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## A View from the Pew!

One of the contrasts between our nonconformist worship and that in churches which follow a liturgy lies in the central role of the preacher. In many Anglican churches, for example, the liturgy is followed and punctuated by an 'address' which is often brief and insubstantial. In traditional Methodism and Congregationalism the service led up to the sermon and the centrality of the sermon was at its heart. Then the spotlight turned, even more strongly, on to the preacher - ministerial or lay. Would there be something memorable or something which caused hardly a ripple? I can still vividly recall my worshipping days at City Temple. When Leslie Weatherhead climbed to the pulpit there was an almost physical excitement across the congregation. He never disappointed!

Preachers come, as we all well know, in all 'shapes and sizes'! Some are orators. others are low key. Some are theologians, or scholars, or teachers, or philosophers. or politicians who speak lines but allow us to read between those lines. Some conform rigidly to established norms and doctrine, others push at the boundaries. Some are traditionalists, others are innovators. Some challenge and provoke thought, others comfort and reassure. Some fill the pews, others thin them out. Some welcome comment afterwards, even disagreement, others are irritated by it. Some devise services of peerless beauty, others prefer to be almost homely and even self-deprecatory. All are predictable. See a name on the Plan and we know what to expect! Even those preachers who protest that the service is not 'theirs' then (quite rightly)



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stamp their own style and vision on every service they conduct!

To my mind (and as always I could be wrong) this is what makes our nonconformist worship exciting and meaningful. We gain from hearing men and women with different qualities and insights who can gather up our thoughts and feelings and lift us to the heights. There is no right or wrong way, only different ways.

Read, if you will, Hymns and Psalms 158. Samuel Greg's verses perhaps say much. Therein lies a blueprint perhaps? So never let us forget the responsibility we rest on the shoulders of our preachers. I once met a preacher who told me "when I step down from the pulpit, I am drained. I have poured my whole self into the service and my sermon. I am spent!"

As always I ask YOU a question! What do YOU expect from a preacher?

*Howard Cooper*

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## **Church fundraising and charity news**

### **Friends of Vellore**



Dear Friends of Vellore and CMC Alumni,

I am writing to ensure you are up to speed with the changes within the charity, Friends of Vellore UK.

You may already be aware that Richard Smith is leaving FOV next April, having served the charity with distinction for almost thirteen years. In the light of his decision, the Trustees have reviewed the structure of FOV to ensure it is well placed to deliver its strategic plan in a cost effective way over the next decade.

I am delighted to tell you that the Board has appointed Dr Ajit Butt to

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succeed me next April. Ajit, who is very well known to many of you, will take on an executive role, liaising with the CMC Directorate to ensure our strategy is delivered, being an ambassador for us and overseeing the governance and financial processes of FOV. With Ajit taking on some of the work of the Director, the Board decided to advertise for an Administrator of the charity. This post is to ensure FOV is well administered both practically and financially, that we continue to be compliant with the Charity Commission and have a strong communication network with all involved with FOV and its work.

Mrs Ruth Tuckwell has been appointed Administrator and the FOV office will transfer to her home from 1st January 2016. In making this part-time appointment, the Trustees involved had a strong awareness of God's guiding hand and his provision. Before starting with FOV, Ruth was Clinical

Information Manager for Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust and latterly she was part-time Administrator for a small organisation where she streamlined the systems to maximise operational efficiency. She continues to be at the hub of a busy household with three young children; she is also very involved at Christ Church, Cambridge, where her husband is Associate Vicar.

Ruth will be going out to CMC in January to become familiar with current and proposed projects. You will read more about that in the next newsletter, which will reach you by Easter!

Please note that from 1st January 2016 the charity contact details are:

Mrs Ruth Tuckwell, Administrator  
FOV  
48 College Fields, Cambridge,  
CB4 1YZ  
Phone number 03333 445 245  
(with answerphone)

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Ruth will usually be in the office on Tuesday evenings 8-10pm and Wednesday and Fridays 9:30am-3pm if you wish to speak to her. At any time, if there is no response, please leave a message and she will call you back.

Email (unchanged):

friendsofvellore@gmail.com

Yours in Christ

*Gareth Tuckwell*

*Chairman, Friends of Vellore UK*

John stayed for five years, and then in April 1996 his place was taken by Graham Keen, whose previous experience in the building trade was a valuable asset. He retired in 2008, since when Martin Vowles has been at the helm.

Those who, over forty years ago, had a vision of a church open and available to the public, would surely be pleased to see our premises used so much by the local community today.

*Ken Pearce*

## **Communicare**

In January 1991, just 25 years ago, John Cooper was appointed the church administrator. Prior to this members of the congregation had managed the site, and Edna Wells in particular had done a valiant job booking the premises for a variety of organisations and societies. The task had now become so great that a full-time salaried person was required.

## **From the archives**

The following article appeared in the January 1973 issue of Look.

### **What the Artist Saw**

A certain artist in the nineteenth century chanced one day to look out of his window. He saw the pathetic figure of a beggar limping past, clothed in rags and

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plodding mechanically along. Something about the man made the artist dash out and invite him to sit for his portrait.

The beggar, sensing the chance of a little money, perhaps a meal, followed his host into the studio and slouched in a chair. The artist looked critically at the tramp – a broken man, old before his time, all the light of life faded from his eyes. Or nearly all, for suddenly – inspired by the face of his model – the artist set aside the canvas on which he had been working, took a new one, and with bold strokes began a new portrait.

The artist was unmindful of the time; the beggar inquired if he would ever be finished. “My good man,” he murmured, “I’m sorry to have kept you so long, I’ll make amends. The picture will take a lot of finishing but I think I have all the essentials now. Would you care to look at what I’ve done?” The beggar,

tired and hungry, could only think of his pay and possible food and drink. However he did take a look. At first he could not make head or tail of what had been done – the portrait was not of a down-and-out but of a well-dressed, perfectly groomed, middle-aged man with a fine figure and a handsome face, character in every line of the strong, resolute features.

Slowly light dawned on the beggar. The artist had painted not the man he saw but the man the beggar might have been or might become. He kept staring at the picture, tears began to run down his cheeks. “Sir,” said he, looking the artist in the face, “if that’s the sort of man you see in me, I reckon that’s the man I’m going to be.” The story says that the artist gave the beggar his chance, and that the beggar took it, and made good.

The New Year is a time for resolution, especially for

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Christians. Jesus could always see the best in people. There was no such word as 'hopeless' within his vocabulary. He had an optimistic regard for the ordinary people he met; he saw their inner potential as children of God. That is how Jesus regards us. Having Someone with that kind of faith in us, makes New Year resolutions easy to keep!

*Graham Haslam*

## **Would You Adam and Eve It!**

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

## **Churches Prayer Diary**

w/c 10th January - Hayes Methodist.

w/c 17th January - Hayes End Methodist.

w/c 24th January - Kenton Methodist.

w/c 31st January - North Harrow Methodist.

## **Look-In**

Please help us to produce an interesting newsletter by handing in news items or articles to the office, or sending them by email to Louise George ([publicity@christchurchuxbridge.org.uk](mailto:publicity@christchurchuxbridge.org.uk)). The next issue of Look-In will be the February issue and the deadline for articles for this is Friday 29th January 2016.

## Church Calendar

All events are at Christ Church unless indicated by an X in the final column

Day/ Date	Event	Group	Leader	
<b>January</b>				
<b>Sat 2</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee			
<b>Tue 5</b>	Tuesday Club	Church		
<b>Fri 8</b>	BB/GB new session starts	BB/GB	Stephanie Marr /Paul Edgeworth	
<b>Sat 9</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee			
<b>Sun 10</b>	Sunday lunch			
	Church Parade	BB/GB		
<b>Tue 12</b>	Tuesday Club	Church		
<b>Thu 14</b>	Craft group	Church	Doreen Smith	
<b>Sat 16</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee			
<b>Tue 19</b>	Tuesday Club	Church		
<b>Thu 21</b>	Pop-in	Church		
<b>Sat 23</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee Visit by Superintendent			
<b>Tue 26</b>	Tuesday Club	Church		
	Worship Planning Group	Church		
<b>Thu 28</b>	Craft Group	Church	Doreen Smith	
<b>Sat 30</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee			
	Battalion Ten Pin Bowling (Morning)	BB	Paul Edgeworth	X
<b>February</b>				
<b>Tue 2</b>	Tuesday Club	Church		
<b>Thu 4</b>	Pop-in	Church		
<b>Fri 5</b>	Battalion Sports Evening (Hayes End Methodist Church)	BB	Paul Edgeworth	X
<b>Sat 6</b>	Saturday Morning Coffee			
	District Chaplains' Shield Competition (all groups)	GB	Stephanie Marr	X

# WHO'S

Christ Church  
Redford Way  
Uxbridge  
UB8 1SZ  
01895 258956

Registered charity  
no. 1139255

Ministry team:  
Rev'd Nicholas  
Skelding  
Deacon Jackie  
Fowler

Administrator  
Martin Vowles  
01895 258956

### Contacts via office for:

Brigades:  
Girls' -  
Stephanie Marr  
Boys' -  
Paul Edgeworth

Junior Church  
Club -  
Jenny Peet

Tuesday Club -  
Wendy Pollard

Prayer Tree -  
Val Bailey  
Rosemary Moere

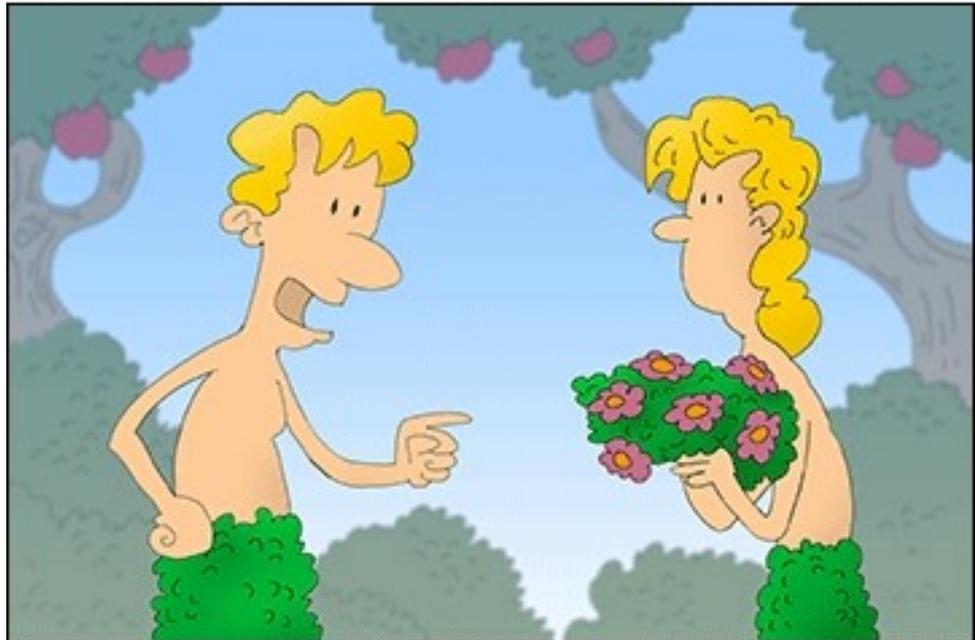
# WHO!

## January Services

(All services are 11am unless stated otherwise)

- 10th Rev'd Nick Skelding (All Age Worship)  
17th Rev'd Jonathan Dean (Retired URC minister)  
24th Rev'd Nick Skelding  
31st Rev'd David Hart (Superintendent Minister, Harrow and Hillingdon Circuit)

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Website: [www.christchurchuxbridge.org.uk](http://www.christchurchuxbridge.org.uk)

**Counselling and support are offered by:**

**Communicare Counselling Service**

**01895 256056**

**Samaritans**

**01895 253355**

**Hillingdon Mind**

**01895 271559**