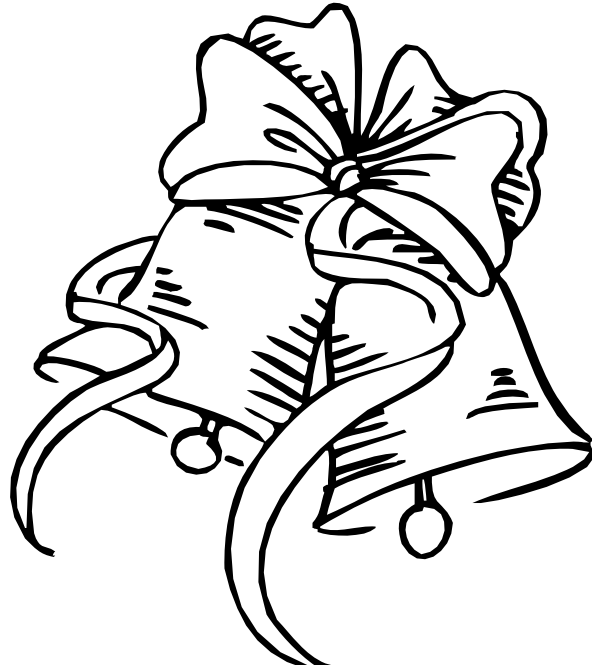


THE HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS

THE PARISH OF ST FAITH



PARISH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2009

50p

THE HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS

THE PARISH OF ST FAITH

Master of St Cross and Archdeacon of Winchester, The Venerable
Michael Harley, 22 St John's Street, Winchester SO23 OHF
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Chaplain, Rev Reg Sweet, The Chaplain's Lodge, St Cross Hospital,
Winchester SO23 9SD stcrosschaplain@o2.co.uk 853525

Organist and Choirmaster, Derek Beck 860681
Assistant Organist, Chris Jones 854585

Parish website: www.parishofstfaith.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist
Sunday School in the Brothers' Library.
No Sunday School on 2nd Sunday as families are present throughout the main service.

2nd & 4th Sundays

11.00am Choral Matins

Weekdays

10.00am	Matins	Daily
11.00am	Holy Communion	Wed
8.00am	Holy Communion	Thurs

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

Master's day off - Friday

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

MASTER'S LETTER

I remember my first Christmas in my four country parishes in 1986. We had recently moved from Southampton, where my young daughters had spent their early years. In contrast our home parish was very rural, deep in the north Hampshire countryside. I took the girls for a walk across a field just after a morning snowstorm. The earth had mingled with the whiteness to give a dirty, mottled appearance. My youngest daughter, thinking aloud, said 'Daddy, what's all this brown stuff?' She was too young to realise we were walking on the ploughed earth, covered in fallen snow.

For several years this incident came to mind, because it reminded me of something so simple, yet so profound, about Christmas. God, the Church, can feel remote (and irrelevant) to many people, but God was telling us through the first Christmas that he is deeply in touch with us. Jesus was born homeless, in a dirty stable, and soon learnt the hurts and sadness of life. The white purity of God mingled with messy human lives.

As you celebrate Christmas, remember that God in Jesus came to share the difficulties of our lives. But that his own death on the cross was not the end, for he became the Risen Lord, and is alongside you and me in all that we have to face now. Happy Christmas!

Michael

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Although the Master has written his letter for the Magazine, I would like also to add to it by thanking everyone who has contributed to making this year a memorable one and for all the hard work that has been done.

As we celebrate this holy festival of the Nativity of Our Lord we have so much for which to be thankful – the fellowship that we share, the generosity of so many, and the support given in so many ways that make our church such a warm and friendly place. I know that all who come here find a welcome and this surely is as it should be – that in this place people should find Christ's love and peace. May it always be so and may you all this Christmas find such peace and love in your own homes and hearts.

Reg

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

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

Tuesday	1	12.30pm Mothers' Union Christmas lunch, The Bell Inn
SUNDAY	6	ADVENT 2 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist
Monday	7	7.30pm Men's Group Christmas meal, The Bell Inn
Tuesday	8	*** deadline for January magazine ***
Thursday	10	7.30pm Fellowship evening of Poetry and Music, Parish Hall
SUNDAY	13	ADVENT 3 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Christingle Family Communion 11.00am Matins

Thursday	17	10,45am Prayer Group, Lady Chapel
SUNDAY	20	ADVENT 4 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist 5.30pm Carol Service
Thursday	24	Christmas Eve 5.30pm Children's Nativity Service with Blessing of the Crib <i>Children are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds or kings</i> 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist
Friday	25	CHRISTMAS DAY 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist
SUNDAY	27	FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS St John the Apostle 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist <i>retiring collection for Winchester Basics Bank</i>
Monday	28	Holy Innocents 8.00am Holy Communion

Treasurer

The PCC is looking for a new Treasurer to take over from Colin Showell. If you'd like to volunteer or know more, please speak to Colin (Winchester 864205) or one of the Churchwardens

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met on 11 November with The Master, Michael Harley, in the chair.

The Master opened the meeting with prayer, noting that it was St Martin's Day.

The Minutes of the October meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising included the selection of a new Deanery Synod representative. Peter Sawbridge was proposed and agreed. He is also the Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee, thus providing another useful link for the PCC.

John Fairbrother reported that the latest changes to the church lighting now provide the congregation with about one third more light than the old chandeliers. There are still a couple of very minor matters to attend to, but the PCC agreed to pay the remainder of the amount owing to the Trustees.

We are still looking for a Treasurer, so volunteers will be most welcome.

It was decided that there will be a small change in Charitable Giving. For 2010, in place of the monthly collections, we will focus on a smaller number of charities and will try to present in depth information about each of the charities supported.

For the gift from the Parish to the Hospital as a thanksgiving for five hundred years of worship, it was agreed to investigate the idea of buying a portable altar.

MONTHLY COLLECTION

The monthly collection in December will be in aid of Winchester Basics Bank. The collection plate will be at the back of church on Sunday 27 December for the 9.30am Eucharist service.

ST CROSS FELLOWSHIP

At our November Meeting Brother Gordon Hemmings took us back to the time when he was inspiring schoolboys with his tales of Shakespeare and encouraging them to perform in stage productions of the works of the Bard. He reminded us that in Elizabethan England the female parts in plays were performed by boys, so his productions were really authentic Shakespeare. Brother Gordon's knowledge and enthusiasm were very much in evidence and we are most grateful to him for giving us a second dose of Bardic tales.

On 10 December we will have our evening of Poetry and Music with Bishop John and Jill Baker providing the Poetry and John Lunt organising the musicians. There will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards and a chance to test your luck at a Raffle. Do come and bring your friends to this festive occasion.

John Pringle

THE WAVE

In Copenhagen in December, world leaders will be meeting at the UN Climate Change Summit. It's vital an effective deal is done for the sake of the planet and for the millions in the poorest countries who are suffering the effects of climate change now. I believe that the church has a key role to play in influencing our leaders and raising our voice on behalf of the poor.

The Wave is a lobby event in London on Saturday 5 December, starting at 11.00am with a service at Westminster Central Hall and marching to the Houses of Parliament at 1.00pm. Bishop Paul will be there representing Diocesan leadership. Arrangements are being made for people to travel together by coach or train. Further information from Susan Barry, South West Initiatives Co-ordinator, Christian Aid Tel: 023 8070 6969 email: sbarry@christian-aid.org

Susan Barry

MOTHERS' UNION

Mr Keith Woodward came to speak to us at our Evening Supper Party about his work as a Green badge guide in Winchester. He chose to tell us about some of the more unusual facts about our city; one of them is that our High Street is actually the oldest high street in Europe! We had an enjoyable evening despite the damp weather. Due to the generosity of those who came, we collected £56.50 which we will send to the East Africa Appeal. You will see from the information board in church that MU is responding to the famine that has hit Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, and this money will help to provide food for those people affected.

An update on shoeboxes - The first container is already on its way to Kyrgyzstan. At the moment, they are filling up another container which will go to Zimbabwe. There is still time to fill up a shoebox which will bring much joy to an orphan or child refugee somewhere in the world. These boxes are given to children who have nothing. They are packed lovingly by people who simply care and they are delivered by an organization called Samaritan's Purse freely to a child in need without any condition. Some people believe that these boxes only go to Christian children - that is incorrect - they go to children of any colour, race or creed. If you do not have time to pack a shoebox, perhaps you would like to make a donation which will help in the cost of delivery. All shoeboxes and/or donations need to be accompanied by a form which is available either from me or the Porter's Lodge.

Please pray for the Mothers' Union in Baghdad. They feed and give medical care to about 4,000 people every day but the recent terrorist bombs have destroyed much of St. George's Church.

Evelyn Pringle

LIFTS TO CHURCH

We are launching a service offering people lifts to Church. We have only a limited number of volunteers at present, but if you would like a lift please call Murray Dixon on Winchester 865869. And if you would like to join the select band of volunteer drivers, Murray would be pleased to hear from you too.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

On sale from the Charity Christmas Card Shop
Courtyard Café, Winchester Guildhall
October 26 – December 16
Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 4.30pm

All proceeds to charity

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets every 4th Thursday of the month at 10.45 am in the Lady Chapel. It usually finishes at 11.30 am. We follow the form set out by the Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer. At each meeting, we are guided by a short verse from the Bible and we pray in silence for 20 minutes. We finish by interceding for people on a prayer list. Please note that in December we are meeting on Thursday 17 because of Christmas.

CLOISTERS

A seasonal reminder that Cloisters, the Cathedral Charity shop, is a pretty good place to search for Christmas presents. If you haven't visited the shop in King's Way, in the passage to the right of where the Winchester Post Office used to be, do take time to see what is in stock there.

Thanks to the generosity of donors there is a great variety of men's and ladies clothes, children's clothes and toys, glass and chinaware, jewellery and bric-a-brac.

You are assured a warm welcome, quite possibly by the familiar face of a St Cross volunteer.

John Pringle

WINCHESTER CHURCHES NIGHT SHELTER

URGENTLY NEEDED - Overnight Volunteers

9.00 pm to 8.00 am Sunday to Thursday nights & 9.00 am to 8.30 am Friday & Saturday nights & Bank Holidays

The role of an overnight volunteer is to assist the duty supervisor with general tasks and to provide security assistance to ensure the welfare of the guests.

There are no specific duties attached to this role other than staying overnight, however, you may be asked to help with some paperwork, offer general help or to chat with guests. The overnigher sleeps in the 'Overnighters Room', next to the Project Supervisors' office.

For more information contact Liz Howe, 862050.

ST CROSS CRAFT GROUP

LUNCH and SALE in aid of

THE HAMPSHIRE and ISLE OF WIGHT AIR AMBULANCE

Saturday 12 December

St Faith's Parish Hall

12.30am - 2.30pm

Craft, Cake and Home Made Produce and Floral Design Stalls

Lunch £7.50

Choice of two delicious freshly made soups

Cheese or Pate Ploughmans

Fresh Fruit

Tea, Coffee or fruit juice

Tickets from Trish Spiers 851699 or Doreen Jenkins 861552

or

Coffee and Biscuits £2 pay at the door.

MEN'S GROUP

We were pleased to welcome one of our members as the speaker on 16 November. Don Beavan talked about his experiences in one of the most secret groups formed in World War 2 – the British Resistance Organisation. After Dunkirk, when we were threatened with invasion by the Germans, a plan was formulated - not wholeheartedly agreed by some Army officers but supported enthusiastically by Winston Churchill - that the regular Army would fight a slow rearguard action up to the North West counties so that reinforcements from the Commonwealth, USA and Canada could arrive at Liverpool. All around Britain just inland from the coast small groups of volunteers working independently would go into hiding in underground bunkers with two weeks of rations and ammunition. They would then attack German supply routes and vehicles from the rear – always working at night. Don was a sergeant in charge of such a group based near Emsworth and so gave a very interesting account of his experiences. Fortunately he did not have to use his new-found expertise.

Our next meeting will be on 7 December at 7.30pm at the Bell Inn for our Christmas meal.

To give prior notice, Bishop John Baker will give his annual talk on Monday 18 January 2010, this time about his memories of Westminster – I think there will be some surprises in store so men of the parish don't miss it.

The Group send their best wishes to all members of the parish for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

John Casson

MAMMON'S REVENGE

A new series of Space in the City talks will start on 6 January looking at the global financial crisis, its roots and its results. The speaker is Peter Selby, former Bishop of Worcester. The talks are being held as usual in the United Church, Jewry Street, at 12.30pm.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Each spring, we hold the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This is an opportunity to elect new members of the PCC and churchwardens. If you would like to have a vote, now is the time to make sure you are on the Electoral Roll. Forms are in the 'maroon' folder at the back of church. And if you would like to know more about what being on the PCC means, or what the duties of a church warden are, now is the time to ask one of the current incumbents. Names of the churchwardens and current PCC are on the back of the magazine

THIS MONTH'S MUSIC

Advent is marked by seasonal organ music and appropriate texts for choir items. We finish our homage to Mendelssohn in this his 200th anniversary year with an organ prelude and fugue and an anthem (20 December) which praises the messengers *that preach us the gospel of peace*. The month starts with an unaccompanied choir piece by that most prolific of all composers, Anon(ymous). It sets words from Philippians telling that *the Lord is e'en at hand* and concluding with the sentiments of Mendelssohn's anthem: *And the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ*. These are apposite thoughts at this time of year and in these variable times.

The organ music includes arrangements of French carol tunes (called *Noels*), German Advent and Christmas hymns or chorales and a home-grown Toccata (24 December) incorporating in its pedal part a lovely English hymn-tune written in the early 20th century by R R Terry to the words *O perfect love* - picking up the true holy meaning of Christmas.

Please note the annual **Carol Service will be at 5.30pm on Sunday 20 December**. Come and join in the traditional Christmas hymns and carols and hear a few more offerings from our hard-working Chapel Choir. Then it will be New Year's Resolution time when everyone should consider joining in more of the music at St Cross by enlisting for the choir. You know you want to!

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER

Antiphons – Clement McWilliam and Michael Praetorius
Communion Settings – John Merbecke and David Thorne
Responses – Ferial and Thomas Tallis

Anthems

6 December	16thc anon	Rejoice in the Lord alway
20 December	Mendelssohn	How lovely are the messengers
20 December	C A R O L S E R V I C E	

Voluntaries

6 December	Alain J S Bach	Chorale <i>Dorien</i> Prelude <i>Come, Redeemer of Our race (BWV 661)</i>
13 December 11.00am	<i>Improvisation</i> Stanley Walcha Mathias	Trumpet Voluntary in D Prelude <i>Come Redeemer of our race</i> Postlude
20 December	Mendelssohn Mendelssohn	Prelude in D minor Fugue in D minor
24 December	D'Aquindandrieu Beck	Noel Variations Fanfare & Toccata on <i>Highwood</i>
25 December	Buxtehude Bach	Prelude <i>In dulci jubilo</i> Prelude <i>In dulci jubilo</i>
27 December	Buxtehude D'Aquin	Variations <i>How brightly shines the morning star</i> Noel <i>Suisse</i>

* * * *

NATURE NOTES - OF PEOPLE AND POTATOES

Some folks spend a lot of time sitting and peering into their garden – they are called ‘Medi –Taters’

Some folks never seem motivated to participate, but are content to watch others – they are called ‘Speck Taters’

Some folks are always looking to cause problems and get under our skin – they are called ‘Agi Taters’

Some folks are always saying they will, but somehow, they never get around to doing – they are called ‘Hezzi Taters’

Some folks try to maximize their crop yields while reducing their expenses – they are called ‘Compu Taters’

Two rival allotment holders had entered potatoes in their local show. The first prize winner swaggered over to his rival and said, “I’m not surprised I won to be honest, I thought yours were a bit on the small side this year” “That’s right,” said the other, “mind you, I grew them to fit in my mouth, not yours”.

Children in church:

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mum, I've decided to become a vicar when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and it will be more fun to stand up and talk, than to sit and listen."

CHIROPODIST
HOME VISITS

ANNE HARRISON
MSSCh MBChA

*For treatment or advice on all aspects of
footcare from an experienced practitioner -*

Telephone: 01962-760094

Email:

acharrisonchiropody@hotmail.com

For appointment

Registered member Health Professions Council