



## THE VICAR'S LETTER

### Speakers Corner

Have any of you been to Speakers corner on a Sunday afternoon and heard a Christian called Jay Smith arguing forcibly as a Christian with Muslims? It is something I have wanted to do for a few months and on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January I had the chance to take Christel from St Paul's and meet up with my son, Jon, in All Souls, Langham Place.

We joined a group of about thirty there and Jay led us in a time of preparation and prayer before we set off for Hyde Park Corner. Already several speakers were shouting at the top of their voices with little crowds around them. Interesting that nobody was heckling the Muslim speaker!

Jay and an Iranian colleague stood up on their step ladders and began to speak. Within a minute they had 80 people crowded round and the poor man next along was left with two! There was constant heckling and I am just astonished and overawed how Jay and his mate could keep going – really challenging Muslims to face up to some of the issues at the core of their faith and present Jesus as the one we worship.



Jay Smith (Centre)

What made it so good was that no threats or insults were traded. Just forthright debate even though everyone seemed more interested in speaking than in listening. We live in a world where the fear of upsetting other people has stifled all true debate. We need to find ways to say clearly what we believe with love and grace so that those who are searching can hear.

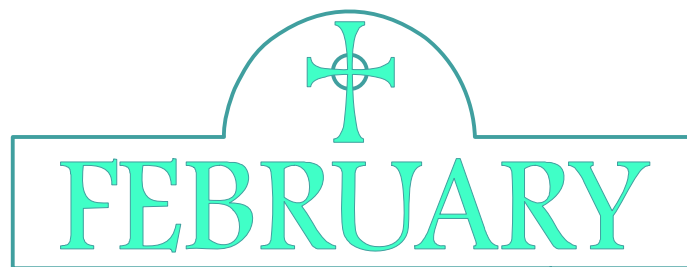


Taking on the Crowd!

One man asked Christel how the God of the whole universe could enter a woman's womb and be confined there for 9 months! He really wanted to understand. Not an easy one to explain and all we could do was suggest he pray to Jesus and ask for him to reveal himself. May we all have the courage and the wisdom to know what to say when these kinds of opportunities come along.

*Christopher*

## DATES FOR DIARY



DATE	TIME	EVENT
1st Thursday		Neal Morse at All Saints, Woodford Wells
4th Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Deanery Youth Service at St. Andrews
5th Monday	7.30 p.m.	Youth Alpha
	8.00 p.m.	Homegroup
7th Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	Highlanders
8th Thursday	8.00 p.m.	Homegroup
10th Saturday	7.30 p.m.	SatNav
		<b>HALF TERM BEGINS</b>
12th Monday	1.30 p.m.	Homegroup
	7.30 p.m.	Youth Alpha
14th Wednesday		SatNav Prayer Meeting
18th Sunday		Youth Alpha Away Day
		<b>SCHOOLS BACK</b>
19th Monday	7.30 p.m.	Youth Alpha
	8.00 p.m.	Homegroup
21st Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
	8.30 p.m.	Highlanders
24th Saturday	9.00 am – 4.00 p.m.	TakeAway 2007 for Leaders
26th Monday	1.30 p.m.	Homegroup
	7.30 p.m.	Youth Alpha
27th Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	PCC
28th Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	Lent Course 1
<b>March – Advance Notice</b>		
1st Thursday	8.00 p.m.	Licensing of Sue Hartley

## WHAT HAPPENED AT THE PCC

16TH JANUARY, 2007

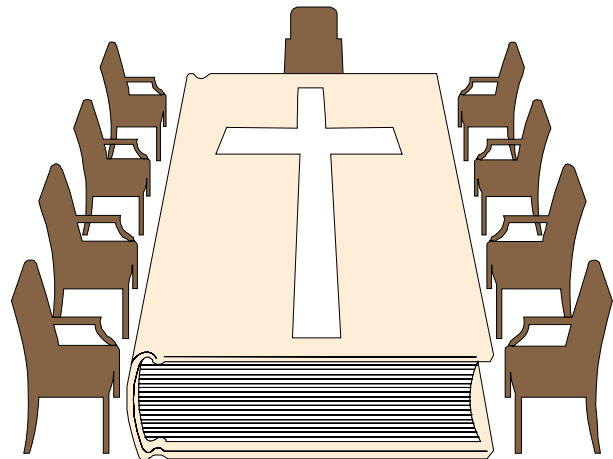
The meeting opened with a look back at the Christmas Services – it was agreed to include more carols next year. Using the projector for the Carols by Candlelight was very much welcomed.

For a couple of years we have not had a Gift Contribution Form and the Vicar suggested a new way of encouraging people to make an active commitment to the life of the church. On Sunday 28th of January we will give forms to everyone who comes and go through the options in the sermon time. Then people can hand them in as part of their offering. Anyone not there that Sunday will be contacted by one of the PCC so they are not left out.

We are looking forward to Sue Hartley joining us in March as Associate Minister and want to make the Licensing Service, 8pm on Thursday 1st March, very special. Everyone is invited.

### Finance

We are so pleased to have fully paid the Family Purse (Deanery Share) to the diocese for last year. This year we have been given a £2500 subsidy which means we pay slightly less: £21,860. Still a major challenge for us but much less than many churches have to pay so they can have full time clergy.



### Youth Alpha

Sarah reported that this is going really well with 27 young people coming and some brilliant discussions taking place in the small groups. They are planning a Holy Spirit Day away on February 18th.

### The Magazine

We discussed the future of the magazine as June has decided to stop as editor after eight years. She has done a wonderful job over these years and even the slimmed down News From the Pews has been a good read. If it is to continue we need someone new to take it on. It may even be that a different format or style is appropriate for the changing world we live in today.

### Lent

We are looking into holding a Lent Course especially aimed at the younger adults, probably on a Wednesday evening. This is open to everyone. There will also be three special Lent Homegroup evenings on Monday 5th, 19th March and 2nd April.

We will also be giving everyone a booklet called: 'Love Life - Live Lent'. It gives us practical things we can do each day of Lent.

*Christopher*

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT  
26TH FEBRUARY TO 11TH MARCH, 2007**

**CHANGE TODAY. CHOOSE FAIRTRADE.  
Munch it! Wear It! Taste it! Choose it!**

Change Today. Choose Fairtrade, is an urgent call to people in the UK to engage with the Fairtrade Foundation's vision of an even bigger movement for positive change on unfair trade, including making the switch to buying Fairtrade. This is the theme of Fairtrade Fortnight 2007 (26th February – 11th March), the annual promotional campaign of the Fairtrade Foundation which encourages people to buy products carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Fairtrade sales increase by around 40% every year in the UK, giving hundreds of thousands of producers in developing countries the chance to build a better future and to compete in cut-throat global markets. But Fairtrade Foundation Executive Director Harriet Lamb wants the movement to go further: "Fairtrade has demonstrated its potential to help producers improve their livelihoods, strengthen their businesses and benefit their communities, but compared with what is needed in the poorer countries of the world, we've really only begun to make a dent in the struggle against poverty and unfair trade."

"With more local campaigns, products, shops and companies in Britain and Ireland involved in Fairtrade, we all now have the chance to play an even bigger part in helping bring about much more significant change," she adds. "Communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America have done so much with the leverage of Fairtrade, and there is so much more they want to do, so many more changes they want to make in their lives too. But to achieve that, we need even more buy-in from businesses and consumers at home."

The FAIRTRADE Mark is the only consumer label that focuses on ensuring farmers in developing countries receive an agreed and stable price for the crops they grow, as well as additional income to invest for the future. With polls showing that more than one in two people in the UK recognise the FAIRTRADE Mark, the Fairtrade Foundation is using this year's Fairtrade Fortnight to communicate how informed consumer decisions can help tackle poverty in the developing world. Stories of farmers like Gerardo Arias Camacho of Coocafe coffee cooperative in Costa Rica will help build understanding of how consumer purchasing of Fairtrade products is supporting them in bringing about change in local communities. Camacho tells how Coocafe has used the added premium which comes with Fairtrade sales to replace old coffee trees, install a water treatment system reducing the use of water, repair roads and bridges and pay for student scholarships.

"We want people to understand that by changing to the huge range of Fairtrade products now available they are empowering others to work for a better life," says Harriet Lamb. "A small change in our shopping habits can mean a community in Africa, Asia, or Latin America can build classrooms, employ a nurse or invest in processing machinery," says Harriet Lamb. "Fairtrade has been embraced enthusiastically by people in the UK but we still need more and more people to choose Fairtrade so that more farmers can sell more of their produce under Fairtrade terms."

**CHANGE TODAY  
CHOOSE FAIRTRADE**

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT  
26 FEB-11 MARCH 2007**

Fairtrade Fortnight 2007 will be bigger and more exciting than ever before! With more local campaigns, products, shops and companies involved in Fairtrade, we have a real chance to bring positive change to the lives of millions of people in the developing world.

**INSIDE**  
Your poster  
Info and ideas  
Order resources

**FAIRTRADE** Guarantees a **better deal** for Third World Producers

In September, Harriet Lamb attended the first General Assembly of the Network of Asian Producers in Fairtrade held in Thailand. There she went on a field visit to rice farmers with the Sarapi Chokchai Co-operative, four hours' drive from Bangkok. As with many crops, disastrous falling prices of rice (from over US \$600/tonne to just \$150/tonne in the 30 years to 2002) have left farmers struggling to earn a decent livelihood. In 2005, global sales of Fairtrade certified rice grew 23% to reach 1,700 tonnes. However, Sarapi Chokchai co-operative alone has a capacity of 11,000 tonnes of rice, highlighting the scale of the challenge facing the Fairtrade movement. As Thai rice grower Korawan Yormkratok, told Harriet: "For the rice shoots, we're waiting for the rain. For our living, we're waiting for Fairtrade."

To take up this challenge, the Foundation is co-ordinating The Fairtrade Fortnight promotional campaign, showing just how easy it is to bring change by choosing Fairtrade products. Posters are being distributed countrywide exhorting people to Munch it!, Wear it!, Spread it!, Taste it! and Choose it! along with the call to action Promote it!, Try it!, Plan it! These will be used by thousands of Fairtrade supporters who hold events to promote Fairtrade during the annual Fairtrade Fortnight campaign. Last year around 10,000 events were held, from fashion shows and football matches, to concerts and exhibitions. Tastings of Fairtrade products were held in churches, mosques, synagogues, schools, universities, supermarkets and workplaces.

Throughout 2006, there has been a host of major developments for Fairtrade in the UK. One of the main successes has been an increase to 210 in the number of Fairtrade Towns – communities where active Fairtrade networks pledge to promote Fairtrade in their towns, villages and cities. There are also 50 Fairtrade Universities and 3,000 Fairtrade Churches. A Fairtrade at Work campaign was launched in the autumn, championed by major companies including Co-operative Financial Services – the parent organisation of the Co-operative Bank and Co-operative Insurance – to encourage workplaces to offer Fairtrade products such as tea, coffee, fruit juice, sugar and biscuits to employees in the staff canteen, in meetings or throughout corporate catering.

The year has also seen unprecedented uptake by the commercial sector resulting in many new products and new product categories, and major increases in market share in



some of the well developed categories. Fairtrade bananas currently make up 7.9% of the UK banana market by value, compared with 4.2% in 2004 and 6.7% in 2005. Fairtrade roast and ground coffee now accounts for around 20% of the market and Fairtrade pineapples 5.2%.

"With everything from peppercorns, cinnamon and vanilla pods, to avocados and grapes to rum and wine, to yule logs, and blueberry muffins, there is

something for everyone in Fairtrade," says Harriet Lamb. "Many people still only think of tea and coffee when they think of Fairtrade, but there is now a huge range of products, and a huge range of choice within each product category. So there is something for everyone among the 2,000 Fairtrade retail and catering products - and Fairtrade Fortnight 2007 is a great time for people to make the change and choose Fairtrade."

If you would like more information on Fairtrade fortnight or Fairtrade products then visit their website at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

**Courtesy of the  
Fairtrade Website**



I almost feel like starting this article with the ending of a famous cartoon series – ‘*That’s All Folks*’ as after a period of 8 years, I have decided to stand down as magazine editor, article writer, photographer, designer, producer and printer!!

I took over the mantle of magazine editor from Avril Bearman, one of our previous church wardens, in early 1999 and I have kept copies of all the magazines that I’ve produced (almost 90 editions) as well as 2 copies of magazines that were available before I became involved. The magazine used to be printed on a very old fashioned printing machine located at All Saints Church, Chigwell Row and having spent some time printing editions of the magazine with our then ‘newish’ vicar, Chris Cant, who had arrived in May 1998, I thought that there must be a better way of doing this!

In those days the magazine, then called ‘St Paul’s News’, was typed on a manual typewriter and photocopies of hand written articles were a large part of the magazine, together with photocopies of various leaflets and articles from other publications. I was in the fortunate position of having access to a computer with word processing and various graphics packages which enabled us to produce a magazine with a consistent font size and type; the ability to insert graphics into articles to make them look more attractive and with the development of scanning equipment and digital cameras, we were able to make the magazine into something that looked professional and thanks to the content of the articles, was also an interesting read!!

At that time we had a magazine team – (yes, there was actually a group of us working on articles for the magazine!) and the team met on a monthly basis with Christopher looking at the content of the draft magazine and seeking material for the next edition. We used to have a real variety of articles in the magazine and here are some of the regular articles we had throughout the year:

Breadlines, Book Review, Just Thinking About ..., My 5 Favourite Places, Thoughts From Abroad, Getting to Know You, Recipe of the Month, Modern Mum – Who Me? Kid’s Page, Word Search, Prayer Focus, Pantomime Trip, Christingle and Carols by Candlelight Service, Spring Harvest, Gardening, Highlanders and Rock Solid Trips, Summer/Christmas Fayre and Fireworks Party and of course, The Vicar’s Letter and What Happened at the PCC – now the only two articles that feature in each edition of ‘News from the Pews’.

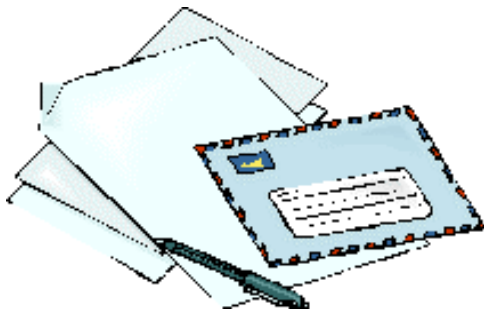
The regular team comprised Chris Cant, Ellen Hunt, Maggie Maffey and me and we were aided and abetted by regular contributors such as Sylvia Potter who wrote Breadlines, (a monthly article on missionary type news), a daily prayer listing by people such as Hilda Briggs; a ‘Gardening with Mike’ item by Mike Clare; and event reviews by Ellen Hunt. We also had monthly book reviews; a ‘Getting To Know You’ page where new members of the church family could introduce themselves to everyone else via some standard questions; a ‘Thoughts From abroad’ article where people could share their holiday trips with us, a regular recipe, a word search, a kids page etc,

At the height of our success, we were producing a 30 page magazine and our distribution was 100 copies, almost all of which were taken every month.

Gradually the number of people writing articles for the magazine dwindled and in January 2005 we decided to change the format and started to produce 'News from the Pews' – a much shorter magazine, and at the same time, we reduced the circulation to 50 copies per month.

The magazine has primarily been a communication tool for the church family and from the photos included in the magazine, we can easily chart the progress of some of our young people from toddlers to teenagers and beyond. I won't say too much about some of us older folks who've gone from relatively young families to almost the *Saga* generation over the same time period!! We've also been able to help people who have moved away from the local area by sending copies of the magazines to them and alerting them to the online version on the church website.

So, what about the future? Have you ever thought about contributing something for the magazine? You don't need a GCSE in English to do so, just a willingness to write something down, or share something with someone who can write it down for you.



Although we are a church magazine, you don't need to worry about including spiritual references in your articles – just imagine that you are writing something to a friend. Perhaps you come from one of those generations where letter writing was a common way to keep in touch – well, dust off those pens and try writing to us! If you do have a view on a spiritual matter, why not share that with us too? Has something made you reflect on why we're all here and what God's plan is for us?

The March 2007 edition of News From The Pews will be the last unless someone else, or a group of people, volunteers to take the church magazine forward. If you want to know more about what it involves, please feel free to speak to myself, Ellen Hunt or Chris Cant. It has been fun, it's been a challenge and its been good to work with all of you who took the time and trouble to share your thoughts with us over the last 8 years.

Thanks!

**June Clare**

### **NEEDED – ONE CHURCHWARDEN!**

After two full years as Churchwarden, Mike Clare has decided that he is unable to stand again. We are so grateful for all he has done during his time both as Deputy Churchwarden when he took over from Bob Mundy and these last two years when Mike has been our fully elected warden.

Finding someone to be our new Churchwarden alongside Jill is something we all need to pray about. Some people have asked what the job of Churchwarden involves. The only realistic definition is that you have to be ready for anything! Here is the introduction to the job description in a book called: 'An ABC for the PCC' by John Pitchford:

'Status and dignity are attached to the ancient office of churchwarden, but much more is expected of those who accept office today. The warden has a strong mixture of legal, spiritual and pastoral responsibilities, as well as looking after the church and its contents. It is a role of leadership, and it

sometimes needs courage, insight, and the ability to stand up and speak up when necessary.

It is vital to have the right people as churchwardens, because so much depends on their loyalty, leadership and hard work. Anyone who is asked to be a warden should carefully consider the responsibilities involved . . . but do not be put off by thoughts of inadequacy. Every warden grows into the job in the course of time, and God gives us all the necessary grace to do his work.'

If you would like to read the rest of this job description or talk about your sense of God's call to be churchwarden then do talk to Mike Clare, Jill James or myself.

*Christopher*

### NEW YEAR SONGS OF PRAISE 7TH JANUARY 2007



The St Paul's 'Songs of Praise' event at the beginning of January has now become somewhat of a tradition. Each December we have the difficult task of selecting 10 of our favourite hymns/worship songs from a list of almost 90 of the many songs that have been sung during the year. The songs are of course a mixture of the traditional and the more modern songs and once all the votes have been cast, Christopher produces a list of our top 10 most voted for songs.

If you haven't been to this event before, then I recommend that you come along next year as it is a wonderful evening, normally lasting between an hour and an hour and a half, and everyone leaves the church feeling really uplifted. The songs chosen are not normally known in advance but this year we knew some of the songs and were encouraged to complete our 'selections' so that the final few songs could be agreed upon. So, each event has its own surprises for us. The biggest surprise this year was that there were 12 songs, not 10 as we had five songs with 6 votes; 3 with 7 votes each, one with 8 votes, two with 9 votes and our clear winner was Shine Jesus Shine with 11 votes.

The songs chosen (the number of votes is in brackets) were as follows:

Shine Jesus Shine	(11)	Our God is an Awesome God	(7)
Your Voice Is	(9)	I the Lord of Sea and Sky	(6)
History Maker	(9)	In Christ Alone	(6)
Beautiful One	(8)	Amazing Grace	(6)
Majesty	(7)	Your Love is Amazing	(6)
Light of the World	(7)	Empty Broken Here I Stand	(6)

After each song there is an opportunity for people to share anything that the song evokes in them – maybe where the words of a particular song have a special meaning for them or the song is reminiscent of a specific occasion or time in someone's life. There were some really interesting commentaries from people this year so perhaps if you couldn't attend and want to find out what went on, try to get hold of the tape of the event.

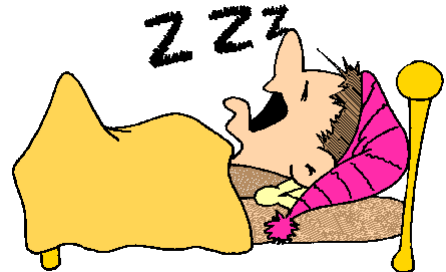
What appears in the list for 2008 is up to you!!

**June Clare**

## THINK POSITIVE

We often tend to focus on the negative things in life, the things that don't go well or don't turn out how we expected them to. This poem turns lots of seemingly negative issues into a positive – something really useful when the days are short, the nights are long, the summer holidays seem far away and the Christmas bills are dropping on everyone's door mats!

**For the partner who snores all night,**  
because they are at home asleep with me and not with someone else.



**For the taxes that I pay,**  
because it means that I am employed.

**For the clothes that fit a little too snug,**  
because it means I have enough to eat.

**For my shadow that watches me work,**  
because it means I am out in the sunshine.

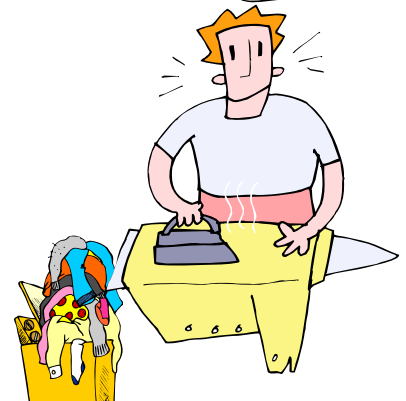
**For a floor that needs mopping, and windows that need cleaning,**  
because it means I have a home.



**For all the complaining I hear about the government,**  
because it means that we have freedom of speech.

**For the parking spot I find at the far end of the car park,**  
because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.

**For the pile of laundry and ironing,**  
because it means I have clothes to wear.



**For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day,**  
because it means I have been capable of working hard.

**For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours,**  
because it means that I am alive.

AND FINALLY...

**For too much e-mail,**  
because it means I have friends who are thinking of me.



**THINK POSITIVE!!**

Thanks to Ellen Hunt  
for sharing this with us