

Christmas Newsletter

All Saints, Turvey
December - January 2015 / 16

Happy Christmas!



www.allsaintsturvey.org.uk

25p

From The Church Wardens

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of the Christian Year and look forward to a new one, it is time for reflection upon what has been a momentous year in the life of our church and parish.

As Canon Peter Mackenzie prepared to leave us exactly a year ago, we learnt of the impending departure of Robert Evens, our Rural Dean, to take up a post in Ashwell, Hertfordshire. Archdeacon Paul Hughes, having undergone surgery some time earlier, was then required to submit to further surgery, requiring a lengthy recuperation period and so the "perfect storm" was brewing!

In the early days of the Interregnum, Revd. Jo Spray - who had been Priest in Charge of All Saints Turvey for nine years and retired to live in Olney - was willing to help out as much as possible, but was awaiting admission to hospital for surgery on her foot and was "hors de combat" for some weeks although, in true Jo fashion, fretting that she was unable to do more!

Here we would like to pay tribute to Jo for the immense amount of work she has done in officiating at so many services throughout the year and continues to do so. Thank you, Jo, for all you have done, - the churchwardens and congregation are eternally grateful to you.

Help has also been generously given by Revd. David Powell, Revd. Laurence Macdonald, Revd. Shaun Atkins and The Venerable Peter Delaney. We record here our grateful thanks to them for helping to keep our ship afloat and pretty much on course!!!

We also wish to record our thanks to so many of you who have loyally supported us in so many ways and given freely of your time to ensure that our beloved church continues to welcome visitors, always looking beautiful, clean and tidy - to which the Visitors book attests - and to hold regular services of worship to God.

We have witnessed an overwhelming number of funerals many of which have been of loyal and much respected members of our church community. The loss of each one leaves a large hole in the life of the church but they would have wished that their passing should not interfere with its rhythm. May they all rest in peace.

We have now submitted the second round submission to Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant allowing us to proceed with repair and renewal of the South Aisle roof which, it is hoped, will be confirmed and the work will probably commence in May 2016. The process of the grant application has been long and arduous but if we are successful the work will herald a new era in the life of the church, coinciding, dare we hope, with the appointment of a new priest as we become part of a Team Ministry.

So, following reflection comes expectation as we look ahead and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2016.

Please pray for us as we face the challenges that lie ahead in spreading the Word of God and growing our church.

Rod Petty and David Nightingale.

Church Notices for December and January:

Coffee Mornings

November's Coffee Morning raised £186 towards church funds. It may have been a grey and wet morning but we had a warm welcome and a good time was had by all! A big thank you to Andrew and Elizabeth Barr for hosting the event - and to everyone who helped and supported it.

There is no Coffee Morning in December.

We are currently planning next year's programme. Some slots have already been filled but if you would like to host a coffee morning in 2016, normally held on the second Saturday of every month, please ring Anne Claypole-White on 881661. She would be delighted to hear from you!

Christmas Lunch Club

December's Christmas Lunch Club will take place on **Friday 4th December** at 12.30pm in the Village Hall – an excellent opportunity to have a lovely lunch and enjoy great company! All ages are welcome.

January's Lunch Club is on Friday 8th January.

Children: Little Lights and Bright Sparks – Key dates:

Saturday 5th December - Christmas Market and Bazaar

Turvey Village Hall, 2pm-4.30pm. Admission 50p, children free.

Sunday 6th December – 11am Christingle Service.

Saturday 12th December – 2pm Christmas Workshop for Children

In church, including Christmas crafts and activities. All ages welcome. £4 per family which covers craft costs. All children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. We look forward to seeing you!

There will be no Little Lights in December

Tuesday 15th December – **Turvey Lower School Nativity Play** in the Church at 1pm.

Sunday 20th December: 11am Family Eucharist.

Christmas Eve 24th December: 3.45pm – Crib Service – **Follow the Donkey** to tell the Christmas story.

Monday 11th January 2015 at 9.15am - **Little Lights– Epiphany.**

The Kings have arrived! Come and make a King's crown and follow the star! We look forward to seeing you all – please feel free to invite anyone you think would like to come.

Contact Rachel Westwood with any queries Tel: 01234 881223.

The Travelling Crib

Our Travelling Crib will soon begin to make its way around the village, starting its journey in All Saints Church on Advent Sunday (29th November this year) where it will be blessed by the Priest and then carried home by the first host(s). The next day the first host takes the Crib to the second host for a night and they in turn take it to the third the following day and so on throughout Advent. Usually The Crib stays one night or sometimes two in the home of all who have asked to take part, until eventually the Crib completes its the journey on Christmas Eve afternoon in church.

Thanks to the generosity, skill and hard work of Janet Cockings and the late Jean Lawson, each child who looks after the Crib will be invited to keep a small woolly lamb to look after for the remainder of Advent, on the understanding they will return 'their' lamb to the flock, either bringing the lamb to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve afternoon or if that is not possible, to the back of the church sometime before Christmas.

All Saints Church is generally open every day during the hours of daylight.

If you would like to know more and in particular can host the Crib for an evening please contact Rachel Westwood 01234 881223 or Carol Petty 01234 881619.

Christmas Bazaar and Market

Saturday 5th December

Turvey Village Hall,

2pm - 4.30pm

Please make a date in your diary for our annual fundraising event.

A one stop shop opportunity for your Christmas shopping whilst supporting fundraising for All Saints - a wide range of stalls including Usborne books, Phoenix stationery, jewellery, handicrafts, cakes, preserves, face painting, new and nearly new toys and books, holly, raffle, tombola, children's lucky dip, FAST Christmas cards, Christmas decorations, games and activities for all the family plus refreshments.

Admission 50p, children free.

There is a box at the back of the church for donations if you have items to contribute to any of our stalls, or bring on the morning. All donations will be gratefully received.

Enquiries: Please contact Jacqui Darrington on 881566.

Nativity Procession - Come and tell the Christmas story

Crib Service - 24th December 3.45pm

This year we again recreate the Nativity and we invite the whole village to take part! We will begin at **3.45pm at The Green, Turvey.** (Please arrive promptly). Children (and adults) are invited to dress up particularly as Shepherds, Angels, Kings, or stable animals, bring lanterns/ torches, and we will process around the Green, Lancelot's Piece (very fitting for our Donkey, Sam!), the Christmas tree, and on to the area outside the Three Cranes, as we follow Mary, Joseph and the Donkey to tell the Christmas Story, calling at the 'Inns', enacting scenes and singing Carols as we go before entering the Church (our stable at the Inn).

All children dressing up as Shepherds and Angles for the procession will be invited to take part in the 'improv' service in the church too.

Come and join us in this special celebration!

Those not wishing to take part in the procession are welcome to go straight to the church for 4.15pm.

We need marshalls to help us from 3.45pm to 4.15pm to help us to guide the crowds, manage any traffic and chaperone Sam the Donkey. If you can help us for this 30 mins until we get to the Church please contact Heather Whelbourn on 881728. If you would like to take a part in the Nativity - aside from the improvised parts - please also contact Heather.

Events in December 2015 and January 2016

Saturday 5th December: Christmas Market and Bazaar in Turvey Village Hall, 2pm-4.30pm.
Admission 50p, children free.

Tuesday 15th December: Turvey Lower School Nativity Play in the Church at 1pm.

Saturday 19th December: Carol singing round the tree on Lancelot's Piece at 5pm - all welcome.

Mon 21st and Tues 22nd December: Singing Carols round the village for The Children's Society – all welcome. Meet at the Cross at 7pm

Friday 8th January – Lunch Club

Monday 12th January 2015: Little Lights– celebrating the Epiphany – The Kings have arrived! Come and dress up as a King and make a crown!

December Services at All Saints Church

Sunday 29th November: 11am. 'Together' with the congregation of St Marys Stevington at All Saints Turvey - Advent Sunday – Celebrant and Preacher: The Ven. Peter Delaney MBE

Sunday 6th December: 11am. Christingle Service. Rev. Jo Spray.

Sunday 13th December: 11am Parish Eucharist. Rev. D. Powell

**Sunday 20th December: 11am Family Eucharist.
6pm Carol Service – 9 Lessons and Carols.**

Thursday 24th December. 3.45pm. Christmas Eve Crib Service Follow the Donkey. Meet at the Green.

Thursday 24th December. 11.30pm. Christmas Eve Service - Midnight Mass. Rev. Jo Spray.

Friday 25th December. 10.30am Christmas Day Eucharist. Rev. Jo Spray

Sunday 27th December – 11am. Paris Eucharist TBC however there will be a Morning Prayer service if no Priest is available.

Sunday 3rd January – 11am. Parish Eucharist. TBC however there will be a Morning Prayer Service if no priest is available.
6pm Service Evensong TBC

Sunday 10th January – 11am. Parish Eucharist. Revd. David Powell
6pm Holy Communion BCP TBC

**Sunday 17th January – 11am. Family Service
6pm Evensong**

Sunday 24th January – 11am Parish Eucharist

Sunday 31st January – 11am Parish Eucharist

Where no Priest is available a Morning Prayer Service will be held.

All services are correct at time of going to press.

Please check the All Saints Church website www.allsaintsturvey.org.uk and notice board for updates.

Decorating the Church for Christmas:

The Church will be decorated on **Wednesday 23rd December**.

If you would like to give a donation for Christmas Flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one, then please contact Jacqui Darrington or give to a church Warden in a clearly labelled envelope.

If you would like to help with decorating the church please contact Jacqui on 881566

BeCHaR

Thank you for your continued support for BeCHaR.

All Saints has donated £200 to the BeCHaR Christmas Appeal this year and we continue to donate food collected in the box at the back of the church. Please see the poster board above the box which gives a list of specific items they need – though all food items are welcome – and their visitor open days over Christmas and New Year.

Please remember the homeless this winter and in particular in this festive season - and the great work that BeCHaR does to support them particularly at this time.

Newsletter February 2016

The deadline for the February Newsletter is 20th January 2015. All entries email to

heather.whelbourn@virgin.net

New Website

Our new website is up and running!

A huge thank you to Jane Brewster for doing a brilliant job.

Visit us at:

www.allsaintsturvey.org.uk

A Christmas Eve Prayer

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

All Saints church
would like to
wish you a very
Happy Christmas
and a peaceful 2016

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