

# across ROYSTON

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part of the world wide Anglican Communion



## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**On a mission with Jane and Mike Askew;  
That confounded box of whistles**



Tim Penn



Oscar Sassoli



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# Editors' letter

In this issue there is rather a lot about Mission. Mission comes in all sorts of forms. From sponsoring a child to get a better education; running a youth group; giving money to a Christian charity or undertaking a project yourself to benefit and outreach to others, such as we have seen with Veronica Weatherhead working on Mercy Ships and now with Mike and Jane Askew. Mike and Jane have contributed two pieces in this issue telling us about their very recent experiences undertaking training to enable them to work on mission projects abroad.

Emotionally and spiritually Mike and Jane came back uplifted. However; Mike came back from their trips physically drained and is now making a recovery. It shows that undertaking a task like this can have consequences for us - both positive and negative. What is remarkable is that through acts of faith like this we can make a difference in other people's lives and that surely is one of the reasons we exist as a Church and something that we should concentrate on: making a difference.

Please read the short piece on page 17 titled 'Easy Fundraising' - it is a very easy way for all of us to raise extra money for much needed, general church funds.

**The Across Royston editorial team**

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# On a (Training) Mission to... Hawaii

## Mike and Jane Askew

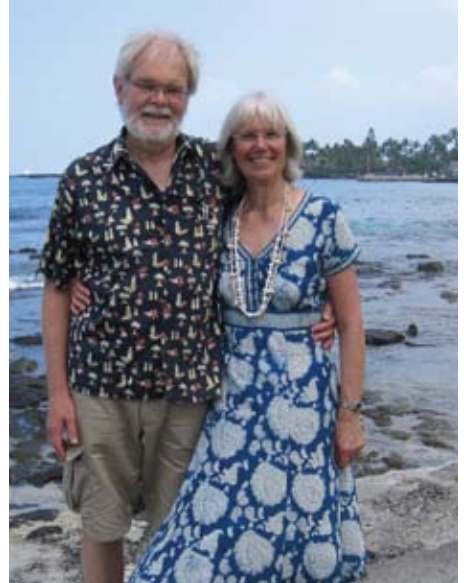
Shortly after 5 am on Tuesday 7th April, we left home for Heathrow Airport to start our 5 month Crossroads Discipleship Training School. Two flights, 10,000 miles and 24 hours later, we were being welcomed onto the campus of the University of the Nations in Kona, Hawaii by the staff of our school.

The University of the Nations is the teaching and training headquarters of Youth with a Mission (YWAM), an international missionary organisation founded 50 years ago. The Discipleship Training school is the basic entry course aimed mostly at young adults, but the Crossroads school is for those who are older. YWAM have as their mission statement "Knowing God and making Him known" and this was our desire as we set out on this adventure.

Our first challenge was getting to know the people we were sharing accommodation with: 2 other couples from Korea and California, and then meeting and befriending our fellow students. There were 25 of us in total, from the US, Canada, China, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand and the UK, plus 5 children, and 8 staff.

For the first couple of days we went through rapid orientation, being introduced to YWAM, the Kona base and life in Hawaii, then on the first Monday we started our 12-week lecture phase. Weekdays were very full with worship/ prayer at 8am, lectures from 9 to 12, small groups, outreach preparation and lecture application in the afternoon, followed by work duties and supper.

Each week we had a different speaker arriving to teach us on topics such as The Nature and Character of God, Hearing God's Voice, The Kingdom of God, Spiritual Warfare, and The Holy Spirit. God's Hand was clearly in control as each week built on and reinforced the



preceding ones, building up our faith, challenging our preconceptions and opening our hearts to God's Voice. I came to a new understanding of God's love for me and His creation – how huge, all-embracing and unconditional it is! We saw God moving in power too, as some of the team were healed physically: we saw a team member's spinal curvature straighten before our eyes, and a back healed from long-term injury from a bad motor accident. We all kept journals of our lecture phase and these had to be completed at the weekends.

One of the great things about being in Kona was the worship, which took place in our classes but also corporately twice a week. Every Monday morning the whole base met together for worship for an hour, and each Thursday evening we all met together again for worship, notices and a guest speaker. There were several worship



leaders and performers, with many different styles of music, all united by a burning heart for praise and worship and a desire to give of their best for the Lord. On Sundays we attended local churches. We went to a church called Living Stones, on the beach a couple of miles away. Some of the congregation sat inside the building but most stayed outside under awnings, with the sound of the waves close by. We often visited one of the beautiful local beaches on Sunday afternoon, where we could enjoy the surf and swim or snorkel by the rocks with turtles and amazingly coloured fish.

Early on, one of our speakers encouraged us to, "forgive reality" – to use events and situations for God's glory rather than resisting and resenting them. This was a very valuable piece of advice, and helped us to have a flexible attitude. We needed this in our preparations for the Outreach phase of the school, because for the first half of our time in Kona we thought we would be going to China! However, those doors closed and doors in Cambodia opened, so our preparation times shifted towards Cambodia, learning about the country, the peoples and the Khmer language.

Very quickly, it seemed, our time in Hawaii was at an end and we were flying to Phnom Penh.

*To be continued...*

## *Kids at St. John's*

### **Sunday School**

During the 10am Eucharists on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (during term time) we have Kids in Church Sunday School. Two groups of children 3-5/6yrs and 6+ split into age-specific teaching groups for fun and learning.

### **Messy Church**

Each month during term time on the third Thursday we have Messy Church. This starts at 9.30am and finishes at approximately 11.30am. We have a story, craft time and share a snack together.

All of these activities are free. They are led by CRB checked leaders attending St John's. They are open to all.

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# Parish Letter

**John Fidler**

## **Abide With Me**

You probably know the old joke "How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb?" To which the answer is "Change?? Change??" Change is unsettling: as I have grown older (and grumpier?) I seem to have become more resistant to change. But change is inevitable, even in the Anglican Church!! From a Christian perspective, we hold two opposing views of change, one of which challenges us and one which comforts us

As Christmas approaches, we prepare to celebrate once again the coming of the Christ –child, bringing with it the question of the reason for his coming and looking forward to his earthly ministry. Even as the wise men offer their gifts we are presented with a foretaste of what this child would become: gold for royalty, frankincense for spirituality, myrrh for death. Following on from the preaching of John the Baptist who called people to rethink the way they lived their lives, Jesus unsettled the preconceived notions of people regarding their relationship with God. He talked of the kingdom of God as a present reality, a kingdom into which we can enter by acting on what we say we believe, in which God's will is done here on earth as it is in Heaven. By presenting himself as a full, final and sufficient sacrifice for all that is wrong in the world, he ushered in a new era. In this new era, our being acceptable to God depends no longer on keeping rules and offering repeated sacrifices, according to Old Testament traditions, but on our in our belief in Him as the Son of God who reaches out to us with God's love. Our response to his love should be to seek to live in tune with the way Christ himself lived and taught. We do not have to do this in our own strength. John the Baptist used immersion in the flowing water of the River Jordan to symbolically wash away peoples' past life as they made a fresh start but preached that one would come after him who would baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus offers us the Holy Spirit to be somehow inside us. Not just a symbolic washing, but an inner strength to be part of the Kingdom of God on earth. If we want to be serious about our faith, this will involve change because as we grow in faith, the Spirit will want access to more and more parts of our life. It can be unsettling but the one who seeks to change us is the same God who said "I Am that which I Am"

when asked for His name. Our God is unchanging in His nature and in His love for his creation. Jesus told us that we must be as open and innocent as little children if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt: 18, v 3 ).

Change is not just for us as individuals, but for us as a Church. Changes of a greater or lesser kind are happening. Les and Jeni Harman have left us and are settling into a well-earned retirement. Our new vicar will be different in character and personality: pray that God will be stirring the heart of the person of His choice to be ready to respond to the call and that those whose role it is to discern who should come will be in tune with God's prompting.

One unchanging aspect of the Church is to reach out in Jesus' name with the message of the gospel and with Christ's compassion. However, the ways in which we do this will change, both at the personal level and as a Church. In our Missionary links, we know that Alison Fletcher working with CMS is due to come home from Uganda next year. Some of you will have met Corrie Verduyn who spoke here in October: She will become our new CMS link at Kiwoko hospital, working in the women's health area, specialising in gynaecology. Our Church Army link Martin Hartley has moved on towards ordination and we shall be supporting Nikki Foster-Kruczek in her work with the church in Colchester; seeking new ways of being church for the people of that town. Our Global Care link with Sahan has now come to an end as he has reached the age to move on from the school where he was. We shall now be supporting Shabash. For confidentiality reasons we cannot publish full names, but see the Mission's noticeboard in Church for details.

The message of Christmas is of God doing something new in the world for our benefit when we did not deserve it. Our response to his graciousness should be to seek to be more Christ like in our behaviour and attitudes. This will involve change in us and in the Church, but we have a God who is constant in His love for us.

As the hymn puts it;

*"Change and decay in all around I see.  
Oh, Thou who changest not, Abide With Me."*

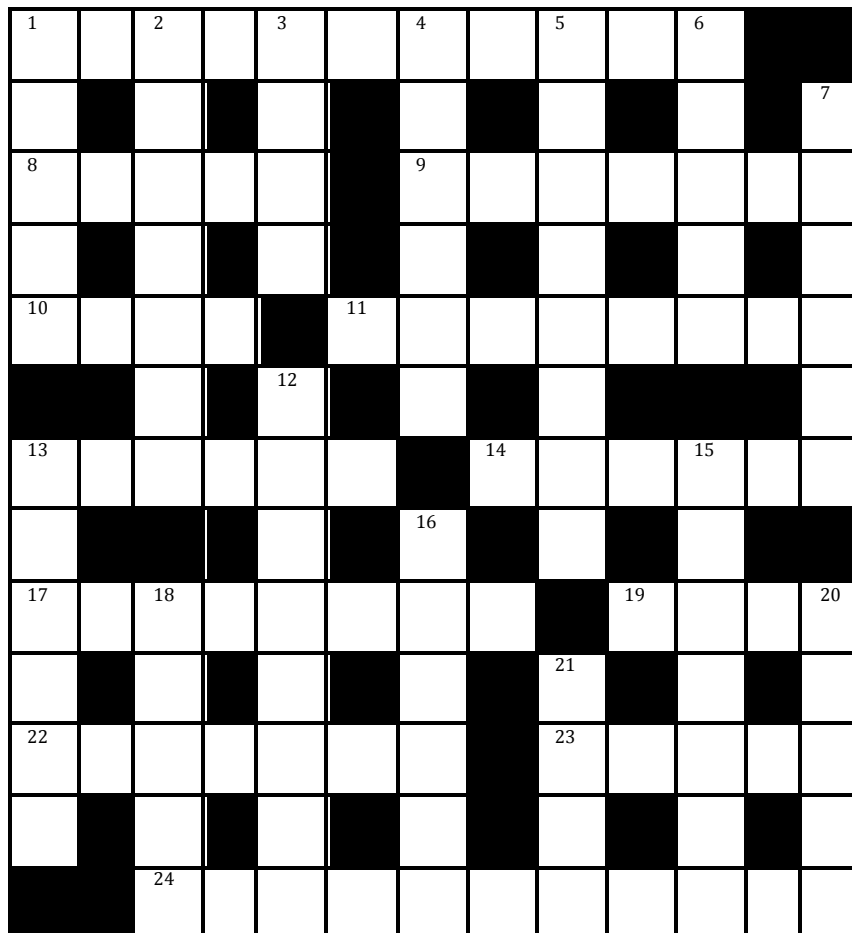
# Crossword

## Across

1. Bedfordshire town (11)
8. Warning sound (5)
9. Nelson (7)
10. Yorkshire river (4)
11. Guess ; valuation (8)
13. Gambling establishment (6)
14. Brothers John & Charles (6)
17. Absolved (8)
19. Light source (4)
22. Distinguished (7)
23. Mountain range (5)
24. Lively Christian songs (6,5)

## Down

1. Comic (5)
2. Spectacles (7)
3. Calcium oxide (4)
4. Church split (6)
5. Comet ; Concorde (8)
6. Wide ; bye (5)
7. Stand-up humour (6)
12. Hassocks (8)
13. French opera (6)
15. Place of pilgrimage (7)
16. Maggot (6)
18. Performing action (5)
20. Computer language (5)
21. Sunday before Easter (4)



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# Royston and district twinning matters

**Sally Jones**

2011 has been a very busy year for the Twinning Association. As well as our usual links with La Loupe and Grossalmerode we now have a third twin town, Villanueva de la Cañada, which is in Spain, near Madrid. It is a town of a similar size to Royston but apart from one building left standing after the Spanish Civil War it has been entirely rebuilt in the last 70 years.

## SPAIN



The year started with negotiations between Royston and Villanueva de la Cañada to decide whether we wanted to be twinned. In May 7 members of the twinning association, led by Jane Dottridge, who was the liaison between the two towns, travelled to Villanueva de la Cañada for their local saint's festival of San Isidro. While there it was agreed that we did want to twin and at the end of June Jane Dottridge and Sally and Adrian Jones of the Twinning Committee and Robert and Julie Inwood, the Royston Mayor and his wife went to Villanueva de la Cañada to formally sign the Spanish part of the Agreement. The visit included a tour of the town, a social evening at the Golf Club, visits to the local secondary school and meeting with English Teachers. A visit was made to the ESA tracking station followed by Lunch at one of the two Universities in the town. Three of the members were interviewed

on a live radio broadcast, where Twinning was the main topic of conversation.

Five members of the Spanish Twinning committee came to Royston at the end of September to formalise the Twinning with our Council. During their time here we had a tour of the Cave by candlelight, visited the Museum and had a Roast beef dinner at the Heath Sports Club. There was also a guided tour of Cambridge.

We are all eager to expand this link especially with the local schools.

## FRANCE

2011 saw the 25th Anniversary of our Twinning with La Loupe and on 2nd June 60 visitors from there arrived in Royston to celebrate. We thought we had to do something special so contacted our local MP, Oliver Heald, to see if he could arrange for us to have a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a buffet reception in one of the rooms there. He had no hesitation in arranging it and on the Friday 117 people set off to London. Although quite a logistical nightmare to keep so many together we arrived at the Houses of Parliament and managed to get through security with no problems, apart from the fact that it took half an hour to get us all in. The tour was enjoyed by all with very knowledgeable guides giving us an insight into the history of the building and the day to day happenings in both chambers.

After a free day on Saturday we held a Civic reception and hog roast at the Heath Sports club. The food was wonderful. Our visitors departed at lunchtime on the Sunday but not before we had given them a traditional English Breakfast again at the Heath.

We will be visiting La Loupe next June to complete the 25th Anniversary celebrations there.

## GERMANY

On Friday 21st October 27 people set out from Royston for our visit to Grossalmerode. For many, including the Royston Mayor, Robert Inwood and his family it was their first visit. Although we arrived very late because of several holdups on the way we were warmly greeted and quickly introduced to our hosts or reunited with old friends.

On Saturday we went to the Grenzemuseum, which lies on the old East/ West border and shows what the area was like before the reunification of Germany in 1989. The guide also gave us a detailed account of what life was like in the East and how families were torn apart after the division of Germany following the Second World War.

We also had visits to Bad Sooden Allendorf, a spa town near Grossalmerode, and Göttingen, which has one of the oldest and largest Universities in Germany. Amongst its past students are Otto von Bismark and Gerhard Schröder; both former Chancellors of Germany.



One of the highlights of the visit was the evening spent at a Restaurant in Epterode, where we had a meal including a Hog Roast, and Bratwurst. The food was wonderful and plentiful, as always in Grossalmerode.

We are looking forward to welcoming them to Royston next Autumn.

Please contact Adrian or Sally Jones for more information about the Twinning. 01763 231433 or email [sally@sallad.co.uk](mailto:sally@sallad.co.uk)

## Vacancy Update

### Dear All,

We are writing to bring you up-to-date on our progress towards the appointment of a new incumbent.

Our Parish Profile, which is like a C.V. of the Church describing: where we are in the diocese geographically, a little history of the church and town, who we are as a church, what type of services we hold and our social activities.

Then it is also like a job description, giving some qualities we would like our new vicar to have to lead us forward in our worship and church life in the 21st Century.

So far we have had the Parish Profile agreed by the P.C.C. It was then sent to the Bishop who made a few suggestions and returned it for us to include his suggestions (or not), which we have done. It has been returned to the Bishop, and the next step is that the Bishop will take some points from the Parish Profile and construct an advert that will be placed on the Diocesan website and in the Church Times newspaper for two weeks in January. Selection will be held

during February and interviews will take place at the beginning of March.

You may be asking yourselves why wait until January, the reason for this is, as you probably realise, December is a very busy time for clergy and we would not expect a vicar to take two days out of such a busy month for the interview and all that that involves.

### What do we do now?

Pray!.....and keep praying for the right person to lead us. Let us all pray that God will prepare the heart of the person of His choice and that everyone involved in the selection process will recognise that person when he or she applies.

Let us also give thanks for the staff who continue to lead us during the vacancy, and let us do our part to continue the work around the parish of Royston.

*Annette Playle  
Brenda Stranglemen  
Church Wardens*

# The methodist ministers wife

**Lynn White**

I was interested to read in Margaret Fidler's article that Anglican clergy wives didn't exist until 400 years ago, so it follows that we must be only 200 years old!

I am the Methodist ministers wife and my name is Lynn White, married to Rev Chris White Minister of Royston, Foxton and Orwell chapels, we have been in Royston for two years and I have been asked to write something about myself. I enjoy the programme 'Who do you think you are' and this feels a bit like that, so here goes.

I wasn't born into a Methodist home, my family were part of a small chapel in the village of Goldthorpe, South Yorkshire. A church that was originally brought together by being conscientious objectors or sympathising with them. As a child I heard stories of imprisonment and having to trust God for the basics in life when they were ostracised from their community and therefore not able to find work. My dad joined in the 1950's when he was in his early twenties and was a very committed and enthusiastic member all his life. I also remember hearing many sermons about the life of Saint Paul who because of his suffering they felt a great connexion with. For the first ten years of my life our family lives revolved around this little chapel with my mum, dad, my two sisters and brother. My dad worked in the coal mines and my mum at home. Then just year after my brother was born to much excitement and moving to a new home my mum was diagnosed with incurable cancer and died soon after. As children we were shielded as much as possible from the reality of what was happening. Many prayers were said including mine but there was nothing that could be done medically for her at that time.

The whole family was traumatised but being part of a small church community they all rallied round and supported us both emotionally and practically throughout the early grieving and beyond. Life was never the same again but despite this my dad was very proud that he was

able to keep us together as a family and support us as we grew up.

I experienced my first step to independence by becoming part of the art school system which is where I met Chris who many years later would become a Methodist minister and I the ministers wife. Although we were both studying art, faith was important and we were both actively involved in various Christian activities. Following college Chris worked as a student evangelist with the group now known as Agape and I worked for the Sue Ryder Foundation as a carer. We married in 1978 and moved to Birmingham to work for Agape together, two years later we were sent to Reading which is where we became Methodists, joining Caversham Heights Methodist church which happened to be just across the road from where we were living. From our experiences in this nurturing church Chris became a local preacher and then candidated to become a Methodist minister. Chris isn't from a Methodist background but I remember our minister Ralph Rogerson saying he felt we were definitely Methodists and was very supportive. After the normal lengthy candidating process Chris was accepted and was sent to Bristol to train. We were on the move again but were full of optimism and glad for this new opportunity. I enjoyed many aspects of life in Bristol and being part of the college community but most important of all was Alex our son was born. We were surrounded by lots of families and children of all ages so had lots of support thankfully in the early days. After two years in Bristol we moved to Doncaster; Chris first church as a probationary minister and also the place where Alex's brother Lewis was born. After Doncaster we spent the childrens early life in Northampton and their later life in the Island of Jersey. Lewis is now 20 and Alex is 23, how time flies, Lewis is studying to be a carpenter at Cambridge Regional College and Alex starts a course in October at the Royal Academy in printmaking. While in Jersey I worked as a support worker with the childrens service and Learning Disability

service for about 8 years which was difficult but had many rewarding times. A friend in Jersey in conversation pointed out that my life has always been defined by Chris vocation but I also feel that my early experiences of being part of a close faith community have also been very important. Bringing together life and faith has been a struggle for me, the child who prayed for her mother to get well but didn't I found very hard for many years to come to terms with. Chris has always been a great inspiration for me and as he has progressed through the years in his ministry many people have told me similar thoughts. God has continually brought people and situations into my life just at the right time. I am still continually amazed 'when a plan comes together'. The Methodist church is much more formal than my home church but I enjoy following the church calendar with times of reflection and celebration. While recovering myself from an accident I became very aware of the many struggles of people around me. Having more time on my hands than usual I started to put my ideas down on paper in the form of a poem. Once I had written one poem I continued to think of others, expressing myself in this way I found very helpful. I write poems of reflection and celebration, something that I have learnt from my years of being part of church life, my ten year old self would have found it very difficult to include celebration but I'm glad to say that for me now they both exist, Praise God.

I include two of my poems the first is called 'Is it OK' which I wrote for a friend with learning disability. Its about her struggles of coping with church services, never feeling she could fully be part of them because of her disability. It includes the word 'ebeneezer' a lovely word which I remember singing as a child but I don't really know what it means but it seemed to fit.

### IS IT OK

If for some reason you never learnt to read  
 And therefore can't read the words of hymns  
 Is it OK just to smile at God  
 If you can't raise your ebeneezer  
 Is it OK just to hum God a merry tune  
 Or the hymn of a trusting heart  
 The song of laughter  
 The prayer of silence  
 Is it OK

This poem is called 'Smiling Eyes' and is about two birthday celebrations one imaginary the other very real!

### SMILING EYES

Happy Birthday, One today, surrounded by  
 smiling eyes  
 Sitting in the small pebble dashed cottage  
 with a welcome open fire  
 Neighbours call, bringing something sweet,  
 probably chocolate  
 Outside Autumn  
 Perhaps we went for a walk being pushed  
 in an ancient perambulator  
 Down the country lanes, passed the bare fields  
 Passed Shaws Farm, proud owners  
 of a prize winning bull  
 All the way to Cudworth as far a  
 s the disused railway line  
 Visit the wood and then home again  
 Eyes all smiling

Happy Birthday Fifty-three today surrounded  
 by smiling eyes  
 In the newly discovered Orchard Tea Rooms,  
 Granchester  
 Celebrating this intrepid journey  
 Eating a fluffy baked potato followed by  
 strawberry and cream flavoured fudge  
 Sitting in the apple orchard  
 'Look up, an apple may fall on your head  
 at any moment', eyes laughing  
 Enjoying being surrounded by memories of  
 artists, poets, writers past  
 But mostly loving being surrounded by those  
 smiling laughing eyes  
 Passed Shaws Farm

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# Mission Update: Moving On...

It is the season of movement! We said 'goodbye' to Les and Jeni in September and we now need to bid farewell to Captain Martin Hartley of the Church Army. Martin has started his training at Ridley Theological College as an Ordained Pioneer Minister. He has achieved much at Oakley setting up messy church and an alternative style church called "That Sunday thing" which reaches people unaccustomed to traditional style worship. We wish him well please pray for Martin and his family during his three years of training.

An yet another move. In the spring Alison Fletcher, CMS Mission partner, will return home to England after 6 years at Kiwoku hospital in Uganda. Alison went out to set up a badly needed physiotherapy department. A fully trained team is now in place and an efficient physiotherapy service is provided and run by local people. Our many thanks to Alison for what she has achieved – we will miss your news letters! Please pray for her as she listens to the Holy Spirit for what the Lord has planned for her in the future.

Your PCC has agreed to support two new mission partners:

Sister Nikki Foster-Krucek of the Church Army who works in Colchester – her newsletters are available on the notice board at the back of church. She will be addressing us at the Sunday service on 29th April next year.

Corrie Verduyn an obstetrician and gynaecologist who plans to go to Kiwoku in January. Corrie came to St Johns in October to tell us all about what she is going to do in Kiwoku.

Please support them both with your prayers as they 'Share Jesus – Change lives' (CMS Mission statement)

*Brenda Watkins  
Mission Committee*

*Please contact me for further information*

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# TRAIDCRAFT: 5 years on = Report and Review

Lynda Burns

**Amazingly enough it is now over 5 years since I re-started the Traidcraft stalls in Church and this seems the right time to review the situation.**

While I remain committed to the ethic of Fairtrade and Traidcraft as an appropriate Christian response to world poverty, it is with much regret that I have reached the conclusion that for many reasons I will be unable to continue with the stalls, at least in their present form.

I am very grateful for the help and support I have had over the years. Many of you have helped with the stalls in various ways, and many more have been stalwart customers.

Our Church stall and Traidcraft itself is suffering from reaction to the economic situation, prices have had to rise in line with world prices and it is becoming more difficult to sell food items within best before dates and the discerning among you will have noticed that the variety of items on the stall has had to be cut down! This is making it more difficult to manage the stalls economically, we do not make a big profit and any item sold at a discount loses the stall money.

On a personal level, I also have to make some changes. My back is beginning to give me more

problems and it is getting more difficult to carry the heavy boxes around, which I have to do because of lack of suitable storage space in Church.

I also need to be able to be more flexible at weekends, with grandchildren 170 miles north and my aging mother-in-law 300 miles south! My husband is now semi-retired and I have had to look at my commitments, I have taken on other things since starting Traidcraft and these are taking up more time than I had originally envisaged.

## **So what for the future?**

I intend to run the stall as it is until Christmas after which I shall start to run it down. If there is anyone who feels drawn to carrying this forward, I would be only too happy to discuss it with you, and if someone wants to take it over, I would certainly be happy to continue to help.

If not, I would be prepared to continue as a Traidcraft fairtrader; perhaps still getting and selling greetings cards regularly, and other items to order from the catalogue. The only two provisos to this is that orders have to be over £100 to get free P&P, so you may have to wait until I had that amount in orders and if you wished to purchase food items it would mean getting the whole quantity, perhaps you might like to get together with friends!

*Thank you again for all your support. ■*

## **Royston Market Success Story...**

Hailed as a great starting block for their flourishing business Makayans have thanked Royston Market for their support.

Kay started the business buying/stripping/sanding and painting furniture from her home/garage but soon knew she would need to move on, the next step was to become a Market Trader.

"It was hard in the winter" says Kay "but with the use of gazebos and the support of an active Market Manager and other traders the business started to expand. Royston Market advertises in local/parish magazines so we were able to attract customers from outside of Royston – a special piece was on the Town Council Website before we set up our own"

Trading every Wednesday/Saturday from 8am traders offer Fresh Fruit and Veg, Flowers and Plants, Eggs, Meat and Fish together with Bread and Cakes, other stalls include Cosmetics, Groceries, Jewellery, Handbags, Antiques, Kitchenware, Haberdashery, Bespoke Picture Framing and the market even boasts the only licenced Swimming Pool Chemical Trader in the UK! New traders are always welcome and should contact Emma Burgess – Markets Manager on 01763 245484. Makayans buy and sell second hand furniture, undertake house clearances and spray furniture with over 800 colours to choose from **contact them on 07941849282 or pop into their unit, 2 Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts, SG8 5EA.**

Request from Veronica Weatherhead, received by the Across Royston Editorial team.

I have a request from me to you, for Eva, a Mercy Ship translator in Togo, West Africa. She is studying to be a nurse, intermittently I have to say, which means as and when she has finances. It's very expensive to go to any sort of school in Togo let alone nursing. A month ago I asked her what she would find most helpful and the answer came back this evening 'an old, not new, personal computer'. Now, before I bankrupt myself, do any of you buffs have one knocking around or know of one belonging to someone who no longer needs it and would like to give it to Eva? It's got to work, of course! If we get one, I will take it out to her when I go next March and with luck, I'll get a picture of her face as she receives it. It'll be worth all the tea in China to see that photo! Please get back to me as and when anyone has positive news.

Love to you, Veronica

---



The Mothers' Union had a very successful year in 2011, with five new members. Diana Crouchman, Doreen Rawlings and Maria Morton joined in the summer, and Evelyn Barry and Rosemary Dowling were enrolled last October. Maybe God's plan of moving us to the Church in the afternoon was to facilitate our enlarged group which would not have fitted in the room we used in the Roman Catholic Church Hall!

Our first meeting in 2012 will be a simple Communion Service on January 19th, then on February 16th we will have a Social Occasion and Bring and Buy with our

*Don't forget ALL are welcome  
at our meetings –  
not just mothers.*

Annual General Meeting. Both these events will be in St John's Church at 2.30pm, and we would be delighted to welcome any friends. Remember, MU includes those who are not mothers, and men are also very welcome.

Visitors are always welcome to any of our MU events, and we are always pleased to see you.

**Contacts:**

*Joanne Wallis* 246911  
*Margaret Coates* 242548  
*Rev Janet* 243508

## Easy fundraising

Our church is now registered with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and if you are an on-line shopper you can support the church whenever you shop by following the simple instructions listed below:

### How it works

easyfundraising is the simple way to raise money for a good cause. You shop online with your favourite stores and you raise money at the same time. It's that easy.

Thousands of well known retailers participate in the scheme. For example, spend £50 with Boden and you'll raise £1.25. Insure your car with the RAC and they'll donate up to £30 to your cause. Take out a new mobile contract with Vodafone and raise up to £45.00...we could go on!

What's more, we work closely with our retailers to find voucher codes and discounts so you can save money on your shopping too.

And with our easyreminder tool, we'll even tell you when you start to shop with an easyfundraising retailer, no matter where you are on the web. Which means your cause will never miss out on a donation from our retailers.

Sounds good? Then register today - it's as easy as 1,2,3

1. Firstly, log on to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjtbchurchroyston](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjtbchurchroyston) and register for free
2. When you've registered, you're ready to shop and raise money! Simply click on the retailer you want, then shop as you would normally. When you make a purchase, we'll send you an email telling you how much you've raised and pass the donation to your cause.
3. That's it! We tried to think of step 3, but we couldn't - it's just that easy.

We'd love to have you on board so register now and start raising funds today. If you have any questions please have a look at our support section or drop us an email.

## Light Party – Cath Magbury

Once again the Light Party was held at the Coombes Community Centre on 31st October as a fun alternative to Halloween and Trick or Treating. Helpers volunteered from 9 different local churches so it was truly a Churches Together event. Ninety children and their families came for a fun evening of crafts, games, food and music. Crafts included paper lanterns, rocket bookmarks, beaded necklaces and keyrings, cupcake decorating and tealight holders.

A hotdog supper was provided with lots of veggies and fruit to go with them, plus hot drinks for the grown-ups. Bowling, a Wii challenge, table football, a playdough, ball and target, were the games.... and of course, there was face painting. The evening finished with a disco. Each child went home with a goodie bag containing the crafts they had made, lots of sweets, plus a leaflet detailing activities for children run by the local churches.

## *To all our friends in Royston.*

Christmas greetings and all good wishes for the New Year from Les and Jeni in Devon. At the time of writing we have been here for just over a month, although ten days of that time has been spent up in the Potteries and Derbyshire attending our son's wedding and associated celebrations. One of those was a Carling Cup game with Liverpool beating Stoke for the first time in ages – a nice wedding present for son Daniel (also an ardent Liverpool fan).

We really wanted to convey, through the pages of the magazine, our most grateful thanks and appreciation for the wonderful send-off you gave us at the farewell service, for the lovely gifts and cards and for the 'splurge' about us in the magazine. We will treasure those memories always as we carve out a new life in a very different place. Having spent a frantic two weeks after the farewell packing, then another two weeks unpacking before we went away again we still haven't found our feet yet. However, we keep telling ourselves we have plenty of time to sort things out. Previously, when we have moved, we have had to be ready to start parish work almost straight away. It's difficult to get out of that frame of mind.

We have attended the local church in Kingsteignton and think we can probably make our home there. Going as complete strangers the importance of a friendly face and welcome were impressed upon us once more.

I am sure we will have plenty of visitors once the warmer weather comes round next year. Our first guests were Clive and Judy Cresswell (once of Royston and now of Truro for those who didn't know them). We were so sorry to hear that Margaret Limbach had passed away suddenly and our thoughts and prayers are very much with her family.

We will always give thanks for our time in Royston and for the memories and friendships. We pray that God will continue to bless the church and community as you move into the year of 2012 with all its anniversaries and celebrations.

With our love,

Les and Jeni Harman

Across Royston is the journal of the Parish Church. Articles printed in this publication may not represent the views of the church or of all the members. **Final date for receiving articles: 10th of the month prior to publication. Published six times a year. Articles, letters, sketches, poems, etc are welcome for possible inclusion in the magazine.** The Editor's decision is final. If you submit a piece from another publication please make sure you get written permission to use it. The editorial team reserve the right to edit submissions as they see fit. **Entries included on a first-come, first-served basis – we have limited space each issue, so get your entries in quickly!**

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# Sermon Sunday 18 September 2011

## Les's final sermon at Royston

*Les's Last Sermon – discovered in the pulpit and reprinted in full, for those who couldn't make this moving and also, fun, occasion (especially when the choir whipped out their Liverpool scarves from under their cassocks and draped them over a surprised Les, singing 'You'll Never Walk Alone!')*

**Readings: Jonah 3: 10-end of 4, Philippians 1: 21 — end, Matthew 20: 1—16.**

Before we came to Royston from Hitchin some 16 years, 4 months and 1 day ago, we looked around at various parishes, We were seriously thinking of moving to the Lake District when 2 things happened: the circumstances of the Cumbria job changed and the Bishop of St Albans suggested we take a look at Royston. We could have had a situation similar to that of Jonah where the Lord said to him, I want you to go to that pagan city of Nineveh, they are such a wicked lot there, and tell them to repent, but instead Jonah scarpereed off in the opposite direction to take a holiday in Spain, if that's where Tarshish is.

We wanted to go north, but the Lord or the Lord Bishop (hopefully they were speaking with one voice) sent us east to minister to the wicked pagans of Royston. No! That's not true! They're all fine upstanding citizens. Shall we change that and say minister to the honourable burghers of Royston? Well, whatever the spiritual condition of the residents of a particular community, the message of the person appointed to minister is to share the love of God with them. That involves repentance, which really means turning to God, and doing good works that will build up the community. You will notice that it wasn't just the people of Nineveh who had to repent, but God's messenger; Jonah. And what a performance he made of it! It took being gobbled up by a fish to bring him to his senses and even when he had preached his message and waited to see the results, he was moaning because the plant that was offering such a pleasant shade had withered and died. It's worth noting that those called to ministry are not always the most admirable of people. We can do our share of moaning and complaining, believe me. And the ironic thing is that Jonah, God's agent, risked being

the one left out. As Jesus said in our gospel reading: 'The first shall be last and the last first'. Even while the people were repenting Jonah was complaining.

Priests, ministers, pastors all face a dilemma in their ministries: do they concentrate on the flock in their charge or do they seek to take the gospel out into the community? They have a responsibility to both. The church community comes under the category of the 'first', surely, in our parable. Those in the wider community could be called the 'last'. So what was Jesus's priority in his ministry? It would seem to be those outside the religious community, the lost sheep, the ones who felt excluded by virtue of job or lifestyle or the circumstances of their life, but without forgetting the others.

Perhaps society as a whole needs to remember that. The measure of a good society is not in how wealthy or powerful it is, but in how it treats those who have fallen behind - those who always come last in the race - rather than the winners who usually have wealth, health and talent on their side anyway. This week, Henry Winkler, otherwise known as 'The Fonzy' in the 1970's sitcom, 'Happy Days', received an honorary O.B.E. for his work with dyslexic children. He has addressed 24,000 pupils in Britain about learning difficulties. He says: 'By the time we're done, everyone wants to be dyslexic!' You see the last have become first. If he can do that for dyslexic people, surely we can do the same for the mentally and physically handicapped and all sorts of other marginalised people?

As we read the gospels we see Jesus looking out onto a world of need. Paul, on the other hand, looks to the church community to be the body of Christ here on earth and in it there should be no divisions between rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, male and female. In other words the first and the last have come together and no one is left out. That's why he says to them in our epistle: 'Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ'. He goes on to explain what that means. It means being united, willing to work together and not being afraid to witness to your faith.

**Continued on page 20...**

## Les's last sermon...continued from page 19

While I have been here, I have had the great privilege of working together with the ministers and people of Churches Together in Royston and District. It has been a very positive experience because everyone has shared the vision of looking outwards and being committed to work together for the good of the community as a whole. It is a vision that includes the first and the last, the strong and the weak. I must say too that in the community of Royston, whether they go to church or not, there are many who do good things: raising money for charity, helping the less fortunate and supporting those in need. My experience of the work of the Town, District and County Councillors and our MP tells me that here is a bunch of people who genuinely have the town's interests at heart even when we may disagree with some of the decisions made. It's also been a very healthy aspect of the town to have 3 partnerships with other towns in Europe. Jeni and I have gained much from our links with Grossalmerode, the church there and its pastor Gottfried and his wife Anne. It's encouraging to see new links being made with a town in Spain, from which a small group is visiting in a couple of weeks time.

Jeni and I will be leaving Royston with many good memories, but also recollections of times of heartache and pain at the suffering some people have had to go through and times of doubt and struggle for ourselves. It has been a great privilege to share all this with you. And now we are moving to Kingsteignton in Devon. Our daughter bought us a very helpful guide book to Devon. We were enchanted at all the lovely places to visit but then

our eyes alighted on the page which listed the 10 places to avoid in Devon. No 1. Kingsteignton. This small clay-mining village outside Newton Abbot has mutated into a monstrous low-rise sprawl. More than 1,000 people now live in what is officially the UK's biggest village. You won't have your car stolen, you'll just get lost or fall asleep deep in the suburbia of Elm Drive or Darren Close. That should put off anyone thinking of booking a B'n'B with us! Just the other week Jeni heard a racing tip on Radio 4 for the 1:50 at Newton Abbot, which is only about half a mile from where we will live. The name of the horse was Looney Les. Was this a sign, we thought, that we should put all our money on this nag? Fortunately we didn't bother and sure enough Looney Les staggered in 6th and last. Truly the first shall be last!

How can I not finish this sermon with the theme of the first and the last without a quote from the blessed Bob Dylan who records that;

*'The present now will later be past,  
The order is rapidly fading,  
And the first one non will later be last,  
For the times they are a changing.'*

But as the times change and I fade out, let me slightly paraphrase something from St Paul in the letter to the Philippians: 'I will thank my God whenever I think of you and every time I pray for you I will pray with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the very first day up to the present. I am quite confident that the One who began a good work in you will go on completing it until the Day of Jesus Christ comes.'

## REGISTERS

### *Baptisms*

Eliza Ward-Karas  
Jenna, Sam and Becky Elton  
Jack & Thomas Tunstall  
Finley Price  
Thomas Hooper  
Chloe Allan  
James Mansfield

*We welcome them into the  
family of Christ's Church*

### *Funerals*

Cyril Rayment  
Eric Bysouth  
Ray Siggers  
Robert Gearing  
Simon Ladd  
Valerie Borno  
Eric Day  
Ruth Graigen  
Vivien Cook  
Jean Hannington  
*May God grant them  
eternal rest*

### *Weddings*

Rebecca Laker to Daniel Wright

*United in love and Christ is  
united with His Church*

# Where are we now?

**Jill Mellors**

## **Hello from a very damp Cornwall!**

Andy and I have been in Cornwall for just over 2 years. We live in an old tin mining village 2 miles outside of Camborne, between the two coasts of Cornwall. We can't see the sea from the village but one of my favourite views is driving down the hill from work and seeing across the countryside to the bay with St Ives on the other side.

Andy is in his third year studying full-time for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marine and Natural History Photography at University College, Falmouth. This year consists of a major essay and photographic project and means huge amounts of work. Andy is slowly developing strong links with other artists in the thriving artistic community in West Cornwall. Andy also works 15½ hours a week providing out of hours IT support for students and staff at the University.

I work fulltime as HR Manager for an organisation called Spectrum. This is a charity which provides residential, domiciliary and education services for children and adults with autistic spectrum disorders. The organisation has 25 Houses across Cornwall with 90 service users in residential care and about 450 employees.

Church continues to play a major part in my life. I attend St Martin and St Meridoc church – Camborne Parish Church. The Revd Mike Firbank has been the vicar for nearly 4 years and has recently also taken over as priest in charge for another local church. We are going through a period of transition and from April next year there will be one combined PCC chaired by Mike, but with each church having a local church council chaired by a lay person. Lay people have a much greater responsibility in all areas of church life, which is quite challenging.

It feels as if the churches have a wider community role in this part of Cornwall than in other parts of the country where we have lived. New Connexions, which supports the homeless and displaced, was set up by Churches Together in Camborne about 20 years ago and provides temporary accommodation and a night shelter. Other more recent projects include the Foodbank, which provides food every day, but last year provided 150 complete Christmas meals for families, and the Street Pastors scheme, where the pastors are out on the streets on Saturday nights.

The Parish Church has 3 church halls, all of which have been refurbished with grant money over the last 3 years. The main hall is attached to the church and is used every day in the week by the Drop In and Support Centre (DISC). DISC supplies benefit, housing and legal advice and provides a meal each day for a wide range of people. DISC was set up by the church and is grant-funded but is becoming a charity to secure long term funding. The smaller Cecil Norman building is used by organisations such as Narcotics Anonymous. The Old Parish Vestry and Clink, refurbished this year, has an upper floor meeting room, whilst the ground floor is used by a Christian charity that supports people with learning disabilities.

Cornwall is a long way from anywhere else, the weather can be dreadful for days on end and "dreckly" (think mañana but slower!) can be totally exasperating.

But then the sun comes out, the beach seems very inviting and I struggle to think of living anywhere else now!



**Please send copy/photos/information, for the next issue of the magazine,  
NO LATER THAN 10th January**

**Do you have a great recipe to share, story to tell or wish to share some  
useful information? If so, please send it to us.**

# Margaret Limbach

Margaret was quiet and unassuming but a very gifted and extremely competent lady, as those who got to know her soon discovered.

Born in Yorkshire, Margaret attended Nottingham University to read English. After graduating she married Peter in 1949 and then taught for two years whilst Peter qualified as a Solicitor. Margaret was from an era when wives gave up their careers for husband and family; a sense of duty came before one's own desires. Once she gave up paid work she looked after her growing family (John, Timothy and Christopher) and took care of her parents and parents in law. Margaret took seriously the idea of service.

Peter practised in Cambridge at first before becoming a partner in Limbach Banham. They moved to Royston during the 1950s to Pippins, in Green Drift, where Margaret continued to live until three weeks before her sudden death.

Both Margaret and Peter gave many years of service to the Church, to Rotary and to Inner Wheel, and to the Hospital League of Friends. Peter served as Church Warden and was always to be seen on a Sunday, courteously and quietly greeting all members of the congregation, as well as giving paternal advice to both clergy and laity when asked. Margaret was a

Sidesman (she hated the term Sidesperson) and she was also in charge of the Church flowers for many years, being responsible for the 1981 flower festival. She was a gifted flower arranger and always tried to encourage new arrangers.

Margaret had very definite ideas, and when asked, she would promote them. However in over thirty years I cannot remember her criticising any individual. She would always do what she could to help others.

Margaret was known for her hats! She continued to wear them long after most people had cast them aside. She always looked smart, and dressed appropriately for the occasion. Margaret, in spite of her natural reserve, was a very kind and generous spirited person.

The Church was full for Margaret's memorial service-a testament to the very many friends she had, both inside the Church and outside it. Both the Rotary District Governor and the Chairman of District 8 Inner Wheel were present, as were many of Margaret's closest friends from far and wide. We shall miss her greatly. Margaret's kindness and great generosity of spirit touched the lives of many both within Royston and far beyond.

*Annette Guttridge*

*Requiescat in pace*

## chALLENGE update

**The total is now approaching £67,000.**

Adrian Jacob's entertaining and informative talk about the organ - 'That Confounded Box of Whistles' - which included a varied programme of music, was well supported and much enjoyed and raised £600, for which we are very grateful.

Our Pampered Chef evening was not so well supported, but we are nonetheless grateful to Heather Howard for all her hard work in preparing for the evening and demonstrating such tasty recipes. I can heartily recommend the Pampered Chef stoneware - I haven't washed up a greasy pan since...

As I write the Christmas cards, notelets and calendars are selling steadily. We keep a stock at church and any member of the fundraising committee will be happy to supply. The Stationery Cupboard is also stocking and the Museum is stocking the calendars. I will be away for much of December, but Guy at Solutions for Business will hold some stock. The photographs, taken by Alice Barnes, of the lovely altar frontal designed and embroidered by Jill Myers, have provided beautiful images of wild flowers through the seasons. We will have a stall at the Christmas Fair on 4 December.

Don't forget to start thinking about teams and sponsorship for the Pancake Race on 18 February. Entry and sponsor forms will be available from Ken and Di Charles in the New Year. ■

# That confounded box of whistles

Adrian Jacobs writes about St John's church organ

We are all familiar with the sound of the organ during hymns, responses and voluntaries, but its workings are a bit of a mystery to many. Here are a few paragraphs to clear the mist a little and perhaps enhance your enjoyment of the instrument.

Our organ has three main divisions, most clearly seen when you look at the console (the place where the organist sits): it has two manuals (keyboards for the hands) and pedals (a keyboard for the feet). The organ pipes (which produce the sound), the blower and mechanism are all on the left of the chancel, and there is an electric cable under the chancel floor which connects the actual organ to the console. The lower manual is connected to the pipes you can see when you look at the front of the organ. It is unusual for church organ pipes to be laid out in this way, and I think it is an attractive feature of the imaginative way in which the organ was rebuilt by Peter Wells in 1974. This part of the organ is called the "Great"; it is the oldest part of the instrument, built by Walker's in about 1875.

The upper manual is connected to another full set of pipes at the back of the organ, enclosed in a large box with shutters which can be opened or closed by the organist (you may sometimes see them moving). This makes it possible to make the sound gradually louder and quieter, and to create expressive phrasing. This part of the organ is called the "Swell" and was probably added to the instrument along with an electric blower during a rebuild in the twenties. Incidentally, the swell box is an English invention. The pedals are connected to a third set of pipes distributed throughout the organ chamber, and they provide the deepest bass notes.

An organ pipe is like a whistle: when air is blown through it, a note can be heard. Size is significant: the smaller the pipe, the higher the note. For every note on the organ to work, you need at least one pipe per key (at least 152 pipes). If you halve the size of a pipe, the note goes an octave higher and the music sounds brighter. The sound of an organ pipe is affected by several

other factors including the material used, the diameter, the overall shape, the details of its lips, and whether or not it has a reed (in which case it is not, strictly speaking, a whistle at all). Each full set of pipes is called a "Stop"; they are selected by the round knobs on either side of the console. An important part of organ playing is selecting stops in such a way that the blend of sounds is expressively right for the music. Clearly the same tune will sound very different if played on a loud trumpet stop compared with a soft flute stop. The more variety you want, the greater the number of pipes you need; this organ has about 1350 pipes.

The purpose of the organ is to support the congregation in worship; if the instrument is versatile enough to function well in concerts and recitals that is a bonus. I believe the significance of the words in hymns and psalms can be enhanced by the mood and feeling created by the organ accompaniment. Even though it is in need of some attention to bring it to perfect condition, we are fortunate in having such a good instrument at St John's. ■

## **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
MELDRETH  
SATURDAY 26th and SUNDAY  
27th NOVEMBER  
11am to 5pm  
ENTRANCE FREE**

**ADVENT SERVICE 5.30pm  
SUNDAY**

**SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY  
NOAH THE DONKEY and  
SHETLAND PONIES**

# PCC report: 24th October 2011

Only twelve members were present at this meeting, so the first thing we had to do was to check that we were quorate. Neil quickly read up the matter and found that all was in order so the meeting could proceed.

Annette chaired the meeting and began by reading from Matthew's gospel. As most of the work of the PCC is connected with finance and the worldly matters of looking after the church building and the many activities that take place there, we need reminding that it is the spiritual life of the church that really matters and it is the PCC's work to facilitate this.

We began the formal part of the meeting with apologies, there were many. I was then reminded to prepare this magazine report and we moved on to approving the minutes of two previous meetings, this was easily attended to and there were no matters arising. Next was the financial report and the treasurer had mixed news for us. Although the finances were slightly better than budgeted, there are a lot of expenses on the horizon so we need to continue to be diligent and pay close attention to the forthcoming stewardship Sunday.

One thing uppermost in all our minds is the current vacancy for a vicar: Recently our main activity has been preparing the parish profile which is encouraging further interest. Those responsible, particularly Brenda and Annette, have put a lot of work into this and the rest of the PCC were most pleased with the document. It had been sent to the Bishop for his approval, he had a few minor suggestions but was generally in agreement with it. To enable a quick response it was decided that the Church Wardens could attend to any last minute minor alterations. Annette had checked that the insurance policies were unaffected by the vacancy and the treasurer reported that money was available to cover vacancy costs (such as the maintenance of the vicarage gardens, the advertisements etc.) We look forward to a speedy end to this period

of interregnum.

The Mission Action Plan is still a live topic and it was decided to discuss this at a future (and hopefully better attended) meeting after receiving comments from the outreach and nurture committee. Plans are in hand for a number of events both in the church and around the town during 2012 to celebrate 850 years of our church and, effectively, of the town of Royston which grew up around the priory. The next item on the agenda was the Churches Together report. There are various events in hand; it is probably worth mentioning that helpers are needed for the next Alpha courses. Another need for volunteers is the Traidcraft stall and, after many years of sterling work, Lynda Burns would like to hand this over after Christmas.

Reports from subcommittees included a report from the Fabric Committee who had a list of items requiring remedial action, including the pigeon spikes on the roof; the spotlights, lime washing and the glass doors which, as an 8am service sidesman, I know from personal experience are very difficult to unlock. The Challenge fundraising committee has now accumulated over £66,000 and has further events planned. There is also a supply of Christmas cards, notelets and calendars for sale.

The Missions Sub-committee continues to support missionary work around the world and we were delighted to hear that a boy, whose schooling we have sponsored for many years in Sri Lanka, had now left school and found employment. We have already begun sponsoring another young boy and hope that our sponsorship helps him to achieve his potential.

After a brief report from the Deanery Synod representatives, the meeting was closed with the Grace.

*Anthony Pigg*

# Contact Information:

\*PLEASE AVOID CONTACTING THE STAFF ON THEIR OFF DUTY DAYS.

## CLERGY

Rev'd. John Fidler 241886, 8 Stamford Avenue, Royston  
(off duty on Saturday)\*  
Rev'd. Tim Weeks 01279 831404 or 01763 252632  
angela.mweeks@ntlworld.com  
(AVAILABLE Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday)

## LICENSED READERS

Margaret Coates 242548, 24 Wheatfield Crescent, Royston  
(off duty on Friday, Saturday & all evenings)\*  
Penny Davies 248434, 22 Goodwood Road, Royston  
Tony Mills 246410, 1 Rivermill Court, Kneesworth Street, Royston SG8 7BH  
Tony\_Mills21@yahoo.co.uk  
(off duty on Friday)\*

### BELL RINGERS

Alan Curtis 222408

### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Ann Smith 243082

### CHOIRMASTER

Rupert Jordan 262885

rupert.jordan@schott-music.com

### CHURCH FLOWERS

Mary Maze 245606

### CHURCH SECRETARY

Joanne Wallis – Church Office 246371,

st.johnroyston@btopenworld.com

### CHURCH TREASURER

Phil Burchell 848937

### CHURCH WARDENS

Brenda Strangleman 245273

Annette Playle 250451

### CRÉCHE

Mary Primett 243711

### FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Margaret Coates 242548

### GIFT AID SECRETARY

Brenda Strangleman 245273

### HOUSE GROUPS

Jane Askew 230712

### KIDS IN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Alice Barnes 221337

alicecatley2@yahoo.co.uk

### MAGAZINE TEAM

Alice Barnes 221337

Cathy Brownjohn 243443

John Davies 243549

Cath Maybury 232909

stjohnsroyston@yahoo.co.uk

### MOTHERS' UNION

Joanne Wallis 246911

### MUSIC GROUP

Rupert Jordan 262885

### ORGANIST

Adrian Jacobs 243224

adrianjacobs@yahoo.co.uk

### PCC SECRETARY

Neil Guttridge 241818

### STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY

John Davies 243549

### WEBMASTER

Alice Barnes

stjohnsroyston@yahoo.co.uk

## Sunday Services for December 2011

<b>4th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
10.00 am	Parish Eucharist (with laying on of hands for healing)
11.45 am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)
6.30 pm	Evensong with hymns and sermon
<b>11th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
10.00 am	Family Eucharist with Kids in Church Sunday School
12.00 noon	Baptisms
6.30 pm	Evensong with hymns and sermon
<b>18th</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
10.00 am	Parish Eucharist (with baptisms)
5.00 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols Service with Royston Church Choir
<b>24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
4.00 pm	Children's Crib Service
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass of the Nativity with Blessing of the Crib
<b>25th</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
10.00 am	Family Eucharist for Christmas Day
11.45 am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

## Diary dates for December 2011

1 Dec	2.30 pm	MU Christmas Party in Church
3 Dec	4.00 pm	Christingle Service
4 Dec	12.30 pm	Church open for refreshments and craft stall Royston Christmas Open Day
5 Dec	2.30 pm	Friendship Group meeting in Church
	8.00 pm	Parents' Baptism Preparation meeting
8 Dec	9.30 am	Messy Church for the under 5's
12 Dec	10.00 am	Tannery Drift First School Christmas Service
	8.00 pm	Prayer Group in Lady Chapel
15 Dec	10.00 am	Icknield Walk First School Christmas Service
	7.30 pm	Meridian School Carols and Readings by Candlelight (Rehearsals during the day)
16 Dec	9.30 am	Studlands Rise First School Christmas Service
	2.00 pm	The marriage of Darren Foreman to Claire Redford
17 Dec	12.30 pm	Royston Choral Society Set up for Concert
	7.30 pm	Royston Choral Society, Concert of Christmas Music
30 Dec	1.00 pm	The marriage of David Da Silva Fernandes to Kelly Board

## WEEKDAY SERVICES (See weekly notice for special services)

Eucharist:

11.00am Wednesdays (followed by refreshments).

9.30am Saturdays – There is an evening Eucharist on certain saint days and festivals.

Morning and evening prayers: said at 9.00 am and 4.45pm. (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday only)

Pray & Play (for under 5's): alternate Wednesdays during term time at 2pm.

## Sunday Services for January 2012

<b>1st</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Christmas</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
10.00 am	Parish Eucharist (with laying on of hands for healing)
11.45 am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)
6.30 pm	Evensong with hymns and sermon
<b>8th</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Epiphany</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
10.45 am	Remembrance service at the War Memorial
6.30 pm	Evensong with hymns and sermon
<b>15th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
10.00 am	Parish Eucharist (with baptism)
6.30 pm	Evensong with hymns and sermon
<b>22nd</b>	<b>5th Sunday before Lent</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
10.00 am	Family Eucharist (Kids in Church and Music Group)
6.30 pm	Eucharist with hymns and sermon
<b>29th</b>	<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>
8.00 am	Eucharist (said with sermon)
10.00 am	Parish Eucharist - Mission Sunday
6.30 pm	Evensong with hymns and sermon

## Diary dates for January 2012

9 Jan	2.30 pm	Friendship Group meeting in Church
	8.00 pm	Parents' Baptism Preparation meeting
16 Jan	8.00 pm	Prayer Group in Lady Chapel
19 Jan	9.30 am	Messy Church for the under 5's
	2.30 pm	MU meeting in Church – Communion
23 Jan	7.45 pm	Prayers 8.00 pm PCC meeting

## HOME & HOSPITAL VISITS & APPOINTMENTS:

The staff are always glad to administer the Sacrament at home and to visit the sick and housebound when they receive a request-please contact the Vicar on 243145 to arrange a visit.

One of the clergy is usually available at the following times: Wednesday 9.30am to 10.30am and Saturday 10.00am to 12.00am. Arrangements can be made for baptisms and weddings at these times.

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### **Kevin Cadd:**

The bargains on Kevin's stall are known throughout the market; where else can you buy cakes, biscuits and crisps each for just £1. Soft drinks and seasonal celebrations are always available. Kevin enjoys coming to the market on both a Wednesday and Saturday and says the support for the market is second to none. Kevin is often seen helping local charities by donating raffle prizes and is missed when he goes on his annual holidays!

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