

News and Notes

Issue 332

December 2003

Christmas

Christmas is not the oldest of the Christian Festivals – certainly Easter and even Epiphany go back further. It is a gradual coming together of ancient pre-Christian mid-winter celebrations and the Christian remembering of the significance of the birth of Jesus – the mysterious “incarnation” or “God becoming a human being and sharing our lives and world”. Both are happy occasions “light out of darkness”, looking forward to a Spring-time ahead and the giving of presents has become a natural part of these festivities.

Presents are given across the Christian world – ranging from St. Nicholas’ Day (6th December) in Germany, through St. Lucia’s Day (13th December) in Scandinavia, to the Orthodox Christians of the East who have to wait until Epiphany (6th January) before they can open theirs. Christmas is a Season rather than just a brief moment; a season that centres on the idea of generosity - the generosity of God towards us and the generosity of ourselves towards each other and especially towards those in need.

There are many practical opportunities over Christmas to be generous to our neighbour – food and toys for local charities, the Christmas collections and the endless appeals for Good Causes, quite apart from the giving of presents and cards to family and friends. But it is not just financial. Christmas is also about a generosity of spirit, generosity of attitude and a generosity of time. All these are probably more important in the long run, but they seem to be in rather short supply in our society at the moment. So we are quick to criticise, to condemn, to question the motives, to look for scapegoats and to demand recompense – and these attitudes of mistrust and confrontation are beginning to eat away at our morale and the way we regard one another. Christmas challenges this meanness of spirit with its message of generosity – generosity being the nature of God and generosity being the true nature and purpose of each of us.

May you and your families all have a very Happy and Generous Christmas and every Blessing for the New Year.

David Henley

Church of England Services

Sunday 7th December Advent 2	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer BCP	Nunton Britford Coombe Bissett Homington	WC CW TW WC/+DS
Sunday 14th December Advent 3	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion (JC) Family Service Morning Prayer BCP	Homington Odstock Coombe Bissett Charlton All Saints	WC AJ AJ DH
Sunday 21st December Advent 4	8.00 am 9.30 am 17.00 pm 19.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Service Carol Service Carol Service	Britford Homington Odstock Coombe Bissett	WC KRS WC/DH DH/WC
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve	18.00 pm 23.30 pm	Carol Service Midnight Eucharist	Homington Coombe Bissett	WC +PH
Thursday 25th December Christmas Day	8.00 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion BCP Family Communion Family Communion Family Communion Family Service	Homington Charlton All Saints Britford Nunton Coombe Bissett	WC VW WC VW JL
Sunday 28th December 1st Sunday of Christmas	10.00 am	Parish Communion	Coombe Bissett	WC

+DS = The Bishop of Salisbury, +PH = The Bishop of Ramsbury, AJ = Venerable Alan Jeans,
DH = Revd Canon David Henley, WC = Revd Westley Cole, JL = Revd Jackie Lowe,
KS = Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith, TW = Revd Tim Woods, CW = Revd Christopher Walker,
VW = Revd Canon Vernon White BCP = Book of Common Prayer, (JC) = Junior Church

From the Editor

If you have items for inclusion in *News & Notes*, please send them to me, Adrian Taylor, Florida, Nunton Drove, Nunton SP5 4HZ, tel: 01722 325862, email: vcmtaylor@msn.com.

Monetary donations should be sent to our Treasurer, Neil Guttridge, Court-Hay, Lower Road, Charlton All Saints, Salisbury SP5 4HQ, telephone 01725 511468.

The deadline for the January 2004 edition is Friday, 19th December 2003.

WI

Diane Wait

The November 10 meeting got off to an excellent start with many members attending and everyone received a very warm welcome from Mrs Julia Joynt (President). Mrs Jean Martin had created a really stunning autumnal arrangement of colourful leaves and assorted berries for the President's table. Mrs Pam Trubshaw read out the prayer, which was followed by a short silence of remembrance. In matters arising Julia said that several members had enjoyed the recent Downland Group meeting. She also reported that we will soon have use of a sophisticated microphone in the Radnor Hall, which will make life a lot easier for those members sitting at the back. Congratulations must go to our Skittles Team who have won their last two matches. Well played ladies.

Mrs Margaret Barrow (Treasurer) presented her report and we all joined in singing happy birthday to mark her special day. Mrs Jean Van Hagen (Secretary) read out the correspondence, which included several interesting invitations. One in particular was a request for members to take part in a sponsored "Knitathon" to raise funds for a Childrens' Society. There was also an invite from Redlynch & District to attend their Christmas meeting on December 10th. Against surprisingly strong competition Mrs Judy Barke's lovely yellow Mahonia emerged as a worthy winner of flower of the month.

We are all looking forward to the Christmas Lunch on December 15th at the Radnor Arms at 12.30. This is sure to be a very enjoyable occasion if last year was anything to go by when the food and service was superb.

After the coffee break we were in for a real treat when Mr Bob Fox commenced his talk on "A funny way to make a living". Bob explained that most of his life had been spent in show business and he had been very fortunate to work with many of our famous and well loved comedians. These included Arthur Askey, Ted Ray, Max Bygraves, Sandy Powell ("Can you hear me mother?"), The incomparable Tommy

Cooper, Ken Dodd, Roy Castle, Tommy Trinder, Sir Harry Secombe and many more. His talk was very anecdotal supported by many of their wonderful jokes which have stood the test of time so well and which were so appreciated by us all. It felt good to laugh so much and we felt as if we had been prescribed a tonic. It is sad, however, that many of these great gentlemen no longer grace our lives. Mrs Dorothy Darton gave him a very amusing and appreciative vote of thanks.

The next meeting is our Christmas Party on December 8th at 10 am in the Radnor Hall when Mrs Rachael Phillips will give a demonstration entitled "Flowers for Christmas". There will be a Bring & Buy Stall, Raffle (which will include the floral arrangements created by Mrs Phillips), homemade mince pies and warming mulled wine to enhance the festive atmosphere. Visitors will receive a very warm welcome and could take home some exciting goodies. Please do come along and bring a friend with you.

'Ace of Hearts' Appeal

The Tucker Family

In October, we had a stall in the Hospital foyer and raised £114 (including £10 donation). We are having another stall there on Friday 12th December to sell the remaining items kindly donated by the Charlton Autumn Fayre Committee. This with the £620 from the Jumble Sale, £140 from the Car Boot Stall and £50 kindly donated from the Fête Committee makes a total so far of £924 (We hope to make it £1000+). Many thanks to everyone who has helped in any way.

P.S. The Ace of Hearts Appeal are trying to raise their target of £1 million before the end of the year, as costs will inevitably rise. There are calendars of Salisbury (2004) at £5.99, pin badges at £1 and Raffle Tickets (£5000 1st Prize) available from the Ace of Hearts Appeal Office tel:01722 429005.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Susie Jenkins

The total raised in Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham this year, including the collection taken at Odstock Church on Remembrance Sunday, amounted to a record sum of £788.20, up £272.94 on last year. I am extremely grateful to all my helpers who worked so hard to achieve such an excellent result.

Christmas Cards in aid of the Sudan Link

Debby Underhill

Have you ever thought of buying recycled Christmas cards so that all the money goes to help people who have a real need? Well now's your chance! They're a real bargain at just £1 for 10 cards and I will have them at the 9.30am services at Britford, Odstock, Nunton, and Charlton throughout December. Alternatively you can call me on 01722 329769 if you want some.

Pumpkin Competition

Mike Smith

Once again, a very big thank you to everybody who generously supported this year's pumpkin competition. The grand weigh-in was held at the Radnor Arms, Nunton, on Sunday 26th October where there were many entries despite the dry summer. There was not much separating the top four pumpkins, however after due consideration and a re-weigh, congratulations go to Alan Ambrose with a fine 52lb. specimen in the adult class and another fine 30lb specimen grown by Emma Poynting in the junior section.

This year we have managed to raise £275, which will be donated to Odstock School funds, and many thanks go to the generosity of those who gave raffle prizes and bought tickets.

Odstock Primary School News

We have spent the balance of our grant from the Lords Taverners on a ropewall unit and bicycles for the children to enjoy at lunchtimes on the field as well as tricycles and scooters for Early Years play.

We would like to thank all villagers who contributed to the pumpkin event which has raised £275 for school funds.

In October we had a gardening Saturday with parents, staff and friends. This marks the beginning of our school's involvement in a countywide Vibrancy project, jointly organised by the Wiltshire LEA and Bath Spa University. Our school is one of only 3 other schools south of Devizes to win a place in this scheme. It will create extra opportunities for innovative curriculum developments that will enhance all the children's learning. A felt making workshop for both parents and children was held in November, this was another activity linked to the project.

The two teachers from the Gambia had a very productive fortnight with us. We held a welcome ceremony for them when they first arrived. One of the main themes we concentrated on was similarities and differences between our markets and those of the Gambia. All the children and the Gambian teachers visited Salisbury market as a prelude to designing and running our own school market.

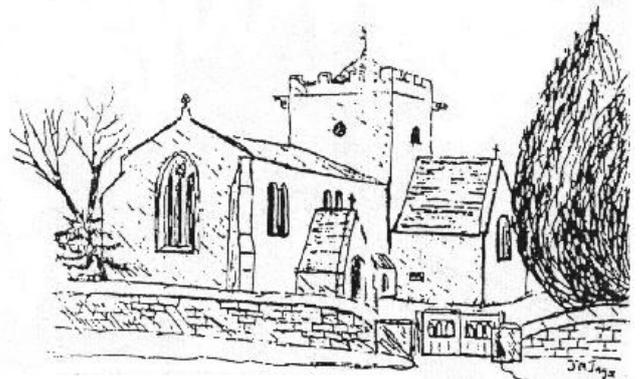
We are planning several activities to take place during the last week of term starting with a Christmas lunch for all the children, provided by the Yew Tree Inn. This will be followed by the Small Schools Carol Concert at the City Hall, making mince pies for the Christmas concert and having a Christmas Party afternoon to include a visit from Father Christmas.

The final event of the term will be the **Christmas Concert** in the Radnor Hall on December 18th. There

will be two performances, one at 2pm to 3pm and the other at 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Please come along if you can.

Don't forget to let us know if your children would like to borrow any books from our newly refurbished library.

Carols by Candlelight



An evening of festive music
and readings presented by

The Sarum Voices

5.00pm, Saturday
20th December
at

Britford Church

Call Ben Lamb on
01722 411365
for more information

Please note the early time!



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Regular Events

- WI Second Monday of the month, 10.00 am Radnor Hall, Bodenham
- Junior Church To co-incide with 9.30 am service 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 Wednesday 9.30 – 11.30 am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham, contact Suzie Orchiton on 01722 502026
- Mobile Library Alternate Wednesdays (3rd & 17th): Brookmead, Britford 10.00 – 10.20 am
Village Hut, Charlton 10.30 – 10.45 am, Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.00 – 11.20 am

Dates for Your Diary

- 8th December WI Christmas Party 10.00am Radnor Hall
- 15th December WI Christmas Lunch 12.30 pm Radnor Arms
- 18th December Odstock Primary School Christmas Concert 2.00pm and 6.30pm Radnor Hall
- 20th December Carols By Candlelight 5.00pm Britford Church

We shall continue to distribute paper copies of News and Notes, but if you'd like to receive one electronically too, please send a request by e-mail to vcmtaylor@msn.com