

## The Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

What are your earliest or best memories of Christmas? I can remember, when I was no more than two or three, coming downstairs while it was still dark and the rest of the house was asleep, and pushing open the door to the sitting room. On the other side of the room was what seemed to me an enormous tree. I can't remember whether I had seen it being put up – I suppose I must have done and that is what drew me downstairs, shivering in my pyjamas. But I do remember that in the gloom of that pre-dawn winter morning the tree, glinting with strange decorations, seemed like an apparition, vast and mysterious – a tree in our house! – and that I experienced a shock of wonder and awe. I stood in front of that no doubt ordinary Christmas tree held by something very close to adoration, tinged with something that was almost, but not quite, fear. I was, I believe, engaging in a nameless worship, without having the faintest idea of course that that was what I was doing. All I knew was that something very tremendous (it seemed to me) had gripped me.

I have grown up since then, and I am unlikely ever again to stand before a Christmas tree giving it my heart, as it were – and just as well. But we are now entering a season which gives us the opportunity to offer our heart to One who can respond. Over the next few weeks we shall once again prepare ourselves to hear a familiar story retold. Those of us who are privileged to do so in the company of children may find that they draw us with them into a realm where mystery and reverence and wonder confront us. For others, it may be harder to let ourselves be grasped by these things, either because the story feels too familiar, or because the trappings obscure it, or because life has made the story seem like sheer sentimentality.

The heart of the Christmas story is not something trite or saccharine at all, but is at once earthly physical and overwhelmingly mysterious. Anyone who has been present at the birth of a child knows what that is like. My prayer for us all this Advent and Christmas is that at some point, in some way, we will be granted a vision or experience that leaves us in no doubt that we have been visited by Divine Love. May God in Christ greet and bless us all.

With love,

David



## Mothers' Union

At the November meeting Joan Walton gave us a slide show entitled, 'The Creation Story in Stained Glass.' She showed us some wonderful stained glass windows and we were encouraged to make our own observations and interpretations of the designs and pictures. She went all through the creation story with illustrations created both in glass and in flower arrangements. Many of these were stunning in their originality and beauty. We all enjoyed the afternoon very much and, as always, look forward to next year's display. Joan is a fine photographer and has travelled far afield in search of material.

Our next meeting on December 4 will be our pre-Christmas meeting when we will entertain members of other branches of the Mothers' Union in the diocese.

*Jean Morgan*

## Wives' Group

We opened our November meeting by sympathising with Barbara and her sore throat. Olwyn stepped nimbly into the breach, first welcoming a new member (Pam) and thanking Linda Hardy, in her absence, for her contribution to the committee last year. After a few words about forthcoming events, we moved onto the main business of the evening.

This month's theme was 'Christmas Crafts' and Carole King had brought along several items for us to choose from. There were some very professional-looking cards, delightful woollen angels and robins, simple but very effective little bags for holding sweets, etc., and Christmas magic dust, a secret blend of oats and glitter designed to tempt the reindeer and light their way to your house! After a quick explanation of how they were all made, we chose what appealed and set to work, with Carole circulating round the room helping us out when we got stuck!

I decided to have a go at making a couple of Christmas cards and was concentrating so hard I

don't really know what happened, but there was suddenly a roar of laughter from the 'angels' table and comments to the effect that someone's angel was well and truly fallen! My own moment of glory came when I finished my third card (destined for hubby) and realised that I'd put the decorations on upside-down...

Next month sees the Christmas party, which starts at the slightly earlier time of 7.30pm in the Church Hall. As always, all are welcome; please remember to bring something for the supper and a present for the bran tub.

*Kate Robinson*

## Men's Social Group

It was a case of back to school and a trip to the headmaster's study for the Men's Social Group outing at the beginning of November.

Fortunately none of us was on report, so we were able to enjoy the tour of Godmanchester Community School with the very enthusiastic head-teacher, Philip Ellington. The school was founded fifty-three years ago but in all that time has only had four heads, including the present one. The original buildings have been extended, so that the school now has three halls, although, as a result of the extensions, the original front door is now demoted to being a side door. The student complement was, until fairly recently, 600, but is now limited to 420, although the school is not full at the moment; 85% of the pupils come from the Godmanchester area. The school is extensively used by other organisations for activities outside normal school hours – for instance while we were there a WEA class was being held in the staff room and the Hunts Philharmonic were preparing to rehearse in the music hall.

As well as a tour of the buildings, Philip also gave us an insight into the teaching methods used in the school. Most classrooms are equipped with an interactive white board, a so-called 'Smart' board, on which the teacher can project the relevant teaching material for the lesson in question. However, it also has the

facility to allow him, or her, to move the material around the board either by touch or by use of a 'mouse'. Computers also play a significant part in the individual pupil's learning, as we discovered from seeing the bank of computers in the computer room. These are connected in a network which extends, not only throughout the school, but also has links to County Hall and to other schools in the area. Leavers prepare a 'Power Point' presentation about themselves, which can then be shown to their fellow pupils when they move up to senior school. The teaching staff has the facility to test a pupil's reading or mathematical abilities, using a program which will identify areas of weakness in that pupil's understanding. The computer can then prepare individual homework questions that are designed to strengthen the particular areas of weakness.

For most of us it seemed a long way from our own experiences of blackboards and chalk, of a relatively limited amount of testing and exams, a complete absence of any centralised targets, and reports based more on judgement than on personalised performance measurements. At the end of the tour we were each invited to peruse an example of a typical science test paper used in assessing the progress of the older pupils; perhaps it was just as well we weren't asked to complete one as the head might well have kept us in for extra tuition! Thank you Philip for a most interesting and informative insight into education in the modern world, and also for sparing the time from your long and busy day.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 4 December when we will meet for our Christmas dinner at Fawcett Towers. It is rumoured that Andrew is looking to enhance his culinary repertoire during his holiday in South Africa – maybe roast wildebeest will be on the menu this time!

*Peter Dawe*



## Charities Committee Meeting

The Charities Committee met on the 12 November 2007 to review the activity of the last year and consider the way ahead for next twelve months. The PCC had confirmed that the donation to charities should remain limited to £4,000. This figure had been established last year. The committee were content with the standard of publicity displays. They considered that the publicity had raised the profile of each monthly charity. In addition, the committee agreed to maintain both the present list for next year and the same sequence. The list is detailed below.

However, the meeting decided that the list of charities to receive a small donation in December should be reduced. This would allow for an increased donation to the remaining charities. Five were removed and one added. The one added was Malawi Education Link. This is a project co-ordinated from Hinchingsbrooke School with local pupil involvement. The revised list is also set out below. In addition, the meeting also agreed to delete Carers (UK) from the Christmas Service list.

### Monthly Charities for 2008

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| January   | Church Army                               |
| February  | Corrymeela                                |
| March     | The Smile Train                           |
| April     | DISH                                      |
| May       | TEAR Fund                                 |
| June      | The Diocesan Committee for Social Welfare |
| July      | USPG                                      |
| August    | Christian Solidarity Worldwide            |
| September | Mashambanzou Care Trust                   |
| October   | Mission Aviation Fellowship               |
| November  | Service Charities                         |
| December  | Small Donations                           |

### Charities Receiving a Small Donation – December

Malawi Education Link –  
Hinchingsbrooke Chaplain  
Mission to Seafarers (contd. over)

The Gideons Internation in the British Isles  
 Ridley Hall Youth Ministry  
 Clergy Benevolent Fund – Uganda

Christmas Services

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Christingle             | Children’s Society             |
| Family Carols           | East Anglia Children’s Hospice |
| Nine Lessons and Carols | Jimmy’s Night Shelter          |
| Midnight Eucharist      | Cruse Bereavement Care         |

*Roy Norris – Charities Committee*

**Christmas Services at St Mary’s**

|                      |   |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>Christmas Eve</b> | 4.00 pm<br>6.00 pm<br>8.30 pm<br>11.30 pm | <b>Nativity/Crib Service<br/>Carol Service<br/>Quiet Christmas<br/>Midnight Mass</b> |
| <b>Christmas Day</b> | 8.00 am<br>9.45 am                        | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Sung Eucharist</b>   |



**Advent and Christmas in Children’s Church**

It’s a busy time, yes, but we now have many well-established traditions in Children’s Church, which, we hope, prepare the children for a joyful Christmas at St Mary’s.

On each Sunday in Advent, at the beginning of the 9.45 am services, members of Children’s Church light the candles on the Advent wreath and hang plaques on our Jesse tree. We will

then take an element of the Christmas story as our theme each week, for the crafts, stories and prayers in the Church Hall. On December 9 there will be a special Godly Play activity, looking at the Holy Family.

We have already produced a beautiful card, with angels and shepherds, which will be placed at the back of church on Advent Sunday. Members of the congregation who prefer not to buy Christmas cards for people they regularly see, can donate to charities of their choice instead,

and write greetings in this large parish card.

On Sunday 16 December at 3.00 pm, there will be a Christingle service, at which all are welcome.

Last, but by no means least, we prepare for the children's Nativity play, which forms the main part of the 4.00 pm Christmas Eve service. There'll be rehearsals on December 10, 20 & 23, costumes to iron, faces to be painted and biscuits to bake, but it's always wonderful on the night!

For further information about any of our activities at Children's Church, or about joining us, please contact Victoria Richardson (431430), Jules Shelley (437262) or Angela Wright (Email: [angela.wright1@sky.com](mailto:angela.wright1@sky.com))

*Victoria Richardson*

### **An Evening in Church After Dark**

On the last evening in October, twenty-nine of us met for a Monastic Evening in Church. Monks who enjoyed themselves as much should have gone to confession.

We were divided into manageable groups and heard presentations on Godmanchester as a town (from Gill Bathurst), on the early history of the church (from John Hoyle), on the bells (from Daphne Dobson); and from Jean Morgan (on the restoration projects), from Sarah Power (on the Kemp windows), and from Ken Diffey (on the choir stalls and the organ).

Then we gathered around tables on the platform for a 'monastic' supper, organised by Gill Bathurst, and assisted in the kitchen by Pat Douglas and Cherry Foster. There was soup (vegetarian, so as not to be exclusive) and several sorts of tasty bread baked by John Hoile. I felt quite jealous: I am not convinced that the bread I bake is as good. And there was cheese and fruit – plus a few glasses of wine. If monks and nuns ate as well, they would have little to complain about. During the meal our Vicar, David, read to us from the Rule of St Benedict,

who set the pattern for a lot of monastic behaviour – which included listening to improving texts while eating. I was struck by the fact that the Benedictines enjoyed – and still enjoy – food as a gift from God. St Francis, allegedly, spread ashes on his food so that he would not like it too much – and yet he was entranced by the glory of the created world. We can all be inconsistent; in the case of food, I vote for St Benedict.

After supper, we went back into the chancel to say Compline, in the modern English of Common Worship, rather than the Latin of the medieval monks. We were let off lightly. The monks would have got up at midnight to say Mattins, which was one of a series of seven 'offices' said every few hours: Mattins, Prime, Terce, Sext, Nones, Vespers and Compline. You can understand why they needed misericords – the projections under the choir seats. They enabled monks to perch, but to look as if they were standing. They would also have attended Mass and would have filled in the intervening times with study, copying biblical manuscripts, work in the gardens and a little play.

We were not asked to engage in theological study, or to use our computers to produce copies of the Gospels or to dig the vicarage garden. If we do this again, not a few of us – including me – will want to be included a second time. That would be mean. If you did not come this time, come next. So: thanks and congratulations to all concerned, especially to John and Gill – whose idea it was.

*Jeremy Craddock*

### **Cost of magazine to rise**

The cost of the Parish Magazine will rise to 45p in the New Year.

However, the usual saving of 10% will still be available if the magazine is ordered in advance for the year, when the cost will be £4.50 for the twelve editions.

## Why buy Fairtrade chocolate?

Last month the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, was quoted in the Times newspaper as calling for a boycott of all chocolate that is not certified as Fairtrade. He said that buying only Fairtrade chocolate would help to end the '21st-century iniquity' of child labour.

The Archbishop, who has recently returned from a visit to Jamaica, one of the countries on which the slave trade had a great impact, was delivering a public lecture to hundreds of church and other community members in Hull, the constituency of the abolitionist MP, William Wilberforce. Citing research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, he said that although child labour was prohibited in Britain, there was a connection with Britain's manufacturers because of the conditions under which cocoa was produced. According to the *Stop the Traffik* campaign for an end to modern slavery, more than 12,000 trafficked children are working on Ivory Coast plantations to produce 43 per cent of the world's cocoa beans. The Archbishop launched a 'chocolate challenge', in which he asked consumers 'to buy only Fairtrade chocolate from now on'. He said: 'If you can't find it in your favourite shop, ask to see the manager and say that you will only buy goods which are not produced by slave labour. Say you want to trade fairly. If you keep that promise, you could be playing your part in ending a 21st-century iniquity.' *Stop the Traffik* claims that chocolate certified as Fairtrade is the only chocolate guaranteed to be produced without child labour.

At St Mary's we run a Fairtrade stall after the All-age worship service, and occasionally after other services. We stock *Divine* Chocolate through Traidcraft. *Divine* chocolate was launched in 1998. A co-operative of cocoa farmers in Ghana, Kuapa Kokoo, own shares in the company that manufactures the bar. Kuapa Kokoo weighs, bags and transports the cocoa to market, and carries out all the necessary legal paperwork for its members. Kuapa strives to ensure that all its activities are transparent, accountable and democratic. It doesn't cheat the farmers by using inaccurate weighing scales, as

other buying agents often do, and because it operates so efficiently, it can pass on the savings to its members. After seeing the benefits Kuapa gains for its members, more and more farmers want to join, and the association now has upwards of 40,000 members, organised in approximately 1300 village societies. The cocoa farmers, who were already getting a Fairtrade price from some international customers, voted at their 1997 AGM to invest in a chocolate bar of their own. They decided that they would aim to produce a mainstream chocolate bar to compete with other major brands in UK. Together with Twin, Kuapa helped set up The Day Chocolate Company in 1998, with the enthusiastic support of The Body Shop, Christian Aid and Comic Relief. The farmers' ownership stake in The Day Chocolate Company, a first in the fair trade world, means that Kuapa Kokoo has a meaningful input into decisions about how *Divine* is produced and sold. Two representatives from Kuapa Kokoo are Directors on the company's Board, and one out of four Board Meetings every year is held in Ghana. As shareholders, the farmers also receive a share of the profits from the sale of *Divine*. This innovative company structure was recognised when *Divine* was awarded Millennium Product status. The *Divine* brand is expanding and there is now a huge variety of different kinds of fairtrade chocolate available, many of which you can buy at the fairtrade stall after church, as well as in newsagents and supermarkets.

After the Archbishop started to get a lot of publicity a spokesman said: 'Most people are chocoholics. The Archbishop is asking them to do something, not about their addiction, but their preferences.'

So why buy fairtrade chocolate?

- It is made of delicious high quality Ghana cocoa beans and there are lots of kinds to try
- It is made fairly and ethically

Make a positive choice this Christmas.

*Janie Prince* – St Mary's Youth Group

Many thanks to members of the Youth Group assisted by Lawrence for the attractive artwork accompanying Janie's article.

### **St Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester: Bellringers**

#### **Bells**

As you may have noticed, prior to Sunday morning service we are no longer able to ring the eight bells anymore; these days it is usually the front five or six, or even less. The eight bells still ring for weddings and special occasions, but this can only be carried out with the help of other ringers from other towers. Since the Millennium, numbers of bellringers have dwindled to an all time low. Not many of the existing ringers are able to attend bell practice, so the fortnightly Wednesday practices are given up to the recently formed Spire Valley team. We would like to hear from anyone who has moved to Godmanchester and has had ringing lessons, been a former campanologist or is over the age of 16 years and would be interested in learning to become a ringer.

#### **HCBRS**

There are also vacancies in the Godmanchester based Huntingdon Church Bell Restoration Society which, as well as carrying out regular maintenance in over three quarters of the churches in the country, restores rings of church bells that have not been rung for over one hundred and fifty years and also takes down bells, re-hanging and quarter turning them. The team also restores or replaces oak or iron bell cages. The HCBRS has been in existence for nearly thirty years and has restored over one hundred and fifty rings of bells in the surrounding areas. Work is carried out on Friday evenings and some weekends. If there are any hands-on persons out there, male or female, who would like to learn the ancient art of hanging church bells, the Society would be pleased to hear from you.

There are also vacancies for Latin scholars, capable of reading and translating difficult pre-Reformation bell inscriptions; anyone interested

in either Godmanchester bells, HCBRS or both please contact Ruth Ball (tel.01480 351138 or e-mail [ruth.ball@ntlworld.com](mailto:ruth.ball@ntlworld.com)).

#### **New Year's Eve**

As usual the members of the church or anyone else will be welcome to come and join us to 'ring out the old year and ring in the new' on New Year's Eve. We ring from 11.45 pm until 12.15 am and then have a glass of wine and mince pies.

*Ruth Ball* – Tower Captain and Secretary  
HCBRS

### **Boyan Ensemble of Kiev Sunday 18 November 2007**

On the most inhospitable night of the winter so far, concert goers turned out in their hundreds to support the Boyan's sixteenth tour of the UK. It was their ninth visit to Godmanchester. Supporters had battled their way through driving winds and rain, and the south porch was overflowing with rich pickings for anyone tempted to upgrade their umbrella for the return journey. The choir's *a cappella* (unaccompanied) style is world renowned, and Boyan has featured on both BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. Members of the Ensemble are drawn from the Revutsky State Male Choir in Kiev, Ukraine's top professional male choir, and with its programmes of sacred chants and songs of the Ukraine, the choir has enthralled audiences year after year, both in Western Europe as well as in the UK, since its inaugural tour in 1992.

The first half of the concert was devoted to liturgical music, centred around elements from the Orthodox Easter Service. Items featured the trial of Jesus, the crucifixion, the day of resurrection, and Mary coming to the tomb on Easter Day. Excellent programme notes enabled us to understand exactly where we were in the passion story. The twenty-five strong choir included six male soloists, who were joined by soprano Valentina Ivanenko. Her interpretation of Mary confronting the empty tomb was one of the most moving moments of the evening, as was her duet with the countertenor, whose voice was quite remarkable. What makes this choir so

special is its breathtaking musicianship in which delicate high singing, and lots of soft control, is combined with unbelievable bottom notes. Those in the know are in awe of the choir's ability to reach a low B flat so effortlessly. Throughout this half of the programme many of the chants reflected the poignant drama of a religion that has fought its way through tyranny and oppression in Ukraine.

After the interval the audience was treated to songs from the country's rich folk heritage. Some of the numbers were forte and dramatic – twenty sisters married off to twenty brothers culminating in a drunken punch up, for example. Well, the wedding celebrations did last three weeks! Others were more haunting, or reflective, in one instance describing how hard it is for migrants to leave their native land and seek fortune elsewhere. As the concert continued, so the noise level increased with lots of stamping at one point, and the introduction of folk instruments and whistling. And then the concert was over. Just as the programme appeared to be getting into full swing, the choir was gone, leaving us all wanting more. A couple of encores really weren't enough.

Following the performance there was the customary 'fringe' event in the church hall, at which the singers sang for their supper. Well, sort of. Having joined our choir and all the hosts, and eaten an excellent and well-deserved meal, prepared by Rosemary Jones and her outstanding team of helpers, they assembled in front of the stage and entertained their hosts with another selection of folk songs, accompanied by guitar, piano accordion and tambourine. And more well-timed whistles! It was a splendid finale to a thrilling evening.

The sixteenth UK tour included twenty four concerts in twenty six days, the Boyan bus weaving its way across the country from Penzance in the south to Edinburgh in the north. We were bus stop number 21. By rights the singers should have been exhausted, but if they were it didn't show. *Bravo!* And bravo to everyone involved with the Godmanchester leg of this incredible journey. Stewards, ticket

sellors, chair shifters, stage erectors, overnight hosts, the caterers (Rosemary Jones' team already mentioned), Dai Morgan and Nigel Pithey (bar), Ken Diffey (pre-concert organ recital), and impresarios Barbara and Colin Thirlwall. Barbara and Colin will claim this was a team effort, but we all know that without them none of it would have happened. Surely Colin should smoke a fat cigar and wear a pair of scarlet braces on Boyan night. His position dictates it, and we deserve nothing less.

Roll on UK tour number seventeen!

*Peter Irving*

### October PCC Meeting

*Minutes in full of PCC meetings are displayed on the south door notice board. Here are some key points from the October meeting:*

#### **Matters arising:**

- (a) The pigeon problem at the west door was still not resolved. There are two further areas above the door which need to be tackled. It was agreed that the Fabric Committee would look into the next steps and seek advice from the Architect and Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- (b) It was agreed that we could hold another Film Night in February 2008.

#### **Finance Committee:**

After discussion, it was agreed that the price of the parish magazine be increased from 40p to 45p from January 2008 and be reviewed in two years.

#### **Fabric Committee:**

- (a) **Vestry Roof Lead Theft:** The work to replace the lead should be carried out by mid November.
- (b) **Quinquennial Report:** The Architect will carry out the inspection of the church building early in the New Year.
- (b) **External Paving at West Door:** Weed killer has been applied to joints in paving. Re-pointing will be carried out shortly.

- (c) **Tarmac Path between West Door and North/South Path:** This path is in poor condition. After discussion, it was agreed that the Secretary should apply on behalf of the PCC to Godmanchester Town Council for a grant to enable the path to be re-laid.
- (d) **Development of Tower and North-west Corner:** The Architect has been asked to provide additional drawings of the proposals and to give an approximate price for providing isometric sketches and elevations.

#### Communications Committee:

Postcards depicting interior and exterior photographs of the church had now been produced. In discussion, it was agreed to set a price per postcard of 40p.

#### Any other business:

- (a) In answer to a question regarding when the new Bishop of Huntingdon would be announced, David Busk advised that this would be unlikely before next summer. Bishop John leaves the post at the beginning of December.
- (b) Simon Prince said that four bird boxes had been made by the Youth Group. There is a need to know where they should go, in which trees and at what height etc. Also what permissions were needed and were there any health and safety implications? Robert Hurd advised that people need to be eighteen or over to climb ladders. Other questions may be answered by RSPB.

*Trevor Weedon*

#### And finally

We wish all our readers  
a very joyous and peaceful  
Christmas and a Happy New Year

### The Registers

#### Baptisms

- 14 Oct Lily Rose Brandon (sincere apologies to the family for listing Lily as Lucy in last month's magazine.)  
4 Nov Isabel Louise Lenton  
18 Nov Melissa Natasha Sandie Hardial  
Freddie Aaron Brighton

#### Funerals

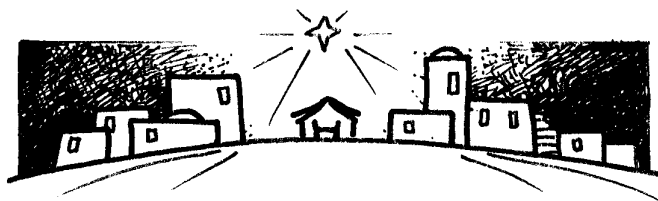
- 1 Nov Paddy Cousins  
23 Nov Rosemary Simpson  
28 Nov Charles Thompson

### The Lectionary

- 2 Dec **Advent Sunday**  
Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11=end; Matthew 24:36-44  
9 Dec **Advent 2**  
Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

**GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS**

- 16 Dec **Advent 3**  
Isaiah 35; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- 23 Dec **Advent 4**  
Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-end
- 24 Dec **Christmas Eve**  
Midnight Service 11.30 pm  
Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14
- 25 Dec **Christmas Day**  
Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
- 30 Dec **Christmas 1**  
Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-end; Matthew 2:13-end



**Dates for your diary  
December**

|               |    |          |   |                        |
|---------------|----|----------|---|------------------------|
| Sat           | 1  | 2.00 pm  | Bishop John's Farewell Service                        | Ely Cathedral          |
|               |    | 7.30 pm  | <i>Crossroads</i> Concert                             | Church                 |
| Sun           | 2  | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion  |                        |
| <b>Advent</b> |    | 9.45 am  | Sung Eucharist  |                        |
| <b>Sunday</b> |    | 6.30 pm  | Advent Carol Service                                  |                        |
| Mon           | 3  | 1.30 pm  | Stepping Stones                                       | Baptist Church Centre  |
|               |    | 7.30 pm  | Prayer Meeting for those who are able prior to        |                        |
|               |    | 8.30 pm  | Planning for Parish Praise Service                    | Vicarage               |
| Tue           | 4  | 11.00 am | Holy Communion  | The Chestnuts          |
|               |    | 2.00 pm  | Mothers' Union  | Queen Elizabeth School |
|               |    | 7.30 pm  | Men's Social Group –<br>Christmas Dinner              | 9 Porch Close          |
| Wed           | 5  | 9.15 am  | St Anne's Advent Eucharist and<br>Christingle Service | St Anne's School       |
|               |    | 6.00 pm  | Town Mayor's Carol Service                            | School Hill            |
| Thu           | 6  | 10.00 am | St Mary's 0s-5s                                       | Comrades Club          |
|               |    | 9.45 am  | Holy Communion  |                        |
| Fri           | 7  | 7.30 pm  | Choir Practice  |                        |
| Sun           | 9  | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion  |                        |
|               |    | 9.45 am  | Sung Eucharist  |                        |
|               |    | 11.30 am | Grassroots  |                        |
|               |    | 6.30 pm  | Sung Evensong   |                        |
|               |    | 6.45 pm  | Youth Group Christmas Party                           | Church Hall            |
| Mon           | 10 |          | NO Stepping Stones                                    |                        |
|               |    | 4.15 pm  | Nativity Service Rehearsal                            |                        |
| Tue           | 11 |          | Wives' Group Christmas Party                          | Church Hall            |

**G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S**

|                      |    |          |  |                   |
|----------------------|----|----------|--|-------------------|
| Wed                  | 12 | 10.30 am | Holy Communion                               | Oak Tree Court    |
|                      |    | 3.30 pm  | Pastoral Visitors' Group Meeting             | Vicarage          |
| Thu                  | 13 | 10.00 am | St Mary's 0s-5s                              | Comrades Club     |
|                      |    | 9.45 am  | Holy Communion                               |                   |
|                      |    | 12 noon  | St Anne's Christmas Lunch                    | St Anne's School  |
|                      |    | 7.00 pm  | Wood Green Carol Concert                     |                   |
|                      |    | 7.30 pm  | Wives' Group Christmas Party                 | Church Hall       |
| Fri                  | 14 | 7.30 pm  | Choir Practice                               |                   |
| Sun                  | 16 | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion                               |                   |
|                      |    | 9.45 am  | Sung Eucharist                               |                   |
|                      |    | 3.00 pm  | Christingle Service                          |                   |
|                      |    | 6.30 pm  | Sung Evensong                                |                   |
| Mon                  | 17 |          | NO Stepping Stones                           |                   |
| Tue                  | 18 | 10.00 am | St Mary's 0s-5s Service                      | Church            |
|                      |    | 6.00 pm  | St Anne's Carol Service                      | Church            |
| Wed                  | 19 | 9.45 am  | Holy Communion                               | McCartney House   |
|                      |    | 11.00 am | Holy Communion                               | Woodley Court     |
|                      |    | 2.00 pm  | St Anne's Crib Service                       | St Anne's School  |
| Thu                  | 20 | 9.45 am  | Holy Communion                               |                   |
|                      |    | 10.30 am | Nativity Service Rehearsal                   | Church            |
|                      |    | 7.30 pm  | Prayer Group                                 | 36 Old Court Hall |
| Fri                  | 21 | 7.30 pm  | Choir Practice                               |                   |
| Sun                  | 23 | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion                               |                   |
|                      |    | 9.45 am  | All-age Eucharist                            |                   |
|                      |    | 11.00 am | Nativity Service dress rehearsal             | Church            |
|                      |    | 4.00 pm  | Ecumenical Service                           | Rectory Gardens   |
|                      |    | 6.30 pm  | Evensong (said)                              |                   |
| Mon                  | 24 | 4.00 pm  | Nativity Service                             |                   |
|                      |    | 6.00 pm  | Christmas Eve Carol Service                  |                   |
|                      |    | 8.30 pm  | Quiet Christmas                              |                   |
|                      |    | 11.30 pm | First Eucharist of Christmas (Midnight Mass) |                   |
| Tue                  | 25 | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion                               |                   |
| <b>Christmas Day</b> |    | 9.45 am  | Sung Eucharist                               |                   |
| Thu                  | 27 | 9.45 am  | Holy Communion                               |                   |
| Fri                  | 28 |          | <b>No</b> Choir Practice                     |                   |
| Sun                  | 30 | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion                               |                   |
|                      |    | 9.45 am  | Sung Eucharist                               |                   |
|                      |    | 6.30 pm  | Sung Evensong                                |                   |
| Mon                  | 31 | 11.00 pm | Watchnight Service                           |                   |

**The Editorial Committee meeting** for the January magazine will be held on **Sunday, 9 December**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date and if possible not later than **Friday, 7 December**.

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