



Sunday, 2 December - Advent Sunday

10.00 am All-age Service

Sunday, 9 December - Advent 2

8.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, 16 December - Advent 3

9.30 am Parish Communion
4.00 pm Carol Service

Sunday, 23 December - Advent 4

9.30 am Matins

CHRISTMAS EVE

3.00 pm Christingle
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am Christmas Service for families and all ages

Sunday 30th December - 1st after Christmas

10.00 am Team Eucharist at Holy Cross



PRIEST-IN-CHARGE The Revd Roger Powell (01793 740369)

CHURCHWARDENS Charlotte Frost (841361)
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Contributions for the next issue by 20th December please



The Dragon

The Village Newsletter for Ogbourne St George

December 2007

WHAT'S ON IN OGBOURNE ST GEORGE THIS MONTH

Happy Christmas to all



December

- 4 & 18 Ogbourne Little Fishes, 1.45-3pm at Ogbourne St George Church
- 16 Carol Service 4pm at Ogbourne St George Church
- 20 Village Carol singing. Meet on the corner of High Street and Church Lane at 6pm

Christmas Arrangements

Decorating the Church: The church will be cleaned and decorated for Christmas on Saturday 15th December between 10 and 11.30 am. Gifts of greenery and flowers are very welcome, as are offers of help. Children who would enjoy decorating the Christmas Tree will also be welcome to come along at 10 am.

The Crib: the crib will be set up by the Little Fishes at their meeting on Tuesday 18 December 1.45-3.00pm.

The more the merrier to help with these Christmas arrangements so if you want to know more or you want to help please get in touch with Richenda George, 841278.

A Big Thank You

Lots of lovely toys, games and books were brought to the Toy Service last month. These were then donated to the Swindon branch of Home-Start, a national charity that helps families with your children, for the Christmas Gift Sacks they give to each child. Home-Start were absolutely and delighted and thank you all very much indeed for your generosity. *Charlotte Frost*

Charity fund raising at the Inn with the Well

Megan Shaw's Halloween egg raised £133.70 for the Macmillan Nurses' charity. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Timothy George,

one of our Lay Ministers, writes:

*Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat.
Please to put a penny in the old man's hat.*



We don't eat goose much at Christmas nowadays, and a penny isn't much - even less in the old currency. But the jingle catches the double idea of Christmas these days - having a party and giving presents. Yet those are only the outward signs of Christmas, not its real purpose. That is to remember the birth of Jesus, two thousand years ago, God's decision to identify with humanity by being born as a human. Without that there would be no Christmas.

And of course it wasn't just a matter of being born. Christmas isn't just the carols and decorations of the one-off event, to be wrapped up and forgotten for the next eleven months. It makes sense only in the whole life and work of Jesus, and in the story of Easter too. It involves everyone, including those who have never been able to have a goose - or a turkey for that matter.

No matter whether Christmas means anything religious to us, most of us want to share with others the generosity we show to our families and friends at this season. So it is natural for charities to choose Christmas as a time to send out their letters asking for our help - and this year there is the special appeal following the floods in Bangladesh. And it is good and natural to respond as generously as we can.

*If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do.
If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you!*
May God bless us all this Christmas.

Robbery in the Village

There has recently been a burglary on a house in the village. An opportunistic thief jemmied open a window and took various items of electrical equipment including a DVD, a play station and a digital box. To add insult to injury the thief emptied the washing basket and used that to take away the goods! So be on your guard, particularly at this time of the year, when thieves are looking for the opportunity to make some easy money.

Village Sporting Update!!

There hasn't been much to report on the village sporting achievements this year. Sadly the Darts Team has disbanded and, as yet, news hasn't come out of HQ as to the reason why! However, the Crib Team continues to enthusiastically represent the village. Although it has been a mixed season with a win one week and a corresponding loss the next, the team is currently hovering around the middle of the league table and hopes to use that position as a launch pad for greater things in 2008.

Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council meeting was held on 8th November. 7 residents were present.

Matters arising; the village notice board has been refurbished and erected; it was agreed that Councillors will monitor the condition of the tree in the River Og and decide whether to let nature take its course; a new street light has been installed at the Coronation Garden; the Clerk has created and set up laminated bus timetables; a representative from the Environment Agency investigated the foul water in the field at Whitefields Farm and confirmed that the water is pollution. The Agency will report back regarding progress on its investigation; it was agreed to proceed with pruning the Ash trees in the Bell Field. Councillors commended Cllr Willis on the work he had organised clearing the Bell Field and agreed to make donations to thank suppliers who provided their services free of charge.

Planning: An application for an extension at Badger's Rest (amended) and additional farm buildings at Westfield farm have been approved. Application for replacement Industrial/Office building at Old Chase Road and renewal of an application for an extension at Carlisle House have been returned. An application for the demolition of garage and erection of two storey extension at Teach-Nua has been received for consideration.

Parish Website: As co-ordinator Tim Frost reported on progress. The project has proceeded at a natural pace particularly addressing the difficult issue of updating the website and keeping it fresh and interesting. The team has met with the Aldbourne Web people and derived an understanding of the ongoing difficulties that might be expected. So far there appears to be little interest from Ogbourne St Andrew regarding participation but this may change later.

Speeding: A speed monitoring device was installed but has been subjected to vandalism which rendered it useless. The Speeding partnership will arrange to redo the survey and report to the PC.

School Parking: As Cllr Willis was absent it was decided to discuss progress at the next meeting.

Unitary Authority: The Chairman and vice chairman had attended briefing meetings. The Chairman reported that it seemed to be a path finding exercise trying to please everybody. Kennet District Council will cease in April 2009. It is intended to create Community Area Boards that will include elected members and PCs will engage at that level. There will be new areas of responsibility for Parish Councils but at present the main issue is whether the Councillors wish to extend their elected franchise to 2013 or have Parish Council elections in 2009. In ordinary circumstances they would be due in 2011. It was unanimously decided that the Parish Kennet assets: It was agreed the Parish Council is not interested in acquiring any assets in the village from Kennet District Council prior to its demise.

. The next meeting will be held on Thursday January 10th 2008.