

Correction to service details

Apologies that this morning's worship was incorrectly shown on last week's notice sheet and in the latest *Castle View* as being Holy Communion. Holy Communion will actually be celebrated next Sunday morning, when the service is to be led by the Circuit Superintendent.



Journey to Christmas – prepare, journey, prayer, reflect and share

All are invited to the second of two Advent evenings with Dan Woodhouse and Revd. Alison Walker, on Wednesday evening (11th December), starting at 7.30pm.



Parish carol singing – help needed

Following the carol singing at the gates of St. Giles' yesterday afternoon, a group is to go carol singing around new housing in the parish – and help is again needed. Meet at St. Giles' at 2pm; it will finish by 4pm.



Manse Christmas "Open House"

Alison and Robin invite you round to their home in Haslingfield (address is on the printed version of the notice sheet) for carols, mince pies and coffee on Saturday 21st December between 2 and 6pm. Just drop in.



Rotas – your church needs you!

A reminder that Audrey Seaton is still looking for volunteers to join the door stewards rota, and to organise coffee after Sunday morning worship.



Advent Austerity Lunch – thank you

Thank you to all who supported the Advent Austerity Lunch last Sunday, including those who prepared and served the soups (and bread and cheese), and to Joy and Geoff Levine for sharing with us the important and moving work they are both doing in India. From a financial point of view, a splendid £145 was raised for M&SR funds, £90 of which was Gift Aided. Looking back through the accounts since 2009-10, this is the highest donation which we have collected at an Austerity Lunch. And it was a good time of fellowship with friends from Oakington supporting us.

SOS(P) – Save Our Street (Pastors)

Cambridge Street Pastors has been greatly blessed over the past three years by support from local government in the form of an annual grant of £5,000. However this support was provided on a three year programme and they have received confirmation that the grant cannot be continued in 2014. This has created a financial crisis for the next six months and they need to reach out to the community for urgent assistance.

They are actively chasing other grant support, but need help now to plug the £5,000 gap in finances – without such aid, the trustees will have to consider how long Cambridge Street Pastors can continue to operate in its current form. Information on ways to give can be found on the website www.cambridgestreetpastors.org.uk – follow the link to “how to give”.



Christmas Tree Festival at St. Giles’ Church

St. Giles’ fifth annual Christmas Tree Festival comes to its conclusion today. The final event, at 4pm, is a combined concert by CSD Brass and Christingle service. It will be followed by a cupcake tea.



“Science Meets Faith” – Is there a God gene?

The next in this series at Wesley Methodist Church takes place tomorrow (Monday 9th) at 7.15pm for 7.45pm, and the speaker is Nell Whiteway.

Nell Whiteway graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in Genetics. Following a stint working with the Young Women’s Christian Association, she has been a researcher at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion at St Edmund’s College since 2011, where she works on genetic determinism and behavioural genetics. She finds the ways that media distort genetics for their own agendas particularly interesting.

In this lecture, she will challenge claims about the “God gene”, put forward in Dean Hamer’s book *The God Gene*, and their recurrence in popular culture since 2005. The lecture will then discuss the latest research into the genetics of religiosity and spirituality, and explore how genetic determinism influences our thinking about faith and science.

All are most welcome to attend – admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection to help defray the costs of running this series.

Advent events from the Circuit Diary

- Thursday 12th December, 10am to 4pm at Histon Methodist Church: “Come and make a Christmas Wreath” – cost £25 (including coffee, light lunch and all materials), contact Judy Wynn on (01353) 669 216 to book (places limited).
- Saturday 14th December (12 noon to 6pm) and Sunday 15th December (2pm to 6pm) at Orwell Methodist Church: 13th Annual Christmas Tree Festival with cakes and gift stall; on Sunday there will be carol singing and mince pies around the fire from 4pm.
- Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd December, 10am to 4pm at Wesley Methodist Church: Rotary Christmas Tree Festival – admission free, but donations welcomed for the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project.
- Sunday 15th December, 3pm at Royston Methodist Church: Christmas Activity Afternoon – craft activities and family fun followed by tea and Nativity Service at 5.30pm. All free, and all welcome!



What our minister’s husband gets up to...

Many will have met Robin Walker, Alison’s husband, although he is often elsewhere on Sundays. A video taken at the historic church in Florence where he worked can be found at <http://youtu.be/r7c9FU6-fUA>, but he also has a CD for sale which might make a great Christmas present – see www.theorganist.co.uk/discography.htm.



Romsey Mill Twelve Days of Christmas Match-Fund Appeal

This appeal, to raise £24,000 to support one hundred young people facing tough times at school, at home or in the local community, concludes on Thursday (12th December). Details have appeared on the last two notice sheets. To donate, visit www.romseymill.org, text “MILL12” to 70070, visit justgiving.com/Romsey-Mill-12-Days-of-Christmas, or send a cheque (payable to Romsey Mill) to Romsey Mill, Hemingford Road, Cambridge, CB1 3BZ.

Please contact **Brian Carter** if you have any items for inclusion on next Sunday’s notice sheet, by Thursday evening this week.

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