

## Contacting us

### **Priest in Charge**

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### **Reader**

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### **Churchwardens**

Ian Hill  
77 Hove Park Road  
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David Nissen

1 Shirley Road  
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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

**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**

# The Good Shepherd



*The Newsletter of your Parish Church Harvest 2008*

[www.the-good-shepherd.net](http://www.the-good-shepherd.net)

## From the Vicar

### **HARVEST: ADDING FLAVOUR TO LIFE**

A beauty contest "Miss Sister 2008" for nuns only was announced in Italy last August. The organiser, Fr Antonio Rungi, after an astounding pastoral success at a beach resort, said: "After all, sisters are women and beauty is a gift of God". Thanks to the influx of foreign young girls, dying convents are being resurrected. Being a moral theologian, he knows how to judge well: "Do you really think that all sisters are elderly, shriveled up and gloomy? There are nuns here who are really very, very cute". Asked what he admired in a woman, he said "their inner beauty" with Sophia Loren being his ideal. Despite criticism for the project, he was expecting about 1,000 nuns between 18 and 40, but not with swim-suits. The purpose, he said, was to announce God's wonders.

With pagan origins, Harvest is a Festival for all. The sense of wonder and the desire to thank, make us spiritual, leading us closer to the Creator. As one wonders whether the feast was pagan or religious, I say: "Is there any spiritual celebration which has not passed through pagan rituals?" The land, like our mother-God from which all things originate, has been elevated by humans with their unique ability. We ourselves are like spices to others.

One wonders what, if any, mission the Church has at Harvest. One needs inspiration to discover and courage to proclaim the "inner beauty" and the wonders around us. Harvest Festival is a great occasion to **celebrate**. Here at the Good Shepherd Church, on our Harvest Festival, 28 September, we shall also **thank God** and **share** with those who are less fortunate. This year we will donate our proceeds to "**Tearfund**" (see next page). And that would be to add that needed flavour in their and our life.

Every spice has its use, when used well and in the right circumstances. Unfortunately, the Italian superiors' reaction to "Miss Sister 2008" was too strong and the contest was cancelled. They said it was too forward looking, and probably not before holding one "Mr Priest 2009". They missed a spicy yet innovative competition. The Lord of sea and sky, the Lord of the Harvest has, with many gifts, added variety to our life. We as Christians and non can also be that salt and spice at this Harvest.



*Felix Mascarenhas*

## Step Up to the plate - Supporting the work of

Each year we focus our Harvest appeal on a specific Charity. This year we are supporting the work of Tear Fund, the Christian relief and development agency, in its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Tearfund's vision is to see 50 million people released from material and spiritual poverty working through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches.

We may be losing our sense of distinct seasons across the UK due to climate change. But in many countries across the Sahel region in Africa, the 'hungry' season is set in the calendar, and it's worsening. Although 90 per cent of the population live from subsistence agriculture, traditional ways of life are hemmed in by erratic rainfall and rising temperatures, as well as economic pressure and poor governance.

An example of the partnership approach of Tearfund, is its work with Christian Relief

and Development Organisation (Credo) in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Credo's strategy is to encourage local church leaders to identify problems and solutions in collaboration and discussion with leaders of other faiths.

Credo is teaching alternative farming and irrigation methods to improve yields and reap a second harvest of vegetables when cereal crops fail.

Through supplementary feeding, allotment and health training mothers can now take care of their children free from stress. Credo also employs local people to run cereal banks, which buy and store grain in a period of plenty to protect the poorest villagers from seasonal or crisis-driven fluctuations in price. Now, when a drought does occur, the consequences will be fewer and recovery faster because of these sustainable and reproducible initiatives.

Tearfund wants to secure three meals a day, forever, for families to make life taste better for the most marginalised people.

Tearfund's Harvest appeal has called on Churches across the UK to "**Step up to the plate**" in helping it to alleviate some of the most disastrous consequences of climate change in the world's most vulnerable areas.

You can see more about the work of Credo in Tearfund's DVD which will play in the Church porch before and after our Sunday services until Harvest Sunday, 28 September when our donations will be presented in Church.

**Tearfund:** [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)



### We want talent!

We are looking for talented local artists, musicians, organisations, sports or dance clubs, charities and local producers of food or products to take part in our Church festival next June.

We will be holding a family fun day on the Saturday of the festival which we would like to be a showcase for talent and diversity within our community. So if you're interested in taking part, have a fun idea or would like to have a stall or lay on a performance, we would be delighted to hear from you.

If you're interested please e-mail [paulchantry@ntlworld.com](mailto:paulchantry@ntlworld.com)

## Welcoming old friends – and new

As well as being the day of our Harvest Festival, Sunday 28 September is **Back to Church Sunday**.

People in churches all over Britain, and for the first time, in other parts of the world, will be backing Back to Church Sunday and inviting a friend back to church with them.

Thirty eight Church of England dioceses from Cornwall to Newcastle will join with Churches Together in Scotland, the Church in Wales, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed churches nationwide, Elim Pentecostal churches and Anglican churches in New Zealand and Canada.

So if you haven't been to Church for a while, or would like to come

for the first time, we would love to see you at our Harvest Festival service at 10.15am on 28 September and afterwards for refreshments in the Hall.

### Thank you

If you have visited the Church recently, you will have seen the church has been rewired and the electrics upgraded.

The rewiring of our Church was made possible by many generous donations. Some of these were from members of our congregation but others were from people in the community who believe it is important that our building is properly maintained.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped.

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### UNITED BY FAITH?

How do we relate to each other? Do religious convictions encourage or hinder our relationships?

This autumn we are hosting a series of short talks given by representatives from the Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths. Each talk will last for approximately 20 minutes and will be followed by a short time for questions. Afterwards there will be an opportunity for an informal chat over refreshments.

All the sessions will be in Church starting at 4pm on the following Sundays:

5 October: Judaism

12 October: Hinduism

19 October: Buddhism

26 October: Islam

2 November: The Christian perspective and closing session

Please join us for an interesting and informative series of talks.

For details of speakers see our web site [www.the-good-shepherd.net](http://www.the-good-shepherd.net)