
News and Notes

Issue 345

January 2005

I remember New Year's Eve 1999 very clearly. I was just about to begin ministry in the South Wiltshire Group of the United Reformed Church. The "Group" was centred in Salisbury, but I was not, at that stage, needed to give much time to the city centre church. There were other commitments, but would I also like to become involved with the URC in the Chalke Valley? No difficulty in saying "Yes", so as 1st January dawned, many of my hopes and dreams for the future were focused on this new ministry. Even so, I didn't begin to imagine that in preparing for this New Year in 2004 we would be planning for such positive and exciting prospects.

Becoming "involved" with the Chalke Valley has been a huge blessing on a personal level, and also because we have found ourselves involved in this wonderful opportunity to work with others in making church unity a reality.

It's so sad that the differences between the various denominations of the Christian Church can be barriers. The whole of creation is full of beautiful variety, why not the Church?

I believe that every person has a "pathway" to God. It's God's gift to us. How we follow that pathway depends on so many aspects of our lives. The trouble begins when we, as individuals or within like-minded groups, feel that our way of following is so right for us that it must be the only way, and should be right for everyone else too. The history of the Church is littered with schisms and divisions, born of such certainty, and they obscure and deny the message of God's love for all, given to us by Jesus.

With mutual respect for different traditions, Christians in the Chalke Valley have become trail blazers for new ways of co-operating and sharing. Recognising that unity does not require uniformity, we are learning to value and enjoy our different ways of journeying to God.

We hope that work will soon begin on refurbishing the chapel for ecumenical and community use. Meanwhile, it has already been inspiring and rewarding to meet together regularly for worship, fellowship and study.

30th January 2005, at 3pm is an opportunity to celebrate this "togetherness" and to share in worship at a united service in All Saints' Church, Broad Chalke. Christians of all denominations (and of none) are invited to be there. If you need enticing I should tell you that Brother Patrick is to preach, and that the usual spectacular Chalke Valley tea will follow the service. What better way to mark our anticipation of a happy New Year?

Jackie Lowe

I have received some responses to this request for email addresses but would very much like some more. I'll keep the offer open for another month. (Editor)

Email Addresses for Charity !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Each month, I email a copy of News and Notes to about thirty people and would very much like to extend my mailing list. I use the "blind copy" method of addressing so each recipient only sees their own address.

Please send your email address to newsandnotes@tesco.net (even if I already use it), together with the name of your favourite charity (Registered Charities only, please). For each address (per household), 50p will go to the most popular charity nominated and a further 50p to church funds, divided between all our parishes.

If there is a tie, I will use a random method to select the charity. Although the donation will be restricted to one per household, please send more than one address (each with a choice of charity) if you would like them to be included on the mailing list. The donation to church funds will be divided between the parishes in proportion to the entries received (please indicate parish).

Please note that receiving News and Notes by email will not disqualify you from a paper copy but the list would be very useful if there is some mid-month information to circulate.

WI

Sue Bourne

Our Christmas meeting was well attended and we were joined by two of our founder members, Mrs Lovesey and Mrs Norris, and also a new member, Mary Cumper. Julia Joynt, our President, chaired our brief meeting, first thanking Audrey Elliott for her lovely Christmas flower arrangement. We heard that Betty Marks was home from hospital and so was Daphne White who, in spite of her stroke, was already back to playing scrabble! Messages were sent to Diane Wait at New Hall Hospital after her hip operation. The business part of the meeting covered the pantomime and theatre outings, skittles and scrabble news and forthcoming WI events. The meeting agreed to donate £50 towards the late Queen Mother's Garden in Nunton.

During our coffee break both the Bring and Buy and raffle stalls did a roaring trade. Sadly our entertainer was ill but we happily filled the gap singing carols, led by Julia and Dorothy Darton, and Pam Trubshaw read John Betjemen's Christmas poem.

We ended the morning on a festive note with mulled wine and mince pies during which we belatedly toasted Doreen and Ivor Osmond on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The next meeting will be on 10th January, when the speaker will be Hazel Docherty, our well know local Blue Badge guide. All visitors will be very welcome.

The Radnor Hall Players

Hazel Docherty

Once the evenings are drawing in and there are murmurings of Christmas one's thoughts naturally turn to pantomime, revue, fine food, good company and the Radnor Hall Players. Would they be able to come up with the goods again? What a relief to hear that they were indeed rehearsing but there were murmurs of discontent and dismay when it was known in the leafier parts of Nunton that no fishnet tights were to be displayed this year and there were to be no hunky chaps in spotted dresses. Undaunted, and in the local spirit of adventure, just under 200 people from the villages and others from as far afield as London turned out on 3 nights to watch two one-act plays. As always they had a great evening, warmly welcomed with a glass of mulled wine by a great team of helpers.

First on was 'Whose Bed Is It Anyway?' whose author actually travelled from Solihull to see the Friday performance of his play with which he was delighted. Set in the private ward of a general hospital the cast of three older men (well known to us all) and two gorgeous young girls, kept up a very good pace as the moment of one patient's operation approached. Distracted by the delightful new young

nurse, the antics of the hospital porter and the unexpected secret life of 'sister', Barclay Barrington-Brown orchestrated events from his bed until unceremoniously wheeled off to theatre. Harry Joynt, as director, ensured a good balance between the characters and clever use of the rather restricted space which was inevitably dominated by the bed. Half time ushered in the delicious dinner that everyone has come to expect from Shel Martin and her helpers. Guests were served a wonderful hot meal in no time at all, followed by lovely desserts. Would that all restaurants could do the same with such style, panache and good humour!

The second play was 'Losing It'. Director Stephanie Elcock chose Bodenham for the site of the health farm and had gathered a wonderfully varied cast of what appeared to be seven ladies all coming to the end of a difficult week of shattered good intentions. We were treated to some interesting comments on the efficacy or otherwise of such a stay and relationships were strengthened by the stresses of the situation. There were some very good moments such as furious cycling on the exercise machine and a novel approach to weight loss which involved one lady removing the sandbags with which she had arrived from around her waist. Unaffected by the message, we all had another drink, eagerly anticipated the raffle draw and finally left after yet another excellent evening's entertainment. As usual, it was obvious how much hard work had gone on behind the scenes to make sure the plethora of props, costumes and make up were all ready and to hand, lights and sound working and prompters in the wings. Brian Clake as overall producer had masterminded most of the above and all his time and effort were much appreciated. Beer, generously provided by the Ringwood Brewery, slipped down and that encouraged everyone to support Roger Trubshaw's excellent raffle. Hopefully plenty of money will have been raised to support the Radnor Hall funds and I am sure that everyone who attended would like to thank all those who worked so hard before and after the event to make it such a success.

Charlton All Saints Garden Society

Barbara Box

On 29th November, Marylin Boyeskorkis gave us a talk with a difference. We had expected to be taught about hedgehogs but instead were captivated by the work she and her colleagues undertake at the Wiltshire Wildlife Farm at Newton Tony, where they treat sick and injured animals before releasing them back into the wild.

The next meeting will be 28th February in the church, Mr Roy Prior will talk about clematis.

Odstock Primary School News

The end of another term is upon us. We have been busy during December gearing up for our Christmas celebrations. The culmination of all the hard work was at our Christmas Fayre and concert at the Radnor Hall. The children spent the whole day there, first rehearsing for their play and then having a Christmas lunch provided by the staff. We then had our first concert and fayre, followed by the evening performance. The event was fantastically supported and enjoyed by all. The Christmas Fayre included gifts made by the children and raised around £300 for our school fund. The last day of term was a "bring a toy to school" day which was appreciated by all the children. In the afternoon Father Christmas visited to bring them all a gift.

Our PFA have been busy creating a recipe book. If anyone in the community would like a copy please contact the school; it contains 60 recipes ranging from cakes, main meals, desserts and even the recipe for playdough. We also have some calendars for sale.

OPEN CIRCLE

evenings at the Radnor Hall,

7.30 - 9.30 regularly on the 2nd, 4th

(and 5th) Mondays of each month.

This is a friendly gathering to share simple circle and folk dances and songs from around the world: you don't need to know anything or to bring a partner! Gentle, energising and fun. All welcome. £5 per evening, £4 for unwaged. In January the dates are Mondays 10th, 24th, and 31st. Enquiries Clare Chitty 01722 330871

2005 London Marathon

This will be my 12th London Marathon and I would like to break two records this time. First, I would like to raise over £1,400 and secondly I would like to fulfil my dream of finishing the race in record time; under 3 hours 50 minutes.

I always said I would run a Marathon for a charity of my friend's choice. Over the years I have known many people with cancer. In the last few months, she too was diagnosed with breast cancer and this made her choice clear. She asked me if I would run for Breast Cancer Research. Please help me to make this possible for this very worthy cause.

If you don't catch me while I'm out running, please phone me if you are able to sponsor me!

Bernie Stubbs Tel: (01722) 330006

Whist Drives

Bernice Loader

£300 has been donated to Church funds from the proceeds of the weekly Barker Room Whist Drives during 2004. Thank you to all who participated, and who contributed prizes for the Christmas one.



The Granary Barn, (on Bridge Farm), Lower Road, Britford Salisbury, SP5 4DY - Tel: 01722 413400

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Church of England Services

Sunday, 2 nd January 2 nd Sunday of Christmas	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Nunton	AW
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Britford	AW
	11.00am	Parish Communion	Coombe Bissett	WC
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer BCP	Homington	AW
Sunday, 9 th January 1 st Sunday of Epiphany	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Homington	WC
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Odstock	AW
	11.00am	Morning Prayer BCP	Charlton All Saints	WC
	11.00am	Family Service	Coombe Bissett	AW
	3.00pm	Christingle	Odstock	AW
Sunday, 16 th January Epiphany 2	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Britford	AW
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Nunton	AW
	9.30am	Morning Service	Homington	WC
	11.00am	Parish Communion BCP	Coombe Bissett	AW
Sunday, 23 rd January Education Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Homington	AW
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Charlton All Saints	AW
	11.00am	Morning Prayer BCP	Coombe Bissett	AT
	11.00am	Morning Service	Odstock	AW
Sunday, 30 th January Sunday next before Lent	10.00 am	Parish Communion	Coombe Bissett	WC/AW

WC = Revd Westley Cole, AW = Revd Alison Williams, AT = Mrs Annabel Tier
BCP = Book of Common Prayer

Alison Williams, our Team Vicar, may be contacted on 01722 330628

Mid-week Services

Thursday, 6th January - Epiphany - 8.30am - Holy Communion - Coombe Bissett
Wednesday, 26th January - Conversion of St Paul - 8.30am - Holy Communion - Broad Chalke

Regular Events

WI Second Monday of the month, 10.00am Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Whist Drive Every Thursday, 7.30pm Barker Room, Nunton
Singing Group Every Tuesday, 8.00pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Tiny Tots Wednesdays (ex. Aug.) 9.45–11.45am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham, contact Joanne Philp on 01722 510565
Mobile Library Alternate Wednesdays (12th, 26th): Brookmead, Britford 10.00 – 10.20am
 Phone Box, Charlton 10.30 – 10.45am, Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.00 – 11.20am

January Dates for Your Diary

10th January WI
20th January News and Notes Deadline

Advance Dates

28th February Charlton All Saints Garden Society (*see page 2*)

Please send *News and Notes* articles to Adrian Taylor
Florida, Nunton Drove, Nunton, Salisbury SP5 4HZ
tel: 01722 325862
email: newsandnotes@tesco.net (*see deadline above*)

Monetary donations should be sent to our Treasurer,
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Saints, Salisbury SP5 4HQ
Tel: 01725 511468