

News and Notes

Issue 321

January 2003

Church Services

Sunday 5 January Christmas 2	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	DH	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)	WC	Homington
Sunday 12 January Baptism of Christ	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Odstock
	11.00 am	Family Service	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins (BCP)	WC	Charlton
	5.00 pm	Christingle Service	GS	Odstock
Sunday 19 January Epiphany 2	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Britford
	9.30 am	Morning Service (All Age)	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	WC	Nunton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion (BCP)	GS	Coombe
Sunday 26 January Epiphany 3	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WC	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	GS	Charlton
	11.00 am	Matins (BCP)	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Morning Service (All Age)	WC	Odstock
Sunday 2 February Candlemas	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (Collection for the Alabaré Christian Care Centres)		Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion		Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)		Homington

JC = Junior Church, GS = Rev Dr Graham Southgate, WC = Westley Cole, DH = Rev Canon David Henley

"If a picture paints a thousand words"

Westley Cole

Time passes and already we enter the third year of the third Millennium. If we look back on the canvas of 2002, which is finished, we see a very crowded scene. In it are the affairs of the nations, and the important events that have taken place in our own country, bringing us good reason for shame at human sinfulness and for anxiety at many things that are happening. In addition, we have our own personal corner in the picture, the ups and downs that we ourselves have encountered during the year, our worries, our difficulties, our misfortunes, and, too, our pieces of good fortune as well. In looking at our own corner we must take note not only of our material successes and failures, but of the spiritual side of our life as well. There is a good deal more in last year's picture to interest us. We will naturally think of our family and friends, and what has happened to them since last New Year's Day. Indeed, like some real pictures which human artists have painted, and have crowded too many people and things into them, our picture of 2002 is so full that our mind cannot take it all in.

If we now turn our thoughts to the canvas for 2003 we find it is completely empty and we can imagine what might make up the picture for the coming year. We fill it in with the things that we hope will happen, and things that we fear will happen and with the things that we ourselves hope to do. If we are pessimists we make a sad picture and we fill it with all the troubles and disasters that we can conjure up; if we are hopeful then we make up a year full of blessing for the world, and good fortune for ourselves and our friends. There is also something else, which we will put in our picture that is of great importance to us. As well as thinking of what we expect, we think also of what we would like to do, and we make our plans for the year. Of what

kind are those plans? Will they make our picture one of good or of evil, of a selfish, or idle, or sinful person, or of a man or a woman trying to do right, to serve God, and to help his or her fellow men?

Although we may guess what will go on the empty canvas, and imagine what we would like to see there, we have no control over what will actually fill it during the coming year. An artist does not take up pencil and brushes to start work while he has no ideas about what he is going to paint on the blank space in front of him. He has been thinking about it, and in his mind's eye he sees what he hopes to do. God has his plans for mankind in 2003, and for each one of us. To some extent, He leaves the fulfilment of them in our control, since by our good and bad actions we can advance or hinder his plans, we can beautify or mar the picture that He is going to paint. Let us work with Him and not against Him in the year that is before us, and let us enter it, not in fear, but in hope and trust, mindful of His promise to us of love and care.

From the Editor

This month's edition has been paid for by Britford PCC, to which we are very grateful. As you will see from the next article, the PCC has decided to launch an appeal to restore St Peter's Organ, which is a most worthwhile cause.

May I apologise to anyone who has sent me pieces for this issue which I have left out. My computer suffered heart failure over Christmas, from which she has not recovered. Please re-send any articles which do not appear, and I shall insert them into the February issue. My address is clare@azalea.demon.co.uk or Clare Penny, Azalea Cottage, Chapel Lane, Charlton All Saints, SP5 4HF, 01725 512869. The deadline for the February issue is Monday 20th January.

Happy New Year!

From Britford, St Peter's Organ Appeal

Roger Ladbury, Hon Treasurer

After much discussion and deliberation, the PCC has decided to take the plunge to do something about the old organ in the church, built by a reputable London builder named Alfred Monk, which has lain un-usable for many years.

Regular churchgoers will know that we have two organs in St Peter's at the moment, but we have been advised by the Diocesan Organ Adviser that the one we use presently is not worthy of any substantial expenditure but the organ in the chancel certainly is. The plan is therefore to raise funds to rebuild the Alfred Monk organ. The advice is that we should have a new console, that is: manuals action etc, bellows, pump, and case but use all the existing pipes and we hope to add three more stops to widen the voicing of the instrument. In addition, the new action and console, which will stay in its present position generally, will be raised up a little and being new construction will not take up so much room of the vestry. This will give us more room there and

when all is done, the temporary organ can be sold and the north transept be available for church use.

A faculty has been granted by the Diocese and the Appeal Fund is open. The preliminary cost indicated is in the region of £65,000 towards which enormous total we have made a useful start. This major project, when achieved, will give St Peter's a wonderful instrument which will be such a valuable support to the worship in this 1200 year old church for the next 100 years or so.

Any and all donations will be most welcome either sent to the Hon Treasurer at Bridge Cottage, Britford, Salisbury SP5 4DY, or left in the porch Gift Box. Gift Aid donations are particularly welcome. A publicity leaflet for the Appeal is presently being produced and will be available at the Church shortly.

News From The Vicarage

Graham Southgate (01722) 330628)

So many people have mentioned to me that they thought all four churches had been wonderfully prepared for our Christmas celebrations, that it seemed right to pass on their thanks and add my own. I'm sure that those of you who braved the rain and the wind, the coughs and the sneezes (what could more seasonal?) to attend the Services will have returned home full of the spirit of what Christmas is all about.

In terms of Church news, we have a new Archdeacon of Sarum to welcome. Many members of the Parochial Church Councils will already know the Reverend Canon Alan Jeans through his role as Adviser for Parish Development: on Saturday 4th January he becomes 'The Venerable' when he is Collated as our Archdeacon at the Church of St Mary and St Nicolas in Wilton, at 5.30 pm. We wish him well in his new and demanding ministry.

I hope that you all have a joyful 2003.

Holy Days

- 1 Jan Naming and Circumcision of Jesus -
Holy Communion 10 am at Coombe
Bissett.
- 6 Jan The Epiphany of our Lord - Holy
Communion 8 am at Nunton
- 25 Jan Conversion of Saint Paul - Holy
Communion 8 am at Nunton.

From the Registers

Burials

- At Britford on 15th October:
Victor Philip Gray (cremated remains)
- At Charlton All Saints on 3rd November:
Irene Alice Matthews (cremated remains)
- At Britford on 9th November:
John Albert Bowns Russ (cremated remains)
- At Odstock on 11th November:
Albert Cecil Iles

WI

Diane Wait

The 9 December Christmas meeting proved to be a very enjoyable occasion, and produced an exceptionally high attendance of over fifty members and guests, including three remarkable founder members, Mrs Lovesay, Mrs Norris and Mrs Townend. We were all given a very warm welcome by Mrs Julia Joynt (President) and Mrs Jackie Feltham opened proceedings with the prayer. On this occasion business was kept to a minimum with brief reports from Mrs Jean Van Hagen (Secretary) and Mrs Margaret Barrow (Treasurer) who was pleased to inform us that a sum of £43.94 had been raised for the ACWW as a result of the proceeds from the flower of the month competition. Julia then went on to thank committee members Mrs Doreen Osmond, Miss Judith Johnson and Mrs Joy Saunders for the enormous amount of work they have put in this past year. Doreen is responsible for compiling the very excellent programme of guest speakers, who have all been brilliant, and Joy and Judith between them have arranged all the various outings during the past year, with the highlight being the superb visit to Highgrove. Members have also enjoyed the monthly theatre visits, which Joy arranged and the excellent seats she manages to secure. They all received warm applause and were each presented with a beautiful azalea in recognition of their efforts.

During the coffee break, members crowded round the bring and buy stall, which was run with great

efficiency and good humour by Mrs Isobel Stone, Mrs Ruth Austen, and Mrs Barbara Stevens, whilst Mrs Dorothy Darton and Mrs Betty Marks ensured that everyone purchased tickets for the excellent raffle. With most members having secured a bargain or two, including my own purchase of a long desired medical cabinet, we were happy to sit down and listen to Mrs Sonia Woolley present a selection of Christmas readings. These were mainly written by well known people and included a very poignant poem composed by Robert Bridges in 1913. She gave an hilarious rendition of a very humorous one about a nativity play at a village school which Joyce Grenfell made famous, and also read a very well known poem written in 1822 by an American Dr Clement Moore with the instantly recognisable first line, "T'was the night before Christmas"! Also included in her selection were works by Dylan Thomas and Rudyard Kipling. She presented her readings with great style, poignancy and humour expressed in the poems, and by way of thanks she was duly rewarded with Dorothy Darton singing her thanks to the tune of Jingle Bells.

Following Sonia's readings, the mulled wine, prepared by Mrs Judy Barke, was smelling temptingly delicious and was soon being enjoyed along with the mince pies and sausage rolls, lovingly prepared by members of the committee. Many members won prizes in the raffle and it was generally agreed that it had been an excellent meeting, leaving everyone in good humour.

On Wednesday 11 December, a big crowd of us enjoyed a really fabulous lunch at the Radnor Arms. The food was sensational and on behalf of everyone I would like to say a huge thank you to Ken and Cathie and their staff for making the occasion so enjoyable – we really did have a great time and the crackers were super also!

The first meeting of 2003 is on Monday 13 January at 10.00 am when the speaker will be Mrs Gillian Nolan, who will show slides and discuss the historic almshouses in Salisbury. This should prove to be a very interesting and informative talk, so why not start 2003 with a visit to our meeting at the Radnor Hall.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to congratulate Julia and Harry Joynt and the Radnor Players on their recent superb Cabaret and Pantomime. It was sheer joy from beginning to end and much appreciated by the packed houses! A happy and peaceful New Year to everyone.

Cabaret and Pantomime Review

Hazel Docherty

Oh no it isn't – but oh yes it is once again the panto season and yet again the Radnor Hall Players managed to delight and entertain full houses at their ever-popular shows on November 28, 29 and 30. The audiences did not go away disappointed. There was a feast of cabaret and pantomime, interspersed with a most delicious meal brilliantly masterminded and served up by Shell Martin and her many helpers.

Nick Stanger got together a varied and at times hilarious cabaret featuring such firm favourites as the Old Brigade dancing a hornpipe but also included some excellent song and dance, music and monologue and an extraordinary display of synchronised swimming by 2 barely recognisable Nunton residents.

After this rousing start everyone was in the mood for some supper, the first course of which appeared with great speed and was exceptionally tasty. Then down went the lights and Robinson Crusoe began. This mix of Robinson Crusoe, Treasure Island and The Pirates of Penzance along with the requisite slapstick was an ambitious work for a large and enthusiastic cast, which included young and old and many in between. As well as some familiar faces in the guise of the good, the bad and the ugly, there was some very welcome new talent – Georgina Von Etzdorf played a gorgeous Island Queen, Stanger and Vyas children appeared in many guises and the piano was most professionally played by Arthur Willoughby, more often seen at the church organ on a Sunday. Sets, costumes, props and special effects abounded, the antics with water, flying fish and the blunderbuss being particularly appreciated by the audience. The make-up was excellent and stage changes were well handled. A fine job was done by the ticket sellers, raffle organisers and bar attendants, all of whom helped to make a very happy evening as well as raising funds for the Radnor Hall, and in particular for the fine new stage which was in action for the first time.

As so often, the entire event was inspired and masterminded by Harry Joynt who has been a major force behind the much improved facilities in the hall and the continued forging of local ties of friendship and fun inevitably generated by this kind of occasion. A heartfelt thank you goes out to him from everyone involved. We wait with bated breath for next year's offering.

Winter Days Out In London With A Blue Badge Guide

for only £28pp by minibus or
£37pp by train from Salisbury.

Choose from visits to the British Museum and the City of London, St Paul's and Tate Modern, Docklands, the Victoria and Albert Museum and Tate Britain or shopping trips.

More details from:

Hazel Docherty, Manor Cottage, Odstock, SP5 4JA
Telephone 01722 325155

E-mail Hazeldoc@Btopenworld.com

or see leaflets in Bodenham Post Office

News From The Parish Council

Sherwood Elcock Chairman Tel 01722 334398

At the last meeting of the Parish Council on 4th December those present were: Sherwood Elcock, Jeannie Payne, Rod Poynting, Cliff Whitley and Colin Berry. Apologies were received from Robert Underhill.

The following matters were discussed:

- ❑ **Freedom of Information.** At the suggestion of a member of the public we discussed whether we should publish a full copy of the minutes of our meetings in the Salisbury Journal. We decided to not to publish the full minutes but to invite the Journal to publish a copy of this report. A draft publication scheme to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be presented to the next meeting.
- ❑ **Nunton Field.** Progress has been slow but steady on this issue and we have now reached agreement with the various parties involved and can proceed to draw up a formal agreement that we expect will be signed at the next meeting. A member of the public wondered whether further consultation with the community would be appropriate before committing ourselves to this project but members agreed that there had already been extensive consultation and that public opinion was overwhelmingly in favour of proceeding with the plan.
- ❑ **Minor works and litter clearing etc.** Following the success of the Litter Day earlier this Autumn a member of the Council suggested that there might be persons in the community with the skills and time available to undertake some of the minor works required such as repairs to bus shelters, litter collection etc. We would be delighted to hear

from anyone (else) prepared to take on this role.

Nb. We are aware that several people already contribute significantly in this way.

- ❑ **Finance.** We reviewed our projected budget for the coming year and concluded that in order to meet the additional expense that will be incurred by taking on the Nunton Field an increase in the precept from £6000 to £7000 would be required. This will add about £3.50 per household to the Council Tax (at Band D)
- ❑ **Parish Lengthsmen.** We agreed a schedule of works for the next visit. We are always pleased to hear from members of the public regarding other small maintenance tasks.

The next meeting of the Council will be on 5th February at the Radnor Hall. We welcome the scrutiny of members of the public at our meetings and are pleased to give them the opportunity to address the Council prior to each meeting.

A full copy of the minutes can be obtained from Richard Parsons our Parish Clerk (01794 341405) or can be accessed at www.sp5.org/odstock/opc/

Downton Band Concert

Denis Blake

The weather of two years ago loomed large in our minds – would we be flooded “off” yet again? It rained on the 9th December and on the 11th but on the day of the concert all was well even if the approach to the church was as trifling squidgy. The Church Hall was comfortably full of people, audience as well as band, and the evening was an enormous success. Dot Roblou’s raffle, the food provided by the Noble Army of Maters (mince pies brilliant) and the music of the Band combined to give us a grand evening and the Band

£104. In spite of having two clergy present, David Henley and Graham Southgate, the mulled wine ran out and no Cana-like miracle was worked. In all fairness, it must be said that no such thing was attempted! Our thanks to all who provided food, drink, raffle prizes and, above all, to the Downton Band for coming to us; many players come a long way, the conductor himself coming from Bournemouth. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

Whist Drives

Bernice Loader

£300 has been donated to church funds, from the proceeds of the Barker Room Whist Drives, held during 2002. Thank you to those who support them, by playing, or donating a Christmas prize.

For Sale

Hayter 24” rotary mower, petrol, powered roller drive, excellent condition £250. Contact Peter Cox 01722 329709 or Neil Guttridge 01725 511468.

“Too Many Cooks”

Having a lunch or dinner party, but would prefer not to cook? Then give me a call.

I will create a menu to suit you and the occasion (formal or informal) and even help serve the meal if required, leaving you to enjoy your own party (maximum number catered for is ten).

Puddings are a speciality of mine and if that’s your only requirement, I can provide these for far greater numbers of guests!

Amanda Lyles 01725 513530

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 (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 Fridays: Village Hut, Charlton 10.00 – 10.15 am Alternate Tuesdays: Brookmead, Britford 11.00 am; Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.20 am; Crossroads, Odstock 11.45 am

For Your Diary

5 February Odstock Parish Council meeting