
News & Notes

Issue 285

January 2000

"Leaving the old, both words at once they view, That stand upon the threshold of the new"

Edmund Waller (1606 - 1687)

We have arrived at the threshold of this particular New Year after a very long journey and through it all there has been a strong sense of wanting to make something very special of the crossing of the threshold from the old to the new. We are conscious of our privilege to witness and be part of the transition not just from one century to another, but from one millennium to another; the first time in a thousand years when all four digits of the year change. Yet it is not the case in all calendars. Whilst for the sake of convenience the whole world now uses the Gregorian calendar as the global standard for measuring time, there are other calendars at work. The year 2000 AD is also:

- ❖ 1378 according to the Persian calendar
- ❖ 2544 according to the Buddhist calendar
- ❖ 1420 according to the Moslem calendar
- ❖ 5760 according to the Jewish calendar

These differences are of course religious in origin and they highlight the historical nature of the core event underlying the celebrations: the birth of God into our world as a real flesh and blood person, who changed all our lives for ever. Whether or not you believe in God and in Jesus as the Son of God, were it not for the birth of Jesus this would not be the year 2000 AD, even though some are trying to lose the significance by using the letters CE (Common Era) to replace AD (Anno Domini).

And now that we've arrived at this threshold, what lies on the other side; how will our journey through 2000 unfold for us? Maybe it will be no different in essence from 1999 or maybe you are using it as a unique opportunity to bring about certain changes in your life. When you reach the end of 2000 and look back, will you be satisfied and fulfilled in the knowledge that you have lived this year as fully and creatively as you know how?

And there are questions and challenges that are bigger than our personal and private concerns? "What does God want for you, for the people around you and for the world this year?" And, "How can you participate with God in helping to bring about that transformation?" God entered this world in Jesus and continues to be born and grow in us, the community of faith, the body of Christ in the world today. The life of Christ changed the world's calendar. Two thousand years on may it continue to change us so that we offer a way of living that others will want to share.

Church Services

Sunday 9 January Baptism of Christ	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	WC	Odstock
	11.00 am	Family Service	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	AT	Charlton
	5.00 pm	Christingle Service	GS	Odstock
Sunday 16 January Epiphany 2	9.30 am	Morning Service	WC	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service	GS	Britford
Sunday 23 January Epiphany 3	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	GS	Charlton
	11.00 am	Matins	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Morning Service	WC	Odstock
Sunday 30 January Candlemas	10.00 am	Family Communion	TS/GS	Odstock

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From the Editor

This month's edition has been paid for by a reader in Odstock - all our thanks go to her. The monthly production cost of *News & Notes* is now £32.50. If you would like to sponsor an issue, please get in touch! 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 deadline for the February issue is Friday 21 January.

News from the Vicarage

Graham Southgate 01722 330628

Firstly, an apology. In the December issue of *News and Notes* I mentioned that your Parochial Church Councils had decided to present each household with a copy of Saint Luke's Gospel so that people can read for themselves of the significance of the events which took place in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. I had written that these were to have been distributed during the weeks before Christmas along with details of our Christmas services. Unfortunately the Gospels still haven't arrived from the publishers. I ordered them during the summer but the publishers claim that their printers have "let them down" (I don't know whom the printers blame!) So, they will be delivered as soon as possible (hopefully in time for next Christmas!)

Britford's Services. As a response to the visit of the Archbishops' Springboard Team Britford's Parochial Church Council have decided to change the pattern of the service on the third Sunday of the month. This means replacing Morning Prayer at 11 am with an Afternoon All Age service at 3 pm. The change will be implemented from this month but may be subject to future adjustment. It would be good if as many as possible could please support this new venture.

The Christingle Service. This will take place on 9 January (the first Sunday of Epiphany) in Odstock Church at 5 pm. We shall be joined by the children of Odstock County Primary School who will be presenting their Nativity tableau. The collection at this Service will be for the work of the Children's Society. If you wish to help make the Christingles you should come to Odstock Church at 2 pm on Saturday 8 January - full training will be provided!

Group Service. This month has five Sundays, which 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).

Confirmation in 2000. The Bishop of Ramsbury will be visiting the Chalke Deanery on Saturday 20 May to preside at a Service of Confirmation. This is where adults who have been baptised as infants are able to affirm their Christian faith, and should be seriously considered by anybody who is thinking of having their own child baptised or who has been asked to become a God-parent, or who is planning a marriage service in church. Please contact Graham Southgate (at the Vicarage) for more details.

Holy Days October

- 6 Epiphany of our Lord 8 am Holy Communion at Coombe Bissett.
- 25 Conversion of Saint Paul 8 am Holy Communion at Nunton.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

On Sunday 12 December at Charlton All Saints:
Martin James Westall
Honor Mathilde Westall.

Burials

On Tuesday 30 November at Britford:
James Cedric Lovesey

On Friday 10 December at Britford:
Albert Robert James Dreyer (cremated remains).

Charlton Poppy Appeal 1999

Joan Mackenzie

We were delighted to raise £127.91 from two collecting boxes. £100 was donated at the Remembrance Day Service, giving a total of £227.91 for this very worthy cause. Many thanks.

Odstock Church Flower Rota

Are you talented with flowers? If so then we need you! The Odstock Church Flower Arranging and Brass Cleaning Rota is desperately short of new recruits. If you have a little time to spare and an unsatisfied creative urge, then we should be pleased to hear from you - just a couple of hours once or twice a year would make a difference. Please contact Caroline Cooper at Holly Lodge in Odstock (tel 01722 324915) if you are able to help.

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WI

Judy Barke

The December meeting was held in the Radnor Hall, Bodenham. The President, Mrs Sue Bourne, welcomed founder members, Mrs Townend and Mrs Lovesey, former President Mrs Denys Betts and many guests who joined members.

Twenty members had been to Salisbury College for an excellent Christmas lunch. The trip to the Pantomime at the Playhouse would be on 5 January, with a "friendly" skittles game at Downton on 11 January.

Following very brisk trade on an extremely well-stocked Bring and Buy Stall and Raffle, Mrs Barbara Lang gave us a fascinating insight into Seasonal Shenanigans which was followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

The next meeting will be on 10 January in the Barker Room, Nunton. Mrs Cathy Quinn will give an illustrated talk on Salisbury City Walks.

Salisbury Conservative Association

Judy Barke

The Produce stall run by the Ebbles Valley Branch at the Christmas Bazaar in the Guildhall, Salisbury in November raised £430. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this.

Burns Night

There will be a Burns Night Celebration at the Radnor Hall on Saturday 22 January at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £9.00 to include supper and entertainment. Telephone Liz on 01722 330006.

Downton WI Market

Judy Barke

Downton WI Market will be changing its opening hours for a trial period during January and February. The new hours are 9.30 am - 10.30 am every Friday morning. It is hoped that the earlier opening time will encourage more people to visit the market where an excellent selection of cakes, savouries, breads, plants, vegetables, eggs, fresh trout and a wide selection of crafts are available every week. If you have not visited the market, do make a New Year's resolution to come and see us in the Memorial Hall, Downton, and have a cup of coffee and a home-made biscuit. You will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Millennium Revue - November 1999

Hazel Docherty

It is difficult to convey to anyone who missed the splendid Millennium Revue the breadth and depth of material and talent on offer and the huge amount of thought and work which had obviously gone into the preparation and delivery of this entertainment.

After a welcome and introduction by Harry Joynt, who masterminded the evening, a lively medley of songs, sung by a group in bright costumes was followed by a fine rendering of Noel Coward's Mrs Worthington by Simon Jackson. The major dramatic item of the first half was the pantomime Red Riding Hood performed by 15 children from the villages who had been expertly rehearsed and directed by Melanie Ferris. It was a pleasure to see so many young people taking part, and adults in the audience were delighted to be allowed to boo and hiss the evil wolf and cheer Red Riding Hood, Robin Hood and the good fairy.

Next, 7 pretty French maids gave a charming and athletic performance, which was followed by The Boys of the Old Brigade, who brought down the house. Gasps of astonishment greeted the black fishnet-clad lads who came on showing some remarkably elegant legs. Their routine, with alternately deadpan and provocative expressions, was enlivened by high kicking and rhythmic marching and ended with bows that revealed much. There was scarcely time to recover before Julia Joynt's evocative singing of Old Tyme Dancing and by the time Peter Docherty, Nick Stanger and Sam Vyas had regaled us with the lewd and rousing tale of the Molecatcher complete with gestures which the children in the front row were alarmingly quick to copy, everyone was ready for a glass of wine, a mince pie and the raffle draws for which there were extremely generous prizes.

Settling down for the second half, it was hard to believe that there could be items to match what we had just enjoyed. But a short melodrama quickly had everyone involved and raising eyebrows at the dubious moral lessons to be learnt. Nick Stanger and Adrian Taylor, delightfully attired, sang Abdul Abulbul Amir and this was followed by a humorous recitation of The One Eyed Yellow Idol by Jill Johnson with interjections by Harry Joynt and Julian Johnson as the colonel and the major. We then had a short opera interlude with Julia Joynt and Dorothy Darton singing Rossini's Cat Duet beautifully as a couple of alleycats. The style and tone changed with Graham Ford's Wine, Women and Didgeridoo sketch, an entertaining play on modern words and customs and with the glamorous addition of Tiffany Welsh. The unlikely inclusion of a restoration piece might have made some wonder if this was really for all the family, but adults and children alike were entranced by the beauty of the costumes, the skill and liveliness of the actors and the wonderful humour of a text in which all Ss were pronounced as Fs, so the 2 lovely ladies (Debbie Vyas and Liz Stanger) were called Fufan and Fimple, the latter having fixed her wedding for the "fecond Funday after fexuagefima". This piece, directed by Melanie Ferris, revealed the high quality of talent that exists in the community and was warmly applauded. An additional surprise item in each half was juggling by a young German visitor Martin Stammberger. This was an accomplished display and the juggling in the dark was enthralling.

A very entertaining evening was brought to a close with the cast and audience joining a Gilbert and Sullivan chorus Tarantara executed by a mixed quartet of only fairly courageous police constables led by the fine figure of Sergeant Adrian Taylor. We were left to reflect on the extraordinary amount of hard work and high standards achieved by Harry Joynt, Melanie Ferris, accompanist Peggy Oxendale, the cast and helpers both backstage and front of house.

Odstock School Report

Paul Niblett, Headteacher

Odstock School has been awarded the prestigious Quality Mark by the Basic Skills Agency for raising standards in literacy.

The school had to present a portfolio of work to the Basic Skills agency showing the continuous improvement of the basic skill of literacy of all pupils.

Odstock School is the first school in Wiltshire to win the award and joins the 500 schools nationally to be recognised in this way. The award is available to all schools in England and Wales to apply for if they can demonstrate continuing success. As the school does not report its SAT results as it is small, this is an extremely important recognition of the work of a successful school.

There will be a presentation ceremony in the New Year.

The Downton Link

This organisation is now participating in a Salisbury District Community Project, which is the running of a minibus, from Downton into Salisbury, once a week, to provide transport for disabled people. This minibus would come through Charlton All Saints if requested. To qualify to travel on the minibus, you must have partial mobility, no mobility, to be registered blind or deaf, or have a temporary mobility problem. The bus can cater for 15 passengers, or 6 passengers and 4 wheel chairs. Each client has to register for this scheme, for which there is a charge, and the return trip will cost £2.00.

For further information and registration form, contact the Community Bus Office 01722 410123 (open Monday - Friday 09.30 - 13.00 hrs). Anne Blake, Yew Tree House, Charlton All Saints is also happy to help with any enquiries 01725 511743.

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