

Issue 140

# THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



## MAGAZINE

### November 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 **December magazine** will be available on Sunday 2nd December and the deadline for articles to go in it is **Sunday 25th November.**

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

# Thought for the Month

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## Making a Meal of It!

A few years ago, one of our boys gave me a book for my birthday - "So a Comedian Walks into a Church...Confessions of a Kneel-Down Stand-Up" by Paul Kerensa.

It's quite a good read. Each chapter gives some insight into a particular aspect of life on the road and describes some of incidents that Paul has experienced. I have read a book on a similar subject by Frank Skinner (also a Christian, would you believe) which I thoroughly enjoyed but Paul's is different – less humour, perhaps, but far more honesty, I suspect. And unlike Frank Skinner it also looks at the Church.

Paul normally worships at what might be described as a 'middle of the road CofE' church but when he is touring, "I just find a building with a cross on top and wander in" (no chance of him visiting us then!) Each chapter, therefore, also considers his experience of a different denomination or form of church and with fourteen chapters he covers quite a few with both insight and sensitivity.



One chapter particularly interested me, though – his first gig on a cruise ship. Unfortunately for much of it he was sea sick, the result of which was rather enhanced by a dodgy kebab that Paul had consumed the night before the sailing.

On the Sunday he musters up the strength to go to the chapel for the religious service advertised in the daily newssheet but at 9.55am he is the only person there (a bit like the Ladygrove Church, I hear you say!) At 10.00am he is still alone so decides to find the concierge to enquire about the lack of congregation or even minister for that matter (that would be a first for us!) He is told that the chapel is not used for church services but solely as a chapel of rest. Church services happen in the cinema at 10.30am so off Paul trots to the correct venue only to find that he is the only prospective worshipper there too. Back he goes to the concierge and is told that perhaps the cinema manager forgot to turn the projector on.

Apparently rather than having a live act of worship, the ship has a pre-recorded service on DVD and each Sunday it is played perhaps not surprisingly to a rather empty auditorium. Finally the concierge tells him that if he returns to his cabin he can find the same service on Channel 50 so dutifully Paul goes back, turns on his TV, switches to the correct channel and gets...."Madagascar 2".

Refusing to give up, he digs out his iPod, finds a couple of suitable worship songs plus a podcast by the American preacher Tony Campolo, uses the Bible app on his iPhone to read the Bible verses that Tony quotes and says a few prayers of his own.

Paul concludes, "It's an iChurch. It feels very in touch with the digital age, but is it the future of Christianity? I hope not; it's very lonely. Communion's just not the same when you're faced with Garibaldi biscuits to cover both the bread and the wine. But it does go to show that just because a church is unavailable, you can still find some dedicated time if you seek it out."

It just struck me when I read the book that it seems a rather sad state of affairs when there's not enough people on a ship which Paul describes as "huge – nineteen floors, several thousand rooms, a casino, a cinema, a shopping mall" to create a congregation. Do Christians not go on cruises? Do they go to escape

church as much as the other parts of their lives? Or perhaps that day there were hundreds of little iChurches taking place all over the ship in their solitary cabins.

Perhaps Paul Kerensa's experience at sea doesn't really raise questions about the future of Christianity – that will always remain the same - but it does raise a question about the future of the Church and how those of us who call ourselves Christians or followers of Christ will live that claim out.

As those of you who were present at the anniversary service will know, my (longer than anticipated) sermon focused on Psalm 100:3 – "Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture" and particularly on our identity as sheep – part of the same flock wherever we might be and whatever we might be doing. If I'd talked for even longer, I would have considered where God keeps his flock.

We are not simply sheep of his field or enclosure. We are sheep of his pasture, which, as one dictionary defines it, is "land covered with grass and other low plants suitable for grazing animals". We are not simply to be kept together; we are to be fed. And while I guess the imagery is probably on us being fed spiritually, I feel there is also a recognition that we are to have our physical hunger met too.



An article I recently read pointed out that the first instruction that God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden was about eating (Genesis 2:16) and the last instruction given to humanity in the Bible is about drinking (Revelation 22:17). And in all the pages in between, there are many stories of meals, feasts, festivities and the sharing of food and drink. Much of Jesus' teaching, whether in word or miracle, takes place around food. The two biggest celebrations of Scripture – the Passover and the Last Supper – are meals.

As I mentioned at the anniversary service, I think that we do face a challenge about how we can 'be church'

when, for a variety of good reasons, a number of us can't make our normal Sunday morning gatherings. Maybe our experiences with Kitchen Table and shared lunches, the apparent link between physical and spiritual feeding and perhaps the establishment of the Community Larder (see elsewhere in this magazine), may give us some clues about how we might need to respond. Any thoughts or insights that you might have on the subject will be very welcome. And to that end, at our shared lunch, we're going to invite all present to think, pray and talk about this subject. I hope that you can make it.

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

# Coming Up

## Remembrance Sunday

As usual, we will observe the two minutes silence during our service on **Sunday, 11th November**.

Being very much a church for everyone, we encourage parents to enable their children of whatever age to engage with the act of remembrance. We recognise that silence may not be entirely be without noise but may we suggest if you have children that you prepare them before you come to church by explaining what we are going to do and why. Obviously, on the day, if your child is bit too fractious for you, do feel free to take them into the corridor.

There will also be a short act of remembrance at the War Memorial at 3.00pm organised by the Royal British Legion. All are welcome.



## Shared Lunches

At a recent meeting of the Ladygrove Church Committee we noted that we are probably not holding as many church meetings as we ought to according to our constitution but it was also suggested that we don't hold church meetings simply for the sake of it. So a suggestion that was warmly received by all present was that we use a few of our shared lunches (two or three a year) as church meetings, a bit like when we have the AGM.



Unless there are particular matters that need discussing, we can use them to focus on a particular topic and simply share our thoughts with one another as we enjoy our scrummy food. Call them "Table Talk" perhaps. So to start us off, on **18th November**, we're going to look at a topic that we have touched on a little before – "Making a meal of it" (see elsewhere in this magazine).

## Prayer Spaces at All Saints' School

As has been mentioned in the notices recently, the churches of Didcot are running Prayer Spaces at All Saints School during the week of **26th - 30th November**. This time it is on the theme of Advent with prayer activities on the themes of the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary.



If you have a spare morning or afternoon during that week, please consider volunteering. I'm sure that you will find it both humbling and a great privilege to be invited into the children's perception of the world and God's presence in it. The sign-up sheet is on the table.





### **Christmas is Coming**

As many of us will know, at Christmas, in addition to the usual giving to our mission partners, we choose a charity to support – often one that has touched the life of one or more members of our church family.

Our offerings at the carol service, the crib service, the Christmas Eve service and the Christmas Day service are all then sent to that charity.

If there is a charity that you would like to nominate, please speak to or email Hugh **by Sunday, 2nd December** with a little information about why you would like our giving to go to it. We will then have a vote at our service on 9th December to decide which particular charity to support.



# November 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 November

- Let's give thanks for the cloud of faithful witnesses who have gone before us and made a stand for the Christian faith.
- People living in Humber Close.

Friday, 2nd November

- Please pray for those working in the hospitality and entertainment industries.
- People living in Loddon Drive.

Saturday, 3rd November

- Please pray for the various social media platforms that they might be sources of affirmation and encouragement.
- People living in Yare Close.

Sunday, 4th November

- Let's give thanks for the gift of music and song.
- People living in Calder Way.

Monday, 5th November

- Paul wrote, "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, (1 Timothy 2:1-2) so let's pray for our Government.
- People living in Nene Grove.

Tuesday, 6th November

- Please pray for those who are having difficulties in their relationships.
- People living in Welland Avenue.

Wednesday, 7th November

- This evening our Church Committee are meeting with the Parochial Church Committee of All Saints' Church to discuss the advertising and process for recruiting the new minister for the Benefice. Please pray for God's blessing on the discussions.
- People living in Bure Lane.

Thursday, 8th November

- Please pray for our Parent/ Carer and Toddler Group meeting each Wednesday and Thursday morning.
- People living in Wensum Drive.

Friday, 9th November

- Please pray for those who work in childcare.
- People living in Arndale Beck.

Saturday, 10th November

- Please pray for our mission partner Pastor Gay Rasgo and the churches she supports in the Philippines.
- People living in Trent Road.

Sunday, 11th November

- Please pray for all those across the world affected by warfare and other forms of violence.
- People living in Washford Glen.

Monday, 12th November

- Please pray for the SOFEA Community Larder, seeking to redistribute quality food and providing work experience to young people (see elsewhere in this magazine).
- People living in Verlam Grove.

Tuesday, 13th November

- Please pray for Didcot TRAIN Youth Project – our local mission partner. Their latest news can be found at [www.didcottrain.org.uk](http://www.didcottrain.org.uk).
- People living in Darcey Lode.

Wednesday, 14th November

- Please pray for our Church Committee meeting this evening.
- People living in Gelt Burn.

Thursday, 15th November

- Please pray for those who gather this evening for Kitchen Table.
- People living in Churnet Close.

Friday, 16th November

- Please pray for the Didcot Food Bank – those who use it, those who provide for it and the volunteers who help it to run.
- People living in Westwater Way.

Saturday, 17th November

- Please pray for Messy Church meeting today.
- People living in Torridge Drive.

Sunday, 18th November

- Let's give thanks for God's presence in our life.
- People living in Roding Way.

Monday, 19th November

- Please pray for Sharon Jones, our mission partner in Lima, Peru with Latin Link. You can read her latest news at [www.lifeinlima.com](http://www.lifeinlima.com).
- People living in Dearne Place.

Tuesday, 20th November

- Please pray for our RGB Youth Group meeting this evening.
- People living in Synderford Close.

Wednesday, 21st November

- Please pray for those working in publicity and promotion.
- People living in Halse Water.

Thursday, 22nd November

- Please pray for our Refresh Ladies' Group meeting this evening.
- People living in Exe Close.

Friday, 23rd November

- Please pray that our nation might turn more towards God and away from the worship of Mammon.
- People living in Cam Close.

Saturday, 24th November

- Please pray for those who are encountering discrimination or other forms of unfair treatment.
- People living in Evenlode Drive.

Sunday, 25th November

- Please pray for all the different tasks that are carried out each Sunday to enable us to meet for worship, and give thanks for those who serve us by carrying them out.
- People living in Tyburn Glen.

Monday, 26th November

- Please pray for the Prayer Spaces taking place at All Saints' School this week.
- People living in Darent Place.

Tuesday, 27th November

- Please pray for the Emmaus Group meeting this evening.
- People living in Ottery Way.

Wednesday, 28th November

- Please pray for David and Dorothy McMillan, our BMS World Mission partners in Amsterdam in the Netherlands.
- People living in Ockley Brook.

Thursday, 29th November

- Please pray for all those taking part in the Didcot Street Fair this evening.
- People living in Kew Win.

Friday, 30th November

- Please pray for those involved in the fishing industry.
- People living in Penpont Water.

## December

### Saturday, 1st December

- As the Advent Calendars start to be opened, let's pray for more openings for the true meaning of the season.
- People living in Ray Court.

### Sunday, 2nd December

- Let's pray for the various churches that make up Churches Together in Didcot and District.
- People living in Jordan Close.

### Monday, 3rd December

- Please pray for those working in retail.
- People living in Plym Drive.

### Tuesday, 4th December

- Please pray for All Saints' School's Christingle Service this evening.
- People living in Foudry Close.

### Wednesday, 5th December

- Please pray for all those involved in the planning and building of the North East Didcot Development and Ladygrove East.
- People living in Swale Drive.

### Thursday, 6th December

- Please pray for those with eating disorders and the families, friends and professionals who support them.
- People living in Usk Way.

### Friday, 7th December

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

### Saturday, 8th December

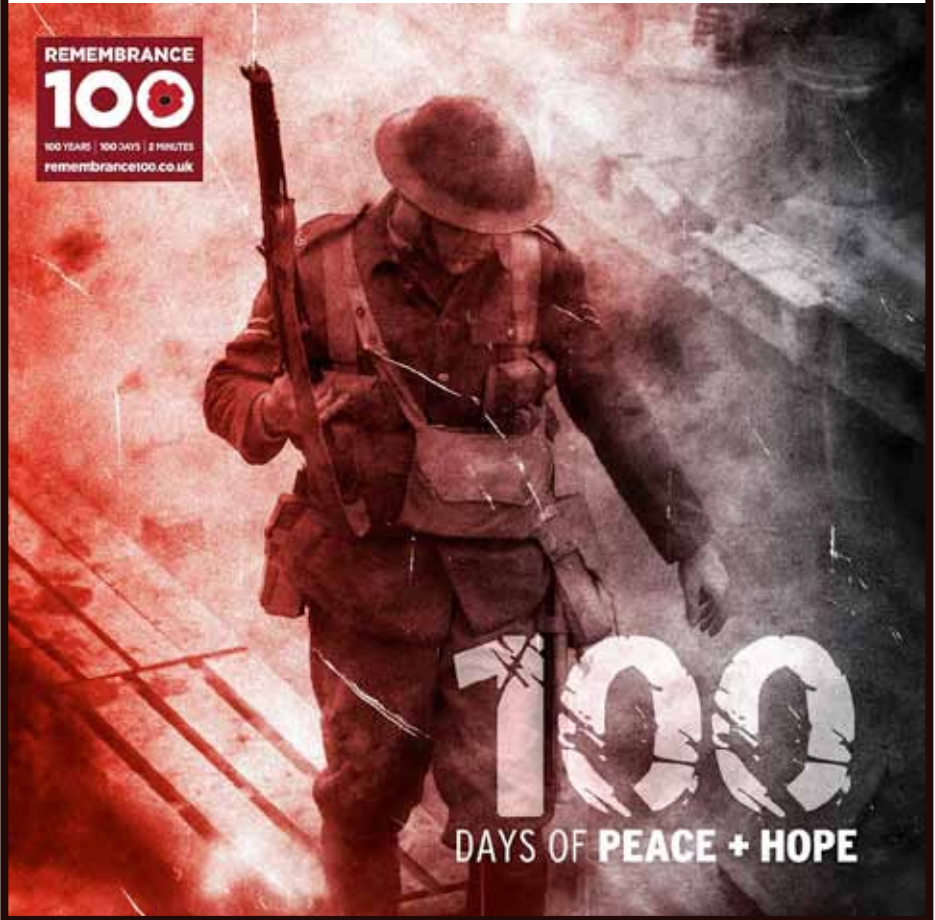
- Please pray for ASSA Christmas Fair being held this afternoon.
- People living in Itchen Court.

### Sunday, 9th December

- Please pray for opportunities to fill in valleys, flatten mountains and hills, straighten crooked roads and smooth the rough ways of our community.
- People living in Colne Drive.

Let us remember those who have died for their country in war;  
those we knew, and all who have given their lives for freedom,  
justice and the hope of peace.

Lord, strengthen our hearts, hands,  
and minds, to work together for peace;  
to see you in one another,  
and to seek your kingdom above all things;  
that your will may be seen to be done,  
and your Kingdom come, through Jesus Christ,  
the Lord of lords and King of kings.  
Amen



# Community Larder



Last month I was invited to the launch of the SOFEA Community Larder. While I was aware of SOFEA, I wasn't really aware of what the organisation really did, so here is what I learnt.

The South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance was set up by Richard Kennell and his wife, Ruth. Richard had been a teacher at the Girls' School and was concerned about those young people who struggled to engage with normal classroom education. He started to mentor a few young men to help them but recognised that he needed a setting where they could use the skills that he was helping them with.

Welcome



**“Resource, Reduce, Replenish”**

Then he heard of FareShare – a national charity which receives surplus food from producers and retailers and distributes it via local centres to soup kitchens, hostels for homeless people, lunch clubs and the like. Richard contacted FareShare and asked if he could establish the regional distribution centre for the Thames Valley and was warmly welcomed into the scheme.



And so SOFEA was born with a premises on Trident Park staffed by young men and women who were learning warehouse management skills as they served the charities in and around Didcot.

Then came the idea of the Community Larder - a membership scheme which enables individuals and households to have access to affordable and nutritious food. For a weekly fee of £2.50 for individuals or couples and £5.00 for families, members can choose up to ten or twenty items of food, including baked goods, cereals, tinned food, soft drinks and essential items.

In addition, to promote healthy eating there is also a choice of four items of fruit and vegetables available each week. All of the food is well within its sell-by date (2020, for example!); it's just that the retailers have much more than they need.

The Larder is open at the Marlborough Club every Monday from 3.30-5.00pm and for those who can't make that time slot, it is possible to pick up pre-packed boxes from Trident Park at other times.





In addition, members also can get discounts at local shops, attend special events (Christmas parties, for example) and are offered nutritional information and tasting sessions and recipes.

Membership is non-means tested and accessible to all. Some join because their finances are stretched but others do so because they have a concern for the sustainability of the planet and don't want to see good food go to waste.

And while the town of Didcot is being nourished, over 100 people aged between 14 and 24 have achieved qualifications (including English and Maths GCSE) through SOFEA, as well as training in emotional awareness and self management.

I came away from the launch event, feeling very impressed and encouraged by what they have already achieved. If you would like to know more, take a look at their website ([www.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com)) or find the SOFEA Community Larder on Facebook. You'll also be very welcome to drop into the Marlborough Club on a Monday afternoon.

## 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 211868
	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 211868
	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

## Messy Church

**Saturday 17th November - 3-5pm**  
Ladygrove Community Centre



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

# November Diary

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, 1st	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 4th	10.00am	Morning Service with Children's Groups Exodus 25-30 The God of Detail
Monday, 5th	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road. All welcome.
Tuesday, 6th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Wednesday, 7th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.30pm	LCC joint meeting with All Saints' PCC at All Saints' Youth and Community Hall
Thursday, 8th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 11th	10.00am	Anglican Communion and Remembrance Service with Children's Groups Exodus 32:1-33:6 Forgotten
	3.00pm	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. All welcome.
Tuesday, 13th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 14th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.45pm	LCC Meeting at 12 Trent Road,
Thursday, 15th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Saturday, 17th	3.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday, 18th	10.00am	Worship All Together Service Exodus 33:7-23 At the Tent of Meeting
	12.30pm	Shared Lunch with "Table Talk" – "Making a Meal of It" (see elsewhere in this magazine).
Monday, 19th	7.45pm	Deanery Synod Meeting
	8.00pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road. All welcome.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Tuesday, 20th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 21st	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 22nd	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Friday, 23rd	3.00pm	Setting Up Prayer Spaces at All Saints' School. All welcome.
Sunday, 25th	10.00am	Morning Service with Children's Groups Exodus 34-40 Job Done!
Monday, 26th to Friday, 30th	9.00am- 3.00pm	Prayer Spaces at All Saints' School
Monday, 26th	8.00pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road. All welcome.
Tuesday, 27th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 28th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 29th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group

## **December Diary**

Sunday, 2nd	10.00am	Advent Sunday Morning Service with Children's Groups Luke 21:25-36 Advent: Signs
Monday, 3rd	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road. All welcome.
Tuesday, 4th	5.30pm	All Saints' School Year 2's Christingle Service at All Saints' Church. All welcome.
	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 5th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 6th	9.30pm	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 9th	10.00am	Baptist Communion Service with Children's Groups Luke 3:1-6 Advent: Prepare the Way

