
News & Notes

Issue 308

December 2001

The Word made flesh?

Sometimes it is said that the Church uses too much technical language. Well, perhaps so, though that doesn't mean that technical words should not be used at all. Rather it means that their users should choose them carefully and ensure that their meaning is explained.

At this time of year the jargon word that you are most likely to hear is INCARNATION. It is derived from the Latin word *carnis* meaning flesh and is used to describe God's embodiment in human form. Christmas is the Feast of the Incarnation, the time when we celebrate God's coming to dwell among us as Jesus Christ. Who can attend a Carol Service at Christmas without hearing that famous passage from the first chapter of Saint John's Gospel, where the Incarnation is described in the following terms: 'In the beginning was the Word. . . And the Word became flesh and lived among us'? The single word incarnation is used to represent this profound and life-transforming aspect of our relationship with God: 'When peaceful silence lay over all, and night was in the midst of her swift course, from your royal throne O God, down from the heavens, leapt your almighty Word' (Wisdom chapter 18, verses 14 and 15).

So why am I writing about incarnation? Well, that one word points us to who Jesus was and what he was to become. God revealed himself as that baby to show that he shares totally in our lives, especially in our weakness and vulnerabilities. He was born in a stable of lowly parents to show humility. Angels gave the Good News firstly to shepherds to show that Christ was no King or Ruler by earthly standards, rather he was the reason for celebration among those who were normally excluded from 'polite' society. Shepherds and (later) wise men paid him homage to show that Jesus had come for all people, the least and the great alike. And for us Jesus, the incarnate one, remains forever the focus of our encounter with God.

What better reason is there for being full of the joys of Christmas?

Church Services

Sunday 2 December Advent 1	9.30 am	Patronal Festival Parish Communion	GS	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	6.00 pm	* Evensong (BCP) *	GS/SW	Homington
Sunday 9 December Advent 1	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WC	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Odstock
	11.00 am	Family Service	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins (BCP)	WC	Charlton
Sunday 16 December Advent 3	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Britford
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	WC	Nunton
	9.30 am	Morning Service	GS	Homington
	11.00 am	Parish Communion (BCP)	WC	Coombe
Sunday 23 December Advent 4	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WC	Homington
	4.00 pm	Christingle Service	WC	Charlton
	5.00 pm	Carol Service	GS	Odstock
	7.00 pm	Carol Service	WC/GS	Coombe
Monday 24 December Christmas Eve	6.00 pm	Carol Service	GS	Homington
	11.30 pm	Midnight Eucharist	GS	Coombe
	11.30 pm	Midnight Eucharist	WC	Odstock
Tuesday 25 December Christmas Day	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Family Communion	GS	Charlton
	9.30 am	Family Communion	WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Family Service	WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Family Communion	GS	Nunton
Sunday 30 December Christmas 1	10.00 am	Parish Communion (BCP)	GS	Homington

* This is the last occasion that our Team Rector, the Reverend Canon Syd Willcox, will be at a service in the eastern part of the Chalke Valley.

From the Editor

I'm sorry that this month's edition is a little late - my computer was sick and needed a part that was not immediately available! The monthly photocopying cost for *News & Notes* has risen to £40 - if you would like to sponsor an issue, please get in touch with Neil. Editorial items for inclusion in *News & Notes* should be sent to Clare Penny at Azalea Cottage, Chapel Lane, Charlton All Saints, SP5 4HF, telephone 01725 512869 or email clare@azalea.demon.co.uk Monetary donations should be sent to Neil Guttridge, *News & Notes* Treasurer, on 01725 511468 or at Court-Hay, Lower Road, Charlton All Saints, SP5 4HQ. 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 deadline for the January issue is Thursday 27 December.

News From The Vicarage

Graham Southgate (01722) 330628

For those of you who haven't yet heard, the Reverend Canon Syd Willcox (Team Rector in the Chalke Valley Benefice and parish priest for the two parishes of *Broad Chalke* and *Bishopstone and Stratford Tony*) has announced his retirement as of the last day of December 2001. Syd became (Team) Rector of Chalke Valley West in 1994 before its amalgamation with Chalke Valley East in 1996 following the departure of my predecessor, the Reverend Peter Byron-Davies. Finally Syd was able to welcome into the new benefice of the Chalke Valley the three parishes of *Britford*, *Charlton All Saints* and *Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham* just prior to my appointment in 1997. So Syd has been with us during an important part of the development both of the new benefice and the Team Ministry. Syd and his wife Jenny have bought a house in Bridport, and will be moving in before Christmas. I'm sure that you would wish to join me in wishing them well in their new home.

In days gone by a new incumbent (vicar or rector) was nominated by the patron of the parish and presented to the Bishop for institution and induction — this method of appointment has the potential of being a fairly simple process and will apply when a new Team Rector is sought. Yet times have changed and we now face the challenge of finding a person who is suitable for nine different parishes, as well as being acceptable to the respective patrons. Thus, we are currently involved in a process of consultation with parish representatives whose task it is to produce a set of criteria by which the patrons can choose a suitable person.

And who, you may ask are these patrons? Well, there are a number of them (and when meeting they form

the Chalke Valley Patronage Board) as follows: the Archdeacon of Sarum, the Bishop of Salisbury (with a second casting vote), the President and Scholars of Corpus Christi College in the University of Oxford (one vote), the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral (one vote), the Diocesan Board of Patronage (one vote), the Right Honourable the Earl of Radnor, the Provost and Scholars of the King's College of Our Lady and St. Nicholas in Cambridge (one vote), two Lay representatives of the benefice (two votes) and the Rural Dean of Chalke. Watch this space, as they say!

I have recently received a box of recycled Christmas cards, which are available from me at a cost of £2.50 for a pack of ten — proceeds being for our Diocese's linked church in the Sudan.

And finally a brief reminder that December is a month with five Sundays. Thus, on 30th December there is just one service in the four parishes of the eastern Chalke Valley: Parish Communion (from the Book of Common Prayer) at Homington, beginning at 10 am.

Additional Holy Days

- 26 Dec Saint Stephen Deacon and first martyr. Holy Communion 10 am at Nunton.
- 27 Dec Saint John Apostle and Evangelist. Holy Communion 10 am at Coombe Bissett.
- 28 Dec The Holy Innocents. Holy Communion 10 am at Nunton.
- 1 Jan Naming and Circumcision of Jesus. Holy Communion 10 am at Charlton All Saints.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

At Britford on 4th November:
Lydia Rose Killick

Burial

At Nunton on 30th October:
Nellie May Penny (cremated remains)

Women's Institute

Diane Wait

I am pleased to report that it was nearly a full house for the November meeting and once again we were pleased to greet two gentleman guests, Mr Julian Johnson and Mr Bill Van Hagen, who had come to hear Mr Rex Sawyer give his talk. Mrs Sue Bourne duly gave a warm welcome to guests and members with a special hello to Mrs Geraldine Rutter and Mrs Rene Tozer from Downton, who is joining as a welcome new member. Mrs Audrey Elliot's lovely pink roses provided a splendid display for the President's table. Sue reported on recent events and explained that the new WI logo has been formally adopted. She also gave a warm welcome to Mrs Pam

Trubshaw who has been co-opted onto the Committee. She reported that members had recently enjoyed seeing the play Double Indemnity at the Salisbury Playhouse. The next outing is on Monday 17th December for the eagerly awaited Christmas Lunch at Salisbury College and is due to be very well attended by members this year.

Mrs Van Hagen then read out the correspondence, including a report on the recent Annual Council Meeting held in the City Hall on 22nd October which was attended by 650 people. A number of our members attended this event and four kindly acted as stewards. Sue read out a thank you note for all their hard work. Jean said the Mayor of Salisbury had opened the proceedings, which included adoption of the annual accounts and voting on two Resolutions. Mr Brian Jones gave a very entertaining talk on hot air ballooning and this was very well received by the audience. The well organised meeting was brought to a close by a rousing rendition of the National Anthem.

The Treasurer's report was read out by Mrs Julia Joynt and the annual subscription of £17.25 is now due. This is slightly up on last year. Mrs Jill Johnson took the opportunity to thank members for their very generous donations to the Tristan da Cunha Fund. She and Julian have been overwhelmed by the response and she said that a sizeable cheque has been sent to help the islanders. Also a large batch of school books has been sent by the County of Wiltshire to help replace those lost in May.

Flower of the Month competition was won by Mrs Angela Moules with a very dainty pink fairy rose.

Following the very busy coffee break we were told that there was a change to the planned talk on the Deserted Village of Imber. Unfortunately Mr Rex Sawyer had not received his slides back and so he decided to talk on the subject of the villages of Salisbury Plain. We were not disappointed and he treated us to a most interesting and informative talk on the various villages and also some history on how the military came to be part of Salisbury Plain in the First World War. One slide showed a typical tented camp with horses grazing in the background. I did not realise just how important horses were to the military at that time. Life must have been very hard for the troops training for war and it was not until 1904 that the first brick built barracks were constructed in Tidworth. He also showed slides of the famous White Horse and the famous Fovant Military badges carved in the hillside. He touched briefly on the Village of Imber but has promised to come back again and talk to us in much more detail at a future date. His talk was very well received and Mrs Pat Reeves gave him a very appreciative vote of thanks. He had a selection of his books for sale and personally signed copies for us.

Our Christmas party is on 10th December in the Radnor Hall at 10 am and the entertainment entitled "Farthingales in Action" will be provided by Mrs Diana Cruickshank and Dancers. This sounds like fun. There will also be a bring and buy sale, raffle, minced pies and mulled wine to help the party go with a swing. We would love to see as many members and guests as possible and should prove to be a lovely occasion for all.

Pumpkin Competition

A very big thank you to all those who supported and helped with the Pumpkin Competition and associated raffle this year.

At the Radnor Arms on 28th October the largest pumpkin, which was grown by Alan Ambrose, weighed in at 90 lbs - congratulations!

Through the sale of pumpkin seeds and raffle tickets, we were able to raise approximately £240 which will be donated to Odstock School.

Downton WI Market

Reminder - CHRISTMAS MARKETS Downton Memorial Hall, Friday 7th and 14th December 9.45 am - 11 am. Do come and buy your Christmas goodies and have a cup of coffee.

Sky Line

Specialist cleaning of conservatories, soffits, facias, gutters, driveways and patios.

We also offer a professional regular window cleaning service.

Please phone for a free quote on 01425 657949 or mobile 07740 987187

Odstock Primary School News

Past Events

Our school has recently had its electrical system completely rewired and a new fire alarm system will be connected once the new extension is complete.

An after school club has recently been started for Year 6 children who all seem to be enjoying it. We hope to be able to run more clubs in due course.

We have welcomed a further two children to our school over recent weeks and the number on roll now stands at 40.

On Friday 9th November we held our annual "guy" competition where all children were invited to make a guy over half term. Mrs Madeline Baker kindly came to judge the entries, and the winners in the infant section were Georgina and Molly Ford, and the junior winner was Connor Stokes. The guys were then taken to the bonfire in the school field for that evening's bonfire and firework event. This event was well attended and a fun time was had by all.

The Children and staff would like to thank all the people who helped and came to Odstock School's Bonfire night and for making it a big success.

Special thanks are also extended to Jacob Wingrove for setting up the shelter and safety rope, the Start family for use of their water and electricity, Sheila Reed and friends for the barbecue, Russell and Andy for the fireworks and Simon for his tractor to pile up the bonfire.

Future Event: Friday 14th December Christmas Concert in the Radnor Hall at 2 pm. All villagers are invited to attend this performance by our children. Mince pies (made by the children), raffle, hot tea, etc will be available. Please feel free to come along and support this event and meet members of your local school.

Finally, we wish all readers a very happy Christmas.

How The Peseta In Your Pocket Can Save A Life

On 1 January 2002 the currencies of all the European countries joining the Euro will begin to be phased out. The main ones are France, Germany, Italy, Greece and Spain. From that time on all the small change you have left and which the banks will not take becomes useless to you.

But not useless to Age Concern England, which has launched the "Fight the Freeze Foreign Coins Appeal" with the intention of using all proceeds to help older people keep warm during winter months.

Age Concern claims that more people die of cold in the UK than in any other European country.

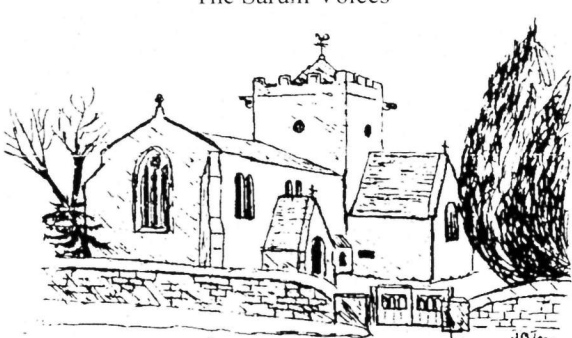
It really is the case that if you don't use it you will lose it, so please give these small amounts of foreign cash to Age Concern Salisbury District, at 21 Brown Street, Salisbury, which will keep 50% of the proceeds for local people, or process via me, Teddy Penn, at Heronsgate, Charlton All Saints.

Carols

by

Candlelight

An evening of festive music and readings presented by
The Sarum Voices



at

Britford Church

Saturday 22nd December at 6:00 pm

For further information, please call Ben Lamb on 01722 411365

Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00 am Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Junior Church	To coincide with 9.30 am services at Nunton or Odstock Churches (except August), held at the Barker Room, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Whist Drive	Every Thursday, 7.30 pm Barker Room, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Monday, 8.00 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Tiny Tots	Every Wed 9.30 - 11.30 am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham Contact at Suzie Orchiton 01722 502026
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (14 & 28 December): Village Hut, Charlton 10.00 - 10.15 am Alternate Tuesdays (4 & 18 December): Brookmead, Britford 11.00 am; Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.20 am; Crossroads, Odstock 11.45 am

For Your Diary

7 December	Downton WI Christmas Market, Downton Memorial Hall 9.45 am
8 December	The Christmas Story and Something Completely Different - The Ebbles Chorale at Donhead St Mary Church, 7.30 pm. Tickets from Angela Bartlett on 01747 828558
11 December	Downton Band Christmas Concert, Charlton Church Hall 7.00 pm (details from Peter Cox on 01722 329709)
14 December	Odstock School Christmas Concert, Radnor Hall at 2 pm.
14 December	Downton WI Christmas Market, Downton Memorial Hall 9.45 am
22 December	Carols by Candlelight, presented by Sarum Voices, Britford Church (details from Ben Lamb on 01722 411365)

