

Christmas Hope



Paul Taylor

During November, Lord Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury) warned that the Church of England is just "one generation away from extinction" unless the Church does more to attract young people. A stark and worrying prediction.

Even if church attendance is declining more generally, what's abundantly clear is that this isn't true at Christmas. The Church of England website states that: 'Approaching 3 million people participate in a Church of England service on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve. Thirty-five per cent of the population attend a Christmas service of some sort, rising to 42 per cent in London'. This is really impressive, very significant and hugely encouraging. Sometimes we're prone to think that the vast majority of people are only interested in the secular festivities, and are pretty oblivious to the Christmas story. However, clearly this statistic points to much greater engagement with the Christmas message and the spiritual heart of Christmas than we might think.

So what is it that makes Christmas, and even going to Church at Christmas, so much more attractive to people than ordinary Sunday Worship?

Perhaps it really is the

Christmas message of love and hope, which resonates with people and draws them to worship at this time of the year. The warmth and joy felt by singing carols by candle light; the happiness of sharing good times with families and friends; the way in which people extend goodwill and hospitality to others they normally **wouldn't think of**, is an expression of a deep sense of hope that they instinctively know is rooted in the story of the Christ child and all he brings to the world.

Therefore rather than getting anxious about what isn't happening in the Church of England, let's celebrate with the significant numbers who are in our churches this Christmas, praying together for the new hope that Christ brings to a world that so much needs it. We might also reflect on how we can deepen that connection that people are making at Christmas with the God of love and hope. Maybe then we can head in a different direction from the one that Lord Carey predicts.

The Ven Paul Taylor is the Archdeacon of Sherborne

Ann Onymus



Editor

Margaret Morrissey OBE
9 Hessary Street, Poundbury
Dorchester DT1 3SF
01305 250366
dorchestermagazine@hotmail.co.uk

Advertising Manager

Liz Green
7 Sydenham Way,
Dorchester DT1 1DN
01305 269610
greenliz@hotmail.co.uk

Production Editor

Lucy Connelly
15 Came View Road
Dorchester DT1 2AE
01305 751249
magazine@lucy-connelly.co.uk

Appointment of Team Rector

Adrian
Downton

We are pleased to announce that the Rev'd Canon Thomas Woodhouse, Vicar of Royal Wootton Bassett, Priest-in-Charge of Lyneham and

Rural Dean of Calne will be our new Team Rector, based at St Mary's.

The induction of Rev'd Woodhouse will be on 26th February 2014 at St Mary's Church – time to be announced. As soon as we receive details we will let you all know, to enable a warm welcome to be planned.

Interviews for such a very important post are demanding and stressful, not only for candidates but for all those involved in the process and organisation.

It has been uplifting and encouraging to be greeted over the past months by so many members of the Benefice who

gave so much support by assuring us that they had been praying for all concerned.

Prayer was an important part of the interview day and its power could be felt as discussions and questioning took place in an atmosphere of genuine concern for each other. Once again the peace and quiet at Ursula Norman's home was appreciated.

We thank you all, most sincerely, for your prayers and support in the long interregnum, for all the hard work and tasks that people have willingly undertaken during this period.

Continue to pray for our new Rector, for his wife, Kate, and their daughters, Charlotte, Beatrice, Anne and Alice, who will be part of our family, but above all continue to offer yourselves selflessly in the months to come, so that we grow as one undertaking our Lord's work.



From left to right: Charlotte, Anne, Thomas, Beatrice, Kate and Alice Woodhouse

Thomas writes:

"I have found great joy in my work as Vicar of [Royal] Wootton Bassett; Priest-in-Charge of Lyneham with Bradenstoke; and Associate Priest in the Woodhill Benefice. I have also appreciated the company of my deanery colleagues, whom I have served as Rural Dean for seven years.

I am excited by the opportunities being Team Rector of Dorchester will bring and I look forward to working alongside a committed and enthusiastic team of lay and ordained colleagues in and around the town of Dorchester; Dorset's historic county town.

My wife Kate is a qualified Counsellor; she will continue to explore how best to use her skills. Charlotte, Beatrice, Anne and Alice are still coming to terms with the implications of the move and the possibilities of living close to the sea!

We have lived in Royal Wootton Bassett for eight years and the experiences have been many and some have been extraordinary! We have been privileged to live in the town and as we reach a departure date, sometime in the New Year, there is much to reflect on."

ST GEORGE'S FORDINGTON

MESSENGER

Church Correspondent: Margaret Morrissey 250366



I Believe in Santa Claus—I do—really!

Allen
Knott

Oh yes, I'm a Christian, yet I really do believe in Santa Claus. His real name is St Nicholas.

Nicholas was a 4th Century Bishop of Myra (South West Turkey) and there is much legend associated with him. He had a love of children – now there's a surprise – and the most famous of the stories about him tells of how he dropped a bag of gold down a chimney in order to pay the dowry of a maiden who wished to be married. In fact he did this three times. This is the basis of the three gold balls outside of pawn-brokers shops and his being their patron saint. He is reputed to have raised to life three boys who had been drowned, rescued three shipwrecked sailors and saved three men falsely accused of murder.

Nicholas, like most saints, has much to teach us. He was a great example of the value of true faith, justice, kindness, generosity and a love of children. These great themes are well reflected in our Christmas celebrations.

When Children ask me if I believe in Santa Claus, I always say that I most certainly do. I see reflections of his faith, his dreams and his good work every Christmastide.

Christmas List

Thinking it would help, I asked the super seven what they would like for Christmas, and I awaited the list. Fenella's (6) read like this: sweets, Santa teddy bear, sweets, hello kitty tee-shirt, sweets, new wellies and guess what sweets. Vivien (9) will email the website for the running shoes she would like, no magic there then. Frank (4) started with a glass of milk !! after much scribble ended with a teddy bear, so hope there yet. Rocco yet to get around to it but has faith in the old man he will bring something nice, bless him. Still waiting for the Kent two to reply. Took me back to my childhood: a sock with an orange, silver sixpence and some nuts if you were lucky. One year I had a rag doll with string hair and one year a dolls house my father and brothers made, the joy of these gifts during and just after WW2. The best ever was a tin dolls pram painted cream and blue, wish I had kept it, would be worth a fortune now.

The Highly Favoured Lady

Quiet Night, perfect Night
All is peace all is white
About that maiden
Lady and babe
Spotless kind in manger laid
Rest in comfort and love
Angels watch from above

Ken Howard

Nativity

I have been given one of the funniest documents I have ever read, and whilst sworn to secrecy regarding the author, as I prepare to spend three mornings in Prince of Wales school providing refreshments for their Nativity, these words will ring in my ear and make me smile as I shed a tear over "Away in a manger" (cry every year). Here it is:

Pre-Christmas spirit permeates the entire establishment. Even playground duty has a seasonal flavour. There is mistletoe round every corner and a brisk trade in ill-gotten gains from the foray to the local shopping centre. In spite of the overwhelming tide of commercialism lapping at the school gates, any school worth its name will try to convey the REAL message of Christmas. Pupils will be encouraged in an attitude of caring and sharing towards those less fortunate. The message takes many forms. Perhaps the Nativity Play and Carol Service are prime examples.

When performed by primary school pupils the Nativity Play can have its problems. When performed by secondary pupils it is absolutely fraught with them. Then it is never truer that God loves you – I am trying, maybe I was an inept producer, but my psyche still bears the scars of the shepherd who escaped my eagle eye. He was seen lounging nonchalantly on a Bethlehem hillside with digital watch and football socks. Then there was the Angelic Host whose candles instigated an arson attack.

Not to mention Mary disappearing off her bale of straw in a flurry of knickers.



The Carol services can be equally challenging. Either it is held in the school hall or the local church. The vicar has usually, very wisely, found a more pressing engagement. It is left to you to ensure proceedings are carried out with the decorum befitting the surroundings. You shepherd your flock through the pitch black churchyard (“Jason, where did you get those flowers? WHO did you say was with Shelly behind which tombstone?”)

You pack them into the nearest pew and block the exit with your personal bulk. The Silent Night and Herald Angels do not get full attention. You are kept busy keeping their muddy feet off the hassocks. All the while you wear a fixed smile and keep your itching hands firmly in your pockets. This is to simulate Peace on Earth for the benefit of the PTA members across the aisle.

Christmas Tree Festival and Carols on the Green

Friday 6th - Tuesday 10 December

Carols on the Green takes place on Friday 6th December from 6-7 pm. (Come dressed for the weather as this will be on the Green unless very bad weather)

Followed by the opening of our Christmas Tree Festival at 7pm. The festival will then be open to the public on Friday 6th December from 7 - 9pm, Saturday 7th December from 11am - 7pm, Sunday 8th December from 12 - 4pm, Monday 9th December from 12 - 6pm and Tuesday 10th December 10am - 4pm. Entry is free, but programmes will be on sale and there will be drinks and home made cakes for sale in the Christmas Café in aid of church funds.

If like me you can be absent minded...

Grandpa decided that shopping for Christmas presents

had become too difficult. He decided to send his grandchildren cheques. On each card he wrote: “Happy Christmas, Grandpa. P.S. Buy your own present.”

He thought the grandchildren were a little distant on Christmas Day. Then one day he was sorting out in his study and under a pile of papers he found a pile of cheques for his grandchildren. He had completely forgotten to put them in with the Christmas cards. (You have been warned – check!)

Amy's Antics

During December I reach that big 10, (or 70 dog years), and old age is creeping up. I'm losing my sight and my teeth, my joints are stiffening up, and I'm watching what I eat as the hips seem to spread more easily than melting butter!

There are times when old age isn't much fun, but life is not over yet, and I've still got heaps to give. Who I am is not summed up by my body and brain alone. My tail still wags a welcome, I can still snuggle up when things are gloomy, and bring a smile or laugh by my antics. In short, I am still God's wonderful creation and can still praise him and give him glory by being my doggy self.

And better still, God has a promise for all of us in our old age...

‘Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.’ Isaiah 46:4

Just as God is for life, not just for Christmas, so he promises to love us for life, not just when we're good or young.



St Mary the Virgin The Open Door



December Service Dates

Sunday 1st December – Advent Sunday

8am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

Our preacher will be the Venerable Paul Taylor – Archdeacon of Sherborne

6.00pm – Taize service

Sunday 8th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

12noon – Baptism of Patrick Walters

4.30pm – Occasional Singers Concert

Sunday 15th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

8am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

12noon – Baptism of Laughlin James Dudman

Sunday 22nd December – 4th Sunday of Advent

8am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

1.00pm – Baptism of Kai Oliver Ellison

6.00pm – Candlelit 9 Lesson & Carol Service

followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Tuesday 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm – CRIB with Christingle service for all the family.

10.30pm – Carol Singing

11.00pm – MIDNIGHT MASS

Wednesday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.45am – Family Eucharist with Carols.

There will be a Mass at 9.30am on Thursday 26th, Friday 27th & Saturday 28th December as well as our normal weekday Mass on a Tuesday

Sunday 29th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

8.00am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

There will be no Healing service this Sunday – transferred to Sunday 12th January.

January Service Dates

Sunday 5th January – Epiphany of The Lord

8.00am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

6.00pm – Taize service

Sunday 12th January – Baptism of Christ

8.00am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

6.00pm – Meditative Communion with Prayers for Wholeness & Healing

Speaker: Rev Michael Paine

Sunday 19th January – 3rd in Ordinary Time

8.00am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26th January – 4th in Ordinary Time

8.00am – Mass

9.45am – Sung Eucharist

Rosemary
Bassett

Weekday Mass on Tuesdays at 9.30am and also on Festivals.

The Contemplative prayer group will meet each Wednesday at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (but not 18th or 25th Dec or 1st Jan) and at the Quiet Space at 7.30pm on 12th Dec (but not 26th Dec) and on 9th & 23rd January

Monday Club

On Monday 2nd December the Monday Club will be having its Christmas Lunch at the Wishing Well.

On Monday 20th January we will begin our 2014 programme with a Musical afternoon with Allen Knott.

New members are welcome and transport is available.

Looking Ahead

On Sunday 2nd February – CANDLEMAS - we will welcome as our Celebrant & Preacher the Rt Rev Michael Perham Bishop of Gloucester. Bishop Michael is well known to many of you and we are delighted that he can come and lead our 9.45am Sung Eucharist that day. (See letter overleaf)

On Wednesday 26th February we shall welcome Rev Canon Thomas Woodhouse. as rector of the Dorchester **Benefice and team vicar of St Mary's.**

St Mary the Virgin



Gloucester Returns to Dorchester!

+Michael
Gloucester

To return to Dorchester to preside and preach at the Eucharist for the first time in many years, especially on the beautiful feast of

Candlemas, will be a particular pleasure, for the churches of Dorchester have a key place in my Christian formation and my calling to be a priest.

My grandfather, Harry Perham, was organist of St Peter's, and married my grandmother there. My father as a boy sung in the choir there. My other grandparents, Frank and Marcelle Barton, worshipped at St Mary's from the 1930s, my grandfather, an architect, designed the Church Hall. They were both involved in St Mary's life for many decades. He died in the early 1960s, but she lived to the age of 98 and died in 1989.



When my parents married and returned to Dorchester after the Second World War, they settled in South Walks Road, near St George's Church, and played a full part in the life of St George's. Later, in the 1960s, when they moved to the other end of the town, my mother returned to St Mary's, where she had been brought up, and was very active at St Mary's until frailty meant that she needed to go into a nursing home in Broadstone, near my sisters, in 2010. I was baptised in St George's, confirmed in St Mary's, and have always felt that I had a sense of belonging in all three churches of the Dorchester Team.

My ordained life has taken me to Croydon as a Curate, to Winchester as the Bishop's Chaplain, back into Dorset as Team Rector of Oakdale in the 1980s, where Alison and my four girls were born, to Norwich as Vice Dean and Precentor, to Derby as Dean, and finally to Gloucester as Bishop in 2004. But I have always continued to have a real interest in the life of the Dorchester churches and I do remember them each week in my prayers.

So it will be a joy to be with you - even though there will be few who remember me as a young man, rather more who will remember my mother.

Sanctuary Lamp Candles

1st Dec –

8th Dec – Given by Gill and Adrian Downton in

thanksgiving.

15th Dec – Given by Audrey and Peter Buckingham in thanksgiving for their family and friends

22nd Dec –

29th Dec – Given by Janet Comley in memory of her parents whose wedding anniversary was on the 28th December.

5th Jan – Given by Kath Joslin in memory of her father William Cashman, and by Joan Hodgkins to mark family birthdays

12th Jan – Given by Ellie Stephens in memory of her nephew Karl Branston whose years mind falls at this time. Also by Mary Boulter in memory of her husband David whose years mind falls on 17th January.

19th Jan – Given by Jean Saddington in memory of her father Eric Hewitt whose years mind falls at this time, and by Eileen Dixon and family in memory of her husband John whose years mind falls at this time.

26th Jan – Given by Diane Keir in loving memory of her parents and dear Aunt Lizbeth whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Recalling the Meaning of Christmas: The Christingle Celebration

Dorothy Maggs

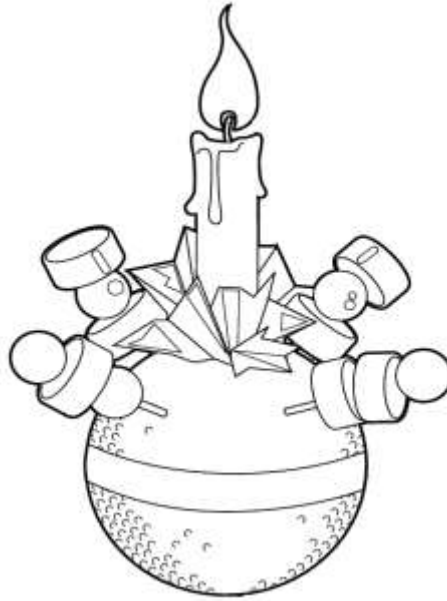
In 1749 in a church in Germany a Bishop started a

Christmas tradition that is loved by children and adults, and enjoyed in Britain today and around the world. His name was Bishop John de Watteville and he led worship among the Moravian Congregation in Marienborn, Germany. He was the creator of the Christingle service. Christingle means "Christ-Light."

When the children are all charged up with energy about nativity plays, gifts and shopping, Santa Claus and parties the Christingle service is a nice way to remind them of the bigger picture of who this new baby Jesus is and what he came to do. The simple candle service that John de Watteville introduced showed children then, as it does now, that through the gift of a lighted candle we can remember that this baby Jesus brought light into darkness and through the red ribbon that Jesus shed his blood and died for our salvation. The Christingle has developed over the last 250 years from a simple white candle to the Christingle that is made today.

There is something special about an evening service for children. The dark in the church makes the experience especially atmospheric. The service is based around explaining the symbolism in the Christingle as each part of the Christingle is assembled. When all is assembled the lights in the church are dimmed and the candles lighted. Each child is given a Christingle candle to take home with them. The candle light reflected on the excited children's faces is a beautiful sight. In John de Watteville's day it is recorded that the children tried to keep their candles alight the whole way home.

The use of the service was spread throughout the world by the Moravian church and has been celebrated in many countries. In 1968 the Christingle Service was brought to the Anglican Church of England and its use promoted by The Children's Society. This charity works in the UK with children at risk of homelessness on the streets, disabled children, children in trouble with the law, and young refugees. The Society encourages churches and community groups to have a Christingle service and the donated offering is given to the Children's Society to support their work throughout the year.



The service was created on 20th December 1749 and is now often the service held the last Sunday evening before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. However, in Dorchester this year two of our churches have Christingle services on Sunday 1st December. St Peter's at 10.30am together with Eucharist and St George's at 4.30pm and this is a dedicated Christingle Service. St Mary's have their service at 4pm on Christmas Eve and St Andrews at West Stafford also at 4pm on Christmas Eve. Many of our schools in Dorchester have cardboard 'Christingle' candles which they distribute before Christmas and fill with coins for The Children's Society.

How to make a Christingle:

- A sweet, juicy, shiny orange represents the goodness of the earth that God created.
- Four sticks (cocktail sticks or tooth picks) are put into four corners of the top side of the orange. These represent the four seasons of the year.
- Onto each stick is threaded dried fruit. This represents all the goodness of the fruit of the earth and the richness of animals and birds that God has provided on his earth. Sometimes we use small jelly sweets.
- A red band around the orange represents the blood of Jesus who died for the salvation of the whole world.
- The white candle is placed in the very top of the orange into a pre-prepared hole. This candle represents Jesus, the light of the world, God's son. In the Moravian tradition it would be made from beeswax and would also represent Christ's purity, as this type of candle burns cleanly. It is a good idea to put a small circle of tinfoil in the hole before the candle goes in and this catches the dripping wax.

Why not take the opportunity to go along to one of our local church services this year and share the experience with the children – it is most uplifting. If you have children staying in your own home for Christmas and there is not a convenient Christingle service why not make a Christingle yourself and have a supervised walk around the garden in the dark with the candle alight. Sing a carol at the same time. What better way to prepare the children for Christmas and make them aware of what Christmas is really all about?

The Dorchester Committee of The Children's Society thank everyone for all their support over the past year in many ways and at many occasions. We send our best wishes for a peaceful year to come.

Kate
Forrester

Transition Town Dorchester joined forces with Dorchester Benefice and Big Lottery funded Communities Living Sustainably in Dorset project to celebrate the annual One World Week at St Peter's Church in Dorchester in October. The theme was 'More than Enough', and the event looked at how we are using more than enough of our planet's resources and explored ways in which we as individuals and as a community can tackle the problem.

The event was planned as a journey to sustainable living. On entering the church, visitors were invited to follow a trail of green footprints. The trail started with a short film (the Story of Stuff, available on youtube), which examines our production and consumption patterns and appeals to us to make a more sustainable and just world. One of its objectives is 'to change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever'. A question was then posed - 'What can one person do?' - and the rest of the exhibition focused on the answer: that a lot of 'one persons', getting together or working individually, can achieve significant results!

Several local initiatives were showcased, e.g. Transition Town itself, Winterbourne Abbas eco-school, the community garden at All Saints church down the road from St Peter's, the Communities Living Sustainably in Dorset project. Then the trail continued past displays



about reducing, reusing and recycling (the 3 Rs), walking and cycling, composting, excess packaging, and charity shop fashion.

Visitors were invited to contribute their ideas as they went along, and we had some great comments: 'Cycling is fun, saves money, keeps you fit, means fewer parking problems and less pollution, makes you happier, and through cycling you can meet more people (we particularly liked one comment - 'If you're in a car, you can't stop to chat if you see someone. If you're walking, you have to stop. If you're on a bike, you can decide whether to stop or not!')



A bicycle with information about the benefits of cycling

There were also some top tips about the 3 Rs:

- eat a bit less,
- turn your heating down and dress more warmly,
- walk more - Dorchester is a small town,
- use cheap seasonal vegetables to make soup, and if you are on your own, freeze half your bread to use later,
- shop with a friend - buy the BOGOF items and share the cost
- ironing bedsheets - is it a good use of energy?
- Leaf blowers? No! unless you are stewarding a park-sized garden

At the end, visitors were asked to make a pledge of an action to contribute to a more sustainable world. Pledges included walking and cycling more, using the car less, learning how to compost, finding out more about the community farm and other local green groups. People also suggested visions for the future, two of which we especially liked: 'Calmer happier people with less stuff!' and 'Build a stronger community where people walk and cycle more and are involved in local things, e.g. eating local food, shopping at local shops, joining community groups.'

Over 200 people came into the church over the course of the week, and 11 members of St Peter's congregation



An information board about the 3 Rs, with a reused coloured plastic bottle flower display

kindly volunteered to spend some time helping out. A visitor from Bournemouth commented – ‘I love this partnership between an environmental group and the church – after all, preserving our beautiful planet and creating a stronger community is what they are both striving for, in their different ways!’

Transition Town Dorchester runs a community farm and orchard in Dorchester. The farm is located behind the Weymouth College Dorset Skills Centre, in Poundbury. Workdays are held most weekends, with shared lunches, and everyone is welcome to come and join in. For more details, email info@transitiontowndorchester.org.

*A crowd of people asking themselves
‘What can one person do?’*



Institutional Horridness

Tony
Wheeler

Some people are horrid because nobody loved them enough when they were little. Some people are horrid because nobody loved them enough

when they were adolescent. Some people are horrid because they have horrid jobs. Others are just horrid people. These last we may call Institutional Horrids.

Jesus called this “The Sin against the Holy Spirit. Such people have their consciences back to front. They have said ‘Evil, be thou my good.’ This attitude cannot be forgiven”, Jesus said. Nor can it; not while you are still steeped in it, anyway.

EXAMPLE

Consider the job market. We are all terrible, idle, disgusting, despicable creatures if we don’t have a job – so they tell us. “GET A JOB, yesterday at the very latest.” But why? It is not sensible.

Everybody had to work hard at one time. Manual labour was a necessity. But now more or less all manual work is done by machines – not absolutely all, but most. We don’t need anything like as many labourers. Lots of clerks were necessary, still are, but more and more clerking is routinely done by computers.

So, why all this bother and fuss over employment? Why can’t we just accept the situation, and be thankful? There is less work to do. Hip Hip Hooray.

I am not suggesting a life of idleness. It is not natural for people to be idle. Nor is it good for them. People love to be busy and creative. It is wonderful to make something beautiful. It could be the Taj Mahal. It could be a nice meal for someone you love. “There is nothing great or small save by position.” We are creative because God

made us in his own image. So be happy and creative. God’s happy children playing in the mud. Enjoy!

MONEY

Not many people are as innocent as that. People collect money as a measure of their success. Usually it is the love of money that collects them, and then horridness may well take them over.

Unfortunately, the love of money goes hand in hand with horridness. We have seen that in the example above. The situation gets worse and worse. The managers who compel the frantic search for work want ever more work for the money. So the result is that people work longer and longer hours at their unnecessary work. Some is fruitful but much is red tape, endless regulations to make sure that nobody in authority can be blamed for anything.

In real terms this means that we are “gainfully employed” in making life more complicated and worrying for each other. Whatever happened to Merry England? It has been eaten by greed and worry. Any merriness that was left has just been sold to the Chinese by our Prime Minister.

What can we do about it? Hanged if I know. However there is always God. The human race has always been in the soup if God doesn’t rescue us. He usually does. You and I are Christians so we can give him a hand. We can love people more, help when appropriate – and be more practical about it. We can like people more, too. And chat to them. That’s just as important. We can make them laugh. It all helps for happiness. AND if we do happen to have some money, we can give a reasonable amount of it away. That last, I may say, is not virtue but self defence. There is no known specific against avarice except giving some of it away. I’m sorry about this but it is so.

Black & White

Margaret
Morrissey

(Under the age of 40? You won't understand.) You could hardly see for all the snow, Spread the rabbit ears as far as they go. My mum used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread butter on bread on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning. Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting eColi. Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake or at the beach instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), no beach closures then.

We all took PE... And risked permanent injury with a pair of Dunlop sandshoes instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors that cost as much as a small car. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

We got the cane for doing something wrong at school, they used to call it discipline yet we all grew up to accept the rules and to honour & class and we all learned to read and write, do maths and spell almost all the words needed to write a grammatically correct letter... FUNNY THAT!!

We all said prayers in school and sang the national anthem, and staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention. I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself. I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital TV cable stations. We weren't!! Oh yeah ... And where was the antibiotics and sterilisation kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played "King of the Hill" on piles of gravel left on vacant building sites and when we got hurt, mum pulled out the 2/6p bottle of iodine and then we got our backs spanked. Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10 day dose of antibiotics and then mum calls the lawyer to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have known that?

We never needed to get into group therapy and/or anger management classes. We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac! How did we ever survive?

LOVE TO ALL OF US WHO SHARED THIS ERA. AND TO ALL WHO DIDN'T, SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MISSED. I WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANYTHING!

Remember that life's most simple pleasures are very often the best. Those WERE the days!!!!



No. 2007 Prince of Wales - from a Gresley Society original

The P2 Steam Locomotive Company (P2SLC), the builder of Britain's most powerful steam locomotive, is delighted to announce that the name of its new Gresley class P2 2-8-2 steam locomotive will be 'Prince of Wales'. The new steam locomotive is being named in honour of HRH Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, to coincide with his 65th birthday celebrations and The Queen has kindly approved the use of His Royal Highness's name for the locomotive.



ST PETER'S

High West Street · Dorchester

Vicar: The Revd Vicky Thurtell 268767
Churchwardens: Mr Brian Hellin 268844
and Mr Mike Nisbett 260983



Diary Dates

Sunday 1st December – Advent Sunday
10.30am Sung Eucharist with lighting
of Christingles
6.30pm Service of Darkness to Light
(Advent Carols)



Carol Services:

Friday 13th December 2pm
Sunninghill School

Thursday 19th December 7.30pm
Thomas Hardy School, Chapel Choir

Sunday 22nd December 6.30pm
Nine Lessons and Carols, Candlelit

Christmas Eve: 11.30pm Choral Midnight Mass with
carols

Christmas Day: 10am Christmas Eucharist; carols and
refreshments.

Sunday 29th December – services as usual :
9am BCP Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Services in January 2014: All welcome

Sundays 9am BCP Communion and 10.30am Sung
Eucharist

Dorchester Deanery Evensong:

Sunday 19th January 6.30pm

Evensong with Dorchester branch of the Salisbury

Diocesan Guild of Ringers:

Saturday 11th January 4pm

A Note from the Treasurer

Beryl
Shuttleworth

By the time this magazine is published boxes for the 2014 envelope scheme will be in Church awaiting collection. If you are unfamiliar with these, they are a set of envelopes for the whole year into which a set amount is put each week. An alternative means of giving regularly is to set up a direct debit.

Why are these schemes so important?

To enable us to budget effectively it is crucial to have a regular system of planned giving. At present this contributes 49% of total income but it would be better for it to be over 60%. Each year we have to pay a Share to the Diocese, for 2014 that figure will be £71,000. In order to meet this commitment, maintain the church and provide high quality worship it is essential to have a large proportion of guaranteed income.

If you would like further information or explanation please do contact the Treasurer, Beryl Shuttleworth (01305 266616 or bshuttleworth04@aol.com), the churchwardens or Vicar.

A New Year's resolution:

Please give prayerful consideration to:

- Setting up a DD/Standing Order and reviewing it annually for the effects of inflation
- Having a set of weekly envelopes
- Signing a Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer. For every £1 you give we can reclaim 25p.
- Leaving a legacy, however small; we can provide a form to use as a codicil to a Will, if required.

Thank you for all you are able to give, either in time or gifts.

Still Ringing After All These Years!

Janet
Ranger

Stella Strawbridge is still climbing the spiral staircase to ring the bells at St George's Church at the grand age of 90. Fellow ringers gathered in the belfry on Tuesday (the normal practise night) 12th November to celebrate this special occasion. Rev'd Fiona Hall attended, joining us for savoury nibbles, non-alcoholic drinks and birthday cake. Friends past & present enjoyed the party

atmosphere and not much ringing was done!

Stella took home the helium balloon, and a card signed by all. Local Iconographer John Coleman (IkonJohn) had made her a particularly nice card - an ink sketch of St George's Church, which she was delighted with. A "a good time was had by all". Her actual birthday was Friday 15 November, which was spent with family in Sidmouth.

Stella began to learn the skill at Oxford University in 1943, so this year marks her 70th anniversary as a ringer - a double celebration in the bell tower! She is an Honorary Life Member of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers.

Janet Ranger is the Chairman of the Dorchester Branch of SDGR



From L-R:- Christine Green, Ivan Andrews, Elizabeth Bridger, Andrea Jacob, Stella Strawbridge, Tony Spiller (Tower Captain), Megan Boffy, Janet Ranger, John Ungley & Revd Fiona Hall

Some Creatures Great and Small

Ruth Chipp
-Marshall

Dental problems are very common in the animal world. It is estimated that 80% of all dogs and cats over 3 years of age have dental disease.

This is more than skin and tummy problems combined.

After each meal plaque (an adhesive layer of bacteria) forms on your pets' teeth. Gradually plaque hardens to form calculus which is often brown or yellowish in colour. Calculus provides an ideal surface for further bacteria to grow leading to inflammation of the gums known as gingivitis. Left untreated, gums may recede allowing bacteria to then attack tooth roots.

Apart from general gum disease and tooth loss untreated dental problems can also lead to bacteria entering the blood stream and causing Heart, Liver and Kidney trouble. Specially formulated foods can be helpful but physically cleaning your pets' teeth daily is the most effective method. Use a small headed toothbrush and pet friendly toothpaste. Human toothpaste is not suitable as it contains fluoride which should not be swallowed. Pet toothpaste is fluoride free, doesn't froth up and comes in chicken and meat flavour for dogs and fish flavour for cats.

More severe dental disease may require your vet to remove plaque and tartar with an ultrasonic scaler and then polish the teeth. This procedure is done under a General Anaesthetic. Any loose teeth or teeth with damaged roots may need to be removed. Advances in veterinary medicine

now allow vets to take digital x-rays during dentistry treatment. This is a very useful diagnostic tool as the tooth you can actually see in the mouth is 'only the tip of the iceberg'. A large portion of the tooth is below the surface. Digital x-rays are taken by placing a small probe inside the mouth, and x-rays can then be viewed on screen with 5-7 seconds. This enables the vet to check for periodontal disease, tooth root abscesses, jaw fractures and tumours etc.

If your pets breath is smelly, if they are having difficulty eating or begin to dribble then take them along to your vet for a check-up. Early detection may certainly help save teeth.

So as with humans, daily brushing of your pets' teeth has very worthwhile health benefits and is very likely to prevent more invasive treatment being required.

Ruth Chipp-Marshall is the Receptionist at Fielding & Cumber Veterinary Surgeons



St Andrew's Church West Stafford

Church Correspondent: Revd Jane Culliford



Dates for December and January

- 1st December – Advent Sunday
10am Parish Communion
12.30pm Bring and Share Lunch
- 8th 10am Morning Prayer
- 15th 10am Parish Communion
- 22nd 10am Said Holy Communion
3pm Nativity Play Rehearsal
6.30 pm Candlelit Service of Carols and Lessons
- 24th – Christmas Eve
10 am Preparation of Christingles
4.30 pm Crib and Christingle Service with
Children's Nativity play
11.30 pm Midnight Communion
- 25th – Christmas Day
10 am Christmas Communion for all the Family
with Carols
- 28th 10am Parish Communion
- 5th January – Epiphany
10am Parish Communion
- 12th 10am Morning Prayer
- 19th 10am Parish Communion
- 26th 9am Holy Communion
10am Come and Worship

Advent

Although Advent can be squeezed by the ever earlier start of Christmas celebrations, we need to remember that Advent is a season of watching and waiting, a time of preparation, of not yet. In Advent the usual beautiful flowers in church are replaced by greenery, mostly evergreens so our thoughts are directed to things that are eternal as we get ready to welcome the Christ child at Christmas once again. But we are aware that we also wait with expectation the glorious coming again of Christ in

majesty at the end of all time. The Advent wreath, with one more candle lit each week, takes us through the season as we hear once more the stories of patriarchs, prophets, **John the Baptist and Jesus' mother Mary. Finally we light the central white candle at Christmas with what remains of the Advent candles which burn down rather quickly in the inevitable draughts of a 14th century church!**



Christmas and Children

One of the features of Christmas at St Andrew's Church is the service on Christmas Eve attended by lots of families with children of all ages and sizes. The children are invited to dress up to take part in a nativity play. While there are always plenty of volunteers to be angels or Mary, last year we struggled to find a Joseph as being a sheep or a wise man seemed a better option! The crib scene is also set by those too shy or too young to take part in the play so all can be involved in telling the Christmas story. Towards the end of the service the Christingles are distributed and then lit while the candle collecting boxes to support the work of the **Children's Society** are gathered up. It is always very special but I breathe a sigh of relief when even if it is a bit chaotic nothing has caught fire! All are welcome at this service –**Christmas is delightful with children's excitement but Christmas is for everyone.**

Epiphany

As the excitement of Christmas wanes we celebrate Epiphany Sunday. The three Wise men and their camel which have been displayed below the pulpit now follow the star and join the crib scene around Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus in a manger. The crib scene remains in place until Candlemas as a reminder that God is with us, a message for all ages and nations.

St Simon & St Jude

Winterborne Monkton

Church Correspondent: Ursula Norman



Christmas Celebrations



The Rev Jean Saddington will be leading our **Children's Christmas tree-trimming/Crib Service** in the Church on Saturday 7th December at 11.30am.

Our Carol Service will take place at 3.30 pm the following afternoon (December 8th) with the Rev Richard Press presiding, and the Monkton Singers leading the singing.

Our usual Christmas Day Communion Service takes place at 11.15 am, with the Rev Richard Press taking the Service.

Are you going into hospital?

Robert
Potter

Sometimes we plan it and sometimes it just happens but it may well happen that we spend some time as an in-patient at our County Hospital. We shall be looked after by doctors, nurses and other health care professionals and be dependent on a host of other support staff. But have you thought of the chaplaincy service?

There is a full time chaplain (Rev Ron Martin) and Rev Richard Betts covers Ron's day off and takes the service on alternate Sundays. The chaplains provide spiritual and emotional support to the staff as well as to patients and they devote a lot of time to visiting wards. However, you do hear sometimes a comment from a patient that he or she didn't see a chaplain or didn't know there was a Sunday service.



In these days of political correctness and patient confidentiality, coupled with the increasingly rapid **turnround of patients, it isn't possible for chaplains to know who is in.** If you do become an in-patient and want a visit by a chaplain or a volunteer then please tell one of the nurses on your ward and a message will go to the **chaplain's office.**

Every Sunday there is a service in the chapel at 10.30, a short communion service open to all denominations. On Fridays a volunteer goes round the wards to ask who would like to come to the service and then on the Sunday morning someone will turn up at the bedside with a wheelchair to whisk the patient to the chapel – and return him or her to the ward a short time later. We have a good team of volunteers to do this work but newcomers are always welcome. It involves being at the hospital from just **before 10 o'clock for about an hour and a half, perhaps once every 4–6 weeks depending on what you want to do.**

The chapel is always open and is available as a quiet space for patients, staff and visitors; it is used by the hospital's Muslim community on Fridays. The Roman Catholic church has its own ministry to patients and the chaplain's office has contact details for a wide range of other faiths and other branches of Christianity so, we hope, everyone is catered for.

The chaplaincy service also covers the Forston Clinic and the few wards at Weymouth. The hospice has its own separate chaplaincy service.

Image:
<http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/patients/wards-depts/chapel.html>



CHURCHES TOGETHER DORCHESTER

Compiled by
Val Potter
264416

Remembrance

Now that the Town Council no longer has a chaplain it was good for Churches Together to be invited to arrange the Service of Remembrance this year. An innovation much appreciated was the two young people leading the prayers. People of all ages know of service men and women caught up in conflicts across the world and it is good to gather to honour them, to share in the pain of those who have lost loved ones in war, and to reflect on the continuing need for peace in our world.

Community Lunch

If you are keen on helping those in greatest need in our area do come along to the Dorchester Area Community Partnership lunch on 12th December. **The theme is 'A Happy Christmas for Everyone?'** and the speaker is Margaret Barker of the Poverty Action Group. There will be displays by relevant organisations and all of them would welcome your interest and support. Contact Pauline Trimming on 01305 216403 to book your lunch.

Carols for Shoppers

Come and join us for a carol or two in South Street on 23rd December, 9.30-10.30am as we offer a gentle reminder of the meaning of Christmas to those last minute shoppers. The collection is for Christian Aid so we are doing something doubly worthwhile. The stalwarts are getting older and croakier so please let us see a few new faces this year!

The Hub

The Hub project to help homeless people was initiated by Dorchester Churches Together Poverty Action Group in partnership with other agencies. The project was later **taken on by Bournemouth Churches' Housing Association** and they are now changing their service for their homeless clients in the Dorchester area to meet the current needs. The Hub service is not closing but changing.

BCHA liaises with other agencies and has access to accommodation with support for vulnerable people across Dorset. The result has been a drop in clients accessing the Hub regularly and therefore a reduced need for such a large resource.

The new Hub Service will open on 2nd January 2014 within a current BCHA project at 16 High East Street, Dorchester. The phone will still be 01305 757599.

It will run on an appointment basis providing appropriate, specific, one-to-one support with group support available twice a week at the River of Life Centre. There will be short term access to a shower and washing machine, meal vouchers for the very vulnerable whilst benefits are established, and help with accessing accommodation and liaison with other agencies. The aim of the new service is to improve the total quality of life of those who are homeless or recently housed, rather than just provide a social meeting place. It aims to help those who have been housed to move forward towards employment and integration.

A new 24 hour telephone support service is due to be activated by BCHA on 1st December where clients, police and members of the public can speak to a trained co-ordinator who can signpost the individual to the specific support they need in the immediate area. The phone number will be 0300 1234 002. The current drop-in service at the Hub building will cease from 1st December when this system takes over.

There will continue to be a need for the Friends of the Hub to fund equipment for the outreach team and to help individuals with expenses when they are housed, so we value your continued support. The changes in the Hub service will mean that the clients will directly benefit from your generosity without the overheads of a separate building.

Quiet Space

The Trustees and Companions enjoyed an excellent 'bring and share' tea in November with time to share information and ideas about the future. We are planning a 'Working and cleaning party' on 18th January for those who want to help so do come along and share in keeping this beautiful space fresh and inviting for those who come.

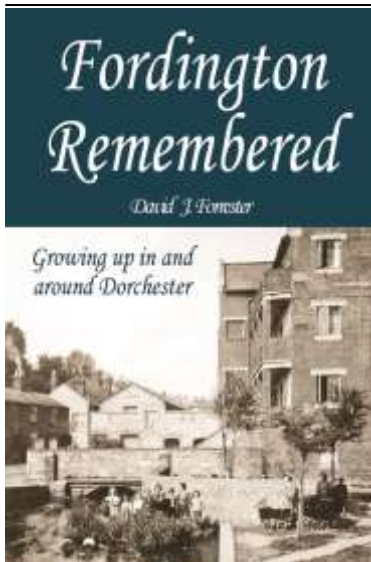
We are grateful to Doug Holt, one of the Trustees for producing Christmas cards for sale in aid of the Quiet Space. Contact any of the church representatives if you would like to purchase any.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18-25th January 2013

The theme this year is *All Things in Common* and there will be daily short services in churches around the town. The united service will be on 19th January 6.30pm at the United Church and the preacher will be Rev Catherine Dearlove, the Chair of Churches Together in the Dorchester Area.

Fordington Remembered, by David Forrester



David Forrester's new book *Fordington Remembered: Growing up in and around Dorchester* looks at the post-war era of food rationing, Lott and Walne's heyday, local businesses and school-boy pranks. David moved to Dorset when he was just 3 months old and grew up in Fordington. His mother ran an 'open all hours'-type shop at No. 35 High Street Fordington for 35 years. The book is part memoir, part recollection of life in the 1940s/50s in a not very-advantaged part of Dorchester, known then as 'the wrong end of town'.

David says, 'We were much more relaxed in those days, but also there were rules and deadlines. Lunch was always at 1 pm, and if you arrived a minute late you were in trouble. When us lads (old men now) meet, as we do often, we discuss the old times and fun we had; our wives get a little fed up seeing us still laughing about the same old things year after year. Times were hard then, we had little and there was little to be had. But we were happy with our lot and much more capable of entertaining ourselves than modern children, it seems, though a lot of what we did would be seen as a Health and Safety hazard today.'

Local historian Terry Hearing says in the Foreword, 'I enjoyed Dave's memoirs immensely and heartily recommend the book as a valuable addition to our social history and as a jolly good read'.

Illustrated with colour and old black-and-white photos, some from the Dorset County Museum and Mill Street Housing Society archives, the book is priced £6.99 and will be on sale locally and direct from the publisher (tel 01300 321531). Author royalties are being split between the Rotary Foundation and Dorset ME Support Group.

David will be signing copies at the launch at St George's Church Hall on Wed 11th December, 6-8 pm. All welcome.



The book is published by Roving Press which specialises in local books (including *Dorchester Remembers the Great War*, *Secret Places of West Dorset* and *She Opened the Door: The Wife and Women who Haunted Thomas Hardy*). See www.rovingpress.co.uk for details.

The Rest is Silence

Jean
Lang

In 2006 the Trustees of the Gifford lectures invited Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch to give the series of lectures in Edinburgh. (The Gifford lectures have been given at the Universities of

Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow and St Andrews since 1888. Established under the Will of Adam Lord Gifford (1820-1887) they are given “to promote and diffuse the study of Natural Theology in the widest sense of the term – in other words the knowledge of God”).

Professor MacCulloch took as his theme Silence in Christianity and from those lectures he has now published a book. The book is not simply the lectures written down but the lectures do form the basis for the script. This is both a plus and a minus. It means that the book is of manageable proportions and runs to 239 pages with notes rather than the 692 and 831 of his last two books. But its structure is that of the lectures and there are gaps and leaps which in a book alone might have been expanded and filled.

Professor MacCulloch first looks at the history of silence in the development of Christianity. He starts with its place in the Old Testament and notes how the silence of dumb idols is contrasted with the God who speaks. But also how while initially the silence of God had been a cause of misery by the 1st century CE (Common era) the silence linked both a time before creation “darkness and silence embraced everything” and a silence at the end of creation on the seventh day when God rested and that positive silence would come again at the end. (2 Esdras)

Having set Christian silence in its historic context Professor MacCulloch considers it through the New Testament, the early Church, the Monastic age (between 451-1100), the Eastern and Western churches and the Protestant reformation to 1700. It is inevitably a bit of a scamper and at least an outline knowledge of the Church and Historic background is helpful.

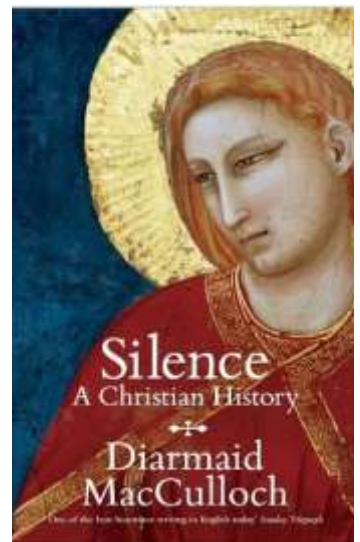
As with Professor MacCulloch’s other books his wide and deep reading enables him to illustrate the points he makes with detailed examples, so in writing of the monastery at Cluny’s regime of silence he remarks on its “pioneering development of sign language” attuned to the needs of the monks so that there were many signs for different fish but none for meat!

The second half of the book considers how silence has been used in the Western Christian Church, to survive and to hide. He looks at the Conversos in Spain, Jews who “converted” but often as a way to maintain their Jewish identity, the Protestants who stayed in England during Mary Tudor’s reign and the Catholics who stayed during Elizabeth’s and gay Anglo- Catholics in the 19th century Church of England. Finally he looks at things that are covered up by silence, the place of women in the Early Church, the scandal of clerical child abuse and Western Christianity and the holocaust. At the end he contemplates the silence in the aftermath of Golgotha which “transcended the din of the triumphant” and concludes that “It may still be enough to nerve those immersed in it to return to the fight against all that is Satanic in creation”.

An interesting book on an aspect of Christianity which in the history of the Church of England has had little place.

Silence: A
Christian History
By Professor Sir Diarmaid
MacCulloch

(Allen Lane HB £13.20)



Editor’s Comment

In God’s purpose there is no reason at all why 2014 has to be like 2013. Let the old year go with all its memories, joys and hurts. Turn to the new one with faith and prayer and yes, hope. Like many of you I will raise a glass, say a prayer and watch the clock tick past midnight into a brave new year. Happy Christmas and New Year to one and all from the Parish Magazine Team.