

The Good Shepherd



The Newsletter of your Parish Church

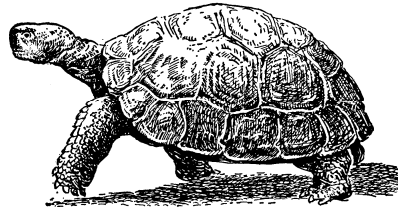
Easter 2009

www.the-good-shepherd.net

In Honour of Darwin

If spring is the season of life, its early mornings are the liveliest with birds chirping around. Whether they find the vicarage grounds holy or quiet, I have no idea. But they wake me up with their joyful chorus. Probably they want to enter the church!

Their angelic choruses made me think of Charles Darwin. It's the 150th year since his most inflammatory book in the history of science, and of course his 200th birth anniversary. More often than not, he and his views on evolution have been put in stark contrast with religion, faith and God.



"*On the Origin of Species*" was just a theory at that time. Yes, prior to his voyage on H.M.S. Beagle, he wanted to be a priest. I do not think it was his learning and discoveries that made him question his faith. The best thing is he continued to learn and to offer his learning to the world. A cause of any doubt in his belief must have been the adamant and blind convictions of certain clergymen who did not want to enter into any dialogue about his theory of evolution. Is the mistake of not having dialogue being repeated today, from the other way round?

A blunder was committed in the 19th century and the church has said sorry for it. There are now equally "a priori" or blind arguments from certain scientists who are adamant to deny God's existence. They forget to question who God is for a believer and what science is for a scientist. Certainly a robin singing in my garden answers both those questions for me.

By portraying the Bible and Christians as being against evolution, the truth is distorted with immense damage to the minds of the younger generation. Evolution does not prove the non-existence of God. To say as much is like trying to put God in a test-tube. After all, to believe does not mean to comprehend either. If in one age the church was authoritarian, now those who deny God's existence are the same.

I think Darwin would be thrilled to discover how much he did not know, just as we have to admit how much we still have yet to learn. I mean to evolve materially and spiritually too. After Lent, the Easter celebrations can help us walk with Christ from darkness to light, thus to evolve from our old selves into new beings.

Felix Mascarenhas

Holy Week and Easter

Following the way of the Cross

Our Holy Week preacher this year will be Fr Raymonde Robinson from St Michael's, Brighton.



Palm Sunday 5 April	10.15am	Meet in Church Hall for Procession of Palms (with Donkey), Dramatic reading of the Passion & Sung Eucharist (in Church). Short ' Time for God ' Family Service continues in Hall immediately after the Procession
	6.30pm	Music for Holy Week: Stabat Mater by Pergolesi
Maundy Thursday 9 April	8pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper with Washing of Feet
Good Friday 10 April	10am	Family Service followed by Hot Cross Buns
	1pm	An Hour Before the Cross –Reflections, Hymns and Meditations
	2pm	The Liturgy of Good Friday with Holy Communion
Easter Eve 11 April	8pm	Easter Vigil and Lighting of the Easter Candle
Easter Day 12 April	10.15am	Easter Eucharist (with Easter eggs)

Christian Aid Week 10 to 16 May.

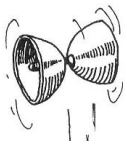
This year's Christian Aid Week collection will focus on raising funds to provide practical assistance to help people in developing countries develop their skills. A typical story is that of eighteen-year-old Nadia Kabula.

For many people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), life is a struggle. Christian Aid partner organisations are helping to rebuild lives and livelihoods in some of the DRC's most vulnerable communities following years of conflict.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a course with Christian Aid partner Humanité Nouvelle has taught Nadia tailoring skills and given her the means to earn a small income. Nadia is passionate about fashion and hopes one day to open her own business. Meanwhile she is teaching other girls to sew.

You could give a chance of a brighter future to another young person like Nadia, and support them to bring hope to the people around them. Just £10 could provide a destitute girl with enough material to complete a 12-month tailoring course.

Although Nadia's family lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, their story of deep poverty is characteristic of the communities where Christian Aid's partner organisations work. And if you contribute to the collection, please think about filling in the Gift Aid form on the envelope. Last year Christian Aid reclaimed around £1 million through Gift Aid.



Clowning about

"Holy Fool", Roly Bain
will kick off this year's

**Good Shepherd Festival at the family
service at 10.15 on Sunday 21 June.**

Roly is a professional clown and Anglican priest. His clowning is rooted in the Gospel, and his thought-provoking and entertaining presentation of Gospel themes never fails to provoke a profound response. He has appeared regularly on TV and radio, and is often featured in the press. His talent has won him several awards, including 1994 Clown of the Year, the Clown's International Slapstick Award in 1999, and the Impact Clown Award from the USA in 2001.

After an early love for clowning, Roly was ordained a priest in the Church of England in 1978. But he hadn't managed to forget clowning, and in 1982 he helped found Holy Fools, a loose-knit network of loose nits committed to clowning in ministry and worship. In 1990 he resigned his parish in London and did a year at Fool Time, the circus school in Bristol (now called Circomedia), and he's been clowning full-time ever since all over the UK, across the USA, in Canada, Australia, Sweden, France, Belgium and Holland

Roly is a modern circus-style clown who has performed in all sorts of places from a prison chapel for six people to Swindon Football ground. So make a date in your diary for 21 June and hold onto your seat for the most reckless ride of your life!

You can read more about
Roly at www.rolybain.co.uk

**Watch out for more details
of our festival events from
June 21 to 28**



All sorts of exciting plans and preparations are under way for this year's Family Fun Day as part of the Good Shepherd Festival week in June and we really hope that this will be a wonderful event not just for the church but for the whole community.

We will have stalls from a number of local companies including local food producers as well as traditional church fete fayre such as whack a rat, coconut shy and chuck a sponge at the vicar. There will be a barbeque, ice cream and tea and cakes, a bouncy castle, bric a brac stalls and tombola, and we will have a line up of local bands including performances from local schools.

But we do not want this just to be a Church event. We would welcome more stalls from the community. So if you or someone you know has a local business or product to promote or sell and would like to take a stall the event, then we'd love to have you. Also if you are involved in a local charity and would like a stall to raise awareness or recruit volunteers, then we'd be delighted to give you some space.

We would also like more bands and performers, if you are in a band or are a musician and would like to provide some music on the day then we'd love to hear from you. We'd be particularly interested to hear from local schools or youth groups. And if you or your school or group has other ideas and can come along on 27 June, do let us know.

If you would like to be involved in what we aim to be a regular community event, please e-mail paulchantry@ntlworld.com or call him on 07795 281 558

Contacting us

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Tel: 01273 554183

The Parish Office

Open Monday, Wednesday and
Friday 9.30 to 10.30am
Tel: 01273 553747

Church Hall

To hire the Church Hall, contact:
Evelyn Maclean Tel: 01273 553566

If you would like to talk to someone, or book a Baptism or Wedding, please contact Fr Felix. We also do our best to conduct any funerals from the parish, either here in church, or at the crematorium. Please get in touch, or ask the Funeral Director to do so.

Our Sunday Services

8am Said Eucharist

10.15am Main Parish Eucharist in Church

10.15am "Time for God" service in the Church Hall. Ideal for young people and their families; finishes in time for people to take communion in Church if they wish.

On the **third Sunday** of each month there is a single Family Eucharist in Church at **10.15am**

6:30pm. Evensong, or other occasional service such as Taizé or "Songs of Praise".

Bell Ringing

New ringers welcome. Practice on Tuesday evening in tower. Contact Pat Hunter Tel: 555954 or Jane Wherity, Tel: 737783

The Grub Club

An informal group that usually meets on the third Monday of each month for food, friendship and visits. If you would like to know more contact Daisy Walpole, Tel: 508600 or Pat Hunter Tel: 555954

Tea club

In the Church Hall on the first Monday of every month from 1.30 to 3.30pm. If you are over 50 and are free, just come along for entertainment, tea and cakes,

You are very welcome to join any of these groups whether or not you are a regular Church member