



Fairland News

No. 508

November 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

This month's Minister's Letter is written by Revd Matt Stone:

Dear friends,

Over the summer I spent a week of my holidays in the Cumbrian town of Keswick, which hosts an annual Christian convention. It was a wet week (I now understand why the Lake District has so many bodies of water!), but one which was incredibly enriching. Surrounded by Derwentwater, hills and forests, it was great to experience a week of passionate Bible teaching and joyful worship, as well as having an opportunity to reflect on my first year in ministry. I've always found that a few days (or even a few hours) devoted to God is a great investment. At Keswick, two things really struck me:



First, the Bible can be incredibly nourishing. The Keswick Convention focuses on biblical exposition and preaching, and it was wonderful to be immersed in the grand story of God for a week; to be reminded of God's never-ending faithfulness, promises and love; to reflect on how my story and God's story interact and collide. Surveys suggest that over 40% of churchgoing Christians do not read or hear the Bible between Sundays. What a loss! Here we have the greatest story ever told – the most amazing good news ever revealed – and we leave it gathering dust on our shelves. We have so much to gain from diving in and asking God to speak to us afresh through his word.



Secondly, I was challenged to think about evangelism – how we connect the story of God to the stories of the lives of our friends, neighbours and family members who do not know the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen. We're still in the Vision4Life Evangelism Year, and yet we don't seem to have gathered much momentum, either here in the Norwich Area or nationally in the URC. But what if evangelism is not about the church 'doing something new' or 'putting on events', but how we all live our lives

intentionally for the sake of the gospel? When Geoff preached with a view, he said that evangelism was ‘the body language’ of the church. What are we projecting to our communities?

One of the seminar series I visited at Keswick was by Tim Chester, author of ‘Total Church’ and ‘Everyday Church’ (both published by IVP). Tim looked at 1 Peter, a letter written to God’s people who were ‘strangers’ in the world – just like us – and asked how we could apply it today. We were challenged to identify all of the activities we do – including the mundane – that make up our lives, and then invited to consider how we might bring in:

A Community Element – involving another member of our Christian community

A Missional Component – involving a non-Christian

A Gospel Component – how we might talk about our faith and share good news

Easy ways of including a missional component include inviting non-Christian friends for dinner; being a regular at the local pub; joining a club; talking to our co-workers; participating in neighbourhood events; volunteering with local charities and serving our neighbours. In short, the church needs to be the church in the world, and not just in our church buildings. It is through relationships and friendships that we have the opportunity to share our contagious good news and hope.

God’s story – the good news of our creation, our redemption and our eternal hope in Christ Jesus – is mind-blowing and life-changing. May it change us, and may those we mix with catch it, spread it, and see the Kingdom of God grow within and around them.

Every blessing,

Matt

October Lunches

First Friday Lunch

Thirty-five people attended in all and the result was £74.15. Thanks go to Elizabeth and the team for all their hard work.

* * * * *

Thank you to everyone who helped with our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** at the end of September. We had a very efficient team in the kitchen preparing and serving the coffee, and Evelyn ('Queen of Bring and Buy'!) took charge of a table full of donated items.

It was good to see familiar faces there, along with a couple of new visitors to our Church Centre. A total of **£178.45** was raised for this very worthwhile charity.

Communion Collection



The Communion Collections for **November and December** will be in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

This charity is independent of Government and National Lottery funding and is entirely dependent on fund-raising and contributions.

To keep its two air ambulances flying, and to provide the advanced medical equipment they carry, over £4 million per year has to be raised.

More information about this charity can be found at www.eaaa.org.uk

Operation Christmas Child



November is the busiest time for all involved in Operation Christmas Child as the deadline approaches for the collection of the shoeboxes. One of Shirley's friends, Wendy Richter, has become our main local contact for the shoebox collections, with Bartrams as a collection point.

We hope that those who have filled shoeboxes over the past few years will continue to do so and we would welcome with open arms anyone who hasn't participated before! If you would like more information, please have a word with Ann Scott, who will tell you how you can help.

If you are unable to fill a shoebox yourself, we are always grateful to receive individual items to fill boxes eg scarves, hats, gloves, small cuddly toys, balls, skipping ropes, toy cars, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, flannels, pens, pencils, crayons, bracelets, necklaces etc - or even money so these items can be bought by one of the volunteers on your behalf.

The following are two of the many stories from their website about the distribution of shoeboxes all over the world:

Thank You from Belarus

For the past 18 years Operation Christmas Child has been sending



shoeboxes to Belarus. This year we sent 33 loads of shoeboxes to the country for distributing to orphanages, hospitals and poor homes. Here is a letter from the Baptist church in Tekhteen, Mogilev region, Belarus who helped distribute the shoeboxes. It shows the high regard that they have for the boxes and the difficulties they have in the country.

Dear Friends in Samaritan's Purse and OCC partners!

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your care for Belarusian children. We appreciate all your hard work in collecting gift boxes, your offerings with finances, time and efforts. You deliver Love in a Box! And you in the UK give us a chance to pass God's love on to needy ones in Belarus.

We are a small Baptist church in the rural area of East Belarus, close to the Chernobyl zone. There are many forgotten and affected villages around us. High level of unemployment, drinking parents, neglected kids – all this is our daily reality. Many parents don't pay much attention to their kids, and they cannot afford to buy gifts for them. And OCC shoeboxes are like a bright light in darkness!

With your gift boxes we can and do organise many special OCC events in our church and schools. Many children come to Christmas performances and later to our Sunday school even from far away. OCC helps us to open hearts and open doors

Vanya's Story

Little Vanya is just four years old. Sadly he has no mother or father.



Home for Vanya is a tiny hospital ward deep in the chilly city of Mogilev in the country of Belarus.

Vanya has cerebral palsy which limits his movement and breathing and so he spends his days in a cot.

When the OCC Team delivered Vanya's shoebox the two children who share his room had their mothers with them but Vanya was alone. His eyes were empty and he was listless. A team member gave Vanya a friendly teddy bear (pictured) from his box and gently stroked his face. Though he is unable to speak his big brown eyes lit up with delight and his beaming smile spoke more than words ever could.

The team said: "We had the absolute joy of spending a little time with him, holding his hand, blowing some bubbles over his cot and watching him cuddle into the teddy bear!"

Flower Rota
November / December

6 November	Jennifer Shakesby
13 November	Sybil Camroux (Remembrance Sunday)
20 November	Elizabeth Portsmouth
27 November	Ruth Dunning (1st Sunday in Advent)
4 December	Sheila Eaglen

* * * * *

Please note that there is one vacant date left in December.
The new Rota for next year will be available on the notice board
in November. Any help you can give will be much appreciated.

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

Mary Gray; Mary and Tony Richardson; Alison Kerton; Victoria
Boldini and Brenda and Ralph Ramm.

Thank you very much for the flowers given to me recently. It was a
very kind thought and much appreciated by me and also my family.

Alison Kerton

* * * * *

Mary Gray would like to thank everyone for their good wishes for the
success of her recent operation and for the gift of the lovely flowers
from the Altar Table.

Two 'Thank You' cards have been received with the following messages:

10 Park Lane
Wymondham

Dear friends of URC

Thank you all for the lovely surprise flowers on Sunday and Mrs Jill Buckenham for taking the time to bring them. The lavender smells all over the room to remind me of such a kind thought.

Thank you again

Mary Allen

To the friends of Fairland United Reformed Church

Thank you for the lovely flowers

from Mary Richardson

FREEWILL OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2012

Envelopes for 2012 will be available at the back of the church at the beginning of December. If you would like to join this scheme, please see Netta Darkins.

All that is required is a regular commitment to put your weekly collection in the special envelopes, whether you are able to attend church or not. The scheme is completely confidential and is of great help to the church to know that a regular sum of money can be relied upon as income each week.

Netta

The seats have returned !



Here you see Margaret enjoying glorious sunshine on her new seat dedicated to the memory of her late husband, Jack.

Grateful thanks are due to Mike Coe, friend and next door neighbour of Trevor. Mike used his trailer to collect the seats from the church and take home for renovation and worked for many hours renovating and repairing the seat presented by Sheila and Kenny.

However, the original seat dedicated to Margaret's husband had been damaged beyond repair and Mike again provided his trailer to collect the new seat from Norwich and then fix both seats securely outside the church. The time and skill donated by Mike is much appreciated.

Trevor

Fairland United Reformed Church

Autumn Fair

Saturday 12th November

10am - 12.30pm

Fairland Hall

Cakes

Plants

Bric-a-Brac

Groceries

Raffle

Gifts

Competitions

Tombola

Refreshments served all morning

Please can you help with the Autumn Fair?

We need help with the setting up of the stalls, the running of the stalls and the clearing away.

Of course, we also need items to sell - and the customers to sell to - so please publicise this event and give any items for stalls to Elizabeth Portsmouth.

Thank you!

NAURC NEWS

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Issue 3

PSALM PILGRIMAGE

The hot, sunny afternoon of our Psalm Pilgrimage was on a Sunday in an October that thought it was June, which was probably why many folk made a pilgrimage to the coast instead of the Psalms. However, for those who came to Trinity, it would be right to say that it turned out to be an afternoon of challenge, puzzlement, learning, being moved, and most of all fun and laughter.

The pilgrimage was not lengthy in regard to mileage but we looked at the Psalms through, quizzes, crosswords, treasure hunt, naming our favourite Psalm and the reason why. It involved crafts and musical instruments, listening to and singing hymns, old and new, based on Psalms, looking at different translations and, in the prayer tower, praying the Psalms and all this with drinks and lots of good humour and camaraderie

At 4pm some of us pilgrimaged a little further to Fairland, Wymondham where we had tea and cake followed by an act of worship. The two most loved Psalms were included, one of which was Psalm 23. We heard it read from The Street version and then we all read the King James version. The other reading was from Psalm 150 which was read from The Message and, as it includes a list of musical instruments gave us an excuse to play all those available e.g. tambourines, drums, castanets and a rain stick. These were also played with much gusto and enjoyment to accompany some of the hymns.

In spite of, or perhaps because, of all the variety, the fun and the "musical"? accompaniment it was also at times moving and gave me, and I hope others to have fresh understanding of the wonderful wealth, and beauty to be found in God's songbook.

Marion Nevill

INDUCTION SERVICE

The induction service for Revd Geoff Hewitt takes place on Friday 18th November 2011 7.30pm at Princes Street, Norwich.

Friday night was chosen as there were Christmas events already organised for the Saturdays under consideration. Then we discovered that Norwich City are playing at home on both days as well.

The singing group have been called together again, they meet on Thursdays 27th October and 10th November at Ipswich Road, at 7pm to rehearse for the service, All singers welcome.

Geoff and Linda are arriving in Norwich in early November. Geoff will not be starting work until after his induction. Geoff's last service in Limerick is next Sunday 30th October please remember him and the congregation on this day.

WROXHAM BUILDING PROJECT

As the Wroxham building project nears work starting, we are having a short ground blessing on the new site on Sunday 20 November. Near the end of our morning worship (around 12 noon), we will be walking from the Church Hall to the new building for a Prayer, before heading back to the Hall for coffee.

Please remember this in your prayers on that morning. You are welcome to join with the congregation at this time. .

**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
ON THE BROADS**



St Benet's Abbey

annual **carol service** which this year will be
St John Baptist Coltishall

on the Sunday nearest to St Nicholas day, for Boat
Owners, Hirers and those who work around the
Broad's holiday industry

You are warmly invited to

A Carol Service

Speaker:
The Rt Revd Alan Winton
Bishop of Thetford
on
Sunday 4th December 2011
at 6.00pm



***Followed by mince pies washed down with
mulled Wine***

For catering purposes it would be helpful, but not essential
to have some idea of numbers attending beforehand so
could you please ring Mrs Mary Brookes on 07905721496

or

e-mail marybrookes@btinternet.com

Worries keeping you awake?

If you struggle to sleep because your mind is racing with worries and things you need to do, there are a couple of strategies that can help. Keep a notebook and pen by the bed and write them all down - it helps to shift them from your brain. If you still find it hard to slow your thoughts, try to replace them with something mundane. Visualise wheeling a trolley into your favourite store. Cruise around the aisles on your usual route, picking up items as you go. Think of likely prices in whole pounds and keep a mental running total. There's a good chance you'll fall asleep before you reach the check-out!

(submitted by Jill Buckenham)

Coffee on Sunday Mornings

Thank you to those of you who answered my request to provide items for the refreshments we serve after morning service. I have received coffee, tea, sugar and biscuits. Thank you.

Jill

Ipswich Road URC

We have been asked to publicise two events at Ipswich Road URC.

Their Christmas fair is on Saturday 26th November from 10 until 2pm. There will be all the usual stalls plus snacks and lunches.

There is also a Songs of Praise service on the Sunday evening at 6.15 to which all are welcome.

Items for inclusion in **December/January** newsletter (to be available on 27 November) should be given to Ann Scott **by 20 November please.**

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Preaching Plan November / December

6 November	Mrs Patricia Lithgow
13 November	Mr Kevin Parfitt
20 November	Mr Kevin Mitchelson
27 November	Revd Geoffrey Hewitt
4 December	Revd Ian Fosten

Dates for your Diaries

Details of these events can be found within the newsletter

November

2 November (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
3 November (2-4)	'Musicalitea' (Fairland Hall)
4 November (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)
6 November	Meal at Glen Lodge
7 November (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
11 November (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
12 November (10-12.30)	Autumn Fair (Fairland Hall)
14 November (7-8.30)	'Sacred Space' (Church Centre)
18 November (7.30pm)	Induction of Revd Geoff Hewitt (Princes St)
20 November	Church Meeting (after Morning Service)
21 November (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
25 November (10-2)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)

December

2 December (12.30pm)	Christmas Community Lunch (Fairland Hall)
3 December (10-12.30)	Charity Table Top Sale (Church Centre)

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