



Fairland News

No. 497

October 2010



Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham

**Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham**

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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

Friends,

October is with us, the autumn is here, the nights are drawing in. But what a summer, a long hot dry spell followed by the wettest August on record and a busy September, and that doesn't take account of anything we have been doing.

There has been plenty of references already to the splendid ordination service for Matt and much of September has been involved in welcoming Matt, seeking to ensure that we are all adjusting to our new situation. I hope Matt is beginning to feel at home among us.

As always new people bring new challenges and changes and this is one of them. For a period Matt and I are going to share the writing of the Minister's pieces for newsletters across the 7 churches. We will each take a month and prepare a piece that will go in as many of the church newsletters/magazines as want to print it. We will review the working of this after some months so your comments and thoughts are welcome.

For Princes Street, we had a wonderful weekend with our art, craft and talents exhibition, talk about people hiding lights under bushels. There was a buzz about the building all weekend and a steady supply of people visiting. After a series of visits to other churches we are looking at the feedback and assessing the information gleaned and how we now move forward.

For Jessopp Road there was an uplifting Songs of Praise with their ecumenical friends of St. Thomas's and St Peter's as well as friends from the other Norwich United Reformed churches, hymns were chosen by members of the congregation who also spoke about what the hymn meant to them, we heard some moving stories.

For Hoveton and Wroxham it is all systems go now that they have had planning permission for their new building. There will be lots of hard work in the coming months as they raise funds for the conversion of the building and continue to develop their ideas for the

future. Their 40th anniversary service in October will be an opportunity for their ideas/dreams and visions to be offered to each other and God.

The end of September sees Harvest celebrations for many of our churches, an opportunity to thank God for the harvest, a time to think about our stewardship of God's creation and our use of resources. The words of a hymn come to mind

“God in his love for us lent us this planet,
gave it a purpose in time and in space
small as a spark from the fire of creation
cradle of life and the home of our race.”

Those words could be read about life as well, our God given life to be lived for God's purposes and in God's service allowing the spark of the creative spirit to become a fire of love.

Don't forget the autumn social event a quiz and chips on 1st October, an evening of laughter and fun whilst raising money for Christian Aid. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Alison

September Lunches

September's First Friday Lunch made a profit of £45 and the Community Lunch £224.66. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and cook on these occasions.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Several coffee mornings were held in Wymondham to raise money for this charity and we were pleased to be able to send £108.27 as our contribution. Thank you to Jennifer for coordinating the event and to everyone who supported our own coffee morning.

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!*

Operation Christmas Child



We had a lovely day for our Coffee Morning on September 2nd and with very kind donations raised £400. Thank you all for your help and continued support. It was good to see so many of you on the day.

When we open our presents this Christmas may we think of those who have never had a gift of any kind. When we are cosy in our nice warm houses may we think of families living in shacks with no water or electricity. Not many of us can physically do things to help but we can send 'love in a box', small gifts in a covered shoe box to bring joy to a child and lessen the anxiety of parents who are struggling to provide the basics for their children.

Please will you help this year? Pick up a leaflet or phone me on 01603 810323. This year our boxes are going to needy children in Serbia (please note chocolate CAN be put in boxes) and will be given out by volunteers.

Please spread the word, get family and friends involved and let's see if we can make our Christmas special by bringing joy and love to those who are really in desperate need.

Thank you

Shirley Adams

The 'weird and wonderful'

Some of the stranger items found in shoeboxes (not from Norfolk!):

- garden gnome
- yoghurt pot with some compost, fork and bean seeds
- eye lash crimpers for a 2-4 year old girl
- microwave manual

from this year's edition of 'Shoebox News'

Smiles of joy in Belarus

by Lucy Mizen

“Five...four...three...two...one...OPEN!” Cries of excitement fill the room at the children's shelter in Mogilov, Belarus, as lids are torn off shoeboxes and little faces catch the first sight of their gifts. Hats and scarves are pulled on and big smiles fill faces as each new gift is shown off.

One little boy, Dima, unable to contain his excitement, pulls out a knitted hand puppet and shrieks, “Look at this, look at this! Thank you, thank you!” Suddenly a little boy, Anton, finds another in his shoebox and running over to Dima they begin to giggle with glee. The infectious giggle spreads and soon the little boys are dancing around, waving their hand puppets and shouting in delight.

Watching from the side of the room, tears fill the eyes of the children's shelter Director, Tanya. “We have so many beautiful, abandoned children here. Many are just not wanted by their parents and yet look at them, they're wonderful!”

Seeing the pure joy on the faces of Dima and Anton and watching their antics as they dance around the room, hand puppets waving above their heads, Tanya explains a little about the boys' background.

“Both boys are here because their parents are alcoholics and cannot afford to look after them”, she explains. “This shelter is only a temporary place and it's a very difficult time for the children, many just do not understand why they have to be here.”

And yet, for now, all worries and concerns have vanished, replaced by shoeboxes bursting with gifts, bringing colour and laughter into the lives of these little children.

As the party atmosphere draws to a close, children hurry off with their shoeboxes, storing the new gifts beside their beds. Putting on their coats to head out to the dining house for lunch, little Anton is still standing with his yellow and blue glove puppet firmly fixed on his hand. Carefully he pulls his coat over the glove, checks his puppet is still intact and with a huge smile lighting up his face heads out into the cold December air.

Flower Rota
October / November

3 October	Horace Wilkinson
10 October	Sheila Eaglen
17 October	Ruth Dunning
24 October	Daphne Prior
31 October	Celia Banton
7 November	Jennifer Shakesby

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If you would like to help again next year by providing flowers or giving donations, please add your name to the new rota for 2011.

* * * * *

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

Sue and Rob Skegg (Home visit); Pat Forder (Home visit); Celia Banton; Angela Butcher; Revd Matt Stone; Netta Darkins; Leona Brown; Pat and Brian Moore.

Thank you to everyone who supplied flowers etc for windows on Harvest Festival Sunday.

The donations of fruit and vegetables were taken to 'Break'.

Thank you for the love and best wishes for Keith in Priscilla Bacon Lodge with the flowers you sent me from the friends at Fairland Church.

from
Pat Forder

I just wanted to say thank you for the lovely flowers we received from the Church last week. A week later and they are still cheering the place up.

Many thanks

Leona & James.

Communion Collections



The communion collections in November and December will be in aid of the charity 'Dogs for the Disabled' (www.dogsforthe-disabled.org.uk)

'Back in 1986, a young woman, disabled herself and passionate about dogs was inspired by her own pet dog to create a charity to help people with disabilities live life to the full. Growing up, Frances was always an animal lover, living in India and Australia she loved to watch the native wild animals at rest and play.

Then at just 15 years old her life was to change with the devastating news she had a cancerous tumour in her right leg. Just a year later, Frances' leg was amputated to prevent the cancer spreading.

Determined not to let disability get in the way of her life, Frances set about teaching each of her dogs to do small tasks for her, everything from picking up dropped items to taking rubbish to the waste paper bin. But it wasn't until later in life, that Frances took on Kim, a rescued Belgian Shepherd dog who seemed to know instinctively when Frances needed help. Never far from Frances' side she would pick things up for her, from keys to a cordless phone. She would also steady Frances as she rose from a chair or provide stability as she walked down the stairs.

Kim had become the inspiration for Dogs for the Disabled.'

(more information about this charity next month)



Continuing the report of the trip made last year by Executive Director Martin Humphries and Trustee Chris Tanton to Uganda to visit projects supported by TWAM

‘Thursday: Thursday turned out to be a very full day. Firstly we travelled to the SDKF project, in an area of Kampala that is particularly deprived. Here we saw sewing machines and computers, supplied by TWAM, being used to train young people.

We then moved on to the May Christian College near Entebbe. The school has a well-stocked library with many books supplied by TWAM. We were shown around the school and taken into several classrooms with lessons in progress. We were able to introduce ourselves and say a little about the work of TWAM.

From here we went to the Mindset Development Organization where we met Maureen, who founded and runs the project. We saw young women being trained to sew and knit using machines provided by TWAM. Mindset also has a TWAM rainwater tank. After enjoying a wonderful Ugandan meal, we were taken to visit a young lady named Beth who has set up a small sewing business at her home. She was trained at Mindset, who provided her with a sewing machine and a knitting machine when she completed the course.

The next stop was the Divine Primary School, located close to the shore of Lake Victoria, to which TWAM had supplied books for the school library and a rainwater tank.

Finally we visited the Greenstars High School in Entebbe, a Muslim School to which TWAM has provided books. This visit brought a very long and busy day to an end and we returned to our guest house.’

(Please note that Spencer Prior is no longer the local coordinator. Please telephone 01473 210220 if you need information on TWAM or to contact a coordinator)

A Weekend Break in Hampton Court

First we took a walk through some of the gardens as the sun was shining and sat down and enjoyed the peace. We watched the swans by the great fountain, then moved on to explore more gardens and visited the maze - which the children enjoyed. We ventured into the palace for a while and saw the chapel, Henry VIII's apartments and also Queen Mary's.

We had time to explore more gardens before we made our way back to the coach to travel to Guildford. While we went through the gardens the second time, a bride and groom were wandering through them and they were holding their reception in Hampton Court Gardens.

The next day we had longer to explore Kew Gardens. Where do you start? First of all we visited the Princess of Wales Conservatory and the nearby rock garden. We then walked right up to the other end - to the Tree Top walk - going up 180 steps to the top. There was a small platform between every twenty steps, so you could stop and get your breath back!

After this, we walked back and decided to have a snack, as we had been walking from 10am to 1pm with very few stops to sit down. We enjoyed our one hour lunch break, after which we moved on to other parts of the gardens. I have never seen so many magnificent trees and tropical plants as we saw in the glass houses. We left Kew Gardens at 4pm and had a good journey home.

Looking back, my favourite had to be Hampton Court as it was so beautiful and peaceful. We have a lot to be thankful for, being able to visit part of God's creation.

Jill Buckenham

I Often Wonder

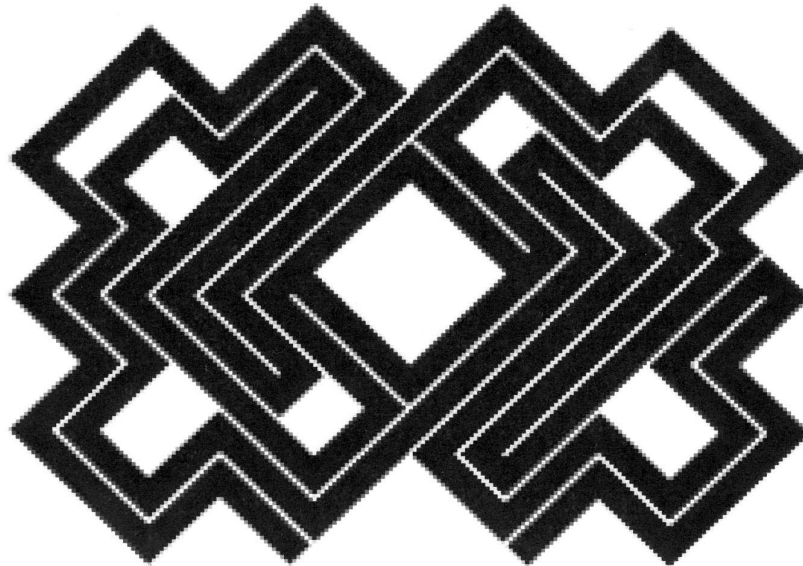
I've always had an enquiring mind. I like to know how things work or why certain things are done in a certain way etc. I don't want to know in detail, but just enough to appreciate the basic whys and wherefores of a subject.

In this day and age of computers etc, I'm told it is easy to find the answer to anything almost instantly. But unless a query is important to me, I prefer to rely on a bit of 'serendipity' and perhaps find an answer when I least expect it. None of the things I wonder about are a matter of life and death, so if I never find an answer, so be it.

The following are two of the inconsequential things I wonder about at the moment.

- Why are there so many letters 'Z' in the last three letters of the current car number plates? When the new system was started we were told that the first two letters identified the place or origin of the car. The two numbers denoted the date and the three letters following would be selected at random. However I find there are far more 'Z's than one would expect.
- When going east on the A47 from the Thickthorn roundabout - and in other parts of the country - there are several lines of pylons. They are conventional pylons with six arms carrying six wires. On the top there is an extension carrying a single wire. There seems to be no correlation between the height of the extensions on some adjacent pylons. Why, I wonder, is this?

John Adams



PRAYER LABYRINTH

At Trinity United Reformed Church,
Unthank Road, Norwich

Monday 25 th October	2pm- 8pm
Tuesday 26 th October	12noon- 6pm
Wednesday 27 th October	3pm - 9pm
Thursday 28 th October	11am - 5pm
Friday 29 th October	10am - 4pm

A prayer labyrinth is an ancient way of prayer recently rediscovered. Come and walk the labyrinth, following a path into the centre, into God and an outward path into the world.

Further information from Revd Alison Davis 01953 609971

Find 25 Books of the Bible in the following passage

I once discovered, merely by a fluke, that many Bible books can be found in ordinary text as long as it is written in Roman script, and I remarked on it to a friend. He had to look very hard to check the facts, but for other people it was a revelation how easy they were to find. One church member who has as dismal a child as you could ever wish to meet, found it a difficult job. A few of them are difficult and you will feel you are in a real jam, especially as the names of the books were not all capitalized, but the truth was that it was an enjoyable quest. One woman, who saw them at the worst moment of their search, says that she brews a cup of tea to help her concentrate, while I know another who sucks on a humbug to get her through. Another, helping his brain by wearing a fez raced through them all in no time. He was of course from Sudan. I elevated him to the top of the list of fastest winners. John Lightfoot, who lives in Sharp's Almshouses, chose an empty evening to devote to the task and he was working so hard at it that he was up half the night. There are actually 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph, quite a large number so you may well take a little while to complete the whole. In fact I will readily admit it usually takes at least 20 minutes. See how well you can compete. Relaxation is the golden rule and others will judge sympathetically.. Yes, there are some that are harder than others to identify and there may be loud lamentations when the last ones are found. I am sure you will find it a most enjoyable exercise.

(submitted by Patricia Lithgow - answers next month!)

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

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Preaching Plan October / November

3 October	Revd Alison Davis
10 October	Mr Kevin Mitchelson
17 October	Mrs Marion Nevill
24 October	Worship Group
31 October	Mrs Brenda Kelsey
7 November	Mr Peter Fitches

Dates for your Diaries

Details of these events can be found within the newsletter

October

1 October (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)
1 October	Quiz and Chips (Ipswich Road URC)
6 October (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
8 October (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
12 October (6.30pm)	Area Partnership (Jessopp Rd URC)
15 October (12.30pm)	Community Lunch (Fairland Hall)
17 October	Reflective Service
18 October (2.30pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)
22 October (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
25-29 October	Prayer Labyrinth (Trinity URC)

November

1 November (2.30pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)
3 November (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
6 November	Fairland's Autumn Fair (Fairland Hall)

* Advance Notice

27 November (10am)	Ipswich Road URC's Christmas Fair
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