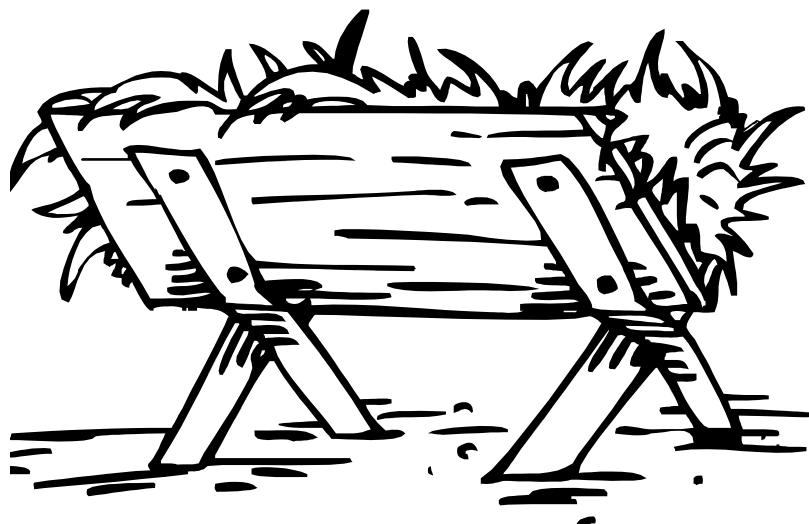


**THE HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS**

**THE PARISH OF ST FAITH**



**PARISH MAGAZINE**

**DECEMBER 2008**

**50p**

**THE HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS**

**THE PARISH OF ST FAITH**

## The Clergy

Master

The Reverend Reg Sweet	The Chaplain's Lodge	853525
Organist and Choirmaster	Mr Derek Beck	860681
Assistant Organist	Mr Chris Jones	854585

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Sundays

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
	Sunday School in the Brothers Library.
	<i>No Sunday School on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday as families are present throughout the main service.</i>
5.30pm	Evensong (said)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays</b>	
11.00am	Choral Matins

### Weekdays

10.00am	Matins	Daily
5.30pm	Evensong	Daily
8.00am	Holy Communion	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat
11.00am	Holy Communion	Wed

To arrange Baptisms, Banns, Marriages or to give notice of need, sickness, new neighbours, emergencies contact the Chaplain

*(NB Chaplain's day off - Friday)*

Material for the parish magazine can be left at the Porter's Lodge, or emailed to [editor@parishofstfaith.org.uk](mailto:editor@parishofstfaith.org.uk). The monthly deadline is given under Diary Dates.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

I wonder which community holds the record for being the first to put up Christmas decorations. Stratford upon Avon will take some beating, as the Town Council had them erected this year in early October! Already we are hearing the dreaded sounds of 'Jingle Bells' and other such 'festive' songs, not to mention seeing racks of garish, jokey cards, often of dubious taste, on sale portraying 'Santa', snowmen and other such characters. Yes the festive season is upon us and the frenetic rush under way with many of us caught up in it – and certainly the shops are hoping fervently that in spite of the financial situation people will spend and spend.

I wonder what any of it has to do with the event that started it all. Where is Christ in all of this? For many sadly He doesn't figure and the word 'Incarnation' is incomprehensible. As Christians we are facing a tide of secularism which is swamping the real meaning of Christmas and there is, I believe, an urgent need for the churches to regain it. The question is how? Surely it must begin with us. Each one of us is called to be a messenger of the Good News. Each of us is called to proclaim through our lives and actions that profound truth that in the coming of Christ and through His life, teaching, death and resurrection the world was changed and God's love for His creation revealed. We need to put once again Christ at the heart of Christmas and show to the world that through that child, born in a stable, the world is redeemed. Let us this Christmastide resolve as a Christian community to do just that and through our worship and shared lives show God's love in our bit of the world.

May we all experience God's Blessing this Christmas,

*Reg Sweet*  
*Chaplain*

## DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

The normal pattern of daily worship is printed inside the front cover

Wednesday	3	12.30pm Mothers' Union lunch, The Bell
SUNDAY	7	<b>ADVENT 2</b> 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer
Monday	8	8.00pm Men's Group dinner, The Bell
Tuesday	9	*** deadline for January magazine ***
Thursday	11	7.30pm Fellowship evening of verse and music, Parish Hall
SUNDAY	14	<b>ADVENT 3</b> 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion with hymns and Holy Baptism 10.30am ( <i>approx</i> ) Cake sale, Hundred Men's Hall 11.00am Matins 5.30pm Evening Prayer
SUNDAY	21	<b>ADVENT 4</b> 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist 5.30pm Carol Service
Wednesday	24	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 11.00am Holy Communion 5.30pm Children's Nativity Service with Blessing of the Crib 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Thursday	25	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist
Friday	26	<b>St Stephen</b> 8.00am Holy Communion
Saturday	27	<b>St John</b> 8.00am Holy Communion
SUNDAY	28	<b>HOLY INNOCENTS</b> 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion with hymns 11.00am Matins <i>retiring collection at 9.30am and 11.00am in support of The Children's Society</i> 5.30pm Evening Prayer

## **NEXT MASTER**

The next Priest in Charge of St Faith and Master of St Cross will be the Reverend Canon Michael Harley who will also be Archdeacon of Winchester. He is currently the Vicar of Chandlers Ford where he leads a team of four clergy. He was ordained in 1975 and has previously served in Winchester from 1978 to 1981 as Curate at St Barnabas, Weeke. He has been at Chandlers Ford since 1999.

He will finish his duties at Chandlers Ford on 22 February 2008, the last Sunday before Lent. He and his wife Debbie will remain at Chandlers Ford Vicarage until April or May when they will move to Winchester, initially into the vacant St John's Vicarage, with a subsequent move to St Cross when suitable accommodation has been provided.

Michael will be inducted as Priest in Charge, Master of St Cross and Archdeacon of Winchester at a Service in St Cross some time after Easter. There will probably be some contact with us before the induction, for example it is hoped that he will attend at least some PCC meetings. We look forward to welcoming him to St Cross.

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met on 12 November 2008.

There were two matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. One was the choice of charities to benefit from the retiring collections during 2009. Alison Carver who organises this aspect of giving had received some replies to her initial enquiry and the meeting was able to complete the list. The second item was that John Pringle has agreed to assist with the mowing of the grass at the Churchyard but is seeking further volunteers to help him.

An addition to the Agenda was the fact that when disabled people attend the Services there is no obvious place for them to park cars. When a solution has been found there will be a further announcement.

There will be various different fund-raising events at approximately 2-monthly intervals throughout 2009.

The Treasurer, Colin Showel, reported that at this stage the underlying finances were in line with his predicted budget to end the year with a deficit of about £2000. However it is most likely that the final figure will show a small surplus because this year includes an unforeseen one-off refund of £7664 for overpayment of estimated gas consumption for a number of years.

The Deanery Synod had met twice at Hursley and at St Bartholomew, Hyde.

The "Moving Forward Together" event was successful with over 30 people attending during the day. In due course we will receive a full report from Steve Pittis who led the event. In the meantime we can reflect on the importance of prayer and communication. One immediate result will be that after each PCC Meeting a copy of the magazine report, like this one, will be placed in the intercessions book so that interceders, if they so choose, can include in the prayers items that the PCC have discussed.

The subject of the proposed telecommunications mast on the church tower was introduced by Evelyn Pringle, giving the Trustees' position. After discussion, it was agreed that the PCC should write to the Trustees suggesting a meeting between the Trustees and those who are proposing alternative ways to raise funds. The PCC would like to thank all of those who wrote to the PCC offering their thoughts on the mast proposal.

## **MONTHLY COLLECTIONS**

The retiring collection for December will be in support of The Children's Society, which is driven by the belief that every child deserves a good childhood. It focuses on children who are in trouble with the law, runaways at risk on the street, disabled children and those in need of a voice, refugees facing exclusion

and other children who require support such as those affected by adult drug/alcohol misuse, young carers and children of travellers and gypsies. The collection plate will be at the back of the church on 28 December for both the 9.30am Eucharist and 11.00am Matins services.

## **ST CROSS FELLOWSHIP**

At the November meeting we had a most interesting illustrated talk by Cled Jenkins. He showed us many parts of the Hospital complex that few people will have seen and contrasted these with other places called St Cross, some of which were little more than empty shells. He drew us on to appreciate the value of our St Cross as a living community and showed us some fascinating ideas on how we could develop the site for the twenty-first century, but in a sympathetic way.

The next meeting on 11 December will be an evening of music and verse led by Bishop John and Jill Baker plus John Lunt's singers. There will be seasonal refreshments.

## **PRAYER GROUP**

The Prayer Group will not meet in December. We will meet in 2009 on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Lady Chapel at 10.45am. Thursday 22 January will be our first. Put the dates in your new diary now!

*Sybil Edwards*

## **SUGGESTION FOR EVENING PRAYER GROUP**

Our Parish Prayer Group will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month (see above), but it has been suggested that another group might be formed which could meet from 7.45 – 8.30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Lady Chapel (after choir practice), at least for an experimental period.

The 'Prayer of Stillness' is based on a simple Bible text followed by a period of 20 mins silence and concludes with prayers for the sick etc contributed by those present.

Anyone interested is asked to get in touch during December with Sybil Edwards, 19 Cripstead Lane, Winchester SO23 9SF Tel: 862597.

## **MEN'S GROUP**

On 10 November we enjoyed the company of Padre Cole Maynard who had had two six-month tours in Iraq and more recently another six months in Afghanistan. There he was the senior British padre leading a group of padres from all the NATO forces. He, a Baptist, was attached to the British forces together with a Roman Catholic and several Church of England priests.

He found the Afghans very friendly – even after several wars in the past against the British and Russians. He believed that they greatly desired security and stability and was aware of the bravery of their soldiers in the Afghan army. The position of women in society was changing and there was a feeling of antagonism against the Taliban, most of whom were not Afghans.

The padres were the only unarmed members of the forces and their churches were usually tents. They provided spiritual help and emotional support in complete confidence to all ranks and all ages. He had unbounded admiration for the bravery of the young soldiers who go on patrol every day of their six month tour facing mines, roadside bombs and close quarter fighting. Finally he asked that we should remember these young people in our prayers.

All men of the parish are welcome to join us on Monday 8 December at 8.00pm at The Bell for our Christmas get-together. For £10 we will have a two-course meal with a wide choice for each course. Please contact either myself (862542) or Murray Dixon (865869) before 3 December.

*John Casson*

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

We had our first supper party on 11 November when Elizabeth Newport came to talk on "The role of the Church in Bible Translation and Literacy in Sudan". She explained how tribal languages could be written in the alphabet leading to literacy awareness. Most exciting, of course, was translating the Bible and spreading the Gospel. For us, as a branch, it was particularly special to learn that it was the MU Literacy Fund which started her programme. Thank you to Mavis and Daphne who provided delicious desserts, and to Anne and Bridget for the wine.

Our next event is our Christmas Lunch at the Bell on 3 December at 12.30 pm. Please let me know if you wish to come.

The first container of shoe boxes have gone out to Kazakhstan. Forms are available from me or the Porter's Lodge. I will be collecting them until 4 December.

*Evelyn Pringle*

## **CAKE SALE**

Another of our popular cake sales will be held on Sunday 14 December after the 9.30am Holy Communion service and before Matins at 11.00am. Any donations of cakes or other Christmas goodies to sell would be most welcome. Or just come ready to buy!

## **DECEMBER MUSIC**

Advent and Christmas mean carols, both at our two morning Eucharists and at the main parish Carol Service to be held at 5.30pm on Sunday 21 December. This will contain well-known Christmas hymns and carols for the congregation – suitable for all ages (we hope) – plus some choir items. Two of these will be arrangements by our anniversary composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams: *This is the truth sent from above* and *The Blessed Son of God* (from his cantata *Hodie*). The simple *Love came down at Christmas* is by the current Winchester College organist, Malcolm Archer, whilst *On this day* is a Swedish carol arranged by H C Stewart, a former organist of Magdalen College, Oxford (founded by Bishop Waynflete of Winchester).

Suitably seasonal organ voluntaries will focus on Advent and Christmas chorales and hymns, and will include a fair quantity of lively toccatas and an extract from a seasonal suite by Olivier Messiaen, born on 10 December exactly 100 years ago.

## **ADVENT SUNDAY**

Some of our choristers will be joining the choir of Kings Worthy parish church for their evensong on Advent Sunday. This will be held in the tiny historic church of St Swithun at Headbourne Worthy and we look forward to inviting their singers to St. Cross at some point in 2009.

## **MUSIC FOR DECEMBER**

Antiphons – Clement McWilliam

Communion setting – John Merbecke and David Thorne  
Responses – Ferial and Tallis

**Anthems**

7 December	Boris Ord	Adam lay ybounden
21 December	Trad arr Pettman	The Angel Gabriel
21 December	CAROL SERVICE	

**Voluntaries**

7 December	J S Bach	Prelude <i>Nun komm der Heiden Heiland</i> (BWV 659)
	Andrew Carter	Toccatina on <i>Veni Emmanuel</i>
14 December	Buxtehude	Prelude <i>Nun komm der Heiden Heiland</i>
11.00am	Pietro Yon	Toccatina for flutes
	Reger	Benedictus
	J S Bach	Fugue on the <i>Magnificat</i> (BWV 733)
21 December	Messiaen	Desseins eternels ( <i>La Nativite</i> )
5.30pm	Manz	<i>Wachet auf!</i>
	J S Bach	Canonic variations <i>Vom Himmel Hoch</i> (BWV 769)
	J S Bach	Prelude <i>In dulci jubilo</i>
24 December	D'Aquin/Dandrieu	French Noel variations
11.30pm	Arthur Wills	Sortie ( <i>Eucharistic Suite</i> )
25 December	Buxtehude	Prelude <i>In dulci jubilo</i>
	Rutter	Toccatina on <i>God rest you, merry gentlemen</i>
28 December	Buxtehude	Variations <i>Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern</i>
11.00am	Peeters	Toccatina
	Gordon Young	Prelude and Air ( <i>Triptych</i> )
	Gordon Young	Toccatina ( <i>Triptych</i> )

## **FRIEND OF THE FAMILY**

Could you be a friend of the family? We are a small local charity based at the Friends Meeting House, Colebrook Street, and have been supporting vulnerable families and their children for 15 years. We have a well-established therapeutic support group for mums and their pre-school children which takes place at the Meeting House twice weekly, and has helped more than 200 families over the years.

Friends of the Family is now embarking on an exciting new venture called the '5s to 13s Project' and needs some special volunteers to help get it off the ground. The project will help families with children between 5 and 13 by providing non-judgemental support in the family's own home. Families will be helped to help themselves by receiving friendly support for as long as they need it.

Volunteers for this challenging role will be carefully matched to an individual family's needs. In return Friends of the Family can offer them training and support, travel expenses and the chance to make a real difference to a family's life. The next training course begins in January 2009. If you might be interested in becoming a volunteer please contact us on 864466, or have a look at our website at

[www.friendsofthefamilywinchester.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthefamilywinchester.org.uk)

### **CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS**

*The Charity Christmas Card Shop  
Courtyard Café, Winchester Guildhall*

October 27 to December 16  
Monday to Saturday 10.00am – 4.30pm

***All proceeds to charity***

## **CAN YOU CUT GRASS?**

Many thanks to Sid Burt who has cut the grass in the St Faith's Churchyard (on the corner of St Cross Road and Kingsgate Street) for more than 4 years. He is retiring from the task at the end of this season. John Pringle has offered to co-ordinate volunteers to take over, but still needs people to help him. Please contact any member of the PCC, or John direct on 870426.

## **MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER**

Thank you to everyone all who took part in the Moving Forward Together Workshop held on Saturday 8 November. Your contribution was greatly appreciated. The PCC will now look at the output and how to take it forward.

*Murray Dixon*

**\*\* STOP PRESS \*\***

## **GHASTLY GOINGS ON**

The amazing news is that the two nights of 'Ghastly Goings On' at St Cross on 19 and 20 November raised £811.03, which will be split between the Hospital Maintenance and Re-wiring funds. Many thanks to everyone who supported these events, whether as a participant or a spectator.

\* \* \* \*

## **NATURE NOTES - WEEPING WILLOW**

The Psalmist in Psalm 137 tells us "By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the willows we hung our harps....." (though some translations state poplar, a member of the same group, *Salicaceae*). The harps caused the trees to bend with the weight. It became an obvious and drooping symbol of mourning.

The Latin name *Salix babylonica* gives us a further clue to its origin. It was probably brought to England in 1748 by Mr Vernon, a merchant of Aleppo, who planted a tree from the Euphrates at his seat at Twickenham Park.

Arabian story-tellers, however, have a very different tale to tell. They relate that David, after he had married Bathsheba, was one day playing on his harp in his private chamber when two angels appeared before him and convinced him of his sin. Thereupon he threw himself upon the ground, and lay forty days and forty nights weeping bitter tears of penitence. In those forty days he wept as many tears as the whole human race have, or will, shed on account of their sins from then until the Day of Judgment; so that two streams of tears flowed out into the garden. From these there sprang up two trees, the Weeping Willow and the Frankincense-tree; the boughs of the one drooping in grief, whilst the other constantly distils tears of sorrow.

There are more cheerful traditions. On 4 August at Baslow, Derbyshire, kit dressing took place; milk pails (or kits) were decorated with plaited willow twigs, and flowers and coloured ribbons were carried by the milkmaids in procession. One farmer inscribed his efforts:

*The farmer, the ploughboy, the fleece and the flail,  
Success to the milkmaid who carries the pail*

In 1829 the procession was accompanied by the Baslow band, and in the evening "a happy company assembled at the Wheatsheaf Inn, where dancing and merriment concluded the days festivities"



## A POEM FOR BUSY PEOPLE

The Lord is my pacesetter, I will not rush.  
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.  
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.  
He leads me in ways of efficiency, through calmness of mind  
And His guidance is peace.  
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret.  
For His presence is here; His timeliness, His all-importance will keep me in balance.  
He prepares refreshment and renewal for me in the midst of activity.  
By anointing my mind with His oil of tranquillity my cup of joyous energy overflows.  
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours.  
For I shall walk in the peace of my Lord forever

*Found in the news sheet of a Scottish church. Copyright – Eastern Morning, Philippines.*

