

A Happy Christmas to All our Readers

December 1996

Have you ever found yourself at a party to which you were not invited? Perhaps you were taken along by a friend or just happened to call on someone not knowing that a party was in progress and then before you can blink you find yourself in the middle of the celebrations. You can be forgiven for not knowing who or what is being celebrated.

At Christmas time a visitor from another plant might be forgiven for thinking that our celebrations were about Robins or Holly or "an old man with a white beard"! Now I am not suggesting for one minute that we should remove these or the mince pies, mulled wine or roast turkey but at Christmas we must remember the most important part of our Christmas celebrations is to thank God for the greatest gift this world has known - the gift of his son - Jesus Christ.

*He came down to earth from Heaven
Who is God and Lord of all.*

To do this God made himself vulnerable. He became like one of those poor pitiful babies in Zaire, living in squalor in a stable under the threat of military forces.

He did this because he loves each and everyone of us. We can best show our appreciation of that by remembering that he is at the centre of Christmas and by helping in some way a homeless or hungry person, remembering that what we do for them we do for him.

Let us celebrate CHRIST-MAS.

Syd Willcox

Church Services

Sunday 1 December	9.30 am	United Parish Communion St Andrew's Patronal (Junior Church)	ASB	Nunton
Sunday 8 December	<u>10.00 am</u>	Matins	BCP	Odstock
	10.00 am	Matins	BCP	Charlton
Sunday 15 December	9.30 am	Parish Communion (Junior Church)	ASB	Odstock
	11.15 am	Matins	BCP	Britford
	6.00 pm	Service of Lessons and Carols		Charlton
Sunday 22 December	10.00 am	Parish Communion	ASB	Charlton
	6.00 pm	Carol Service		Nunton
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion	ASB	Odstock
Christmas Day	9.30 am	Family Service & Parish Communion	ASB	Britford
	10.00 am	Christmas Communion	ASB	Charlton
29 December	9.30 am	United Parish Communion	ASB	Nunton
6 January 1997	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASB	Britford
If anyone would like a lift to any of the services in any of the villages, please telephone Debby Underhill on 01722 329769.				

Nunton Church - Evening Prayers

For some months until a replacement for Robert Hollingshurst is appointed, we shall be without a vicar resident at Nunton, and we shall be trying to maintain the regular pattern of services at Odstock and Nunton using visiting priests or lay readers. We are holding a short simple weekly service of evening prayers in Nunton Church at 5.30 pm on Fridays. Why not spare 20 minutes and come along occasionally?

The Churchwardens

A note from the Team Rector Canon Sydney Willcox

Now that the Revd Robert Hollingshurst has been safely installed in his new parish, the parishes of Odstock, Nunton, Bodenham, Britford and Charlton All Saints automatically have become part of the Chalke Valley Team Benefice, under the terms of the Pastoral Scheme confirmed by the Privy Council on 17 December 1992.

So first of all as Team Rector may I say welcome to the Team. Some of the parishes in the Team have been working together for some time and have discovered the advantages of sharing a ministry team as well as joining together for acts of worship and for Christian Education and Christian Action. I am aware that there has already been a great deal of co-operation between your three parishes and I hope that you will soon discover the joys and benefits of belonging to an even bigger team.

Our first task is to appoint a new Team Vicar, who will reside at Nunton. The Archbishop and Archdeacon have been very active already and if all goes well we might have someone in post by the early spring of 1997.

In the meantime, the Churchwardens are being most helpful in making arrangements for Sunday services with the help of retired clergy. Do please give them your full support. In addition, I am available for all pastoral needs. I live at The Rectory, Broad Chalke, tel 01722 780262, and if you fail to contact me, please try my colleague the Revd Roger Redding, our other Team Vicar at The Vicarage, Ebbesbourne Wake, tel 01722 780408. Contact numbers for the Churchwardens are: Nunton - Harry Joynt 01722 329782, Odstock - Peter Martin 01722 329743, Charlton - Peter Cox 01722 329709, Britford - Daphne Scamell 01722 334858.

From the Editor

This edition of *News & Notes* has been paid for by our advertisers, who are a valuable source of revenue for us - thank you. If anyone wishes to sponsor our newsletter in the future, please contact Neil Guttridge, *News & Notes* Treasurer, on 01725 511468 or at Court-Hay, Lower Road, Charlton All Saints, SP5 4HQ. Editorial items for inclusion in *News & Notes* should be sent as usual to Clare Penny at Azalea Cottage, Chapel Lane, Charlton All Saints, SP5 4HF or telephone me on 01725 512869. Notices of charity and non-profit making events are inserted free, but all other advertisements are charged at £2 per 30 words, or £20 for 12 insertions. The January 1997 issue of *News & Notes* will be circulated a little later than usual, and the deadline is Friday 27 December.

Welcome

Welcome to Molly Katie, a second daughter to Stewart & Emma Ford, born on 29 October, a baby sister for Georgina (who was two on 14 November).
AM

Condolences

Our sympathy and prayers go to Eddie and daughter Lucy of Odstock on the death of Anne Isabel Jefferson who died recently.
DW

Thanks

I would like to say thank you to all the people who gave me their kind messages and support during my recent bereavement.
Anne Simmons

WI

At the meeting on 11 November, Mrs Jill Johnson welcomed members and one guest. To celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the WI - in 1997 - two woodlands are to be planted, one at Coombe Bissett, an area of scientific interest, will include hawthorns, hazels and dogwoods. We hope to plan a visit some time next year. Marwell Zoo is celebrating its 25th anniversary - also in 1997, and WIs from all over Wiltshire will be travelling there by coach in April. The Triennial General meeting will be held on 3 & 4 June in Birmingham. Members were invited to vote on any - or all - of the 10 resolutions.

Miss Jane Rasch was our speaker on "Working with the Dalai Lama". Jane wore Tibetan dress for her talk and told how she trained in "Teaching English as a Foreign Language", and went to Tibet, taking toys, crayons, colouring books only to find she had a group of 20 year olds! During her stay she taught in a monastery, a nursery, and travelled extensively during her time there, making many friends with whom she keeps in touch. The Christmas meeting will be held in the Britford Memorial Hall, Downton Road on 9 December. Mrs Dorothy Darton will speak - her subject "an Evacuee from Guernsey". There will be a raffle, bring & buy stall, and mulled wine & mince pies will be served. Mrs Patti English won the flower of the month with a hebe.
Angela Moules

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Evan Roach, Windrush, Slab Lane, Woodfalls

Junior Church

Junior Church will meet in the Barker Room at Nunton when there is a 9.30 am service at either Odstock or Nunton. This month, the dates are Sundays 1 & 15 December. When the service is at Odstock, children may be left at the Barker Room from 9.20 am onwards and for a Nunton service we will start in church and leave after the second hymn. All children of 3 years and over from any of our villages are very welcome. Please contact Adrian Taylor 01722 325862 if you have any questions. Adrian Taylor

Carols at Britford

Sunday 15 December at 7.00 pm at Britford Church

A celebration of carols to be sung by the Choral Scholars of Trinity College Cambridge and the audience.
Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection in aid of church funds.

Charlton Theatre Club

As it has been a few months since I wrote about the club's activities I thought I should do so now - before you thought we had ceased to exist! Although the numbers of people attending events is falling we were able to organise trips in the summer to Upton Park to see "Proms in the Park" with the BSO, and to the Mayflower Theatre to see "Crazy for You". Both were very enjoyable. This season, we have seen "The Merchant of Venice" and "Neville's Island" - both at Salisbury Playhouse.

As most members organise their own trips to see the traditional Christmas panto or show, there will be no club-organised event this year. However, subject to numbers, I hope to arrange a trip to see "Blood Brothers" in March and have reserved tickets to see "Riverdance" in July.

Finally, may I urge anyone who has ever thought they would like to join the club to do so now. We are about to begin a new year and are seeking ways in which to increase membership. If you, or a friend of yours, enjoys going to the theatre and meeting new friends then join us now. Even if you only go to the theatre once in a blue moon, it gives you the opportunity to see a show or play which you may not have got round to or even known about. Act now before it's too late.

Many members and we flourish, too few and we wither!

Joanna Matthews, tel 01725 512262

Odstock, Nunton & Bodenham Parish Council News

The annual bulk rubbish skips will be available from Wednesday 4 December at the following locations for about one week:

Bodenham - opposite the Post Office

Nunton - regular place

Odstock - car park at the top of Shepherd's Close.

Britford School Christmas Bazaar

This year the Bazaar raised over £200, with which we are very pleased. Thank you very much to everyone who ran stalls and to everyone who came and supported the event. Mary Onstenk



Handy/Oddjob Man

Ring MIKE your local handy/oddjob man - any task considered

General maintenance inside & outside - painting - grass cutting -
driving (HGV and PSV licences held) etc

Free estimates - one off or regular contracts - telephone 01722 322677

Scouts Christmas Post

Salisbury and South Wiltshire District Scouts are operating a Christmas Post this year. Special stamps, costing 12p each, are required for each card posted. These stamps are available from our local Scout groups, from Sarum Seed Shop (Endless Street, Salisbury), from Mary Onstenk (01722 322643) or from Diane Lucas (01722 331432). The cards should be posted in the special Scout post boxes (one is located at Sarum Seed Shop) or returned to the stamp seller. Last posting date for Christmas delivery is Friday 13 December.

Cards will be delivered to the following areas: Alderbury, Amesbury, Barford St Martin, Berwick St James, Boscombe Down, Bowerchalke, Broadchalke, Britford, Bulford Village only, Clarendon, Codford, Dinton, Downton, Durrington, East Grimstead, Farley, Figcheldean, Firsdown, Fovant, Gomeldon, Great Wishford, Idmiston, Larkhill, Laverstock, Netherhampton, Odstock, Orchesdon, Pitton, Porton, Quidhampton, Redlynch, Salisbury, Shrewton, South Newton, Stapleford, Stoford, Tilshead, West Grimstead, Whaddon, Wilton, Winterbournes, Winterslow, Woodfalls, Wylke. Thank you for your support. Diane Lucas

A Family Entertainment

Saturday 21 December at Britford Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm

A Family Entertainment given by Huw and Tony Williams from Wales

Tickets are £3.00 for adults (to include a glass of wine and a mince pie) and £1.00 for children over 5 years.

Tickets are available from Judy Sturdy on 01722 335969 and Peggy Knight on 01722 320259.

There will be a raffle in aid of Britford Church.

Downton Link

The Downton Link is now operational and covers the Downton and Charlton area. The Co-ordinator will be available to take requests for services on 01725 513807 (an answerphone is available). Requests may also be made on your behalf by relatives and friends or through doctors, nurses, Social Services and other local charities. Our aim is to help those in need, regardless of age or circumstances, with any problem, no matter how large or small, in a friendly, personal and good neighbourly way. Assistance could include:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Transport: | To and from hospital, surgery, dentist and optician appointments and Day Centres and Social Clubs for the disabled.
To visit a relative or friend in hospital.
To collect prescriptions and pensions.
To assist the infirm/less mobile to shop. |
| Care: | To shop for the housebound.
To give companionship, and conversation.
To provide information and advice and help with official forms.
To change library books. |
| Practical matters: | To change light bulbs and do other small jobs.
To arrange help with the garden. |

Although we expect to receive small grants from the statutory authorities, we will be principally dependent upon donations to cover the costs of providing services. Hopefully much of this will come from those using the services and the balance will have to be met by fundraising.

We are always happy to hear from potential volunteers to provide the services listed above, to fundraise and to enable us to offer new services in the future. Link volunteers are paid mileage allowance and refunded expenses. Denise Williams, Chairman, tel 01725 513455

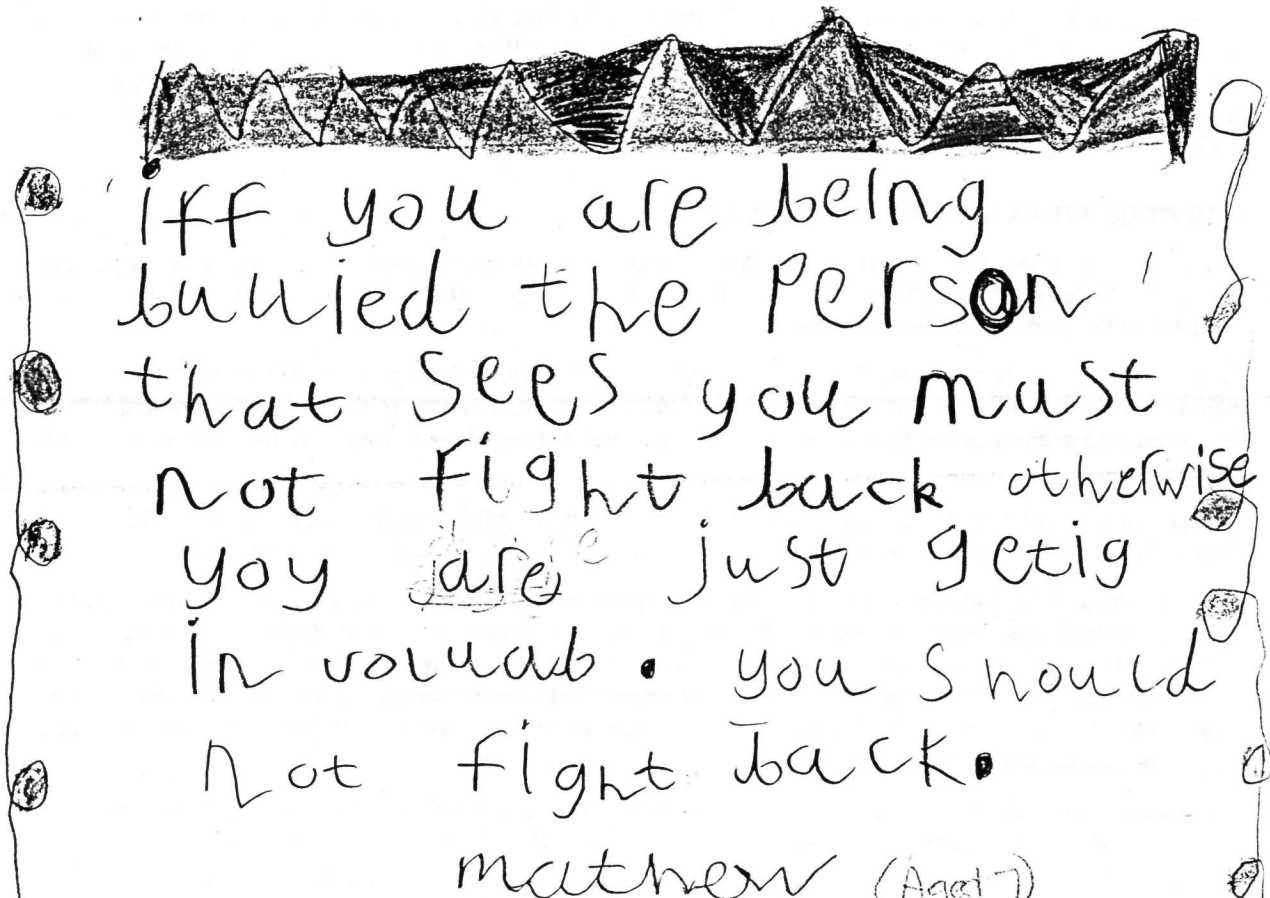
Odstock Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy and Christmas Draw

Saturday 7 December from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at the Manor House, Odstock

Coffee Morning in aid of the Odstock Church Appeal Fund

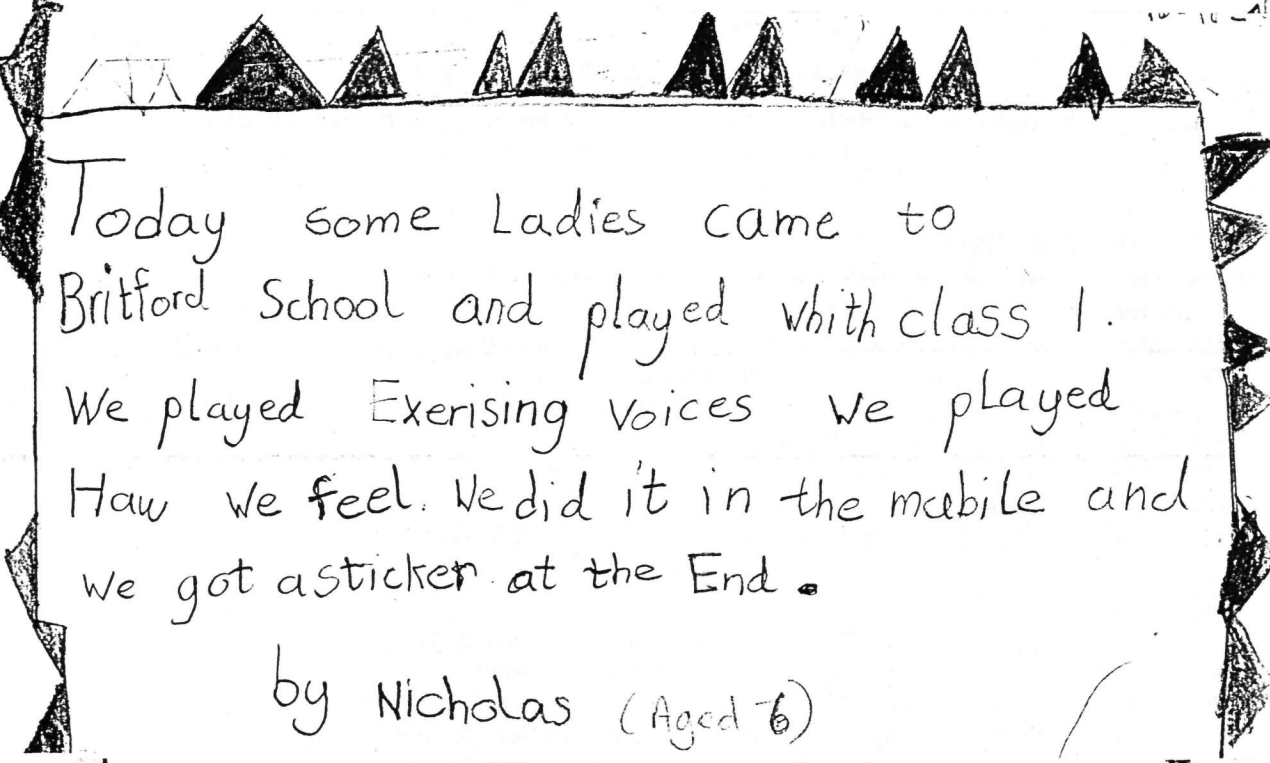
Tickets for the Christmas Draw are on sale around Odstock and the draw will take place at the coffee morning. Please come and support us!

These excellent pieces of work were completed by younger pupils at Britford School following a visit from the Wiltshire Family Outreach organisation during Mental Health Week.



If you are being
bullied the person
that sees you must
not fight back otherwise
you are just getting
involved. you should
not fight back.

matthew (Aged 7)



Today some Ladies came to
Britford School and played with class 1.
We played Exercising voices we played
How we feel. We did it in the mobile and
we got a sticker at the End.

by Nicholas (Aged 6)

Charlton Carol Singing

The Charlton Carollers will again this year be delighting your ears with joyous renditions of well loved carols on Monday 16 December. We will meet at 6.15 pm at Holly Tree House, Church Lane to lubricate the vocal chords, and then sing our way through the village, finishing at Rivermeade, by very kind invitation of Mrs Anne Simmons, for "seasonal refreshments". Do join us at whatever time you can, wherever we are, or if you don't feel like venturing out, be ready with your purses! Donations will go to Hillcote, our local children's home.

Activities Week at Downton School

From 9 - 13 September, all pupils at Downton Secondary School were involved in a variety of challenging activities, all designed to develop and broaden their education by offering them opportunities not usually available in the confines of the classroom.

57 Year 8 & 9 pupils participated in a residential physical activity week at Hyde House in Dorset. They experienced raft building, archery, shooting, an assault course and a variety of water sports. Problem solving developed leadership skills and group co-operation. Getting wet and dirty in a safe environment turned out to be great fun.

A large group of older students from Year 10 & 11 spent 36 hours exploring Normandy, France. They visited Rouen, Bayeux and Caen and had some free time to practise their French on the local shopkeepers.

The remaining 170 students spent two days developing a healthy body and pursuing creative activities involving a challenge. Dance, aerobics, judo and yoga were all on offer, as well as Red Cross training in First Aid. Salisbury Playhouse Education Department showed some pupils how to produce a play, while other students participated in competitions to design a load-bearing structure, make a car for a distance trial or create huge, multi-coloured insects. The Science and Music departments also provided problems to be solved. There were some spectacular results from all this activity.

The whole school threw themselves into these events with great enthusiasm and hopefully these new experiences will encourage students to develop their new found skills both in and out of school.

Downton Band Christmas Concert

at Charlton All Saints Church Hall

on Tuesday 10 December at 7.30 pm

Refreshments and Raffle ~ Admission free, but there will be a retiring collection and proceeds will be donated to the Band.

Dates for your Diary

7 December	Odstock Coffee Morning, Manor House, Odstock, 10.30 am
7 December	Three Hospital Charities' Bazaar, Guildhall, Salisbury
7 December	Downton Secondary School Christmas Fair with Father Christmas Grotto 2.00 pm
9 December	WI Christmas meeting, Britford Memorial Hall
10 December	Downton Band Concert with raffle, mulled wine & mince pies, Charlton Church
13 December	Scout Post last posting date
15 December	Celebration of Carols, Britford Church, 7.00 pm
16 December	Charlton Carol Singing
21 December	A Family Entertainment, Britford Memorial Hall, 7.00 pm

Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00 am Barker Room, Nunton
Bingo	Every Friday, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm The Orchard, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Tuesday, 7.30 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (6 & 20 December): Village Hut, Charlton 9.50 am Alternate Tuesdays (10 & 24 December): Brookmead, Britford 9.45 am Post Office, Bodenham 10.05 am, Radnor Arms, Nunton 10.20 am Crossroads, Odstock 10.50 am