

News & Notes

Issue 296

December 2000

Church Services

Sunday 3 December Advent 1	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	GS	Coombe
	4.00 pm	Commissioning of Floodlighting		Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong	WC	Homington
Sunday 10 December Advent 2	8.00 am	Holy Communion	WC	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Odstock
	11.00 am	Family Service	RR	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	GS	Charlton
Sunday 17 December Advent 3	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Britford
	9.30 am	Morning Service	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	WC	Nunton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
Sunday 24 December Advent 4	11.00 am	Carol Service	GS	Charlton
	5.00 pm	Carol Service	GS	Nunton
	6.00 pm	Carol Service	WC	Homington
	11.30 pm	Midnight Eucharist	WC/GS	Coombe
Monday 25 December Christmas Day	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Family Communion	WC	Charlton
	9.30 am	Family Communion	GS	Britford
	11.00 am	Family Service	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Family Communion	WC	Odstock
Sunday 31 December Christmas 1	10.00 am	Parish Communion	GS/WC	Coombe
Sunday 7 January Baptism of Christ	8.00 am	Holy Communion	WC	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	GS	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong	GS	Homington

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The First Christmas of the Third Millennium

Westley Cole

This is no mistaking it - 2000 years ago (give or take a year or two) we were fooled. God hoodwinked us good and proper. When it came to choosing a moment to pay us a visit, God managed to take us all in. We got the time wrong! We got the place wrong! We got the people wrong! In fact, we got nothing right.

The time of God's arrival was in the middle of a national referendum; the census by the Romans in 4BC caused so much upset and disorientation that literally no-one had their minds on God's possible advent.

The place turned out to be Bethlehem, which apart from an obscure reference in Malachi (of all people), was such a backwater of a place that no-one in their right mind would have turned up there on Census night.

As for the people, well! God seemed to have instant brain death! The group chosen to receive this untimely arrival were an unknown poverty-stricken family, who had no connection with the social or religious leadership of the day. They were embarrassingly young and hopelessly inexperienced. And what is more, the main witness of this arrival was a group of dirty country shepherds and some strange Gentile star gazers who had travelled miles and who didn't even know the language.

All in all it was most unfortunate. There was no-one there from the press or the media. There was no-one representing the Chief Rabbi. A little later a couple of representatives of the local synagogue seemed to be included in what was happening, but these turned out to be a retired minister and his wife who were clearly on their last legs and just about made it through the dedication ceremony. And then, to cap it all, the family had to flee the country and become refugees because some madcap king called Herod wanted to kill all the firstborn children who had been born around that time.

So we were well and truly taken in. Expecting God to come in a blaze of glory and a fanfare of trumpets, there was hardly a whimper.

Expecting God to come to his temple and reveal himself to the hardworking clergy and the religious figures, how could we have known that God would choose to sneak in the back door and start introducing himself to the kitchen staff.

Expecting God to vindicate the rights and hopes of the Jewish state - which means getting rid of the Romans! - how could we have been prepared for

the fact that God wouldn't take a patriotic line, avoiding altogether the corridors of power and their associated acolytes of "spin"?

Expecting Jerusalem to be the only legitimate place for God to arrive at, how could we have guessed that a silly little town like Bethlehem would be God's first destination?

If only we had known! If only we had read what had been written! If only we had listened to what the prophets had said!

Now as we celebrate the first Christmas of the Third Millennium - nothing has changed. Christ is with us in the humblest of lives - in the quiet and loving and gentle lives of those who long for his kingdom - in the lives of those who know their weaknesses and their need of God and other people. May the humility of Mary be a sign for us all of the way we ought to be and the way we want the world to be - This Christmas and for always.

I wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

From the Editor

This month's edition has been paid for by Longford Logs. Many thanks to Robert Underhill for organising this. The monthly production cost of *News & Notes* is £32.50. If you would like to sponsor an issue, please get in touch! 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 January issue will be delivered slightly later than usual. The deadline for the next issue is Wednesday 27 December.

From the Registers

Burial

On 10 November - Patricia Anne Perrin (cremated remains).

Additional Holy Days

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 26 Dec | St Stephen, First Martyr, 10.00 am Holy Communion at Coombe Bissett |
| 27 Dec | St John, Evangelist, 10.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton |
| 28 Dec | Holy Innocents, 10.00 am Holy Communion at Homington |
| 1 Jan | Naming of Jesus, 10.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton |
| 6 Jan | Epiphany of our Lord, 10.00 am Holy Communion at Charlton All Saints |

Salisbury Diabetic Retinal Screening

Bernard Stubbs

The Salisbury Branch of Diabetics UK is raising money for the above fund. If anyone is willing to buy and/or sell raffle tickets, please contact Bernard Stubbs on 01722 330006. The main prizes are a week's caravan holiday in June worth £220; Advet mountain bike; 3 nights' hotel accommodation for two; Sunday lunch for two; 6 driving lessons at AI Roadcraft, and many more! Tickets cost £1 for a book of five.

THE CHARLTON CAROLLERS

will meet at
Apple Tree House
at 6 pm
on **Monday 18 December**

We aim to start singing at about **6.30 pm**, and finish at about **8 pm** when we will return to **Apple Tree House** (where Sylvia & Geoff have offered to refresh us with seasonal delights).

If you can't be with us at the start - don't worry - join us when you can! The more the merrier! Please bring a torch!

WI

Diane Wait

12 members represented our WI at the recent Annual Council Meeting of the Wiltshire Federation of Women's Institutes held in the City Hall, Salisbury. It was a full house and members listened intently to the various speeches made in the morning, among them one by the Mayor of Old Sarum, Councillor Steve Fear and also Mrs Helen Cary, NFWI Chairman, on the "Strengths and Value of the WI". Delegates were asked to vote on various items on the agenda, including the accounts for 1999/2000. The afternoon session began with the arrival of the Banner & Baton from Laverstock, accompanied by a lone piper, with members dressed as influential women of the century. Following this our guest speaker was Canon Roger Royle who captivated the audience for nearly an hour with a most entertaining and amusing talk. He particularly seemed to enjoy our closing rendition of Jerusalem, which happens to be a favourite of his.



Mrs Sue Bourne (President) was delighted to welcome members, including four new members, Mrs Audrey Elliott, Mrs Celia Maidment, Mrs Isabel Stone, Mrs Ruth Austen and two visitors to the November meeting at the Radnor Hall. Mrs Claudine Elliott kindly provided a delightful display of miniature cyclamen for the President's table. Several forthcoming events were discussed, which included the Christmas Pantomime at the Salisbury Playhouse and the Christmas Lunch at the College which is normally popular with members. The price for this lunch is £12.00.

Mrs Bourne then put forward a proposal that we should pay the expenses of the News & Notes magazine for one month at a cost of £32.50. We really do appreciate the amount of space given to our WI for news items etc and I am happy to report that members were only too pleased to give a unanimous "yes" vote to this suggestion. Mrs Jennifer Cowan won flower of the month competition with a truly elegant white Hydrangea bloom.

The subject of the talk was Tesco Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow by Mr Andrew Simpson, General Manager of Tesco Stores Ltd, Salisbury and his colleague Mr Mike Abbott, who showed slides of the very first Tesco store, which appeared very modest compared to the huge modern superstores of today. We were asked if we know how the name Tesco came about and Mrs Doreen Osmond was able to give the answer. Apparently a Mr Jack Cohen (founder) went into business with a Mr T E Stockwell (tea importer) and hence the name Tesco was born. Mr Simpson told us that there are now between 600 - 800 stores in the UK, Ireland and Southern Ireland and Tesco currently employs in the region of 200,000 people. Apart from the UK there are large stores in Slovakia, France, Poland, Hungary, Thailand, Korea and various other countries. Mr Simpson discussed the technical aspects of how the stores are run so efficiently and was also very happy to answer numerous questions from members. He promised to put right some of their complaints! Doreen gave the vote of thanks for a most fascinating discussion and backed up my own comments regarding his extremely helpful staff members at the Southampton Road store. It is a pleasure to shop there.

It would be lovely if members would bring along as many guests as possible to the Christmas meeting on Monday 11 December at the Radnor Hall. There will be a super Bring and Buy sale and raffle, mince pies and mulled wine and special entertainment will be provided by Mr Harry Joynt. It should prove to be a very jolly occasion and a good start to the festive season.

Finally, our WI always loves to welcome new members so if there is anyone who would like to join at the start of 2001, or before, please do call either Mrs Sue Bourne (President) on 01722

329734 or Mrs Jean Van Hagen (Secretary) on 01722 338803. We would love to see you at our meetings and you are assured of a very warm welcome.



Part Time Administrative Officer For Odstock School Required

To start in early January 2001. Hours 9.15 am - 12.15 pm Monday to Friday, term time only.

Excellent computer skills, communication skills and car driver essential.

Come and join our friendly school. For more details, job description and application form ring Odstock School 01722 329701 to speak to someone only Mon, Wed pm, Thurs or Fri, or 01722 332863 anytime. Closing date for applications Monday 11 December.

Christmas Concert

by the

Downton Band

on

Tuesday 12 December

7.30 pm

at

**The Church Hall
Charlton All Saints**

Refreshments and Raffle

Entrance Free

*Retiring Collection for the
Band*



Radnor Hall Christmas Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale

Saturday 9 December

9.30 am - 12.00 midday

In the Radnor Hall, Bodenham

**Father Christmas, Charity stalls,
Raffles, Cake stalls, Competitions
and Coffee**

Come and see the hall and

Bring & Buy

Entrance £1 includes coffee

If you would like to book a table for £5 ring
Margaret Barrow Tel 01722 329747



Charlton Parish Council News

Michael Chandler, Parish Councillor Tel 01725 511152

Along with the assistance of Mrs Jackie Dover and Julian Johnson, our County Councillor, I have been corresponding and talking with Wilts County Council about the A338, in particular the stretch between the Warren Lane junction and the Matrimony Farm turning. As you know there have been numerous accidents including fatal ones. There was another nasty one recently.

Firstly we are keen to see the traffic slow down - it has become a race track, and secondly to make the junctions more obvious. In the course of the discussions it became apparent that the County are not appreciative of what a dangerous stretch it has become. Consequently I am keen to keep some kind of record of "Dangerous Driving Witnessed" so that the County are under no misapprehension as to the situation. For instance, Charlton villagers tell me that they have been waiting to turn right when coming from Downton, only to be overtaken.

A phone call from time to time would be appreciated and any comments you would like me to pass on would be welcome.



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Carols by Candlelight



an evening of festive music and readings
presented by

the Sarum Voices

7:00pm Saturday 16th December

at

Britford Church

Contacts

Team Rector

Team Vicar

Team Vicar

Churchwardens

Canon Sydney Willcox, The Rectory, Broad Chalke 01722 780262 (Day off - Mon)

Revd Roger Redding, Vicarage, Ebbesbourne Wake 01722 780408 (Day off - Mon)

Revd Dr Graham Southgate, Nunton Vicarage 01722 330628 (Day off - Fri)

Nunton - Harry Joynt 01722 329782 Odstock - Peter Martin 01722 412906

Charlton - Peter Cox 01722 329709 Britford - Daphne Scamell 01722 334858

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, 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
Ebble Pre-school	Monday-Thursday 9.00 am - 12.30 contact Sharon Chandler 01722 329719
Parent & Toddler	Every Friday 9.30 - 11.30 am, Ebble Pre-school mobile, Odstock School
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (1, 15 & 29 December): Village Hut, Charlton 10.00 - 10.15 am
	Alternate Tuesdays: Brookmead, Britford 10.35 am
	Post Office, Bodenham 10.55 am Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.10 am
	Crossroads, Odstock 11.35 am

Dates for your Diary

9 December	Christmas Coffee Morning, 9.30 - 12.00 Radnor Hall
11 December	WI Christmas meeting, Radnor Hall
12 December	Downton Band Concert, Charlton Church Hall, 7.30 pm
16 December	Sarum Voices' Christmas Concert, Britford Parish Church 7.00 pm
18 December	Charlton Carol Singing