



Church Diary and News

4 December	10.00 am	Family Service
11 December	8.30 am	Holy Communion
	3.30 pm	Messy Church in School: Christmas
18 December	4.00 pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.00 pm	Christingle
	11.30 pm	Carols and Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Christmas Family Service

2011 has been the 400th anniversary year of the King James Bible, and to celebrate this we shall be using it for the traditional readings at the **Carol Service** on the Sunday before Christmas. There will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards, and we look forward to seeing everybody there so we can have a tremendously Big Sing!

Carol singing around the village on Sunday December 11: convene at the school at 5.30pm (wrap up warm and bring a torch).

Decorating the church for Christmas: we are going to do this on *Saturday December 17 from 9.30am*. It would be great to have lots of you splendid flower arrangers to come and help, if you have a little time to spare. Coffee and cake in return! The tree and the crib will be decorated by the children on Tuesday afternoon the following week.

THANK YOU (that's a big one!) to everyone who came to the work party in November, all 15 of you. It was a mild sunny day, and a huge amount was achieved both inside and out – cleaning, clearing, sorting, repairing, lopping, felling, digging out. It was extremely satisfactory, and the churchwardens are very grateful indeed to all you busy people for giving up a large part of your Saturday to help.

And another **thank you**, this time from the children who attend Koalas and Special Tots at the Salt Way Centre in Middleleaze, for the kind donation of toys that were brought to the Toy Service. Your generosity is very much appreciated by these young disabled and special needs children.

Church—Jan Diary

1 January	10.30 am	Benefice Eucharist at Holy Cross
8 January	8.30 am	Holy Communion
15 January	9.30 am	Parish Communion
22 January	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
29 January	10.00am	Benefice Eucharist at Holy Cross

The Dragon

December 2011 & January 2012

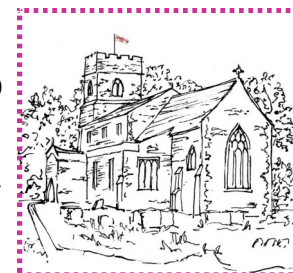


Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Our **thanks** to all the fabulous people in Ogbourne St George who have already acted upon our request for financial assistance for the church. We have received 37 responses to date (from the 198 dwellings in the parish), helping us to a total of just over £3,000 in donations, plus an increase in planned giving adding a further £1,690 to church funds each year, with reclaimable gift aid of £750, a grand total of almost £5,500.

If you can help us reach £6,000 for our mission campaign it's not too late, please contact Father Roger (01793740369) or Nicky Irwin (01793 741216), (if you did not receive a letter please let us know and we will rectify this). While we have tried to thank you all personally, there were a number of anonymous donors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us keep this beautiful church open.



With best wishes, Father Roger and Nicky Irwin

YOUR COMMUNITY – YOUR PARISH PLAN

At last, it's happening. Early in the New Year the Parish Plan questionnaire will be delivered to every household in the Parish. We are well aware that it seems a long time since we held the initial Public Meeting to launch the Parish Plan - and it is!! However the questionnaire is a crucial part of the consultation to find out your views on the parish – the good things, the not such good things and improvements you would like to see in the future. So we have spent a considerable amount of time getting this document right. Apart from the public meetings we have consulted with specific sections of the community, held focus groups, spoken to representatives from other villages who have been through the process and piloted the questionnaire to ensure that it is easy to understand and to complete.

Now it's down to you. Each household will receive one questionnaire and the answers should reflect the majority view of the family. The deadline for return is the end of January. We have chosen this date because the excitement of Christmas and New Year will be a distant memory so completing the questionnaire will give you something to take your mind off the lack of money and miserable weather!! Once completed there are several collection points for you to return the questionnaire.

You can drop it off at the Inn with the Well, the School, or the Parklands Hotel, You can deliver it to the homes of any of the Parish Plan group or You can ring one of the members to ask for it to be collected.

When all the questionnaires are in the responses will be analysed and the results published so that everyone will be aware of the views which have been expressed. There will then be another public meeting to discuss the results before the finalised Parish Plan is produced.

Please help us by completing the questionnaire. It gives everyone a chance to say what is needed to improve our Parish and to help get things done.



Ogbourne School News

Thank you for supporting our Operation Christmas Child appeal. We were able to send off 33 boxes.

At school it's a busy time as we've been meeting lots of prospective parents. If you have a child who you are thinking of sending to our school, you'll need to get in quickly as all primary school applications are to be submitted by 15th January. If you think we might be the school for you, please contact our office—01672 841318—we'll be happy to show you around.

Of course at school at the moment we are already preparing for Christmas. You are most welcome to join us at:

- ◆ Our Christmas Fair at school on Sat 3rd December 11—2
- ◆ Our Nativity Service at Ogbourne Church on Thurs 13 Dec at 2.
- ◆ Our Christmas sing-along at school on Wed 14th Dec 1.45
- ◆ Ogbourne Church's Carol Service on Sunday 18th Dec at 4

We'd love to see you there.
Anne Normington—Head teacher



Diamond Jubilee

Anyone with ideas and wanting to get involved with creating a village celebration
There will be a meeting in the village hall Tuesday 10th Jan 7.30



FREE Family Fun and Food

You and your family are invited to Ogbourne St George and St Andrew School hall from 3.30 to 5.30pm on Sunday the 11th December. Join your children making decorations, baking biscuits, and putting together the Christmas crib as we explore the Christmas story. All followed by hot, glorious food and all completely free. If you would like to come along please let Lesley (841185) or Charlie (841140) know so we have an idea of numbers for food. Also if anyone (especially those without children) would like to volunteer to help we would love to hear from you.

*Contributions for the February Dragon by 20th January;
and/or to receive The Dragon by email
info@theinnwiththewell.co.uk or julia.wall@btconnect.com*



The Inn with the Well

Temporary closure for major cellar refurbishment

Closes 2nd Jan; reopens 13th Jan

Ogbourne St George Parish Council

Two more new Councillors needed!!

Only three nominations were put forward last month and they have become Councillors. The Parish Council needs two more people and wants you to put your name forward when the nominations for the next election open on December 1st. Please be quick as nominations close on Friday 9th December at noon. If more than two people are nominated then there will be an election on Tuesday January 10th 2012.

If you're 18 or over this is your opportunity to serve as a Parish Councillor and represent the interests of your community. People from all walks of life and all sections of the Parish now have a second opportunity to stand up and be counted.

Think of what you could achieve and improve for Ogbourne St George as a Parish Councillor. You could help make the lives of the people in the local community better and ensure the local community has more of a voice.

If you thought about it last time but just didn't get round to it then this is your second chance – don't miss out!

Cliff Freeman, the Clerk, can provide paper copies of various publications including the National Association of Local Councils 'It takes all sorts - Local councils: represent your community, make a difference' and The Good Councillors Guide as well as the Nomination pack.

The Nomination pack can also be obtained from
Wiltshire Electoral Services
Monkton Park
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 1ER

and can be found on the village website at www.ogbournestgeorge.org.uk

There are lots of resources available to Councillors and potential Councillors on the internet. For example at http://www.nalc.gov.uk/Publications/Booklets_and_Resources.aspx There's

'It takes all sorts - Local councils: represent your community, make a difference'
And at <http://www.beacouncillor.org.uk/> there's a step by step guide and videos

For further help and information contact the Clerk, Cliff Freeman, on 01672 841388 or 840011 or email at: cliffreeman@aol.co.uk

