

News & Notes

Issue 284

December 1999

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Terry Sankey

The mad rush towards the festive season is on the horizon. The frantic business of buying food and presents is only a stone's throw away. The pace increases, the events pass and then suddenly it will all be over. Spare a moment for the future.

If our hopes and aims are solely centred on what *we* want to achieve and aim for, then our future is egocentric! Our longings should include our relationships with the community, those in need, the lost and those on the margins of society.

The Christian message first came to the shepherds who were out in the dark and cold; the butt of people's humour and gossip and a source of suspicion and mistrust. It was to them that the good news of Peace on Earth and goodwill to all humanity was initially proclaimed. Those on the fringe of society, certainly need our help at Christmas, but even more, they need to be included and understood.

Perhaps as church, community and individuals our new year's resolution for the millennium should include a contribution to the care for the environment and those in need in this country as well as abroad - our vision for the future.

As the Bible so poignantly states: "where there is no vision, the people perish".

We all wish you a joyous Christmas and a hope-filled New Year.



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Church Services

Sunday 5 December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	WC	Nunton
Advent 2	9.30 am	Parish Communion	GS	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong	GS	Homington
Sunday 12 December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Homington
Advent 3	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Odstock
	11.00 am	Family Service	SW	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	GS	Charlton
Sunday 19 December	9.30 am	Morning Service	GS	Homington
Advent 4	11.00 am	Matins	WC	Britford
	5.00 pm	Carol Service	GS	Odstock
	6.30 pm	Carol Service	GS	Coombe
	6.30 pm	Carol Service	WC	Charlton
Friday 24 December	6.00 pm	Carol Service	GS/WC	Homington
Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Eucharist	GS/WC	Coombe
Saturday 25 December	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Homington
Christmas Day	9.30 am	Family Communion	GS	Charlton
	9.30 am	Family Communion	WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Family Communion	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Family Service	WC	Coombe
Sunday 26 December	9.30 am	Parish Communion	KC	Charlton
St Stephen's Day	10.00 am	Holy Communion	WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Morning Service	GS	Odstock

GS = Graham Southgate, WC = Westley Cole, SW = Sydney Willcox, KC = Karen Curnock, AT = Annabel Tier, RR = Roger Redding, TS = Terry Sankey, JW = John Watson, CW = Clare Watson, SAW = Sheila Watson

Other Holy Days In December

28 Saint John, Evangelist 10 am Holy Communion at Nunton.

30 Holy Innocents 10 am Holy Communion at Homington.

From the Editor

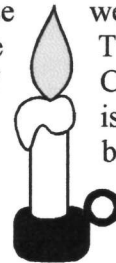
The Longford Estate has paid for our newsletter this month and our thanks go to Robert Underhill for arranging this. The monthly production cost of *News & Notes* is now £32.50. If anyone would like to sponsor an issue, you will receive not only our grateful thanks, but also an advertisement for yourself, your business or a charity of your choice on the front page. 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 of *News & Notes* will be distributed later than usual, and the deadline for the first issue of the new year is Friday 31 December.

News from the Vicarage

Graham Southgate 01722 330628

This Christmas is, of course, especially significant because we shall be celebrating the Two Thousandth Anniversary of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. That is not to say that I think we should be ignoring the New Year, rather that as Christians we should be keeping it in proper perspective. You may have heard of



suggestions for each church to present every household in the country with a candle, which can be lit as midnight approaches on 31 December. Having considered this idea your Parochial Church Councils felt that it would be far more appropriate to present each household with a copy of Saint Luke's Gospel so that people can read for themselves of the significance of two thousand years. These will be distributed during the weeks before Christmas along with details of our Christmas services (thus, you too can join in the biggest birthday party ever!).

It hasn't been Britford's recent practice to "ring out" the old year on its six bells but things will be different this time around, as parishioners will have already been notified. In addition, at mid-day on 1 January it is hoped that every church bell in the country will be rung: our four churches will be no exception to this so please come along to your own church just before noon - at Nunton and Odstock two new Yew trees will also be planted (these are cuttings from ancient trees thought to be at least two thousand years old).

Just in case you haven't looked that far forward in your 2000 diary, January has five Sundays. This means that on 30 January there will be just one service for the four parishes of our Eastern Group. This time it is Odstock's turn to be our hosts for a Family Communion service at 10 am, when we shall be celebrating the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (also called Candlemas).

Finally, on behalf of your Churchwardens and the members of the Chalke Valley Team Ministry, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Celebration of Christmas Concert

Saturday 18 December at 7.30pm

A choir conducted by Jonathan Sampson

St Peter's Church, Britford



Ebble Community Pre-school Opens

Sherwood Elcock



Parents, teachers and governors were pleased to welcome Lady Radnor to Odstock School on Wednesday 17 October for the official opening of the Odstock Pre-school. Lady Radnor, who met with children and staff

and helped one of the children cut the celebration cake, expressed enthusiastic support for this new village initiative. Ebble Community Pre-school occupies an unused room at Odstock Primary School and welcomes children from age 2½ to school age and provides a caring educational experience that prepares them to enter primary school.

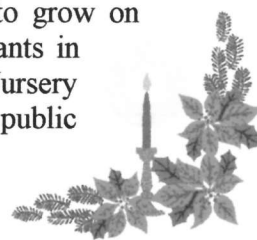
The school has got off to a flying start helped by donations from the Parish Council and the Fete Committee and a generous grant from The Millennium Project Fund. There are already 13 children on roll and an enthusiastic group of supporters. Playleader, Sarah Bungay, would be pleased to hear from parents of young children and others who would like to know more about the school. Anyone interested should contact the secretary Sharon Chandler on 01722 329719.

Charlton All Saints Gardening Club

Barbara Box

On Monday 1 November, Mr Tim Lowden from MacPenny's Nursery, Bransgore, gave an amusing talk on plants to grow on chalky soils. He brought plants in pots and cuttings from the Nursery garden, which is open to the public on special request.

We hope to hold the next meeting in January 2000.



WI

Judy Barke

The President, Mrs Sue Bourne, welcomed everyone to a packed Barker Room, Nunton for the November meeting. Members had enjoyed Noises Off at the Playhouse and would be going to the Pantomime in January. A Christmas lunch has been booked at Salisbury College for Thursday 9 December. The flower of the month was won by Mrs Patti English with a Yucca flower. Mrs Doreen Osmond reported on the Downland Group meeting at Whiteparish. Our Knee Rug entry for the Archbold cup had been woven by Mrs Jackie Felton.

Mrs Jean Van Hagen reported on the Annual Council meeting held in the City Hall, Salisbury at which she had been our delegate.

Mrs Sally Lever, Care Co-ordinator of the Ebbles Valley Link Scheme came to tell members about the scheme which provides

volunteer carers to assist in small jobs such as chopping wood, walking dogs, child-minding, driving patients to hospitals and surgeries for doctor's appointments.

Our speaker was Mrs Annette Holmes, assisted by her husband and friends who explained about the many benefits of Magnotherapy and showed us products which can help relieve the symptoms and pain of some ailments in both people and animals. They also described products which can help to reduce limescale in water systems, fuel consumption in vehicles and heat efficiency in the home. Mr Richard Penny, the local Eco-Flow distributor, brought items for members to purchase.

The Christmas meeting will be held on 15 December in the Radnor Hall, Bodenham.

There will be a bring and buy and raffle. Mrs Lang will give a talk on Seasonal Shenanigans - A Look at Some of our Customs, which will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

An Inviting Opportunity

HOST is a national charity, founded by the British Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We offer adult international students at universities and colleges in the UK the opportunity to stay, for just a weekend, with friendly individuals or families. This gives the students a unique insight into the way of life of this country, helps them to feel welcome here and can compensate for the homesickness which some students experience. The hosts, who are volunteers offering one or two invitations a year, benefit by making friends from different parts of the world, and learning about other countries in a very personal way. The exchange of ideas and mutual understanding will, we hope, play a small part in fostering better

international relations. Invitations are particularly welcome at Christmas. If you think you might be interested in becoming a volunteer host, please call HOST's Voluntary Regional Organiser, Pauleen Crowder on 01722 32005, for an information pack, or HOST on 0171 494 2468.

Mrs Hinder

Mrs Hinder lived in Charlton for many years in Gatesgarth (now known as Magnolia). She and her husband, who was the local Parish Councillor for a long time, were pillars of the community, and will be remembered by many of the older residents. Mrs Hinder moved to Barford Lane, Downton, when the house and grounds became too much for her to manage. She died in October.

Christmas Concert

by the

Downton Band

on

Tuesday 7 December

7.30 pm

at

The Church Hall
Charlton All Saints

Refreshments and Raffle

Entrance Free

Retiring Collection for the Band



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MONDAYS 7 - 8.30 pm INTERMEDIATE
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780750

PLEASE RING FOR MORE DETAILS
(ALSO PRIVATE LESSONS BY
ARRANGEMENT)

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, Vicarage, Ebbesbourne Wake 01722 780408 (Day off - Mon)
<i>Team Vicar</i>	Revd Dr Graham Southgate, Nunton Vicarage 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

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
Tiny Tots	Every Wednesday, 2 - 4 pm The Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Whist Drive	Every Thursday, 7.30 pm Barker Room, Nunton
Bingo	Every Friday, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm The Orchard, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Monday, 8.00 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (10 & 24 December): Village Hut, Charlton 9.45 am Alternate Tuesdays (7 & 21 December): 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

1 December	Odstock Parish Council meeting, 7.30 pm Radnor Hall
7 December	Downton Band Concert, 7.30 pm Charlton Church Hall
18 December	Christmas Concert, 7.30 pm St Peter's Church Britford
20 December	Charlton Carol Singing

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THE CHARLTON CAROLLERS



Will meet at Azalea Cottage
At 6pm for Elizabeth's Special Mulled Wine
On Monday 20 December

We will sing around the village
and finish at Rivermeade
where Anne will warm and refresh us
with Seasonal Fare!



**A Very Happy Christmas and
a Peaceful New Year to all
Our Readers**

**And especial thanks to all the
unsung unpaid heroes who
help produce and deliver
News and Notes to you each
month!**

