am to 7pm daily, closes 4pm on Sunday 13 December

Dickleburgh Church, The Street, Dickleburgh, Diss Norfolk IP21 4NQ

(as featured in the Events calendar on [www.networknorwich.co.uk](http://www.networknorwich.co.uk))

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**Collection for Hope and Homes  
for Children**

Please bring all the small change you  
have been collecting for this charity  
to our first Sunday morning service  
of 2010 - on 3rd January.  
Thank you.

## How My Clumsy Son Made Me So Proud

Many years ago, my son Stephen had just started school. As Christmas approached, parents were invited to see the decorations the children had made.

Now Stephen was not very good at craft work - he had 'clumsy fingers' - so I was not sure what his contribution would be like.

As we entered the classroom, he took my hand and led me round. I looked at the paper lanterns hanging from the ceiling. "Did you make one of those lanterns?", I asked. He shook his head. "No, I didn't make a lantern."

I looked at the stars hanging in the windows. "Did you make some stars?" Once again, he shook his head. "No, I didn't make any stars."

Looking up at the paperchains festooning the room, I said: "I expect you helped make the paperchains?" Once more he shook his head. "No, I didn't do paperchains."

By now I was getting a bit apprehensive. I looked around, desperate to find something he had made. Surely his teacher wouldn't have left him out of this important lead-up to Christmas, and my heart ached for my son.

He looked up at me. "I did something really important, Mum." He smiled.

Taking my hand, he led me to the crib with the baby Jesus doll lying in it. We stood looking at it. "What did you do?", I asked him. His smile got even bigger. "I put the straw in Jesus's cradle." I felt so proud and thankful for the teacher who realised his limitations, but made him feel so good about the 'important' job he did.

This was 40 years ago, and I still feel emotional when I think of that day.

Doreen Moger  
(from Club 52 magazine)

In schools and halls throughout the land  
As Christmas time draws near,  
The wondrous, age-old story  
Fills the hearts of all who hear.

For there's nothing quite so magical,  
No, nothing on this earth,  
Than seeing little children  
Tell the tale of Jesus' birth.

While tinselled angels shuffle  
And small, tea-towelled shepherds yawn,  
A tinfoil star shines up above  
As the baby Christ is born.

And children singing carols  
Bring a tear to every eye,  
And no-one minds that scenery rocks  
Or haloes are awry!

For mums and dads who watch with pride,  
This moment is so dear,  
And they will keep it in their hearts  
Throughout the coming year.

Eileen Hay  
(from Club 52 magazine)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **New Year Rasolutions**

Taake care what yew dew, an' taake care what yew're sayin';  
Taake time when yew're trav'lin', an' more when yew're prayin';  
Dew yew keep on smilin', an' if yer like, sing -  
A laugh dew yer good, an' that don't corst a thing!  
Don't yew overdew it, when eatin' or drinkin',  
An' whatever yew dew dew, yew leave time fer thinkin'!

(from 'Tha's a Rum'un, Bor!' by John Kett)

# **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**

## **Local Painter and Decorator** Interior and Exterior

also Building Maintenance

Free Estimates and Advice

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different members of  
our church.



# Conversations with God

Exploring different ways of praying

SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010

JESSOPP ROAD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,  
NORWICH

10.30AM - 3PM

COME AND EXPLORE AND ENJOY  
BRING A PACKED LUNCH

**Multi Sensory Prayer**

**LABYRINTH**

**PRAYER WALKING**

**PRAYER WRITING**

**Vision4Life**  
Transforming lives through prayer

**Taize**

**SILENCE**



## Dates for your Diaries

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

### December

2 December (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
4 December (12.30pm)	Community Christmas Lunch (Fairland Hall)
5 December (10am-1pm)	Jessopp Rd URC Christmas Fair
7 December (2.30pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)
7 December (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
12 December (10am-1pm)	Santa's Grotto (Fairland Hall)
12 December (9.30am-1pm)	Charity Table Top Sale (Church Centre)
14 December (2.45pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)
16 December (10am)	Advent Group (Church Lounge)
21 December (2.30pm)	Advent Group (Church Lounge)

### January

6 January (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
7 January (7pm)	Elders' Meeting (Church Lounge)
8 January (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)
15 January (10am-2pm)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
16 January (10.30am-3pm)	Vision4life Prayer Workshop (Jessopp Rd)
19 January (7pm)	United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Fairland Church Centre)
22 January (12.30pm)	Community Lunch (Fairland Hall)
24 January	United Norwich Group Service (Princes St)
27 January	Churches Together (Methodist Church)
29 January (10am-2pm)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
31 January (after worship)	Church Meeting (Church Centre)

### February

3 February (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
5 February (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)

Items for inclusion in **February** newsletter (to be available on 31 January) should be given to Ann Scott **by 24 January please.**