



# *Fairland News*

No. 504

June 2011



Fairland United Reformed Church  
Wymondham

**Fairland United Reformed Church  
Wymondham**

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

Friends,

Jesus has died. Jesus is alive! And now, at Pentecost we celebrate the descending of the Holy Spirit on the Church. I love Pentecost, because it reminds us so powerfully of four things:

First, it reminds us that **God is with us**. Our bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). God Himself dwells within us, helping us to remain firm in our faith, strengthening us in times of trial, and comforting us in times of need. I have been grateful to God for times when I have experienced the Holy Spirit in powerful ways, such as when I was called into ministry or when I have experienced the gifts of the Spirit, but I am even more grateful for the ongoing day-to-day, second-by-second presence of the Spirit within each of us. It reminds us that God never forsakes or leaves us, that truly nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38).

Secondly, it reminds us that **God wants to transform us into the likeness of His Son, Jesus** (Romans 8:29). The Holy Spirit helps us (when we are willing and open) to make Christ-like decisions and serve in Christ-like ways; growing within us the fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). As we sing in ‘Spirit of the living God’ (R&S 308), the Spirit fills us, breaks us, melts us and moulds us. Through the Spirit’s empowering, we are equipped to resist all that separates us from God and to be witnesses to the work of God in the world.

Thirdly, it reminds us that **we are called to be one**. At the first Pentecost, everyone in the early church was together in one place and they heard one another speak in their own language (Acts 2:1-6). God overcame the barriers that separated them. Today, we still need the Spirit to unite us. Within our congregations, we need to embrace the diversity of our opinions and practice. We might not agree on finer points of doctrine or how the church should be run, but we must keep things in perspective – we are all followers of Jesus! Outside of our own churches, we need to work more closely with our ecumenical partners, including those outside of traditional denominations. To see the fullness of the Body of Christ, we

need to embrace those who may seem very different to ourselves. I have been blessed by worship services in Orthodox and Pentecostal churches, by churches where people have almost been swinging from the chandeliers, and in ones which have been much more reflective or liturgical. We will always have personal preferences, but we have much to learn and much to experience of our God who embraces us in our difference.

Fourthly, **the Spirit leads us to mission**, and I am reminded of the exciting things going on across our churches. At Ipswich Road, we have a holiday club at the start of the month and we are also deepening our ecumenical links by joining St Paul's for their Benefice BBQ on June 26. At Wroxham & Hoveton, the building project continues to build momentum, with some £75,000 raised at the time of writing. We hope to start work next March if we can get all of the funding in place. Wroxham also trials *Messy Church* this month, reaching out to families on Father's Day at 4pm with crafts, games, worship and food. Trinity is getting underway with the *Painting the Bigger Picture* Process, and Princes Street continues to think about its future and how mission might be enriched and strengthened there. And then there is the ongoing community work – the youth and children's work at Jessopp Road, the community lunch and Pabulum Cafe at Fairland, and the many other activities that we too often fail to celebrate.

The seven churches are joining together for two events this month as well: on June 5 we will be taking a ride on the Southern Comfort from Horning and enjoying a picnic on the green, and on June 10-11, we will be showcasing our youth and community work at *The Forum* as part of the Celebrate Norwich event. Please do come and have a look at what the Christian community is up to in Norfolk and Norwich!

My prayer this Pentecost is that may we celebrate the Spirit within us, that we may be open to His transformation, and that we may seek the unity of Christ's body, for the sake of the world and the glory of God. May we celebrate what God is already doing through us!

Every blessing,

*Matt*

**Annual General Church Meeting**  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 2011  
**Secretary's Report**

It does not seem possible that another year has gone by and we are here again at our Annual General Meeting. The year has followed a familiar pattern for us and we have celebrated all the usual festivals and continued with our regular activities. However there have been some changes within that context.

We held a successful Autumn Fair which was well supported by the local community but we were unable to do the Santa's Grotto. This meant that we were able to concentrate on holding a Christmas Charity Table Top sale. It was the second year for this event and proved most useful for about 12 charities giving them an opportunity for raising funds and sharing publicity about their work. At Easter we added a new activity by “flowering the cross” outside to try to make people aware of the Easter message. Hopefully we will be able to do this again with some refinements to how we do it. We held an interesting Away Day in our Church Centre last May and were challenged to look at ourselves and consider how we could move forward and not remain static. We have not acted on many of these ideas yet and maybe need to look again at what actions were suggested then.

The church has continued to provide the two lunches each month which are well supported by local people. The light lunch has been growing steadily in numbers and there have been new people coming. They seem to appreciate being able to stay in an informal setting to chat and we too have the opportunity to spend a bit of time with them at this meal. The Pabulum Cafe also continues to be a great support to those who attend and it is good that it has begun a Musicalitea afternoon for music and dancing.

As a church we cannot see a way forward at present for working with children and young people and were very sorry that The Searchers had to close in August because of a lack of leaders. In the light of this we have been pleased to support City Church in their new initiative in providing a meeting place for young mothers and babies. We have helped by only requesting a donation towards heating costs and waived the usual charges and also two of our members help by doing kitchen duties thus enabling their leaders to spend time with the mums. These activities do not seem to

be major moves forward but if we seek the guidance of God and keep Him in the centre of all we do then they can be channels for witnessing to our faith and sharing His love with all those we meet.

We have been enriched by being involved in the wider community of the URC in the Norwich area. We have enjoyed services led by Team Ministry Group members and participated in some joint activities. One of the highlights was the Induction and Ordination of the Rev Matt Stone to the team. A good number of our congregation were able to attend and found the whole event an inspiration. We have also played a full part in the Wymondham Churches Together which has generally not been so well supported by all the churches. We hope that this will see some improvement during the coming year.

Our membership remains stable but we have been saddened by the deaths of two members. Joan Whitehouse, who died in March, had been ill for a few years and had been living in Melton House so that she had not been to church for a long time. The other member we have lost died at the beginning of April- Alison Chalcraft who became a member in 2007. She made a strong impact on our church fellowship and we were blessed by her contributions to a number of activities. Her firm faith underpinned all that she did. She will be missed by us all. We thank God for what she meant to us in the time she was here.

None of the mentioned activities could have been possible without the wonderful teamwork that is evident in our church. So many of our fellowship go about jobs in a quiet way that could be unnoticed and yet if they are unable to do them it becomes all too obvious what is missing. Thank you to Kenny and Sheila for the excellent care they give in looking after the buildings and sorting out keys and heating for lettings. Thanks to Netta and Anne for all the lovely flower arrangements and to Bill (Buckenham) who looks after our flower borders. Thank you to Jill for dealing with the sometimes awkward lettings of our two buildings and also for being assistant treasurer. We have a great team of caterers who work very hard in making our meals and other events so successful. Thank you to the cooks for this but I am sure they would agree it could not happen unless there was backup in food preparation and table setting etc. and not least washing up! So thank you to you all. A very important contribution to our

outreach is the Newsletter. This is never an easy task to produce and we are often slow in handing in articles so that Ann must be wondering some months whether there will be any material for the magazine. She gets it just right though, and thanks to Ann for this valuable piece of work. She is especially to be congratulated for the 500<sup>th</sup> edition. Thank you too to Ruth for organising our Preaching Plan which just seems to happen but of course it doesn't. It requires a lot of time and effort in contacting people and making arrangements for worship.

We are served by a faithful and committed band of elders. They all play an active part in our church life. As our church is quite a small fellowship they all have to multitask and do so very efficiently and graciously. Thank you from us all for what you do. Also thank you to our treasurer John for looking after our finances so well. He is supportive when we make decisions about spending money and always makes us feel that it is our decision not his. He would, of course, keep us right if we were being too spendthrift!

Last of all I would like to thank Alison for all the support and leadership she has given us over the last year. She has been going through a difficult time as the team is still short of a full time minister and a 50% part time leader. Nevertheless we at Wymondham have received all the ministry we could expect and thank her for that. This may change a little as for the time being she is now our Named Person minister and will not lead worship at Fairland as often or be able to be as involved as she has been. Thank you to Alison for all you have done and for being here amongst us.

What of the future year to come? We cannot say but we must trust that God will make it clear that we are following in the way He would have us go and be prepared for whatever that might be.

Jennifer Shakesby

## **Annual General Church Meeting 2011 Minister's Report**

Across the NAURC the year has been a good one. There is a new way of organising events across the 7 churches still in its infancy, but hopefully contributing to better understanding and growing relationships. There is work going on to seek to resolve the structural and constitutional issues that need addressing. It's a question of watch this space.

Jennifer has given a comprehensive review of our year here in Wymondham in her report. It has been a busy year for all of us with its joys and sadnesses.

There is always more that we could do and we should never seek to stand still. We will be reviewing the results of last year's Away Day and developing that further.

There are some new initiatives on the go - 'Musicalitea' and 'Sacred Space' to name a couple.

As always I am grateful to Jennifer and elders for sharing in the leadership of the church, particularly Jennifer who does a lot of work behind the scenes to ensure that our church life runs smoothly. She has thanked lots of other people in her report and this is our thank you to her.

I look forward to the coming year with hope and anticipation of all that God can do with us, in us and in the wider community.

Alison

**Flower Rota  
June / July**

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>5 June</b>  | <b>Ann Sprules</b>      |
| <b>12 June</b> | <b>Madeleine Morgan</b> |
| <b>19 June</b> | <b>Daphne Prior</b>     |
| <b>26 June</b> | <b>Sheila Eaglen</b>    |
| <b>3 July</b>  | <b>Vacant *</b>         |

**\* Help is needed to fill this date - and others in July please**

**\*\*\*\*\***

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

**Maggie Marsland; Carole Shildrake; Bill Buckenham, Mary Gray and Winnie Rose.**

Revd Alison Davis received a card from Revd David Shakesby, addressed to the seven churches, with the following message:

Please convey to the churches, NAURC, my sincere thanks for the kind "send off" gift on my second retirement. The cheque and tokens for the Theatre Royal are a reminder of the years I happily spent with the ministers, TMG, Joint Elders and preaching in all the churches from time to time, I shall enjoy spending them. Thank you also for the gorgeous flowers for Jennifer. It was a precious time for me and I now look forward to another and different time. Many thanks and may God's blessing be with you. David

## May Lunches

### First Friday Lunch

Thirty-seven people came to this lunch and a profit of £64.85 was made. Thanks to Elizabeth and her team for all their hard work.

### Community Lunch

Thank you to Sheila and helpers for another delicious meal.

Tickets (after expenses) - £73.50; Bring and Buy - £22.35; Raffle - £43; making a total of £138.85.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you, dear friends, for the lovely cards and get well messages and of course for your prayers. I am improving slowly but determined to get there.

Shirley Adams



We won't be doing the Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. It will seem so strange after fifteen years but the good work will go on as a few contacts in this area will work with Bartrams Funeral Services who have offered to receive and store the boxes, which is marvellous news. Thank you for all the support you have given to John and I.

\*\*\*\*\*

The yearly coffee morning in aid of Operation Christmas Child will still be held on Tuesday September 6th 10-12 at Marion Roberts Court Hethersett. More details about this later, but please put the date in your diaries.

Shirley



The **British Heart Foundation** is the charity chosen to receive the collections in **May and June**. The following information is taken from their website at [www.bhf.org.uk](http://www.bhf.org.uk)

‘Thanks to your donations, since the 1960s we have funded some of the greatest breakthroughs in heart science.

Most babies born today with heart defects now survive, pacemakers help people control their heart conditions, and statins are lowering cholesterol levels for millions. Heart attack treatment has been revolutionised.

But there's still a way to go.

Over half of all heart research in the UK is funded by the money you give.

Every year we award top scientists millions of pounds to carry out research to diagnose, prevent and find a cure for the UK's biggest killer, heart disease.

For all our success, there's a lot to be done. Heart disease is still the UK's biggest killer.

Millions of people are living with heart failure. Surgery techniques can still be improved. And there are exciting developments in genetics and stem cell technology yet to be found.

So we're investing in the latest technologies and the best science. And we're helping the most talented researchers put their minds to the problems of heart disease prevention and care, and continue the search for a cure.

At the moment, there's no cure for a broken heart. Once your heart muscle is damaged by a heart attack, it can never fully recover. But there is hope. We need to spend £50 million to fund groundbreaking research that could begin to literally 'mend broken hearts' in as little as ten years time. Your support can give hope to hundreds of thousands of people across the UK.’



# SACRED SPACE

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday monthly

7.00pm -8.30pm

Fairland Church Centre

Wymondham

The church will be open for you to experience peace and quiet in a tranquil setting, for a few minutes or longer.

All welcome

Starts Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June

\* \* \* \* \*

*Time for being with God, meeting God in the quiet, with love and respect.*

*This is a space for you to sit, stand, walk quietly around, look, focussing on God. Stay for as long as you like.*

*To help in the quiet, we provide two aspects of life for you to focus on if you want: -*

*Thanking God for life, creation, all that we have experienced;*

*Holding before God people and places that we are concerned about.*

## Celebrate Norwich and Norfolk

On Friday and Saturday 10-11 June, there is a Celebrate Norwich and Norfolk event at The Forum where different Christian/church organisations have been invited to have a stand. The Norwich Area URCs will be taking part, promoting our different community activities and youth and children's work.

The exhibition is open 9-5 each day, and Revd Matt Stone is still looking for volunteers to staff the stand for hour (or more) slots during those days. He is hoping to have 2-3 people at any one time, representing at least 2 different churches and at least one person under 50 (just to confuse things!).

Please see Jennifer if you are able to help with this.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Coffee Rota for Sunday mornings Can you help?

There are several dates on this rota which need to be filled and Jill Buckenham would appreciate any offers from people willing to help with this.

For anyone who has not volunteered in the past - all you have to do is to provide milk and biscuits (Fairtrade biscuits if possible) and then arrive at church half an hour before the service begins, to lay out the cups etc.

Please add your name to the list if you can help - or have a word with Jill.

|  |
|--|
| Items for inclusion in <b>July/August</b> newsletter (to be available on 26 June) should be given to Ann Scott <b>by 19 June please.</b> |
|--|

# **ALAN GREEN**

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## Preaching Plan June / July

|         |                      |
|---------|----------------------|
| 5 June  | Revd Alison Davis    |
| 12 June | Worship Group        |
| 19 June | Mrs Jean Lerner      |
| 26 June | Revd Peter Paine     |
| 3 July  | Revd Eilleen Ritchie |

## Dates for your Diaries

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

### June

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1 June (10am)      | Midweek Service (Church Lounge)                            |
| 2 June (2-4pm)     | 'Musicalitea' (Fairland Hall)                              |
| 2 June (7pm)       | 'Thinking ahead to Advent' run by Synod<br>(Church Centre) |
| 3 June (12-1.30pm) | First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)                         |
| 6 June (2.30pm)    | Singing Group (Church Centre)                              |
| 6 June (7.30pm)    | Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)                       |
| 9 June (7pm)       | Elders' meeting (Church Lounge)                            |
| 10 June (10-2)     | Pabulum Café (Church Centre)                               |
| 10/11 June         | Event in Forum (see p14)                                   |
| 13 June (7-8.30pm) | 'Sacred Space' (Church Centre)                             |
| 17 June (12.30pm)  | Community Lunch (Fairland Hall)                            |
| 20 June (2.30pm)   | Singing Group (Church Centre)                              |
| 22 June (3-5pm)    | Afternoon Tea Party (Church Centre)                        |
| 24 June (10-2)     | Pabulum Café (Church Centre)                               |
| 28 June            | Coffee Morning (5 Ketts Close)                             |

### July

|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 July (12-1.30pm) | First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall) |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|

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