

1998 - A Time For Revelations

January 1998

It is a strange quirk of culture that our words become unfashionable or change their meaning. The word 'revelation' for many people today would conjure up an idea of a sensational story about some unfortunate person in a rather sleazy tabloid newspaper. 'Revelation' however, simply means 'disclosure' or 'uncovering' and that is also the meaning of Epiphany, which is the season that follows Christmas in the Christian calendar. It is a Greek word meaning to reveal or show and in the early Eastern church it celebrated the baptism of Jesus when God declared Jesus to be his son. In the Western church however, Epiphany has been an occasion to record the first showing of the Christ-child to non-Jewish people, in the form of the Wise Men. So Epiphany is a time to give thanks to God for showing us his divine nature through a human person, Jesus Christ.

The 90s are designated the Decade of Evangelism which means we only have two years left to achieve our aim of revealing Jesus Christ to our nation.

In the Chalke Valley we shall have many exciting occasions this year which will celebrate Christ's presence with us. First of all on 11 January the Bishop of Ramsbury will re-dedicate the restored church bells at Broad Chalke and Ebbesbourne Wake. This is an occasion for great rejoicing for in both villages there has been a generous response in financial gifts and voluntary labour which has enabled the task to be completed in a very short time. Now once again the bells can be a clear witness to God's presence. So let us remember that they are not just a pretty sound but also a call from God which needs our response.

This year will also see the 700th anniversary of the building of All Saints, Broad Chalke. Various events have been planned to celebrate the life of the Church in Broad Chalke and to remind us all that God is still at work today. Watch this space for details.

In May the churches in the Chalke Valley look forward to a visit from Eric Delve, a national evangelist, centred on Coombe Bissett. We also hope that Lent will be an opportunity for us to find new ways of showing Christ's love to a wider community. Please pray for God's help and guidance in every aspect of Church Life during the year.

Syd Willcox

Church Services

Sunday 4 January	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBB	GS	Britford
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Odstock
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	ASBB	GS	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong	BCP	WC	Homington
Sunday 11 January	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	ASBA	GS/WC	Nunton
	11.00 am	Family Service		RR	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Charlton
	5.00 pm	Christingle		GS	Odstock
Sunday 18 January	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	ASBA	GS	Odstock
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBA	SW	Charlton
	9.30 am	Matins	BCP	AT	Homington
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	BCP	SW/WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	GS	Britford
Sunday 25 January	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBA	GS	Charlton
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	AT	Coombe
GS = Graham Southgate, WC = Westley Cole, SW = Sydney Willcox, KC = Karen Curnock, AT = Annabel Tier, RR = Roger Redding. If anyone would like a lift to any of the services, please telephone Debby Underhill on 01722 329769.					

From the Editor

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to all our readers! This month's edition has been paid for by two donations from loyal and generous readers. We are very grateful to you both - without your continued support and generosity, together with the unstinting service of the production and distribution team, our newsletter could not continue.

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 February issue of *News & Notes* is Friday 23 January.

Holy Days in January

6 January - Epiphany - Holy Communion 8.00 am at Nunton

From the Registers

Holy Baptism on Sunday 14 December at Nunton: Matthew William Goldthorp and Lauren Rebecca May Middlecote.

Interment of Ashes on Thursday 18 December at Charlton All Saints: Michael Robert William Baker.

Downton Band Concert at Charlton

Once again we started our Christmas festivities on 9 December with the Downton Band Concert - everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening of Christmas music and carols. The Band likes coming to Charlton, being assured of a warm welcome, and we are delighted to have them. The collection and raffle came to just over £142. My thanks to all who came, and everyone who helped in any way, before, during and after, especially the ladies for their delicious refreshments, making this one of the highlights of our year. Peggy Oxendale

Whist Drives

£300 was given to Church funds during 1997 from proceeds of the weekly whist drives in the Barker Room. This was less than 1996, due to a lower attendance. If falling numbers continue, the drives will have to end. There are only four local players, the remainder coming from outside the area. Grateful thanks to those who do support us, either by playing, or donating prizes for the Christmas drive.

Bernice Loader and Grace Barker

WI

The Christmas meeting was held in the Britford Memorial Hall as the Barker Room in Nunton is not big enough for a party. Mrs Sue Bourne, President, welcomed members and friends, also Mrs Norris, one of our founder members and Miss Denys Clarke, former President. Mrs Judy Barke had been to the Tree Planting ceremony at Coombe Bissett, on a bitterly cold day, when 10 - 12 trees were planted on top of the hill - it is hoped the deer will not eat them!

In September 1998 there is to be a special weekend for Wiltshire members, costing £133, and there are 5 different courses from which to choose. At the January meeting (on 12 Jan) Mrs Vi Bath will talk about her Journey to India - illustrating her talk with slides. Our team came third - out of 17 entries - in the Quiz evening at Redlynch. The Bring and Buy stall raised £110.55 and the raffle £61.

Mrs Barbara Slater, our speaker, talked about Fun with Words. There are over 3000 languages in the world. Mandarin Chinese comes first, followed by English. The talk was greatly enjoyed by all; as well as many anecdotes, Mrs Slater quoted from Thomas Hardy, Dylan Thomas, John Timpson, Pam Ayres, Rupert Brooke & Frances Coruford. If any institute wants an excellent speaker - look no further.

On 30 November and 1 December Madeline Baker and friends sold cakes, doughnuts, tea and coffee at Georgina von Etdorf's sale of fabrics, and over the two days we made £205.55. Grateful thanks to all who helped. Angela Moules

Carols by Candlelight

Our thanks to Ben Lamb and the Sarum Voices for the "Carols by Candlelight" on 19 December in Britford Church. The church was beautifully lit by many dozens of candles which complemented the Christmas tree. It was a magical evening with which to start the Christmas festivities. Daphne Scamell

Congratulations

Congratulations to Keith Thompson, Burford Road on his award of the MBE, received at Buckingham Palace on 12 December, a wonderful occasion for Keith and Kathleen and their family. Daphne Scamell

Charlton All Saints Garden Society

Miss Daphne Smith very kindly turned out on a cold November evening to delight a few sturdy members with two charming displays of winter flowers, or rather leaves. The small display was raffled, but the large one was generously donated to the church, where it has remained amazingly fresh for three weeks. Our next meeting will be on 26 January at 7.30 pm in Charlton Church Hall. Barbara Box

Honour for Georgina von Etzdorf

The following is the text of the "Greeting" to Georgina von Etzdorf:

The Royal Society of Arts acting through the Council under an Ordinance made at the Society's House in the Adelphi, London, the eleventh day of October 1937 and subsequently amended, hereby confers upon you the title of Royal Designer for Industry (Designer for Industry of the Royal Society of Arts) in consideration of your eminence and efficiency in creative design, believing that you will on every occasion exert yourself in support of the honour, interest and dignity of the Society and faithfully discharge the duties required of you under the said Ordinance. Dated 27 November 1997.

Variety Show - Radnor Hall - 28/29 November

We were once again treated to a superb evening's entertainment. It really is amazing that there is so much talent in the parish to produce such a splendid variety of arts in what was possibly the best show to date. Our thanks must go to Harry Joynt whose enthusiasm, know-how and expertise welds everything together as producer, MC, and anchor man in all proceedings. Our thanks also to Sandy Jeffery for organising the second half, and to our totally reliable pianist Peggy Oxendale.

To start with we had sketches on the theme "Brush up your Shakespeare" followed by a modern one act comedy "Between Mouthfuls". The second half was an "Encore" of some favourite revue items of the last ten years. Harry introduced "Shakespeare" with some unusual quotations, and then John Ferris and Anthony Warley briefly appeared as a convincing pair of fools. Graham Southgate (our vicar), Nick Stanger and Adrian Taylor sang Music Hall versions of Hamlet, Shylock and Falstaff, with Graham dressed like a Victorian bookie adept at reading his lines from inside his bowler hat. On the Friday, Nick gave us a well accented monologue on Othello. Dorothy Darton and Jo Marvelly related their somewhat limited understanding of the plot of Hamlet, after which John and Melanie Ferris got muddled up between Romeo, Juliet and Lady Macbeth. Dorothy and Julia Joynt completed the sequence with a duet "Let's do it" applied to Shakespearean characters and stage people. All the sketches fitted well together and were well received.

"Between Mouthfuls", directed by Melanie Ferris, took us up to the interval. The parts of two couples at separate tables in a restaurant were taken by Jill and Julian Johnson and by Jo Marvelly and Peter Docherty, with Harry performing as the discreet waiter

moving between the tables. The roles were played to perfection with both couples bickering away at each other and Harry doing his job smoothly until on Saturday when attempting to extract the cork from a bottle of wine he somehow managed to push it into the bottle and a fine example of ad-libbing followed.

After the interval the revue "Encore" not only gave us plenty of variety, but included several acts of an exceptionally high standard. Space will not allow justice to be done to all, but every act was well performed in the style suitable - witty, sentimental, boisterous, farcical, whatever. As a start we had Odstock children sing us a couple of Christmassy songs and let's hope we see more of some of them on stage in future.

The revue burst into life with as fine a performance of the Can-Can as you could hope to see at this level of theatre or indeed on many a stage. Six gorgeous girls beautifully costumed giving it their all, a magnificent exhibition repeated later in the programme. Then a change of pace with Adrian in fine voice for his ballad of the tramp "Burlington Bertie", followed by Harry's witty monologue about "The Single Hair". Boisterous again with six footers Peter Docherty, Stewart Ford and Anthony Warley as schoolgirls with pigtails and hockey sticks prancing energetically to "Three Little Maids". Next we had Carol Dodd singing sweetly through the lullaby "Summertime", despite the antics behind her of fisherman Graham Ford. Supposedly hooked onto a monster fish and desperately reaching out for her to save him. This was slapstick of a high order. Julia Joynt then made her positively final appearance as an ageing "Fairy over 40" complete with limping wand. She was followed by Graham Ford's classic film sequence "Fingers and Thumbs" starring convicts Stewart Ford and Colin Berry. Next "The Stripper" was performed by Hazel Docherty behind a screen and the tune blasted out by Peter Docherty on this trombone. With the final piece of underwear on show the screen was removed revealing Hazel in hair curlers packing up her ironing board. To conclude "Encore" we had the ballet, started off gracefully by young Verity and Alexandra. The next two ballerinas Carol Dodd and Debbie Underhill attempted the appropriate routines but being of generous build they needed the assistance of soon-to-be exhausted Sandy Jeffery and Margaret Miller. And so to a final short sing song.

Last but by no means least, our thanks to all who supported the show - backstage or front-of-house - Cliff and Lyn Whitley, Alexander Joynt, Keith Jeffrey, Debbie Underhill and Maxine Macey, and to el Alamein Press for printing our programme. Here's to the next time.

Peter Ford

Charlton Carollers

The Charlton Carollers battled against the snow and cold in December to raise £90 for the Salisbury Women's Refuge. Our thanks go to Harley and Jenny Morgrette for providing drinks and nibbles at the start of the evening and also to Anne Simmonds for warming us up with more seasonal goodies at the end of the day. A good time was had by all, despite the frozen toes!

You Gave them a Chance

In the August edition of News and Notes I wrote about the "Pass it on Programme" that was about to start in Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham. The programme was commissioned by the PCC in an attempt to achieve the increase in regular income which was vital if mounting costs were to be met. Failure of the initiative would have very seriously threatened the future of our churches in Odstock and Nunton.

I am pleased to report that the response to the programme has been very encouraging and the target for increased income has been achieved. This does not mean that suddenly the PCC has more funds than it knows what to do with, but it does mean that it can face the future with a great deal more certainty than before.

On behalf of the PCC I would like to thank all those who played their part in the success of the exercise. First there was the sub committee set up by the PCC to carry out the project. This was led by Harry Joynt who played a major role in the exercise including a great deal of work on the excellent material that was produced. But even more important were all those in the villages who responded so well to the appeal, enabling our target of an additional £4000 per annum of income to be reached. Most of those who pledged support have already been contacted but if you have not yet heard from us, don't worry, you will do very soon! Many thanks to all of you.

In addition to monetary pledges there was an equally encouraging response to the call for involvement in a range of church activities. Once again those who have offered to help will be contacted in due course, if this has not already happened. Thanks to them all.

As I hinted above, although we have achieved our target, we shall still need to keep a very careful eye on our finances. We are not planning any further appeals but will still be grateful for any offers of financial support from anyone who has not yet responded.

Finally, to all those in our villages, whether you have been able to offer help or not, why not join us at our services from time to time, if you do not already do so? You will be very welcome.

Adrian Taylor on behalf of the Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham PCC

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<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

16 January	Youth Church at Charlton Church Hall, 7.30 pm
26 January	Charlton Garden Society, 7.30 pm Charlton Church Hall

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 (2, 16 & 30 Jan): Village Hut, Charlton 9.45 am Alternate Tuesdays (6 & 20 Jan): Brookmead, Britford 10.10 am Post Office, Bodenham 10.30 am Radnor Arms, Nunton 10.45 am Crossroads, Odstock 11.15 am