



# *Fairland News*

No. 498

November 2010



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,

Like many of us, I am very good at worrying. I worry about the sermons I preach: are they what our congregations need to hear; are they what God is saying? I worry about pastoral visits: have I said the right thing; did I put my foot in something? I worry about seeking God's will: am I just doing what I want to do? I worry about what others think of me: have I been tactful enough? I worry about how effective ministry can really be across seven congregations; I even worry about what 'effective' ministry might be!

God knows: I am a good worrier! And this month one passage has particularly stuck in my mind:

**“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry...” (Matt. 6:33)**

It's a text which is poignant for me, but also, I believe, for all of us in the Norwich Area URCs. I wonder whether we can sometimes be guilty of seeking first our own churches, rather than God's kingdom. There is always a risk that we get so caught up in our own buildings and heritage, our own structures and traditions, that we lose sight of the bigger picture: of God, and what God might be calling us to do.

We shouldn't worry about the future, because God is already there, and God is a God of resurrection and of hope. However, I believe that if we are faithful to God in the coming years, they will be difficult years. Difficult because we will all have to let go of things; we will have to be open to new ways of doing things for the sake of the kingdom. We have to face the serious question of whether we can sustain four separate worshipping communities in Norwich. Might our witness be stronger if we concentrated our resources and energy in two or three places? We need to ensure our structures reduce bureaucracy and time spent in meetings, so that we can spend more time praying and reaching out into our communities. We need to ask whether we need to explore Fresh Expressions of Church, fresh ways of being a community of Jesus' followers to reach out to those not attracted to our traditional services.

All of our churches have a rich and varied heritage. The challenge ahead is to think about our legacy. How can we hand our churches on to future generations in a stronger place than when we received them from our forebears? How can we ensure that we are part of God's kingdom work; God's bigger picture? How can we ensure that we best use our resources for Jesus' sake?

Over the coming months, all of the churches are being asked to think about and discuss our future and how we work together. Both the TMG and Joint Elders are having away days to seek God's will and vision for us. Please pray that we may truly "Seek first his kingdom," for it is when we do this that God's blessings will be poured out.

Yours in Christ,

Matt

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### **Santa's Grotto**

I am sorry that I will not be able to organise the Grotto this year. The support you have given me and David to run the event has been wonderful and I would like to thank everyone for that.

It has been well received by those who have attended and it has been a joy to welcome families into our buildings at Christmas. We have had ten good years and we thank God for that.

Maybe we will be led to do some other type of outreach in the future. I know I will miss seeing the children as they talked to Father Christmas, as I think he will too, but these hard decisions have to be made sometimes.

Thank you once again for contributing to the Grotto and I hope Father Christmas will find somewhere else as good as Fairland to meet the children of Wymondham.

Jennifer

# Fairland United Reformed Church

# AUTUMN FAIR

Saturday 6th November  
10.30am—12.30pm  
Fairland Hall, Wymondham

Homemade Refreshments

Books

Garden Stall

Bric-a-Brac

Tombola

Raffle

Cakes

Gifts & Toiletries

Competitions & Games

*\* Please see Elizabeth Portsmouth if you are able to help with the stalls and/or if you have any items suitable for sale.  
..... and tell your friends and neighbours to come along on the day!*

**Flower Rota**  
November / December

7 November Jennifer Shakesby  
14 November Shirley Adams  
21 November Elizabeth Portsmouth  
28 November Mary Gray

5 December Sheila Eaglen

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note the new Rota for 2011 is on the notice board.  
Book your dates now!

\* \* \* \* \*

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

Cathy Liversidge; Jennifer Shakesby (birthday); Ann Sprules  
(home visit); Mr and Mrs F. Camroux; Edith Childerhouse  
(home visit); Ann Scott (birthday).

Ann Sprules would like to thank Fairland friends for the gift of  
flowers recently received. These were much appreciated.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was a lovely surprise to receive flowers from the church, delivered  
by Netta, on the day I returned from a birthday celebration weekend  
in London. Thank you for thinking of me in this way.

Ann (Scott)

## Communion Collection

The communion collections in November and December will be in aid of the charity 'Dogs for the Disabled' ([www.dogsforthedisabled.org.uk](http://www.dogsforthedisabled.org.uk))



These are just some of the range of tasks that an assistance dog trained by the charity will be able to help with:

- Open and close doors
- Help a person dress and undress
- Bark to raise the alarm in an emergency
- Retrieve items such as a telephones or dropped articles like keys or a bag
- Empty the washing machine
- Switch the lights on and of
- Bring in the milk and fetch the post
- Press a pedestrian crossing button
- Reach up to shop-counters and carry a shopping basket
- Help people to walk by providing a stable base and forward motion

In fact, a registered assistance dog with Dogs for the Disabled provides an extension of the person with disabilities abilities. In addition an assistance dog gives enormous psychological benefits, breaking down barriers to the outside world and helping to improve confidence and reduce stress levels. Dogs for the Disabled is a member of Assistance Dogs UK. This umbrella organisation works to improve access for people who depend upon their assistance dog in public places such as supermarkets, restaurants, and public transport, which might not otherwise be accessible to them.

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### **Please can you help?**

When the new armchairs for the Church Centre were delivered, the frame of one chair was damaged. The manufacturers sent us a new frame and the seat and back have been transferred. The damaged frame has been repaired and can be used, but a material suitable for covering the new back and seat is required.

Do you have any material suitable for this job? It requires a piece about 24" x 24" and another 24" x 12" - preferably a plain colour (not necessarily blue). If you can help, please let Jennifer or John Adams know. Thank you.

# Operation Christmas Child



2010 is a very special year for the Operation Christmas Child project as it was in November 1990 nearly 20 years ago, that the first convoy under the name Operation Christmas Child left Wrexham, North Wales for Romania. Although many changes have taken place since then, the initial aim to bring comfort and love to needy children has not changed.

There is still time to put some small gifts in a covered shoe box which will be sent to a child in Serbia who has never had a present before - or give a small donation and have a box made up for you. November 24th is the very latest date but the earlier the better please.

Thanks to you all

Shirley Adams  
01603 810323

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Looking Ahead .....

## **Charity Table Top Sale**

Fairland Church Centre

Saturday 11th December 9.30am - 1pm

New gifts and cards   Tombola   Raffle  
Toys   Books   Bric-a-brac   and much more

Entrance Free   Refreshments available

A chance to find out more about and support local charities

## Once in a lifetime

Not everyone gets the chance to attend a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, so Joy and I were thrilled to get an invitation to one. The snag was that it was in Virginia.

We had been there twice before, but it involves a flight from Heathrow to Dulles Washington, then a drive of 100 miles or more to Staunton. Although we had hired a car before I was not certain that, at 86 years of age, I would be able to do so again. Our son Roger volunteered to come with us to do the driving, but on reflection we agreed that Joy was not fit enough to make the journey, so Roger and I went alone and Joy arranged for a good friend to stay with her for a week.

The flights with Virgin Atlantic were excellent in both directions but both airports were HORRIFIC, walking for miles and standing in queues for what seemed like ages.

The celebration was on the Saturday so we had several days to do some sight-seeing. This included Natural Bridge which is a huge hole through a mountain caused by a river over thousands of years.

We also visited a frontier open air museum which stretched over a thousand acres or more and had reconstructed houses from England, Ireland, Germany and several early American ones, showing how the best features of each were used by the early settlers to design their own style.

At the celebration I was asked to propose the first toast but was given only ten minutes notice. I did manage it somehow and it seemed to go down well. We had first met Elizabeth (the birthday girl) more than 25 years ago but had not seen her for about 15 years. We were surprised that she had not changed a bit and was as lively and cheerful as ever, despite falling and cracking her hip a few days before and being in a wheelchair.

All in all our trip was one of great interest, but also moving, knowing that it will most likely be our last.

Ted Gibson

## How many of the 25 Books of the Bible did you manage to find in the passage in last month's newsletter?

Answers (in order of occurrence):

Luke, romans, mark, acts, revelation, malachi, job, james, ruth, matthew, hebrews, nahum, ezra, daniel, john, psalms, hosea, kings, numbers, titus, peter, judges, esther, lamentations, amos.

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### I Often Wonder .....

- The subject of this cause of wonder is a bit delicate so I will try to phrase it as discreetly as possible.

In elementary level science we are taught that gases are light and rise up above liquids, which are generally heavier, and solids, which are densest.

Why then does most of the gas generated in our digestive system go downwards and come out of the bottom of our alimentary canal?

- Why do worms emerge from their normal habitat after rain, and set off across pavements and other alien territories only to die of dehydration when the rain evaporates?

John Adams

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Items for inclusion in <b>December/January</b> newsletter (to be available on 28 November) should be given to Ann Scott <b>by 21 November please.</b>
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**ALAN GREEN**  
**Handyman Service**  
 For all your DIY tasks  
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## **Preaching Plan November / December**

7 November	Mr Peter Fitches
14 November	Mrs Susanna Harvey
21 November	Mr Kevin Parfitt
28 November	Revd Alison Davis <b>(Church meeting after service)</b>
5 December	Revd Paul Whittle

## **Dates for your Diaries**

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

### **November**

1 November (2.30pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)
3 November (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
6 November (10.30)	Fairland's Autumn Fair (Fairland Hall)
12 November (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
19 November (12.30pm)	Community Lunch
26 November (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
27 November (10am)	Ipswich Road URC's Christmas Fair

### **December**

3 December (12.30pm)	Christmas Community Lunch
11 December (9.30am)	Charity Table Top Sale (Church Centre)

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