

ST NICOLAS NEWSLETTER

14th December 2008

Advent 3 Celebrated as Bible Sunday



A warm welcome to St Nicolas. Before the service begins, please pause for a quiet moment and ask God to make himself real to you and to those around you as we gather in worship together. Pray that our time together will change us and equip us to live for God this week.

8:00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Celebrant/Preacher: Sarah Alexander
Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 (p.1188)
Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28 (p.1063)

9:15 am Holy Communion (CW)

Celebrant: David Stone
Preacher: James Cook
Reading: Psalm 119: 9-16 (p.617)
Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28 (p.1063)
Readers: Graham Foster, Bob Kennaugh
Intercessions led by Alan Whitaker
Anthem: Teach me, O Lord (*Attwood*)
Children 0-13 (Early Birds) go out for part of the service to their own activity in the hall.

11.00 am Informal Morning Worship

Leader: Team RC
Speaker: James Cook
Reading: Psalm 119: 9-16 (p. 617)
Reader: Jim Lupton

A Crèche is available in the upper Hall for 0-3½ year olds. J Team members go to their meeting during the service. Pathfinders meet at St Nicolas House.

6:00 pm: Evensong (BCP)

Theme: Rejoice anyway!
Minister/Preacher: Jane Sutton
Psalm: 68: 1-19 (p.426 in BCP)
Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4, 4 (p.961)
Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7 (p.1181)
Readers: Joan Wildish and Ernest Harris

6.30 pm: Youth Carol Service

Worship Leader: The Firm
Speaker: David Stone

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your
mysteries may likewise so prepare and make
ready your way by turning the hearts of the
disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in
your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

SHARING THE LIFE OF JESUS TODAY

Prayer Support

Members of the prayer support team are available to pray with individuals at the front of the south (right hand) aisle during morning services. At the end of services they will be in the Lady Chapel.

Welcome

If you are new to this church or a visitor, we welcome you today and hope that you feel at home during your visit. If we can help you in any way, or if you would like a church member to accompany you to the hall for coffee please introduce yourself to one of the Welcomers, identified by their badges.

LARGE PRINT COPIES AVAILABLE PLEASE ASK A SIDESPERSON

News of Mary Wildish

Mary and Joan Wildish thank their kind friends for their prayers, concern and support while Mary was in hospital. They are pleased to say she will be home soon.

Rachel Shepherd

Rachel has sent a December newsletter from Bangalore. It's on the wall by the door of the church office for everyone to read.

Children's and Youth leaders Thank you

A reminder to all leaders and helpers with our youth and children's work that there will be two evenings of mulled wine and mince pies at The Rectory next week to say thank you to everyone. Either **Tuesday 16th or Thursday 18th** any time from 8.00pm. The evening is also an opportunity to get our CRB procedure up to date, so please bring your completed form and necessary ID with you.

Church Greenery

Now the churchyard has been cleared, greenery for Church Flower Arrangers has gone. Offers to fill this gap are essential. If you can help in any way, especially for the coming Christmas Festival, PLEASE let Janet Ruckman (820928) or Rosemary Collins (47113) know. Thank you.

Cakes and Hospitality

December 21st: Civic Carol Service at 6.00pm. I have had two offers of help for setting up and clearing away on Sunday evening; we could do with a few more in the team. And I still need offers of help with making and/or serving the mulled wine. Meanwhile, a big thank you to the people who helped with last Sunday's refreshments after the 10.30 service. The cakes were much appreciated!
Sue Elliott 47018

Christmas Collections

The charities to benefit from this year are:
Local - Newbury Churches Emergency Relief Fund
National - Christians Against Poverty
International - Cure International for the support of Alan Norrish's work in Zambia

Heating!

It's fine all through the Summer, and just when you thought everything is OK something changes, and not only the weather! If you sit in the north aisle, or the northern side of the Nave, you will probably have noticed a strong wind blowing over you. This is a normal part of how the heating system functions, by circulating the air at low level to keep the heat in the area we occupy rather than above our heads. When the temperature reaches the setting on the thermostat, the boiler stops heating the air, and the air is simply re-circulated and has to be blown strongly to reach the other side of the building. However, this can feel cold (wind-chill) when the air is not being heated, and I know that it causes many people discomfort. We are seeking to find out what has changed from previous years and whether this effect can be lessened. However, until we find a solution (which may take some time) please bear with us, and if you find the area you are sitting in particularly chilly - please move to a warmer spot rather than getting chilled or distracted by the gale.
Thanks. *Nic Cope*

J Team needs you!

We are desperate for a leader and helper to teach Lambs (reception) from January. It would mean a commitment of about once a month in term time. Please contact Annabelle Abbott for details.

Freedom in Christ

A new course will run for 13 weeks starting 8th January (Thursdays 7.45p.m.) St Nicolas Upper Hall. For further info please contact Tim Coe 01635 569440

Christmas Flowers

The Christmas Flowers contribution box will be in church at the 8.00am and 9.15am services today. Help towards the costs is much appreciated at these times. We are decorating the church on Friday 19th 9-12 noon and Saturday 20th 9-12 noon. Offerings of Christmas greenery during that week will be most acceptable. If you feel like doing an arrangement please come along - Christmas colours. I look forward to seeing you.
Nancy Woodley 48683

START! Do you have questions about the Christian faith? If so the START course could be for you. It is a six week course held in someone's home.

There will be a lunchtime course on Thursdays starting on 15th January at 1.30, and an evening course starting on Tuesday 13th January at 8.00pm. For more information contact the church office on 47018.

If anyone at St Nic's would like to offer their home as a venue or would like to assist the leaders, please get in touch with Sue Elliott.

Carols in a good cause!

Newbury Christian Aid committee is joining the Thatcham committee to sing carols at Sainsbury's, Newbury, next **Saturday, 20th December, 10am -12.**

Come and sing with us.

The committee thanks everyone who supported the recent Kennet Centre flag day. It raised a splendid £605.09.

Trevor and Olive.

'God does nothing but in answer to prayer'

This was the observation of John Wesley. If we were asked to discuss the following: 'God longs to put it all right and he could easily step in and do just that, but instead has chosen to limit his activity and respond only to fervent prayer'

Would our answer be?

'God is not looking for people to do a bit of casual praying but longing to see his passion in our hearts and hear our fervent prayers.'

Do you feel God calling you to get involved in more corporate prayer?

Should we spend time listening to God to be sure our prayers return to 'centre on God's will' for our church right here, right now?

If you are interested in planning for new ways of joining together in corporate prayer at St Nicolas then please contact.

Stephen Kerry Bertrumbear@aol.com
tel 43138,

or John Kane Johnbkane@gmail.com
tel 30330.

Urgent - Carol Singers needed

For Speenhamland Court at 3.30 pm on

Tuesday 16 December.

You don't need to be Aled Jones or Charlotte Church but just to enjoy singing traditional carols to help swell the sound at a short carol service for the residents.

For further details phone Lesley Park on 821420 - leave a message and I will get back to you.

Hope for Africa donation

A folding dining table and four upholstered chairs are up for sale by a member of the congregation. Donation to Hope for Africa.

Contact Alison on 32762.

Weekly Envelope Scheme

For those members who use our Weekly Envelope Scheme for giving to St Nicolas Church envelopes for 2009 are now available. They are on the Welcome Desk at the back of the Church or in the Church Office when the Church is closed. Please collect your envelopes as soon as possible. If anyone else would like to join this handy scheme please contact me at Church or by 'phone on 01635 863 841.

I would like to take this opportunity of saying a very big Thank You to all who support the ongoing work at St Nicolas Church and to say how much it is appreciated. Without your help St Nicolas Church would look a very different place. Thank You.
Bertram Lake.

Hope08 Christmas Shoppers' Crèche 20th December, 2008.

If you have a current CRB certificate, would you please consider helping for a one-and-a-half hour session in St. Nic's Lower Hall, either 10-11.30am or 1-2.30pm.

It should be great fun for all, with a puppet show, singing Christmas carols, and helping to make Christmas cards and decorations for the children to take home.

For more information see me (or call Mark on 01635-299578). Many thanks,
Christine Indge, Hope08 Rep for St. Nicolas Church.

Regular Activities

Sundays

8:00 pm "The Firm" (14-18s)

Mondays

2:30 pm St Nicolas Fellowship (4th week)

7:30 pm Bell-ringing practice

8:00 pm *Men's Bible Study* (see box opposite)

Wednesdays

10:00 am Daybreak

7:30 pm Table Tennis Club

Thursdays

10:00 am Coffee Morning

10:30 am Holy Communion (CW)

Fridays

4:00 pm *Drop-in (secondary school age)*

6:30 pm Junior Choir practice

7:15 pm Adult Choir practice

7:30 pm TGI Friday (10-14s)

Items in italics are held in St Nic's House.

Some of these activities do not run in the school holidays. Please check with the church office.



Home Groups meet most evenings and Thursday mornings. Please contact the Church Office if you would like more details. Tel: (01635) 47018.

Please ensure that all items for next week's newsletter reach the Church Office by 10 am on Thursday. Keep items short. Notices will normally be included in the newsletter for two weeks. E-mail: office@st-nicolas-newbury.org but do check e-mail messages have been received. Tel: (01635) 47018

This Week



MEN'S GROUP

Contact John Harrison for more info: john@harrison.me.uk or 07801 231693.



A Group for Parents with Young Children

Wednesday 17th December

10.00—11.15 am in the Hall

Crib Service

Bring your babies and toddlers into the church for a short, fun service followed by refreshments in the hall.



Charity Coffee Morning Thursday 18th December

10 am—12 noon in the Hall

In aid of

St Mary's and St Nicholas Church Compton

All Welcome

Sunday Services 21 December

Advent 4

8:00am Holy Communion (CW)

9:15am Holy Communion (CW)

11.00am Informal Morning Worship

6:00pm Civic Carol Service with refreshments afterwards

No Evening Worship

St Nicolas Church, Newbury - Staff Team

Rector:

The Revd Dr David Stone . Tel: (01635) 47018/40326

Associate Vicar:

The Revd Sarah Alexander.....Tel: (01635) 41922

Curate:

The Revd James Cook.....Tel: (01635) 200428

Licensed Lay Minister:

Jane Sutton.....Tel: (01635) 36466

Licensed Youth Minister:

Annabelle AbbottTel: (01635) 44492

Children's Worker:

Pastoral Adviser for Older People: Dr John DaviesTel: (01635) 47018

Parish Coordinator:

Sue Elliott.....Tel: (01635) 529783

Pastoral Care Line: (01635) 529783

www.st-nicolas-newbury.org

Church Office open Weekdays, 9:30 am - 3 pm; Tel: (01635) 47018