

The Word made flesh?

December 1997

Does the Church sometimes use too much technical language? Perhaps, though that doesn't mean that technical words should not be used; rather it means that they should be chosen carefully and that their meaning should be explained occasionally.

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 Prologue of Saint John's Gospel, where he describes the Incarnation 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'.

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 not considered part of the 'proper' religious community. 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.

Who needs another reason to be full of the joy of Christmas?

Graham Southgate

Church Services

Sunday 7 December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBB	GS/WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Odstock
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	ASBB	GS	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong	BCP	GS	Homington
Sunday 14 December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	ASBA	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Family Service		J&CW	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Charlton
Sunday 21 December	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBA	GS	Charlton
	9.30 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Homington
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Britford
	5.00 pm	Carol Service		GS/WC	Odstock
	6.30 pm	Carol Service		GS/WC	Coombe
Monday 22 December	6.30 pm	Carol Service		GS	Charlton
Wednesday 24 December	6.00 pm	Carol Service		GS	Homington
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Eucharist		GS/WC	Coombe
Thursday 25 December Christmas Day	8.00 am	Holy Communion		GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Family Service & Ext Communion		WC	Britford
	9.30 am	Family Communion		GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Christmas Family Service		WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Family Communion		GS	Charlton
Sunday 28 December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Homington
	11.00 am	Matins & Shortened Communion	BCP	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Coombe
	5.30 pm	Christingle Service		GS	Charlton

From the Editor

This month's edition has been paid for by our advertisers and a donation from the Tiny Tots Group. We are very grateful to both. 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 ClarePenny@aol.com. 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 of *News & Notes* is Monday 29 December - that issue will be distributed slightly later than usual.

Christmas Greetings

We send our greetings to all our readers and wish you a very Happy Christmas. Do please scan the list of Christmas Services carefully and take advantage of these opportunities of joining in the proper celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

Christmas this year will be very special for two of our Valley Churches - Ebbesbourne Wake and Broad Chalke. Their church bells will have been returned after restoration and re-tuning and will be ringing in the Christmas Joy. Our grateful thanks are due to many local volunteers who have worked hard to help restore the bell frames and thus reduce the cost of the project.

Sydney Willcox

News from the Vicarage

Remembrance Sunday A number of people have pointed out to me that in the Parish of Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham it should have been Odstock's turn to host the service on Remembrance Sunday. It takes some time before a new vicar becomes familiar with local traditions, so please accept my apologies. You can be assured that there is already a correct note in my diary for 8 November next year. As it was, each of the services in the eastern part of the Chalke Valley were well attended. In addition, the national silence at 11 am on 11 November appears to have been observed by even more people than last year.

Worship The Midnight Eucharist and First Communion of Christmas will be at St Michael and All Angels' Church, beginning on Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm. There will be two Christingle services during this Christmastide. The first will be at Charlton All Saints on 28 December beginning at 5.30 pm. The second will be at Odstock on 11 January beginning at 5 pm. Those of you familiar with this service will know how effective it is at explaining Jesus Christ as the Light of the World. So please come along to either or both of these services, and bring your family and friends! Also, please give me a ring (01722 330628) if you would like to help make the Christingles. Details of other services on these Sundays are to be found in the service rota.

At a recent meeting of Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham Parochial Church Council I suggested that we might try singing more of the Parish Communion service, to balance what already happens at Morning Prayer. A trial period of perhaps six months will begin after Christmas, and then I shall be pleased to hear your comments.

Christmas Communion Please let me know if you are used to receiving Holy Communion but confined to your home. I have the great privilege of being able to bring Communion to people in their homes but I don't always get to know when it is desired. So please tell me.

Confirmation The Bishop will be Confirming in the Chalke Deanery on 20 May 1998. This is an important step in the Christian journey since it enables those who have been baptised as young children to claim the baptismal promises as their own. Also, if you are bringing children for baptism or you have been asked to become God-parents, and you have not already been confirmed yourself, then you should give Confirmation very serious consideration. On the day of the Bishop's visit the candidate should be at least eleven years of age; there is no upper age limit. I will be arranging classes for those who wish to consider Confirmation, so why not think about it and contact me? It would help my own planning if you could get in touch with me before the New Year.

Graham Southgate

Holy Days in December

- 1 - Saint Andrew the Apostle (transferred) - 8.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton.
- 26 - Saint Stephen the First Martyr - 10.00 am Holy Communion at Coombe Bissett.
- 27 - Saint John the Evangelist - 10.00 am Holy Communion at Charlton All Saints.

News in Brief

Holy Baptism On Sunday 26 October at Britford: Beth Maria Waters.
On Sunday 16 November at Odstock: Camilla Jane Start.

Engagement The engagement is announced between Dr Myles Coutts Johnson, son of Mr & Mrs Julian Johnson of Newcourt Lodge, Nunton, and Cathy, daughter of Mr & Mrs Jacques Ijsselstein of The Hague, Netherlands.



Remembrance Day Services

The collection at the Charlton Remembrance Day Service amounted to £85.61 which will be sent to the Poppy Appeal Fund, together with the money raised by the door-to-door Poppy collection.

WI

On 10 November the President, Mrs Sue Bourne, welcomed members, and reported that those who volunteered to make coffee at the City Hall AGM were rushed off their feet; one committee member was so exhausted she retired to bed and slept all day!! The skittles team next play on 20 November - good luck to them. At the Downlands Group Winter meeting at Whiteparish, Mrs Last spoke and showed slides on Poisons and Potions.

The Archbold cup for a collage made from dried flowers and leaves was won by Landford WI. Mrs Margaret Barrow made a beautiful straw hat, with a background of pieces of Chinese lanterns, and used straw and dried flowers for the hat - it must have taken many hours. (Alas the judge thought the background was painted, so we lost points! And there was some confusion of the competition rules.)

Judy Barke will represent our Institute at the Centenary Tree Planting ceremony at Coombe Bissett on 2 December. The flower of the month was a tie between Mrs Joynt with a red azalea and Mrs Moules with a blue pansy.

On 8 December the meeting will be at Britford Memorial Hall, the speaker will be Mrs Barbara Slater, talking about "Fun with Words". Members may bring a guest (and plate of food). There will be the usual Raffle and Bring & Buy stall - please support these.

A letter of congratulation to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and HRH Prince Philip is to be sent on the golden anniversary of their wedding on 20 November. Mrs Hazel Gillingham has retired after her three years as County President, Mrs Kathy Wright will take her place.

Angela Moules

Downton Band Concert

Tuesday 9 December

7.30 pm

Charlton Church Hall

Refreshments and Raffle ~ All proceeds to the Band



Britford School News

On Tuesday, 4 November, the whole school took part in a 25 minute long Silent Read, followed by some parents telling and reading stories as part of the Wiltshire Literacy 2001 Project. Even our four year olds sat for that long time! Each pupil took home a certificate acknowledging their achievement.

All the children took part in a colouring competition run by Lloyds TSB Bank and we were thrilled to learn that Siobhan McGirr won the second prize in the Under 7 category and Shelley Hare won the third prize, and not only did Craig Baker win the third prize in the 7-11 age group but Matthew Coughlan won first prize in that category and was awarded a cheque for £250 for art materials for the school. The standard of all our entries was extremely high and we congratulate each of the children who took part.

Everyone in the school stood for two minutes at 11 am on 11 November to remember those who gave their lives in wartime. The children had been learning about the significance of Remembrance Day and welcomed the opportunity to make their own contribution to the nationwide time for reflection.

Listen to Spire FM in the next few weeks as some of our Infants have been recorded for the Class Act competition which happens each day on the radio. Fame at last!

Lastly, if you are the parents of children who have not started school yet, do come and see our school in order to put your child's name down on our waiting list if you have not already done so. We can take four year olds upwards. Just phone for details or to arrange a visit. You are always welcome.

Diane Weeks, Head Teacher

News from Odstock School

Odstock School is holding its Nativity Service at Odstock Church on Wednesday 17 December, commencing at 2 p.m. It would be lovely to see you **all** there, as we are opening the Service to all parents and friends in our local community. Please come and support us - you will be most welcome.

Joanna Marvelly

A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported our Bonfire Party on the School field on 7 November. The event raised a magnificent £76.25 for Odstock School. Well done to **all** those people who gave their help in many ways.

Natasha Stokes, Secretary to the PFA

Charlton Carol Service

Everyone who attends the Carol Service at Charlton on Monday 22 December at 6.30 pm is invited to bring a wrapped gift suitable for the women and children of the Salisbury Women's Refuge. Please label the gift with the sex and age of the recipient so that we know for whom it is intended. There will also be a box in church for any seasonal goodies for the men, women and children of the Alabaré Trust. Please give generously.

Tiny Tots Jumble Sale

Many thanks for all the kind support that was given to Tiny Tots Jumble Sale. It went very, very well and we raised £298.40 less £50 cost. It has given us a healthy £240.40 which we will spend on a Christmas party plus some new toys. Many thanks to the people who donated a cake for our stall. Also to the Radnor Hall for a reduction in rent. Our thanks also go to News & Notes for advertising our monthly goings on. We have donated £10 towards costs. The raffle was drawn after the main event. The winners have now been notified. First prize - Thomas Shergood, Second prize - Massey, Third prize - D Darton, Fourth prize - M Barrow, Fifth prize - Underhill, Sixth prize - Mrs Waiden. There were 16 prizes in total, donated from Tesco, and from mothers and grandparents and from tiny tots.

PS If there is anyone that would like to volunteer to help out at the group, it would be much appreciated. We meet at the Radnor Hall on Wednesdays from 2 - 4 pm. All are very welcome. If you are a parent, a nanny or a grandparent and have a toddler aged 0 - 5 years, please ring Maxine Macey on 01722 329760 for more details.

THE OUTBACK LAUNDRY CENTRE LTD.

**DOOR TO DOOR PICK-UP & DELIVERY
EFFICIENT 48 HOUR SERVICE**

**LET US DO YOUR LAUNDRY, IRONING
& DRY-CLEANING
INCLUDING CURTAINS AND DUVETS**

FULL PRICE LIST ON REQUEST

PHONE 01725 513947

Contact Numbers

<i>Team Rector</i>	Canon Sydney Willcox, The Rectory, Broad Chalke 01722 780262 (Day off - Mon)
<i>Team Vicar</i>	Revd Roger Redding, The Vicarage, Ebbesbourne Wake 01722 780408 (Day off - Mon)
<i>Team Vicar</i>	Revd Dr Graham Southgate, Nunton Vicarage, Nunton 01722 330628 (Day off - Fri)
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Nunton - Harry Joynt 01722 329782 Odstock - Peter Martin 01722 329743
	Charlton - Peter Cox 01722 329709 Britford - Daphne Scamell 01722 334858

Dates for your Diary

9 December	Downton Band Concert, 7.30 pm, Charlton Church Hall
13 December	Christmas Market and Craft Fair, 2.00 pm, Downton Secondary School
17 December	Odstock School Nativity Play, 2.00 pm, Odstock School

Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00 am Barker Room, Nunton
Junior Church	To coincide with 9.30 am services at Nunton or Odstock Churches, held at the Barker Room, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Bingo	Every Friday, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm The Orchard, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Tuesday, 8.00 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (5 & 19 December): Village Hut, Charlton 9.45 am Alternate Tuesdays (9 & 23 December): Brookmead, Britford 10.10 am Post Office, Bodenham 10.30 am Radnor Arms, Nunton 10.45 am Crossroads, Odstock 11.15 am

