

Issue 133

# THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



## MAGAZINE

March 2018

The Ladygrove Church meets at the  
Ladygrove Community Centre, Tamar Way  
every Sunday at 10am

*Blessed by God to Be a Blessing to Others*

[www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk](http://www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk)

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## Thank you to all our contributors this month:

Hugh Boorman

It would be great to see your name here next time!

The **April magazine** will be available on Sunday 1st April and the deadline for articles to go in it is **Sunday 25th March.**

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

# Thought for the Month

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## It's OK

Last month on Shrove Tuesday, we held our Daniel's birthday party in our home. He had invited everyone from the RGB youth group and most of his class from school. Lindsey and I had cleared the living-room and dining-room and completely rearranged the furniture to facilitate the playing of various video game systems, chairs were circled around the fire-pit in the garden for the toasting of marshmallows and the kitchen was turned into a pancake factory with plenty of batter (with and without gluten), pre-made pancakes, various toppings and lots of frying pans.

As well as the young people we were also joined by the RGB leaders (Vaughn, Sarah and Lizzie accompanied by Cody and Ezra) and a number of the parents of Daniel's school friends just in case. I have no idea how many people we had in the house but it certainly felt busy.

All was going swimmingly. Then Ezra needed feeding! What were we going to do? Lizzie and little Ezra obviously needed a bit of privacy but there were people in every room. I couldn't

suggest that she feed him in the toilet and the utility room wouldn't have been much better. The only other downstairs room was the office.

But I couldn't let Lizzie go in there. She'd see what a mess it is. The books, CDs and DVDs that I haven't returned to their shelves; the documents that need filing or shredding; the leftover crafts from the last Messy Church that I still haven't put away; the box of palm crosses waiting for Palm Sunday; the pictures waiting to be hung on the wall; the stuff I'm keeping because it'll come in handy one of these days; the batteries and bulbs waiting to be recycled, and the nomadic items that don't seem to have a place to belong and so just get transferred from one resting-place to another. She couldn't go in there – she might not find her way out again!



But in the end, there was nothing for it. There was nowhere else to go so, apologising for what was about to confront her eyes, I suggested she feed Ezra in the office. I turned the light on, took the pile of books from the only

chair that was reasonably clear (once the books had gone), placed them on the floor, made sure that there was clear path, albeit a narrow one, from the door to that chair and let Lizzie in.

"It's OK" she said and I left her and Ezra to enjoy a hearty meal together, still feeling rather ashamed about the state of the room where I do much of my work. I know that it has been suggested that a messy desk is the sign of a genius but when it's the whole room... well, I'll leave you to decide!

Here we are, roughly half way through Lent – the season of preparing ourselves for Easter. A time to examine ourselves, to reflect not on the tidy, well-groomed outward appearance that we hope others might see, but on what God observes when he looks into our hearts (1 Samuel 16:7). And if truth be told, we've all got a messy room or two in us.

I wonder how often we only invite Jesus into part of our lives – the bits that aren't too bad, the bits that only need a bit of rearranging – but we try to keep him well clear of those messy rooms.

"Jesus, you're welcome into this room. That's where I keep my Sunday church attendance neatly stacked away. And you can come in here. It's where I store my relationship with my best friend. We're getting on brilliantly. Doesn't it look so spick and span! But please

don't look in there. I hide my anger and jealousy in there. They're OK just as they are, thank you. No one else knows that they're there so things are just fine as they are."

Your mess may not be anger or jealousy but I'm sure you get the picture and, just like my office, others do actually get a glimpse of the things that you and I try to keep hidden. Either that or, again like my office, we do not operate at full capacity because we are trying so hard to keep the uncomfortable bits hidden and locked away, that we become stunted – one room short of a full house!

Lizzie was not shocked by the state of my office and God isn't shocked by the state of our lives. He's been constantly watching as we, his prodigal sons and daughters, have got ourselves into the messes that we find ourselves in.

Of course, there is one big difference between Lizzie and God. Well, there's actually quite a few! But the one I am thinking of is that while Lizzie didn't worry about the mess, she had her hands rather full of baby son to do anything about my office. God, on the other hand, is not only very happy to walk into and sit amongst the messiest parts of our lives; he also promises that he will help us with the tidying if we only let him.

**Hugh Boorman**  
**Minister of the Ladygrove Church**

# Heroes Wanted.

## Didcot Town Council Annual Litterpick

Saturday 24th  
March 2018

In 3 locations in  
Didcot between  
10am-12.30pm:

- \* Ladygrove
- \* Cockcroft
- \* Civic Hall

If you would like to get  
involved or find out more,  
please email:

[events@didcot.gov.uk](mailto:events@didcot.gov.uk)

or phone

01235 812637

All equipment is provided!



## Bless the Ladygrove Estate!

On Saturday, 24th March Didcot Town Council are holding their annual litter pick as part of the Great Britain Spring Clean. Do you fancy joining me and other volunteers as we do our bit to tidy up the estate?

The event starts at 10.00am and will finish at 12.30pm. All equipment will be provided by the Council.

The meeting place is the field where the Park Run finishes (the grass area on Avon Way between Medlock Grove and Tavy Close). The Council need to know who is coming so that they can ensure they have enough equipment. So if you would like to join the fun, let Hugh know.

# It is Finished!

25th March is Palm Sunday and, as usual, we'll be celebrating with distribution of palm crosses. Have you ever wondered where we get our crosses from?

It all started in 1965 when a guy called Alan Talbot had the idea of helping the people in a number of villages in Tanzania to earn a little extra money in a way that wouldn't interfere with their daily work of planting of maize, millet and some ground nuts to feed themselves and their families. So he set up the African Palms Association.

The palm crosses are made in eight villages (Mpeta, Namikunda, Mlundelunde, Mumbaka, Machombeji, Chivirikiti, Makanyama and Marika) in the Masasi area of southern Tanzania – a particularly poor region of the country. They are made from Dwarf Palms *Hyphaena Coriacea* which grow wild and are not cultivated.

As well as providing an income for the villagers, the charity has helped to fund many projects in the area. It has provided the Tanzanian Education Authority with enough text books for 156 primary schools plus 500 desks (made by local carpenters) for the twelve local schools.





It has also provided equipment and a toilet block for the Special Educational Needs section. It has provided medical supplies for the Masasi Eye Clinic, part-funded the building of a FGM safehouse in the Mara region, which saved 134 girls from this barbaric practice in the first year. It has also provided an operating theatre at Lulindi Health Centre. Previously operations were carried out on a kitchen table in a room that had a curtain for a door. It has paid for the completion of the Mnyambe and Matongo dispensaries, when government money ran out. It has also helped to plant 12,000 trees and plants in an area where 'slash and burn' agriculture had been the practice. And all that has been achieved in just the last decade!

At present, the charity is working to get clean water supplies in each of the eight villages where the palm crosses are made. This is a big project! So far they have managed to complete clean water supplies in three villages - Lumesule, Mlundemlunde and Mpeteta.

So as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, let's also thank God for one man's simple idea and all that it has achieved.

## Godspell at the Oxford Playhouse this Easter

### Exclusive Discount for Church Groups (10+)

Based on the Gospel of St. Matthew and featuring music by three-time Grammy and Academy Award winning composer Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*), *Godspell* took the theatre world by storm when it premiered in 1971.

An uplifting tale of friendship, community and love, the show dramatises the Sermon on the Mount, the teachings of Jesus and his parables. A firm favourite with audiences young and old, *Godspell* is a must-see for youth and fellowship groups as it raises important questions for discussion: How would you tell the stories today? What does Jesus have to say to a lost generation? Where can we find hope after death?

The show is performed by the award-winning Musical Youth Company of Oxford, bringing a fresh take to a modern classic. The show itself features a host of high-energy hits including 'Day by Day', 'Prepare Ye The Way of The Lord', 'By My Side', 'Save The People' and 'All for The Best'.

**Exclusive offer: All seats £15 for church groups of 10+  
on Wed 4th April, Thu 5th April at 7.30pm,  
& Sat 7th April at 2.30pm  
Call the box office on 01865 305 305 to book.  
Quote: CHURCH**





# March Prayer Diary

Feel free to make suggestions of topics that we can add and, in the future, if you would like prayer for something particular on a specific date, whatever it might be, please let one of the editors know and we can add it to this prayer diary.

## Thursday, 1st March

- Please pray for Pastor Gay leading the Sante Fe Church in Laguna – our mission partner in the Philippines.
- People living in Cray Court.

## Friday, 2nd March

- Please pray for God's blessing on our music group.
- People living in Brent Avenue.

## Saturday, 3rd March

- Please pray for all those planning to get married this year – for God's blessing on all their preparations.
- People living in Cherwell Close.

## Sunday, 4th March

- Please pray for those who are not at peace with themselves.
- People living in Ruge Furlong.

## Monday, 5th March

- Please pray for God's blessing on Northbourne School as the churches hold Prayer Spaces for the children and staff this week.
- People living in North Bush Furlong.

## Tuesday, 6th March

- Please pray for those situations in your life where there is a need for reconciliation.
- People living in Churnet Close.

## Wednesday, 7th March

- Please pray for the Wednesday and Thursday Parent/Carer and Toddler Groups run by Jo and her team.
- People living in Bayswater Brook.

## Thursday, 8th March

- Please pray for those who offer counselling to others.
- People living in Shinmoor Close.

### Friday, 9th March

- Please pray for the Didcot TRAIN Youth Project, our local mission partner. You can find their latest news at [www.didcottrain.org.uk](http://www.didcottrain.org.uk).
- People living in The Frith.

### Saturday, 10th March

- Please pray for Messy Church taking place today.
- People living in Upperway Furlong.

### Sunday, 11th March

- On this Mothering Sunday, let's give thanks for the love and care given by mothers everywhere but let's also remember those who struggle with the concept of motherhood for whatever reason.
- People living in Bush Furlong.

### Monday, 12th March

- Please pray for those whose minds are full of anxiety or bewilderment.
- People living in Middle Furlong.

### Tuesday, 13th March

- Please pray for Sharon Jones, our mission partner in Lima, Peru. You can find her latest news at [www.lifeinlima.com](http://www.lifeinlima.com).
- People living in Short Furlong.

### Wednesday, 14th March

- Please pray for our Church Committee meeting this evening.
- People living in Abingdon Road.

### Thursday, 15th March

- Please pray for those who are struggling to deal with their finances and debts.
- People living in Tamar Way.

### Friday, 16th March

- Please pray for those who work in banking.
- People living in Lune Close.

### Saturday, 17th March

- On St Patrick's Day, let's pray for Ireland and a solution to the stalled power-sharing agreement in Northern Ireland.
- People living in Stour Close.

### Sunday, 18th March

- Please pray for those who still carry the physical and emotional scars of childhood bullying, taunting and abuse.
- People living in Medina Close.

### Monday, 19th March

- As Churches Together in Oxfordshire holds its AGM, let's pray for all those communities of faith seeking to work across denominations to grow in understanding and unity.
- People living in Arun Mews.

### Tuesday, 20th March

- Please pray for our National Health Service and all those working so hard to keep us well.
- People living in Hamble Road.

### Wednesday, 21st March

- Please pray for David and Dorothy McMillan, our BMS World Mission partners. They'll be visiting us next month but, in the meantime, catch up with developments at [www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com](http://www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com)
- People living in Waveney Close.

### Thursday, 22nd March

- Please pray for Kitchen Table meeting this evening for food, fellowship and fun.
- People living in Eden Court.

### Friday, 23rd March

- Please pray for those who struggle with a habit that they know is not good for them.
- People living in Thurne View.

### Saturday, 24th March

- Please pray for God's blessing on the town's annual litter pick taking place this morning.
- People living in Derwent Avenue.

### Sunday, 25th March

- As we celebrate Palm Sunday and the Messiah's triumphal entry, let's pray for the city of Jerusalem.
- People living in Orwell Drive.

### Monday, 26th March

- Please pray for all the Easter activities taking place in schools and in the wider community this week – that the message of God's 'greater love' will be heard.
- People living in Humber Close.

### Tuesday, 27th March

- Please pray for those working for local government.
- People living in Loddon Drive.

### Wednesday, 28th March

- Please pray for the Bungokho Rural Development Centre, our mission partner in Mbale, Uganda.
- People living in Yare Close.

### Thursday, 29th March

- Please pray for God's blessing on our gathering to celebrate the Last Supper.
- People living in Calder Way.

### Friday, 30th March

- "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing." (Luke 23:34) Please pray for those who struggle to forgive others or accept forgiveness themselves.
- People living in Nene Grove.

### Saturday, 31st March

- Please pray for those who feel hopeless.
- People living in Welland Avenue.

### April

#### Sunday, 1st April

- Christ has risen! Let's give thanks that we worship the God of second chances, third chances, fourth chances, etc, etc
- People living in Bure Lane.

### Monday, 2nd April

- Please pray for those who are working this bank holiday.
- People living in Wensum Drive.

### Tuesday, 3rd April

- Please pray for Pastor Gay Rasgo and the Laguna Church, our mission partners in the Philippines.
- People living in Arndale Beck.

### Wednesday, 4th April

- Please pray for those mourning the loss of a loved one.
- People living in Trent Road.

### Thursday, 5th April

- Made in the image of God, let's give thanks for the creativity of one another in all its forms.
- People living in Washford Glen.

### Friday, 6th April

- Please pray for those involved in childcare.
- People living in Verlam Grove.

### Saturday, 7th April

- Please pray for the Ladygrove Residents' Association as it seeks to establish itself.
- People living in Darcey Lode.

### Sunday, 8th April

- Please pray for those who find it difficult to be with others.
- People living in Gelt Burn.



# 1 Corinthians 12:27

It's March already and the Annual General Meeting or Annual Parochial Church Meeting is fast approaching (after church on **Sunday, 15th April** during the shared lunch) and that brings up the topic of membership.

Of course, you can become a member at any time of the year but now seems particularly appropriate to raise the topic because membership enables you to engage properly with the discussions at the meeting. If you have been regularly joining us for worship and/or other aspects of church life, please do consider becoming a member of the Ladygrove Church. You can find full details of the various options in the membership booklet which is available any Sunday and on the website.

At the AGM/APCM there will be a number of appointments and elections.

Each year we need to re-appoint the welcome team, whose task it is to be the first greeting everyone receives as they walk through the door. It is a pretty simple task and with several people on the rota, it is far from onerous, but it is a vital one.

Each Anglican Church is required to have two church wardens, who are the bishop's agents (representatives rather than 007!) They are responsible for the property of the church and for overseeing the minister, watching over his/her welfare and making sure that he/she doesn't start preaching heresy! In a traditional church with a building and lots of metalwork to look after, this is quite a big job but less so with our set up. The church warden is elected each year and, with

Andrew Scott's departure, we will certainly have at least one vacancy. We will also be electing people to be part of the Ladygrove Church Committee (LCC), which meets approximately six times a year. This role usually lasts three years on a rolling programme with a third of members being elected each year.

Another role to be fulfilled is that of deanery synod rep. Synod has representatives from all the Anglican churches in the deanery (from Wallingford, Cholsey, Harwell, Chilton, Didcot, Upton, the Hagbournes, Blewbury and Astons). There are just four meetings a year to attend though the rep also has a place on the LCC.

We also need to re-appoint our safeguarding officer, who oversees our policies and practices concerning the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Another task to be carried out is that of electoral roll officer, who simply maintains the membership list – far from challenging or time-consuming but one that we are required to fulfil.

If you would like to know more about any of these roles, there is information about them at the welcome desk.

Those are all the elected or appointed roles but, of course, church wouldn't operate unless there were lots of other jobs being done and they too need volunteers.

We still need people to help with our children's and young people's work. The more people who are able to do this, the less demanding it becomes on each one.

At last year's AGM we recognised that our on-line and social media presence could be developed much



further. It still could as we still need volunteers to help with that task.

We have an excellent team who offer prayer after the service who could also do with a few more members.

Similarly we have a small team of people who operate the mixing desk. That could do with increasing. And don't worry about all those knobs and sliders – it isn't as complicated as it looks and you'll get full training.

Each Wednesday and Thursday during the school term 9.00-11.15am, Jo Whitaker runs a group for toddlers and their parents and carers. She could always do with some more help. In the summer our current refreshments person is stepping down so there will be a vacancy for you to fill even if you're not comfortable around children.

Once a month, Messy Church runs on a Saturday afternoon. Usually we just have enough people to operate it. It would be good to have a few more on the team.

Currently Rose and Jonathan Moffett have been fulfilling the role of CCLI administrator. That means that they keep a record of the hymns we play over the year and inform the Christian Copyright Licence organisation so that the hymn writers can receive their royalties. With their planned move to the West Country we will need someone else to take on that job. It would be good to have that volunteer step up now so that we have a smooth hand-over.

And this magazine could do with more contributions – poetry, reviews of books, DVDs or CDs, reflections on Bible passages, your walk with God or on life in general, interviews with another church member, reports on visits to places or events, etc. If you like writing, speak to Mary Parker and give it a go!

As Paul writes, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it". What part are you playing?

Please speak to Hugh or the above mentioned people if you'd like to know more about any of the tasks.



## Through the Eyes of a Child

In one of the activities at the Prayer Spaces at All Saints' School in January, the children were invited to write down the one big question they would like to ask God. Karen Akrill, the school's Religious Education Co-ordinator kindly collated the questions so here's what's on our children's minds.

How did you create the world? When was the earth created and how did you do it? What did the world look like before you created it? Why did you make us? How did you make the world on your own? Why did you create the world was it just for us? How did you create the world and people and animals? How did you make the world on your own? Why did you create Earth in the first place? How did you make the land? How long has the world been around for? Can you create a unicorn? Why did you make Earth? How did you think of the idea of Earth? Will this world improve? Why is life so unusual? Is it possible to avoid all bad situations?



How old are you? What does the Holy Spirit look like? Can God help everyone or is there things he can't do? Where did you come from and what is heaven like? Who created God? What do you look like? Would you want to come back to us? I want to ask God if I can help him. Where did you come from? What would be your favourite food? Do you not die? Could you ever come down to earth if you wanted? Do you have a friend? How old are you? When did you become God? Why did Jesus come? Do you have a house? Do you have a wife? Can you help me get better at reading? Who created you? What is the biggest number? How did people know about you? How did you greet people? How do you look after people? Why is your real name Emmanuel?

Is heaven at the top of the clouds? Will my family go to heaven? Is heaven real? What is it like in heaven? If you love someone can they ever die? If someone dies will you ever see them again? If someone special dies will you see them again in heaven? What is heaven like is it another life? What does heaven look like? Am I going to Heaven? Is heaven a city? What is it like living in heaven? Do you link up with your family in heaven? Is heaven a country? Is heaven nice? What happens when we go to heaven? What does heaven look like and what do you look like? Is heaven part of Earth? How long will life last? Is heaven like a dream land, is it pretty or dull, what do you do up there?



# March Diary

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, 1st	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 4th	10.00am	Worship All Together Matthew 5:9 - Blessed Are: The Peacemakers
w/c Monday, 5th		Prayer Spaces at Northbourne CE School
Monday, 5th	8.00pm	Prayer at Hour at 12 Trent Road. All welcome.
Wednesday, 7th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	8.00pm	Treasure Times Meeting at Didcot Baptist Church. All welcome.
Thursday, 8th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Saturday, 10th	3.00pm	Messy Church. All welcome.
Sunday, 11th	10.00am	Mothering Sunday Baptist Communion Service with Children's Groups Matthew 5:10 - Blessed Are: Those Who Are Persecuted
Monday, 12th	8.00pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Wednesday, 14th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.45pm	Ladygrove Church Committee Meeting. Venue TBC
Thursday, 15th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 18th	10.00am	Worship All Together Matthew 5:11 - Blessed Are: You When People Insult You
	12.30pm	Shared Lunch. All welcome.
Monday, 19th	7.30pm	Churches Together in Oxfordshire AGM at the UTC, Didcot with Guest Speaker, Ali Bolton, SCBA Pioneer Mission Enabler. See opposite page for details.
	8.00pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting
Wednesday, 21st	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group

## March Diary

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, 21st	1.45pm	All Saints' School, Year 4's "Palm Sunday" Service at All Saints' Church. All welcome
Thursday, 22nd	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Saturday, 24th	10.00am	Didcot Town Council Annual Litter Pick. See advert elsewhere in this magazine.
<b>Sunday, 25th</b>		<b>Don't Forget: Clocks Go Forward.</b>
	10.00am	Palm Sunday Service with Children's Groups John 12:12-16
Wednesday, 28th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 29th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.30pm	Celebration of Last Supper at 12 Trent Road. All welcome but please let Hugh or Lindsey know if you're planning to come.
Friday, 30th	TBC	Good Friday Act of Witness, Details TBC

## April Diary

Sunday, 1st	6.30am	Easter Sunrise Service on Ladygrove Mound followed by a light breakfast at the Community Centre. All welcome.
	10.00am	Easter Anglican Communion Service All Together John 20:1-18 - Easter: An Empty Tomb
Sunday, 8th	10.00am	Baptist Communion Service All Together John 20:19-31 - Easter: A Locked Room

The Churches Together in Oxfordshire AGM is going to be at The Café, UTC Oxfordshire, Harwell, OX11 6BZ on 19th March at 7.30. Ali Boulton is speaking on 'New Housing, a Christian response'. She is involved nationally with implementing initiatives of Christians reaching into new housing developments.

## Messy Church



**Saturday 10th March - 3-5pm**

Ladygrove Community Centre

Crafts, games, activities and worship for families, followed by tea. Offers of help and donations of finger food and cake will be welcome! Please speak to Hugh for more information.

## Homegroups

There are a number of homegroups meeting throughout the week at various times and venues - some with a specific focus; others more generic.

For more details, speak to Hugh.

Tuesdays	7-8:30pm	RGB youth group for secondary school and sixth formers at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 21 1868
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the first Tuesday of the month for Bible study Contact Jamie 07881 710171
Thursdays	7:30pm	Kitchen Table for 20's and 30's at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 21 1868
	8:00pm	Refresh Ladies' Group - check with Lindsey for venue Contact Lindsey 819036
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the third Thursday of the month for a social gathering Contact Jamie 07881 710171
	8:00pm	Home Group at Ian and Kathryn Sykes' home Contact Ian and Kathryn 850085