



# *Fairland News*

No. 499

December 2010 / January 2011



Fairland United Reformed Church  
Wymondham

**Fairland United Reformed Church  
Wymondham**

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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  
The Service includes **Holy Communion** on the first Sunday of  
the month

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year. No I haven't forgotten Advent or Christmas. November 28<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday marks the start of the new church year. Our worship readings point us to a beginning, not to Genesis but to the prophecies of a coming messiah, God's new beginning and the need to watch, wait and prepare ourselves for that new thing God is going to do.

We start a new church year with a period where we can prepare ourselves once again for God's coming, God's new beginning, the Incarnation. Jesus' coming amongst us a human being, "Immanuel" God with us.

Preparation time is important. Gardeners, chefs, artists, teachers all know that, if we prepare properly the end result is more satisfying, runs more smoothly and usually is more successful.

So for us in church if we use the four weeks of Advent wisely then when we get to the Christmas, the celebration of the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus, we do not lose the mystery and wonder of that amazing event. God becomes a vulnerable child, dependent on sinful humanity for everything so that humanity might be saved and know its true place as children of God.

All too often because of all that happens in churches and in society, we lose the amazement and wonder at what might seem like God's stupidity, a vulnerable child to transform the world. Yet that is what we proclaim and sing in our carols and throughout our lives as Christian people.

And then another New Year, as recognised by society, 2011 will dawn. What will it hold for us, where will we be 12 months on from now, individually and as the Norwich Area? Who knows? We will all have our hopes, dreams, expectations, maybe some of us will make resolutions, but none of us know what will happen.

However the celebration of Christmas, the Incarnation of Jesus Christ means that we go forward in faith and hope with Jesus among us, showing us a way of love and service that will transform our world.

So I wish everyone a purposeful Advent, a peaceful Christmas and God's blessing for 2011.

Yours

Alison

## Where does the money go?

Following the discussion at our September Church Meeting, where it was agreed to accept the 6% increase in our Maintenance of the Ministry (MOM) contributions for 2011, I was asked to write something for the newsletter to show where our money goes on an average weekly basis.

What I have tried to do is take the most recent figures available to me, incorporate the revised MOM and any other known changes to give a simplified picture. Obviously many factors can change this picture and some possibly drastically.

### **COSTS**

MOM contribution	£224.10	
Other ministry costs	<u>£54.42</u>	
<u>Total ministry costs</u>		£278.52
Caretaking and cleaning	£70.00	
Light, heat, insurance and water rates	£97.13	
Repairs and general maintenance	<u>£144.23</u>	
<u>Total property costs</u>		£311.36
<u>Total other expenses</u>		£16.23
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>		<u>£606.11</u>

### **INCOME**

Weekly giving		£217.74
Special efforts etc		£97.23
Investment income		<u>£4.61</u>
		£319.58
Property income		<u>£246.43</u>
		<u>£566.01</u>

This obviously means that, despite increased weekly giving, we would have a **weekly shortfall of £40.10**. To set this in context, in 2009 we had a weekly shortfall of £59.86.

Obviously this could not continue indefinitely but we do have funds to meet this deficit, probably for two to five years, during which time increased use of Fairland Church Centre and, where possible, the Hall could reverse this situation.

### **Conclusions:**

Two possible solutions.

The simple and obvious one would be **£1 to £1.50 per person** each week but whilst this may be the easiest to attain, I personally favour the second option.

This second option would mean that our property income should equal our costs on running our premises. This would require another **£65 per week** and would then mean a weekly surplus for the church. Is this possible? Do you know anyone who might be interested in using our premises? How about making that our aim for 2011?

Of course, the third option would be a mixture of both and, if I am honest, is possibly the way ahead but, hopefully, this gives us all some food for thought.

Many thanks for all your generous support.

John Butcher  
Treasurer

## Fairland Autumn Fair

This year's Autumn Fair proved to be a very successful fundraiser and thanks go to all those who helped in any way. Special thanks to Elizabeth, who masterminded the event.

A total of **£690.60** was raised by sales and donations:

Tombola	£108.30
Refreshments	£54.15
Raffle	£58.00
Plants	£54.00
Groceries	£95.93
Books	£42.80
Bric-a-brac	£38.17
Cakes	£91.00
Gifts	£78.15
Hoopla Game	£8.30
Guess Weight Cake	£6.60
Game	£10.20
Donations	£45.00
Total	<u>£690.60</u>

We would like to thank the following firms and shops for their support:

Peter Beales (roses)	Tunnock Wafers
Thorncroft (clematis)	Gardman
Kallo Foods	Eat Natural
Jarrolds	Pastimes
Simply Cards	Old Beams
Standleys	Myhills
Clements	Orchard Toys
Woodbines	Reeves
Parkes	Merv's

.....and the Friday Market Stalls for donating food, household products, sweets, cakes, pet items, flowers and vegetables.

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The 'Guess the weight of the cake' competition was won by Paul - and his mother, Sharon, won the Ring Game.

The stalls are ready .....



... a few minutes left for the stall holders to have a quick look around



... then the doors are opened - and the selling begins!



**Flower Rota**  
**December / January**

5 December	Sheila Eaglen
12 December	Sue Skegg
19 December	Mary Gray
26 December	(No Service)
2 January	Ruth Dunning
9 January	Barbara Wilkinson
16 January	Sheila Eaglen
23 January	Jill Buckenham
30 January	Mary Gray

\* \* \* \* \*

I would like to thank everyone for supplying flowers or giving donations throughout the year. There are vacant dates on the new Rota. Your continuing help will be much appreciated. A special thanks to Anne for the attractive displays arranged in the vestibule week by week.

*Netta*

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Brenda Kelsey; Madeleine Morgan; Netta Darkins; Joy Gibson (birthday); Betty Gower (home visit)

Joy Gibson would like to thank Netta and everyone in Fairland Church for the lovely flowers she recently received on the occasion of her birthday.



## Hope and Homes for Children

My trip to Bosnia, apart from difficult and eventful flights, was very rewarding.

Emotionally we hit the heights but we certainly plumbed the depths as well.



Hope & Homes for Children

The children we visited on the first day, formerly in an orphanage in Zenica now closed, have spent the last two years in a small family home. How they have changed since I saw them two years ago! They have grown and are so fit, happy, confident and well adjusted to the “real world”. There was such a happy, warm welcome from them all.

On the second day we had a long journey north to Tesanj to see the small family house where the two little girls have been reunited with their parents and brothers. A new school has been built nearby and now it will take time for them to adjust to being a family again. The occasion of our visit, with so many adults arriving at a small property, was quite overwhelming for them. Grand'ma had also come to meet us and was in floods of tears with gratitude. (What a dreadful barrier language is, but hugs are understood by everybody.)

The third day we visited several families being helped by Hope and Homes for Children. The aim of the charity now is to try to avoid children being taken into care by, where possible, giving help to the families. The poverty, deprivation and conditions under which so many have to exist are unimaginable in this day and age. The situations having to be faced and endured, and the problems to be overcome to ease them, are unbelievable in this country. We have so much and there is no doubt at all that, in reality, we do not know the true meaning of the word **poverty**.

We return ready to carry on fund raising as much as possible. We are grateful for the help you give. Thank you.

Joan Green

## Communion Collection

The communion collections in November and December are in aid of the charity 'Dogs for the Disabled'



Pet owners are often reported as saying that their dog brings far more than just an excuse for a walk in the park. Many people find that their dog brings huge emotional and physical benefits, improving their fitness, relieving stress and helping as a social icebreaker.

The evidence goes beyond just anecdotes, with research finding that dogs really do bring many positive benefits to our lives. For people with disabilities that effect can be much greater.

Dogs for the Disabled is a pioneering charity that trains assistance dogs for children and adults with physical disabilities, and families with a child with autism.

Through practical tasks our dogs offer freedom and independence, but in addition an assistance dog becomes a reason to go out, giving a new found confidence that opens doors to fresh opportunities including friendships, hobbies, education and even careers.

The partnerships we create between people with disabilities and dogs are life-changing.

(information from website [www.dogsforthe-disabled.org.uk](http://www.dogsforthe-disabled.org.uk))

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### Leprosy Mission

Do you have any used stamps, coins, postcards etc  
you could donate to this very worthy cause?

Please keep saving your stamps and postcards and give them to Ruth Dunning. Ruth passes them on to a man at Attleborough, who takes them to The Leprosy Mission at Peterborough.

The Leprosy Mission, which works in 28 countries, is an international Christian development organisation, transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy. Their goal is to eradicate the causes and consequences of this disease.

## Operation Christmas Child



My spare room is looking empty of toys! The last of the boxes will be checked and taped and gone before the end of November. About 2,000 boxes will be sent from this area to needy children in Serbia - their first ever present!

There are so many people to thank for their help with donating money, buying, covering boxes, checking, sorting, knitting, collecting and taping - and John most of all for humping them around!

We were surprised this year at the lack of soft toys (every child needs a cuddly) in the boxes. If, like me, you are going to do a shoebox next year, please look out in the sales etc. Another thing we found took time when checking was sharpening pencils - we do like to put in at least one sharpened one - small sharpeners take ages - please help!

It will seem strange not having boxes to check, but it has been a lovely, fulfilling year meeting old friends and making new. One mother with older son called again this year. I remember him filling a box with all his toys fifteen years ago!

May God's blessing be with the children and volunteers who distribute the boxes.

Many thanks

Shirley Adams

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Our **Christmas Charity Table Top Sale** is on **Saturday December 11th from 9.30am to 1pm** in Fairland Church Centre. It will be an ideal time to find out about local charities and buy last-minute presents. I know it is a busy time but help on the day and providing mince pies, sausage rolls or small cakes would be much appreciated. There is a list at the back of the church. We do need to advertise this sale so please tell friends and family. A few leaflets are available.

Thank you

*Shirley*

Jill Brown, our Assistant Treasurer, has received the following letter of thanks from the Multiple Sclerosis Society - the charity chosen to receive our communion collections in July and August:

Dear Mrs Brown

I am writing on behalf of the MS Society to thank Fairland United Reformed Church for your generous donation of £90.00. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The MS Society relies on voluntary donations like yours to help us to try to find a cure for MS whilst helping provide people affected by MS with the support they need.

The MS Society is committed to supporting people whose lives are affected by MS and to achieve its aim to find the causes and ultimately a cure. Through its local branches and respite care centres the society provides local services and support to people throughout the UK. The society funds research to try to find a cure for MS, a freephone helpline, provides information and gives grants for home adaptations and mobility aids. Your donation will help to contribute to all of this important work.

The money you have raised is very gratefully received and we hope that we can help you with any further fundraising you would like to do. Thank you very much for your contribution.

Yours sincerely

Community Fundraising Team

### **Freewill Offertory Envelopes 2011**

Next year's envelopes will be available for collection in early December. Please consider joining this scheme, which is completely confidential. A regular commitment to put your weekly collection in the envelopes provided is of great benefit to the church.

Please see Netta Darkins if you would like envelopes for next year.

## I Often Wonder .....

I have always been interested in time.

Man is a perverse creature. An example of this is the multitude of nations, languages, currencies, measures of length and volume etc which he clings to forcefully if necessary, yet, as far as I know time is accepted universally as 24 hours a day, 60 minutes an hour and 60 seconds a minute. How did he allow this to happen?

Another thing I wonder about time is - why, when analogue clocks were developed, did they decide that the hand would turn in what we now call a clockwise direction when it could just as easily have been made to go widershins?

(‘Widershins’ is one of my favourite words but it is not often I get the opportunity to use it. It simply means ‘the other way’.)

*John Adams*

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### Preaching Plan December / January

5 December	Revd Paul Whittle
12 December	Revd Alison Davis
19 December	Mrs Josephine Lenton (Cradle Roll Service)
24 December (11.30pm)	Revd Alison Davis
26 December	(No Service)
2 January	Revd Alison Davis
9 January	Mrs Sheila Drew
16 January	Revd Bill Bazely
23 January	Worship Group
30 January	Mrs Patricia Lithgow

Items for inclusion in **February** newsletter (to be available on 30 January) should be given to Ann Scott **by 23 January please.**

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## **Dates for your Diaries**

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

### **December**

3 December (12.30pm)	Christmas Community Lunch
6 December (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
9 December (7pm)	Elders' Meeting (Church Lounge)
10 December (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
11 December (9.30am)	Charity Table Top Sale (Church Centre)
13 December (2.30pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)
19 December	Reflective Service (Town Green Centre)

### **January**

5 January (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
7 January (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)
14 January (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
18 January (7pm)	Joint Service at Methodist Church (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
21 January (12.30pm)	Community Lunch (Fairland Hall)
26 January (7.30pm)	Churches Together (Church Centre)
28 January (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)

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**42 Fairland Street, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0JS**