



CHURCH DIARY FOR December 2008

Sunday, December 7th - Advent 2

10.00 am All-age service

Sunday, 14 December - Advent 3

8.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, 21st December - Advent 4

9.30 am Parish Communion

4.00 pm **Carol Service.**

This will be the traditional service of nine lessons and carols, but with some extras! There will also be some singing from the excellent Ogbourne school choir which has just won the inter-schools carol singing competition and two solos from Julie Brogan, a professional singer whom many of you will know already. There will be wine and refreshments after the service.

Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Christingle

11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10.00 am Christmas Family Service

Sunday, 28th December - Christmas 1

10.30 am Team Eucharist at Holy Cross

From the Register

RIP

14th November The funeral of Peter Stibbard

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

CHURCHWARDENS Charlotte Frost (841361)
Gordon Mudge (841338)

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Contributions for the next issue by 20th December please



The Dragon

The Village Newsletter
for Ogbourne St George

December 2008



A Very Happy Christmas to All

WHAT'S ON IN OGBOURNE ST GEORGE THIS MONTH

December

9 & 16th **Little Dragons** 1.45-3pm at the Church. *(Please note irregular date)*

18th **Carol singing** around the village. Meet outside the school at 5.30pm.

20th **Decorating the Church for Christmas** 10-11.30 am. Everyone welcome to help. Donations of flowers or greenery will be gratefully accepted. Contact Rosemary Wallace 841405 or Richenda George 841278

21st **Carol Service** 4.00 pm. Further information on the back page.

The Final Delivery ... and the Collection Last month "Kevin The Postie" left the Royal Mail after giving a friendly service to all in the Ogbourne Community for over 20 years. Villagers collected the princely sum of over seven hundred pounds to say thank you and best wishes to Kevin. The children of Ogbourne School presented Kevin with the vouchers (and cash that came in after the vouchers were purchased) on 24th October, when he delivered the school post. Kevin was overcome and very grateful. He said that the Ogbournes' post round wasn't a job, it was delivering a service to friends! **And a big thank you from Kevin** - Dear all, I was overwhelmed by your kind words and generosity. Thank you all very much for your kindness and friendship over the last 20 years. It has been my great pleasure to have been Kevin the Postie over the years. Thank you again and goodbye for now.

Missing Cones! The cones have been stolen from outside the School. Not sure whether this was someone's idea of a joke!! The School is desperate for their return and has agreed a total amnesty if the cones are put back in their original place. Anyone with information should contact the School.

Dedication of the Bells The Ogbourne Church bells rang 1260 changes of Grandsire Doubles during the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers quarter peal week. We would like to dedicate this to the memory of Peter Stibbard who died on the 5th of November the day the bells were rung. *Mike Clark, Tower Captain.*

New Editor Needed. Last month I wrote that I feel it is time for someone new to take over the editorship of The Dragon. I haven't had any expressions of interest as yet and the last issue will be in January. It would be sad to see The Dragon go so if anyone is interested in taking it on or if you know someone who could do it and just needs a "bit of a push" please get in touch on 841270.

A Christmas Message



The choral experts have declared "In the bleak midwinter" Britain's best Christmas carol. Not perhaps the most popular choice, but a good one nonetheless. Christmas is a moment of light, a time for candles and joy: a time for families to get together and to have a good time. But it is a light shining in darkness. Christ was born at a bleak time. Yet, as St John says, the darkness did not overcome the light. Because Jesus was the true light, that enlightens us all. For many this is gobbledygook. Indeed it doesn't make much sense if we treat Christmas as just a mid-winter break, a time to forget troubles. Christmas only makes real sense if we see it as the start of the life of one sent literally to save the world.

No-one knew what was happening at the first Christmas apart from Mary, Joseph, some shepherds and a wise man or three, all of whom we shall meet again in nativity plays everywhere. Sales of tea-towels boom before Christmas, even in a bad year!

Jesus' work started thirty years later, when he had learned his trade and seen for himself what things were like. His message was simple. Change your way of thinking. The world is on the brink. The values you have worshipped for years don't provide the answer. Turn to God. Love him and love your fellow human beings. That way the world can become what it might be.

Two thousand years ago the world rejected Jesus. But he persisted, and persists even today, warning against values which threaten our livelihoods, and, because life style feeds into climate change, endanger our very existence. So have a great Christmas. But let's think ahead and make it the start of something new. *Timothy George*

Lunch Club I am a volunteer with Age Concern Wiltshire. The charity has an initiative to set up Lunch Clubs in rural areas for the 50+ age group. The aim is to foster relationships amongst the retired community through social gatherings and to set up informal local networks to provide support for those members in times of need. Providing there is sufficient interest (10 people) it is planned to meet once a quarter in a local hostelry for lunch. The cost for a two-course lunch is estimated at £10 per person. (Drinks excluded). The first outing is planned for March 2009. If anybody is interested please contact me by the end of December. *Keith Wallace Tel 841405 or email kg_wallace@btinternet.com*

Village Hall Accounts: The accounts for the Village Hall for 2007 have been finalised showing income for the year exceeded expenditure. Currently there is approximately £2000 in reserve.

A Polite Warning - Fireworks on 6th December. Hello, just to let you know, we are having a short - 10 to 15 minutes - firework display on the 6th of December soon after 19.30 hrs. It will be fired from the private field next to the Bell Field and at least 40 metres from any public area or footpath. Due to the natural echo in the valley it will be noisy. Many thanks for your understanding. *Andy and Julia Wall, The Staddles*

Please keep your dogs under control. During the week of November 17th a dog killed a sheep in the field to the west of the Manor, and drove many of the sheep across the cattle grid and onto the Ridgeway. No-one reported the incident to us. Please could all walkers keep their dogs on a lead when using public footpaths. We would also like to thank everyone for their patience with regard to the work being done in the water-meadow. *Andrew Tuckey and Tracy Long*

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on 27th November. This became acrimonious when there was a discussion about e-mails between the Clerk (Cliff Freeman), the Chairman (Keith Wallace) and other Councillors concerning the roles and actions of the Clerk and the Chairman. When the discussion began, Keith Wallace advised the meeting that he had decided to resign as Chairman. He then read out advice that he had received from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which, apart from commenting on the individual issues of whether either the Clerk or the Chairman had exceeded their powers, also recommended that the Parish Council should have a formal Grievance Procedure in place for use by the Councillors, the Clerk and indeed parishioners. At this stage the Councillors wanted to end the matter and draw a line under it and despite the fact that the Chairman considered he was owed an apology only one Councillor was prepared to offer this.

It was agreed that, following the advice from NALC, all Councillors should be clear in their understanding of the role of the Clerk and the Clerk would ensure that they all had copies of the documents setting out the official Standing Orders and responsibilities of the Chairman and Clerk. At the next meeting Councillors will discuss the role of the Clerk and the introduction of a Grievance Procedure. The discussion ended with a vote of confidence in the Clerk.

Other matters discussed included inconsiderate parking in the village at the "T" junction, the receipt of plans for the new School Hall which will be discussed at a separate meeting, and concerns about the use of the green space in St George's Close for parking. The precept for 2009/10 will be £4,500, 10% less than the current year. Speeding in the village was raised again and it was agreed that the Parish Council will go ahead with the plan to erect "gateways" at the entrance to the village to alert motorists that they are entering a built up area. Residents living nearby will be advised in writing and will be able to object if they are unhappy with the plans. The next meeting will be on January 8th when a new Chairman will be elected.

VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB The November winners are:

1st 24 Tina West; 2nd 65 Oliver Clauson; 3rd 70 Ros Rouse.

This is the final draw for the 100 club which was set up last year specifically to fund repairs to the porch roof at the hall. The club will lapse now, but will probably be revived in the future as it is a relatively pain-free way (for both sides!) to raise a guaranteed £600 for the hall. Thank you very much to everybody who subscribed so readily, your support as always is greatly appreciated. *Charlotte Frost*

Christmas Entertainment at the Inn with the Well



- 20th Darts singles competition
- 23rd Film Night "**Sex in the City**" (Big dresses and Gorgeous Shoes - optional)
- 24th Christmas Quiz
- 26th Board Games evening and Pudding Club.
- 29th Wii Night
- New Year's Eve closed for private party
- New Year's Day - Big Breakfast 12 noon - 3pm