

# Outlook

Hughenden Parish Magazine  
St Michael and All Angels



**December 2011**

## **Welcome**

The fact that you are reading these words suggests that you are a new reader of this magazine. Either you are a newcomer to this area or you are a visitor.

If you are a visitor, we hope that you have enjoyed your visit to our church; that you have found it interesting, instructive and conducive to prayer. If you are going to be here at one of our regular service times, we hope that you will join us in the worship of God and we ask that you take our greetings back to your own church.

If you are new to this Parish, we bid you welcome and invite you to join us and share in the fellowship of God's family in Hughenden. This magazine gives details of the regular times of worship here. We hope that you will find something to meet your spiritual needs. The printed word is cold and remote and we would like to make personal contact with you, so please leave your name and address in the box at the back of the church.

Whoever you are who reads these words, may God bless you, sustain you and protect you, your family and friends, now and always.

## **Outlook**

### **Editorial team**

Sylvia Clark  
Bob & Jane Tucker  
Christopher & Jane Tyrer  
Tony Dodd

### **Printing**

Norman Pulley and team

### **Front cover picture**

Sarah Withington-Dodd

**December 2011**

**Dear Readers,**

Another “Newbie” editor this month – I hope you will bear with me for any errors and omissions; it can only get better!

On the plus side, this bumper Christmas issue contains a wide variety of interesting and thought-provoking offerings, most with a topical theme. All contributions, as ever, are most gratefully appreciated. Unfortunately, due to space limits, I have been unable to include all articles received in this issue, such has been the response, so I have tried to concentrate on topical issues.

However, we are going to produce a **January 2012** edition which will contain any items missed this time. Please forward any additional contributions to the usual places;

by email to

[mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:mag@hughendenparishchurch.org.uk),

or hand-written to **Helen Byrne, 67 Friars Gardens, Hughenden Valley.**



Best wishes for the season to all

**Tony Dodd** (Editor)

## From the Vicarage - Dec 20011

Once again, what I write about this month will be yesterdays news when Outlook is printed and distributed. I hope not though because it shouldn't be, at least not what lies behind it. At the end of October the News was full of what had been going on at St. Paul's Cathedral. I confess to being utterly incredulous when I heard that the Cathedral had been shut for 'health and safety reasons'. Then followed the resignation of two of the Cathedral Staff, one because he would not be party to any forced evictions of the protesters camped outside, and the other, the Cathedral Dean, because he no longer



believed that his leadership was tenable. Whilst this was going on this particular 'humble vicar' believed that the cathedral chapter had somehow lost their nerve and that the Cathedral should have remained resolutely open. It became very evident that there were little or no health and safety issues as the protesters had not in any way blocked the entrance to the Cathedral. The media were loving all of this and pointed out that a bunch of tents had achieved what Hitler's bombs could not; the closure of the Cathedral for the better part of a week. (Apparently the Cathedral

was only shut for a total of four days for the duration of the whole war.) It was all a fiasco, and very much an 'own goal' for the Cathedral, and with it the Church of England. There was also the issue of St Paul's relationship with the city. Although, to my knowledge, there has been no evidence that this had any bearing on the course of events, nonetheless questions were asked. I also felt that initially the Bishop of London did not give a lead, as he basically said to the protesters 'well you have had your say, now it's time to go', rather than picking up what lay behind their grievance.

And then there were the protesters themselves. Much was done to bring them into disrepute: Were they all sleeping in their tents or were some slipping home for a good meal and a shower? But as one of them said, they were there to make a point, and

not to be a bunch of 'unwashed hippies'. And then in the middle of it all emerged our own Bishop Alan. Are we allowed to be proud of our bishops? I was very proud of him. At last here was a voice from the church which spoke reason and sense. He had gone to St Paul's to see for himself. I heard him on the radio after church on the Sunday he went. One thing he said stood out; what the protesters had highlighted was the need for us to look at the relationship between money and being human, and that to throw huge amounts of money at people faster than they could ever possibly spend it evidently did no one any good at all. Apparently he was also on Channel 4 television news that night and was equally compelling.

What's this all got to do with December and Christmas? Well firstly, although we might try and

make it so, Christmas is not in fact a magical switch off from the world we live in and all its issues. The point about the birth of Jesus, or to give it its theological take, the incarnation of the Son of God, was and is that this happened in a very real world at a time of very real turmoil. Also the nature and manner of the birth of Jesus must give us some insight into the priorities of God, as we poetically sing in the carol 'And his shelter was a stable, And his stable was a stall'. The point has been made ever since, when God came he was born not as befitting royalty but into the humblest of situations.

In his adult life Jesus had some very choice things to say to those who made wealth their goal in life. It is very significant that the adult Jesus actually went on to talk more about money, and our relationship to money, than he did about

anything else. He warned about how wealth can be a diversion away from the things that really matter, and that it is something that can trap us all, indeed the pursuit of it can result in us 'losing our souls'. Outside St Paul's one of the protesters had erected a banner 'What would Jesus do?' Good question. I believe that Jesus would have something very definite to say about our relationship to money and how it has sapped our souls. I believe that he would have some choice words to say to some in our culture who seem to believe that they have a right to obscenely large amounts of money, and that in order for our culture to thrive things have to be this way. I believe that he would have something to say to a culture in which the gap between the richest and the poorest is getting ever wider. What would Jesus do? What should his church do? Not I think what the church did

that first week. The protesters may not be absolutely sure what they want to happen, but they are sure that somehow something has gone terribly wrong. We may or may not agree with their tactics, but theirs is a voice that has to be listened to. I think perhaps they are saying what the church should have been saying all along. Rather late in the day perhaps, but there have been more voices from the church (apart from Bishop Alan, he seemed to have got in there first) saying that this is an opportunity for us to ask some deep questions about our relationship with money.

One final thought. Every day in St Paul's and other cathedrals, and weekly in many parish churches such as our own, at Sung Evensong is sung one of the most radical prayers ever devised. This is the Magnificat, the prayer Mary prayed when she

found that she was pregnant with this miraculous child. At St Paul's I think it was the choir who got the point of it all. As the clergy were prevaricating just what to do - the choir took this service outside onto the steps of the Cathedral: How does it go? Oh yes, 'He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and the meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.'

Makes you think. Oh yes, and **Happy Christmas!**

### **Come Close 11<sup>th</sup> Dec**

On Sunday evening of 11<sup>th</sup> December, instead of 'Come Close' I would very much like to show a remarkable DVD from the American Pastor and writer Rob Bell. 'Everything is Spiritual' is a breathless tour de force which

covers, well, just about everything! I cannot commend this highly enough, it will leave you challenged, affirmed and encouraged in equal measure. It will take place at the usual time of 6.00pm

in Church House and lasts for about 80 minutes.

There might even be a glass of mulled wine, please let me know if you are coming so that I will know how much to make!

**Simon**

## **Kenya Bazaar**

Many of you have been kind enough to support the 'African Dream' sale at Pipers Cottage, so this year I invite you to join us at

**Holy Trinity Church  
Hazlemere  
For our annual Kenya Bazaar  
Saturday 3 December  
10am to 3pm**

with a beautiful range of crafts and gifts, a wonderful warm atmosphere and Carole's Café serving teas, coffees, cakes and jacket potatoes. This is a great event to bring family and friends along to. Get your Christmas shopping done and support this year's Kenya Youth Team (including Rhian Comley) at the same time. I will be dividing my sales between Kenya and AAD.

**Lizzie Reuter**





## **Crib Volunteer Required !**

Volunteer required to assemble and dismantle the crib each Christmas. Stan Cole has been doing it for about the past 30 years and now feels that the time has come to hand over to a younger person.

Any offers to **Stan Cole on 562176.**

## **Coffee Rota**

### **December**

4<sup>th</sup> Jane Tyrer / Pam Felix  
11<sup>th</sup> Frank and Dianne Hawkins  
18<sup>th</sup> Frank and Dianne Hawkins



## **Intercessions**

### **9 am Sunday Service**

4<sup>th</sup> December – John Smit  
18<sup>th</sup> - Lin Smit

### **10:30 am Sunday Service**

4<sup>th</sup> December - Sunday School  
11<sup>th</sup> – Heather and Brian Morley  
18<sup>th</sup> – Informal Service  
25<sup>th</sup> – Cath Cronk



## Communicants – October

### Sundays

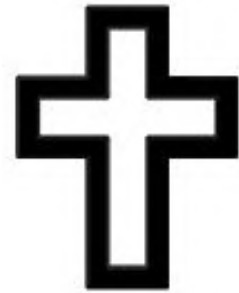
2<sup>nd</sup> 27 + 51 = 78

9<sup>th</sup> 21 + 97 = 118

16<sup>th</sup> 26 + 51 = 77

23<sup>rd</sup> 26 + 65 = 91

30<sup>th</sup> 31 + 73 = 104



### Weekdays

18<sup>th</sup> St Luke 8

28<sup>th</sup> Sts Simon & Jude 7

## From The Parish Registers - The Departed

Pauline June Baldwin, aged 79

Jean Margaret Butler, aged 80

Dorothy Phillips, aged 90

Leslie Knapton Way, aged 95

Kenneth Reginald Bartholomew, aged 80

## **A LOVELY DAY**

Two thousand Christmases!  
It's a good tradition to keep;  
Not just for tinsel and holly,  
and certainly not for peddled folly,  
but because in villages like this the  
world over,  
on this particular day  
people are inclined to say  
something rather special in a very special way.



There are occasions when life is suddenly transformed,  
illuminated by a bright and urgent light;  
as when we spot a friend not seen for years  
and in the warm embrace, the pace of years slackens  
and we're young again;  
or in a country lane  
when lowering sun strikes a lonely beech  
and light leaps like fire to flame her leaves;

or at a party, regretting the invitation,  
feeling flat like a head that's lost its hat;  
when suddenly someone smiles and says "hello".

Christmas is, or should be, just like that:  
seeing things and feeling in a very special way  
so that later, when they ask, we can say  
"Thank you, yes, I had a lovely day".

**Irene Cretchley**

## CAN YOU HELP?

It seemed to us last month, as we edited the Parish Magazine, that there is so much talent in our congregation that we should be harnessing it for the common good: both in Church and, in time, further afield.

There is one immediate need, please. We get telephone and email messages from individuals and relatives of individuals who would like to attend one of our Services but can only do so if someone is kind enough to give them a lift each way. **Can you help please?**



It does not have to be a permanent arrangement but we do need weekly cover to make sure that those who cannot get to Church under their own auspices are catered for. If I could match drivers and passengers by location, that might spread the load. I know that many of us already do this and it is deeply appreciated.

**Jane and I will do the organising.** If you are willing to be part of a team of drivers who will take someone to Church from time to time, will you please contact me either by **telephone [01844 344650]** or **e mail [cjmtyrer@btinternet.com]**. Similarly, if you know of anyone who would like to be taken to and from Church, will you please pass on their details to me or invite them to get in touch.

**A MORE SUBSTANTIAL TASK** is a “skills audit”. Have **YOU** a particular talent [I am writing this on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> November, after the Gospel for the Day and Helen Peters’ sermon about talents] which you would be willing to offer to the Church and Community?

**Please contact me !**

**Christopher Tyrer**

## GOOD COMPANIONS

Our November meeting began on a sad note with members present observing a minute's silence in memory of Dorothy Phillips who died on 23rd October, barely a month after her 90th birthday. A few members were able to attend her service at church.

We welcomed as guest speaker Geoff Burnett who showed us his compilation of slides illustrating the changing scenes of the



Four Seasons. With appropriate background music we were treated to views of places near and far as seen at different times of the year. Magnificent scenery was on view together with close ups of flowers, animals and birds and beside far away places such as Bamborough Castle in Northumberland and Highland Scotland we had on our own

doorstep our parish church and Church House with the cricketers at Bradenham with the manor and St. Botolph's in the background. This was a pleasant and relaxing show. The absence of a verbal commentary perhaps enhanced its enjoyability.

December sees the close of our year with the traditional lunch. Members attending are reminded to be in their places by 2 o'clock when we hope service of the meal will commence.

**Michael Harris**

## **EBENEZER CHILDREN'S CENTRE, UGANDA**

I have recently received the following news from Pastor Samson:-

I am happy to inform you that I have been selected to be a member of a committee to organise The Inaugural National Children's Thanksgiving Gala/Day which takes place at the Serena Hotel in Kampala on 24<sup>th</sup> November. I have also been nominated to receive the children's award at this event which will be attended by many important people in Uganda including the President and First Lady, and also Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary General.

The invitation states "With much pleasure we would like to inform you that you have been nominated to receive an award for the great work you have done to mitigate the plight of orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda"

Ten children from the Ebenezer Centre will also attend and will recite a poem before the guests.

**Rita Pulley**

### **Crèche Rota**



### **December**

4<sup>th</sup> Lyndsey Robinson / Angela Aze / Lucy Rippon

11<sup>th</sup> Anna Pedrette / Shirley Brown / Zoe Stamp

18<sup>th</sup> Jean Godfrey / Ann Long / Kirstie Brewer

25<sup>th</sup> Creche open, but parents are responsible for their own children

## Heavenly Voices

What a wonderful treat was in store when we arrived at the church at the appointed time of 2.48 pm on Sunday, 23 October where the Piggotts Choir was to give a recital.

The mixed choir sang unaccompanied and their harmonising was exquisite. We were treated to beautiful pieces of church music by such composers as Thomas Tallis and also to lilting love songs by, amongst others,



Debussy. The voices of the singers of various ages filled the church, soaring into the beams and curves of the roof and then, in more pensive pieces, almost whispering, as if in prayer. One of the last pieces was the Ave Maria as sung by the Russian Orthodox Church, a spine-tingling sound which filled every corner of St Michael & All Angels.

It was almost unbelievable to learn that the singers had only been together for 48 hours. Their young conductor had achieved an amazing standard with this choir and the hour went much too quickly.

Do not miss any future treats of this nature – you will not be disappointed.

**Sylvia Clark**

**Susan Brice** writes: I find that I am rather drawn to characters at the edges of stories. So please may I introduce:

### **Martha, The Innkeeper's Wife**

The days were long and hard. Mind you, the money came in handy. Our inn hadn't been as busy as this for years. Well, I suppose that's one good thing to come out of this long Roman occupation. This strange business of the census, it meant everyone was cast about, travelling around. And well, people had to eat and drink and sleep. All in all quite a good time to run an inn.

Mind you it would have been easier if my husband Joshua wasn't such a layabout. He was always there in the evening, propping up the bar, filling the room with his large voice, noisy with laughter and wine. But, where was he during the day when the work needed to be done? If he wasn't asleep then he always found something better to do. Never there to shift barrels of wine or bring in the water. As I bent to mop the floor, I smiled to myself. My mother had certainly been right to name me Martha! She had been right about my Joshua as well but there was no point in dwelling on that.

So, because of useless old Joshua, it was me who had to deal with everything that day, including that tired, dusty, young couple. They had arrived exhausted and she so obviously near her time. Well, I was a bit short with them I think ... I mean ... a room ... a room?! We hadn't had anything available all week. And Sarah the kitchen girl had sent her small, scruffy brother in to say she was sick, so I was rushed off my feet. But, somehow, something about them touched me. She should have been resting at home with her mother nearby, not travelling for day upon day to her husband's birthplace. And yet she seemed so accepting as if she knew that this was how it was meant to be.



I had nearly shut the door in their faces but suddenly I thought, well, something's better than nothing and so I offered them the shelter of the byre



behind the inn. Not where I'd have chosen to give birth but at least she had a roof over her head. She smiled at me and I was rooted to the spot. An ordinary girl I had thought but now with such a radiance about her; so thankful. I felt quite ashamed of all my harsh thoughts.

And that's how it was; that's how it came to be. The strangest time of my life I can tell you. But, well, also the most worrying. Taking food out to her one day, I missed my step and stumbled, scraping my forehead on a thorny bush that grew by the doorway. I wiped away the blood that ran into my eyes. The pain etched itself on my brain and my head rang with the sound of angry jeers, such that I looked around. But there was no one there. And then there were those strangers who came later, the like of which I had never seen before: such colour; such richness. They left gold and strange smelling unguents; peculiar gifts for a baby I thought. One day when I'd been helping to tend the little boy, I removed the stopper of a small silver bottle of perfume and the scent of death, pall purple and enveloping, spilled out into the stable. For a time it seemed to smother the baby. The child's father was oblivious, sitting quietly in the corner whittling a piece of olive wood into a beautifully carved shepherd's crook. But she saw it, I know she did. Her hands clenched and the colour drained from her face. It lasted but a few seconds and yet the world seemed to change before our very eyes. Then, the air cleared, the baby cried and with shaking fingers I fumbled to replace the

stopper into the neck of the bottle. She and I avoided each other's eyes and I stumbled out of the byre making excuses: food to cook; customers to serve.

Then came the day they left, in haste, in terror really, scattering possessions as they struggled to find safety in a fragile future. Herod was mad, that puppet king of Caesar Augustus, so frightened of losing his position that he was prepared to kill innocent Jewish babies. Anyway, all those pieces of wood that the man had been working on, very skilful he was I can tell you, had been propped up in the corner of the stable and he sent them crashing down as he rushed through the archway. They fell into the straw, one piece lying over another. There was a deep silence. Then the girl whimpered, held the baby even closer, as if she could protect it from the world and ran out onto the West Road, towards Egypt.

The image swam before my eyes as I crumpled onto the floor. Later, as I was lying on a straw pallet, my mother said I looked exhausted; overworked. She said it loudly, so that Joshua would hear. I smiled and nodded at her. I wasn't going to argue but I knew my collapse had little to do with the hard, physical work that was my daily life.

Joshua gave me a piece of swaddling cloth that had been left behind. He didn't say anything but he knew I'd grown fond of the child. He spoilt his thoughtful gesture by slopping wine on to the cloth as he handed me the cup. The red liquid splashed onto the material and as it did so it became thicker and sticky to touch. And my heart broke.

**Susan Brice**

## **Multiple Sclerosis Society**

The High Wycombe and District Branch of the MS Society held their annual Ploughman's Lunch and Mini Bazaar on Saturday 5th November in Hughenden Valley Village Hall and raised a total of £850.00, which is a fantastic amount.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave their time for free to help on the day and also to everyone who came and supported our event. It is very much appreciated and the money will be used to help people with MS in the local area.

**Belinda Peddle**



## **Valley Wives - November Notes**

In a brief resume of the AGM, Jill was pleased to report that we had a good attendance and that the leader, the committee and the membership subscription have remained the same. Our fund raising stall is to support the South Bucks Hospice again , we are to make our usual donation to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and continue to raise funds for Leukemia Research by buying cards, wrapping paper etc. from Margaret's sales table.

Jill thanked Doreen for arranging a Theatre outing to Aylesbury to see the "Nutcracker "ballet which was excellent, and travelling by bus proved very convenient. Jill welcomed our speaker Mr. Trevor Richardson, an art restorer who gave a very informative talk on "The Art of Christmas". He commenced with the Lindisfarne Gospels

and how the monks had depicted the Annunciation and the Nativity. He continued with slides showing religious paintings by famous artists throughout the next 600 years, explaining that the early artists did not understand perspective, and had no idea what Bethlehem looked like. Consequently they depicted it, for example, in an Italian or Dutch setting. Trevor pointed out the beautifully crafted paintings and compared ancient and modern techniques.



The feast of St Nicholas was celebrated before Christmas as we know it, and paintings of this time showed the harshness of 16th century winters and hardship of living in those times. Paintings of Victorian Christmases showed some of the traditions we have today but how very different Christmas is in the 21st century. The variety of different symbols we have on cards, stamps, adverts etc. are only relevant to the period in which we are living. Ideas tend to become all muddled up, but nevertheless they are a modern tribute to Christmas. Janet proposed the vote of thanks for the enthusiasm with which Trevor presented the interesting stories of the paintings, ranging from the first nativity to the present day.

**PS** Banana skins do indeed clean brown leather, but I haven't had such success with one of last month's hints, that half a potato dipped in Bicarb removes rust (maybe it is the wrong sort of rust!)

**Joan Steel**

## The Big Society?

On 2nd November Christopher Tyrer and I spent a day up in London at a conference facilitated by a number of organisations each with children in churches as their focus. The conference was called “Churches and the Big Society”, and the following is an extract from the keynote paper at this conference.

"We have an opportunity before us; we have a rich heritage; we are called to be witnesses and disciples of Jesus; and our commitment to children gives us potentially unique perspectives on the 'Big Society'.

Any talk or thinking about something as complex as 'society' must be multi-layered and richly textured. It must range from the very local to global, from the individual to a community, taking account of economics, politics, sociology, psychology, history and many more, but today we bring a particular light to the subject. We bring the wisdom of Christian theology, tradition through the ages and from around the world; and we pass on the truth that the door to any Big Society is child-shaped. Unless a community or society is child-friendly, it will not be a truly Big Society.

Whatever a Big Society is about, it is not power, size or success. Our God is the God of small things, where a mustard seed serves as an apt picture of the Kingdom of Heaven, and a little child leads the way. In truly welcoming a little child in the name of Jesus, we usher God's way of doing things into our neighbourhoods"

Watch out for some outputs from the conference that may emerge in **4Ps** initiatives in the future! **Jane Tucker**

## December Recipe

### Bedfordshire Apple Florentine Pie

#### Ingredients

4 good sized cooking apples  
2 tablespoons sugar (white)  
Lemon peel  
Shortcrust pastry  
Pinch of cinnamon  
1 clove  
Grating of nutmeg  
1 tablespoon brown sugar  
1 pint ale



#### Method

Core the apples, wash and dry and sprinkle with the white sugar and lemon peel. Place the apples in a pie dish, cover with shortcrust pastry and cook for about 30 minutes. Remove the pastry. Heat together the ale, brown sugar, clove and nutmeg but do not boil. Pour over the apples in the dish. Cut pastry into pieces and return to the dish. Serve hot.

*This dish is an 18<sup>th</sup> century one and was traditionally served at Christmas time.*

**Ann Way**

## PC or not PC?

*Judy Wilson writes*

I have a dear friend who married an American and lives in Florida. We email each other regularly, usually family news but the other day she sent the following to me. I've adapted it slightly but I think we are all sufficiently acquainted with the U.S to recognise most of the names, and certainly the underlying message is as relevant here as it is in the States.

### 'T WAS THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the month before Christmas  
When all through our land  
Not a Christian was praying,  
nor taking a stand.

Why the PC Police had taken away  
The reason for Christmas - no-one could say.

The children were told by their schools not to sing  
About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.  
"It might hurt people's feelings", the teachers would say.

"December 25th is just a 'Holiday'".

Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, cheques and credit  
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!  
CDs from Madonna, an Xbox, an Ipod

Something was changing, something quite odd!  
Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa  
In hopes of selling books by Franken and Fonda  
As Targets were hanging their trees upside down  
At Lowe's the word Christmas - was nowhere to be found.

At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears  
You won't hear the word Christmas: it won't touch your ears.

Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty  
Are words that are used to intimidate me.



At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter  
To eliminate Jesus in all public matter.  
And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith

Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace  
The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded  
The reason for the season, stopped before it started.  
So as you celebrate "Winter Break" under your "Dream Tree"  
Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.  
Choose your words carefully, choose what you say  
Shout "MERRY CHRISTMAS",  
Not Happy Holiday!

Please, everyone join together and wish everyone you meet  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*Christ is the Reason for the Christmas Season.*

**Judy Wilson**

## **Notices**

24/7 **Prayer for Wycombe** this month takes place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December. Prayer commences at 8am and concludes at 8am on Friday. The sign-up sheet is on the table at the back of the Church and the Prayer Points will be available at the beginning of the month. These can be emailed to you if you wish. Do collect a copy of the Prayer Points as there will be a prayer request for Christmas Unwrapped included this month. Prayerfully consider signing up for an hour to pray for our town. In January 2012, 24/7 Prayer will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> in Church House. Please see weekly Church Notices.





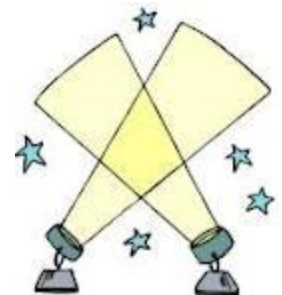
As you may be aware, **Christmas Unwrapped** will be taking place on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> December and there will be around 60 children, together with helpers, who will need to use the facilities in Church House on those days. The Prayer Room will, therefore, be set up in the Donkey Shed, which will be made as cosy as possible. There will be a flask of hot coffee available in the kitchen for those who would like it and tea supplies too. For more details please talk to

**Simon (563439), Jacky (07921 258822) or Yvonne (563960).**

**Yvonne Cooper**

## **FLOODLIGHTING DEDICATIONS**

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored the floodlighting for the many and varied reasons we have seen over the past year.



We have no dedications for December or January yet. If you have a special occasion to mark, why don't you dedicate the floodlighting? Your dedication can be for anything within reason, remembering loved ones, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, new babies - or just for the joy of being alive!

**Lin Smit**

## **Services for children and their families this Christmas**

*You are all very welcome to come and join us during this  
Advent and Christmas time*

**Sunday 4 December, 10.30am  
Advent themed Family Service**



**Sunday 18 December, 10.30am**

Christingle Service

All children, their families and friends are invited to join us to hear the story of the Christingle at this informal Service.



**Wednesday 21 December, 1.45pm**

Tiny Tots Informal Service

There will be a Christmas theme at this service where we have a story, some songs, toys and squash.



**Christmas Eve, 3.00pm  
Crib Service**

Come and hear the nativity story, and help build the crib scene.

Especially suitable for younger children

**Christmas Day, 10.30am - Family Communion Service**

*Everyone is very welcome to come and celebrate the  
birth of Jesus*

**May we wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas**

## THE WILDER SIDE

I keep referring to the weather, but it really is a bit odd in this part of England for mid-November. It has been abnormally mild day and night, with balmy sunny days (like to-day -15 Nov), alternating with grey days (like yesterday) of what the met experts call 'anticyclonic gloom'. This is when high barometric pressure bears down on a stratus cloud sheet, and behaves like a blanket. There has been some rain; I emptied an inch worth out of the gauge recently, but it has made no perceptible difference to our poor little dried-up stream.

We had a narrow squeak a week ago when an asteroid the size of an aircraft carrier, travelling at 30000 mph, whizzed past 201,700 miles away – that is closer than the moon. I would term that a 'near miss', but the astronomers said it was 'no threat'. How could they be so sure? This was the closest pass of a rock that size for 200 years. For those of you around in 2029 there will be another rock within 18,300 miles of earth, so watch out!

I have mentioned before that migrant birds fly in from Europe for our 'warmer winters'. Hence my delight at seeing a large number of birds (150 – 200) dropping out of trees onto a field near Shardeloes. They were mainly Fieldfares with their distinctive pale rump, but also a few Redwing, smaller and with a prominent white eyebrow, otherwise rather like our Song and Mistle Thrushes. You might see them in your gardens if it gets really cold.

**Darrell Hamley.**



## Mothers Union - November Notes

"**Custody Visiting**" was the subject of a most interesting slide talk by our very competent speaker, Nia Sherringham, who carefully explained the role of a custody visitor, which herself and her husband Mark, became after reading about it in the newspaper. They took a one-day intensive course of training and have since done paired visits, with a team of eight people of various ages and backgrounds. Husbands and wives are not allowed to visit together but between them they visit once a week.

To show why custody visitors are needed we were shown film footage of police brutality towards persons who are arrested in this country, which was very surprising and quite upsetting. Custody visitors are there to prevent this cruelty, and can visit the custody suite at the jail any time of the day or night without prior warning and have to be let in immediately. A jailer takes them round, and they visit every detained person who is in during that 24 hours, the maximum time before being charged or released. The visitors have to adhere to strict rules set by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, regarding the questions they ask the detainees and the procedures they adopt. Following the visit the custody visitors make a report on each detained person, having checked on their food and water, their hygiene and safety, how they have been treated, their medication if needed, also they are allowed a doctor or interpreter and one telephone call.

Nia said that the custody suite at High Wycombe is of a very high standard.

Nia and Mark do this work to fulfill their role as Christians and to thank God that we have our freedom, do not suffer persecution for our faith or suffer other dreadful cruelties seen in some other countries. Nia concluded her talk with a quotation from the Bible, which you may like to read (Matt. Ch.6 v 31).

Ann Wint thanked Nia, on behalf of us all, for her excellent talk and for giving the time to be our speaker this evening. Our next meeting is the Advent Service in church house on Dec 6th. Please bring unwrapped gifts for the Wycombe Women's Refuge.

The M.U. change of date for the **social**, please note that it is now on **10th January 2012** **Joan Steel**

## **Housegroup Update – Autumn 2011**

### **Monday Morning Bible Study & Fellowship – Ann Long and Judith Camplisson**

Have just finished 'The Sermon on the Mount', a traditional study guide in 13 sessions by John Stott which they did find a little challenging! For the Mondays left before Christmas they are using a York Course 'Better Together' which uses a CD containing conversation with a panel of experts and usually a reflection by one of them to end. There are then questions and discussion points for the group to work through.

### **Monday Evening Housegroup – Kathleen Moxham and Rita Pulley**

During the autumn term this group have been following the lectionary readings from the previous day – they read the passage again and then with the knowledge gained from the sermon delve deeper into the reading, gaining further insight.

### **Tuesday Morning Mum’s Bible Study (with crèche) – Heather Morley**

This term discussions have revolved round a theme with relevant bible readings. Themes have ranged from how to avoid judging people to finding space to read the bible, pray and be with God – applying our faith to real life. As with all our groups they are a friendly bunch who have found it a great way to get to know people better in a setting and situation which is very child and parent friendly! Do join them!

### **Tuesday Evening – Alpha 2010 Housegroup – Anne Dean**

Have also been looking at the Sermon on the Mount but using a different version to the Monday morning group - the study guide from Spring Harvest. It has been fairly interactive and they have been discovering their inner child – the teachers amongst them in seventh heaven with crayons and charts! It is obviously one of the best known sections of Matthew’s gospel but perhaps not best understood – the phrase “so that’s what it means” has been frequently heard! This course will take them through to late January when they’ll probably have a few individual sessions before embarking on a Lent Course.

### **Wednesday Night House Group - Amanda Janes and Clare Godfrey**

Have been discussing the book of Exodus this autumn, using a study guide called Book by Book. Each week they watch a 10

min discussion on DVD with a panel of experts on a particular aspect of Exodus and then read the study guide notes before using the questions to prompt their thinking and discussion. It has been very interesting - not only are they learning about the historical and biblical context of the well known story of Moses, but the study guide also shows how the events of that time foretell what will happen later in the bible and so brings together the Old and New Testaments. There are numerous other 'books' of the bible covered by this material. The group all have different experiences, opinions and knowledge of the bible, which often leads to quite lively debates and banter. They will be looking at Exodus until the end of January but as each session is designed to be complete, you don't have to have been before to benefit from the session. If that isn't enough to tempt you – they often start with homemade cake!

### **Thursday Fellowship House Group – Derek and Jean Godfrey**

From the middle of September the group have been studying an excellent course created by the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation entitled "Just Listen". The initiative for this course originated from attending an inspiring day of teaching and workshops and healing prayer at Winchester Cathedral earlier in the year.

The importance of listening is vital to all of us and especially to those who are part of the small Prayer Group offering prayer in the North Chapel during Holy Communion. Indeed the ability to "Just Listen" in everyday situations is a tremendous asset in showing people that what they have to say is important and that they are worthy to be listened to. Sometimes the mere listening to somebody is sufficient to start the whole healing process. It has been a fascinating and challenging study. It is a super course to share in a house group setting and already other groups are expressing interest. Watch this space!

**Anne Dean**

## Calendar - December

Morning Prayer is said daily. Please see the weekly notices sheet for timings. Bell ringers practise on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm and welcome anyone wishing to learn to ring. Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 7.45pm – if you can read music (and particularly if you are a soprano) please come and join us.

Sun	4		<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (said)
		9.00 am	Sung Communion
		10.30 am	All Age Family Service
		12noon-	Winter Warmers: Church House. In aid of the Sue
		3.30pm	Ryder Hospice
		6.00 pm	Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) (no sermon)
		7.00 pm	Prayer Hour
Mon	5	10.15 am	Ladies' Daytime Fellowship and Bible Study
Tue	6	1.00 pm	Art Fellowship: Church House.
		8.00 pm	Mothers' Union: Advent Service in Church House
Wed	7	7.30pm	Alpha Course: Church House
Thu	8	8.00 am	24 hours of prayer for High Wycombe: Church House
			Christmas Unwrapped for Great Kingshill CE Combined
		10.00 am	School
		7.00 pm	Naphill Cubs and Scouts Carol Service
Fri	9	10.00 am	Christmas Unwrapped for Hughenden Primary School
Sun	11		<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (said)
		9.00 am	Mattins (Book of Common Prayer)
		10.30 am	Family Communion with JC club
		6.00 pm	Come Close
		6.00 pm	Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) (no sermon)
Mon	12	10.15 am	Ladies' Daytime Fellowship and Bible Study
Tue	13	1.00 pm	Art Fellowship: Church House.
		6.30 pm	Little Strummers Concert: Church
Thu	15	10.30 am	Friendship Morning: Church House
Sun	18		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (said)
		9.00 am	Sung Communion
		10.30 am	Informal Family Service with JC Club
		6.00 pm	Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



Mon	19	10.15 am	Ladies' Daytime Fellowship and Bible Study
Tue	20	1.00 pm	Art Fellowship: Church House.
Wed	21	1.45 pm	Tiny Tots' Service: Church
Sat	24		<b>Christmas Eve</b>
		9.00 am	Holy Communion: Church (30 mins)
		3.00 pm	Crib Service
		11.15 pm	Midnight Communion Service
Sun	25		<b>Christmas Day</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (said)
		9.00 am	Choral Mattins with Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Family Christmas Communion
		5.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Mon	26		<b>Stephen, deacon, first martyr</b>
Tue	27		<b>John, Apostle and Evangelist</b>
Wed	28		<b>The Holy Innocent</b>
		10:00 am	Holy Communion; Church (30 mins)



# The Lectionary – December

	8am	Readers 9am	10:30am
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Advent</b>			
Isaiah 40, 1-11	A Johnson	D Hamley	S Dean
2 Peter 3, 8-15a	P Hynard	L Smit	
Mark 1, 1-8	Celebrant	Celebrant	
<b>Evensong:</b>			
Psalm 40			
1 Kings 22, 1-28			
Romans 15, 4-13			
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent</b>			
Isaiah 64, 1-4 & 8-11	J Wilson	R Gee	D Godfrey
1 Thessalonians, 5, 16-24	N Chalk	L Stallwood	J Godfrey
John 1, 6-8 & 19-28	Celebrant		
Psalm at 9 am: 126			
<b>Evensong:</b>			
Psalm 68, 1-20			
Malachi 3, 1-4 & 4			
Philippians 4, 4-7			
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>			
2 Samuel 7, 1-11 & 16	J Dauncey	C Tyrer	Informal Service
Romans 16, 25-27	A Stacey	A McBarnett	
Luke 1, 26-38	Celebrant	Celebrant	
<b>Evensong:</b>			
Psalm 89			
Zechariah 2, 10-13			
Luke 1 39-55			
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day;</b> There are 3 sets of readings. Readers will be advised which to use at each service when asked, or when they offer themselves.			
<b>Set 1:</b> Isaiah 9, 2-7	Titus 2, 11-14.	Luke 2, 1-14 or -20	
<b>Set 2:</b> Isaiah 62, 6-12	Titus 3, 4-7,	Luke 2, 1-14 or -20	
<b>Set 3:</b> Isaiah 52, 7-10,	Hebrews 1, 1-4 or -12,	John 1, 1-14	