



The Wiverton News

from your village churches and chapels

December/ January 2008



Getting the message

The Message of Christmas



Dear Friends

It won't be long before our post boxes will be brimming over with Christmas cards sending messages to friends and family. This year, if you buy Christmas Stamps, there will be angels "flying" all over the country and abroad. (Have you checked the last posting dates to exotic locations overseas, you may be too late!)

The Christmas story is full of angels too, bringing messages: the angel who gave Mary the message that she would have a child, a son, a very special son; the angel who gave Joseph the message that it was OK still to take Mary as his wife, despite her pregnancy; the angels who brought a message to the shepherds in the fields of "glad tidings of great joy" . Their messages are as familiar to us as the scenes of Mary and Joseph, the stable, the shepherds, we see on the hundreds of cards we send and receive.

*The Word became
flesh and lived
among us.*

I wonder what the message of Christmas is for you: Peace (or family arguments)? Joy (or sadness because there is someone missing this year)? Celebration (or over indulging and a diet in the New year)? I am sure it can be "all of the above" but "above all" the message of Christmas is that God came to earth in human form, so that we might truly understand his love for us. Jesus is the message of Christmas. And he's the messenger too, because he brings God's love to us through his death and resurrection.

I pray this Christmas that each of us will hear the message of Christmas afresh and that we will indeed know that God loves us. *Bronwen, Rector of the Wiverton Group of Parishes*

Special services in December



Church 11.00am on 9 December.



Advent Praise at Holy Trinity Tythby. Come at 5.00pm for Tea and cakes, service of Advent Hymns and readings begins at 5.30pm.

Advent Praise also at St Giles, Cropwell Bishop 6.00pm on 16 December.

Prayer stars: All-age services at 11.00am St Giles 9 December and 11.00am St John's Colston Bassett 16 December.



Searchlights' Nativity: 10.30am at St Andrew's Langar, 23 December.

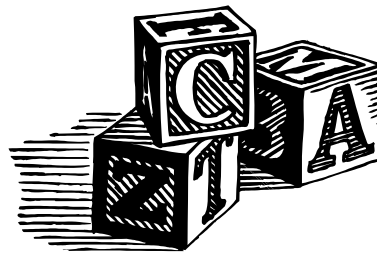
Nativity Service at Cropwell Butler Chapel, 6.30pm 24 December.

Children's Crib service 4.00pm Christmas Eve at St Giles, Cropwell Bishop. Come dressed as a character from the Nativity story: Joseph, Mary, Angels, Shepherds, Inn-keeper, Kings.

See pages 8 and 9 for full details of all services.

Lighting the Advent Wreath beginning with the First Sunday in Advent on 2 December. The Wiverton

Group service at Langar at 10.00am is for All-ages and our speaker will be Dave Gough who is currently training at St John's Theological College at Bramcote.



A message in a Carol!

Carol singing is something we have done for centuries, and this year is no exception. If you look on pages 8 and 9 you'll see there are Carol services in all of our Chapels and Churches during December. Many will be **Carols by Candlelight**. There will carols sung in our schools, in Rawlings Court and Carol Singing in the street in some of our villages. But what is a carol and how many do you know?

Carols were originally songs of joy, accompanying a dance. The word Carol comes from the Italian "carola" meaning a ring dance.

Some carols are not religious but the Church took them up as part of popular culture and hi-jacked them in the same way that it hi-jacked a pre-Christian festival held on 25th December associated with the winter solstice.

Carols were banned as being too frivolous!

During the Reformation carols were banned, perhaps they were thought to be too frivolous for singing in Church. When they did come back into use they tended to be confined to Christmas.



Songs tell stories and carols are no exception. For many of us, singing carols is how we learned the faith.

I'm sure each of us has a favourite. Perhaps one learned at school or associated with a special place, not necessarily church. It could be the tune but quite often it is the words, the message, that makes it your favourite.

My favourite carol is "In the Bleak mid-winter", not very Middle Eastern, but my choice is based on the last line: "Yet what I can, I give Him, give my heart.!"

What's your favourite? If you would like to vote for your favourite carol, write the title on a piece of paper and send it to the Rector, 2 Dobbin Close, Cropwell Bishop.

Vote for your favourite carol. The carol that gets the most votes will be included in our Christmas Day service at St Giles, Cropwell Bishop at 10.00am.

If you enjoy singing carols then see how you get on with this quiz. Can you name the Carols from which these ten lines come? Answers on page 7.

1. He the source and He the end! Let the organ thunder
2. How silently, how silently
3. And our eyes at last shall see Him
4. Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
5. Sacred Infant all divine, What a tender love was Thine
6. And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good
7. Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation
8. Shepherds quail at the sight
9. Let steeple bells be swungen
10. Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace

Langar PTA Bonfire	<p>Saturday 3rd November saw around 600 people gather on Church Green in Langar for the annual bonfire and fireworks show organised by Langar PTA. This year saw the addition of a laser show as well as a change to the food arrangements with support provided by the Hawkshead Beef Company who very kindly donated their time to help out.</p> <p>As usual our thanks go to Langar Hall, for the use of their grounds, and to the Hammond family who, once again provided the impressive display of fireworks. Thanks as well to all those who made donations, helped with set up, support on the night and the tidy up job afterwards. Many thanks to those of you who attended, a massive £2850 was raised in support of the school. The timing has worked for us this year as on Monday 5th November work commenced to lay the footings for the portacabins for the temporary school facilities during the school build. We hope to see you all again next year.</p>
Cropwell Butler Christmas Fayre	<p>Many thanks to everyone who supported the Cropwell Butler Christmas Fayre on 17th November. We raised just over £700 which will be split between Cropwell Butler Methodist Chapel, Holy Trinity, Tythby and Little Saints parents and toddler/baby group which meets every Friday from 11.00am to noon and from 2.00-3.00pm at Cropwell Bishop Methodist School room on Nottingham Road.</p>

Children's Xmas-travaganza	A special event at Cropwell Bishop School on Friday 7th December from 3.30 to 4.30pm.
Christingle for the Children's Society	The Children's Society is now well and truly associated with Christingle. This year there will be a Christingle Service at St Giles, Cropwell Bishop on 20th January at 4.00pm to which all are welcomed. Collecting candles will be coming out to homes in the Wiverton Group area through our vil-
New Family Service starting in January	Starting on 27 January, there will be a monthly Family Service at St Giles Cropwell Bishop at 11.00am. It will be especially suitable for families with younger children but all will be welcome. There will be well-known hymns and songs, simple prayers and readings, a talk and refreshments served afterwards. In all about 45 minutes long in an informal style. Come along to the first one and give it a try.
Holy Communion at St Giles	With the introduction of the new Family service on the 4th Sunday of the month, the monthly Holy Communion service (using Common Worship) will now be at 6.00pm on the third Sunday in place of
Carol Quiz	1.Unto us a boy is born 2.O Little Town of Bethle- hem 3.Once in Royal David's city 4.Away in a man- ger 5. See amid the winter's snow 6.The Holly and the Ivy 7.O Come, all yea faithful 8. Silent night 9.Ding dong merrily on high 10. Hark the herald

Poet's corner

Be Careful Where You Tread

He lay, well hidden, pressed low on the ground;
Quite still, like a stone or a lump of brown earth.

Very carefully, I fingered the spreading green leaves,
Instinctively looking for a creature of worth.

I touched him; he moved but as if half asleep;
Yes, sleepy; nature's way for self preservation.

Another little touch wakened him up
And he jumped to find a low spreading bush
Which, I knew would give him good leafy cover.

Then I put in my spade to dig up the weeds,
Preparing for bulbs and to tidy the border.

Froggie is safe for the winter ahead:
I am glad, having learned long ago
To always follow a golden rule:
"Be careful where you tread"

Agnes Hickling

The author writes: "I have written this poem, this morning following an encounter with "Froggie" yesterday!"

13 October 2007



The Late NORMAN HORTON

We would like to thank everyone who has sent us cards, letters, emails, flowers and donations to the RSPCA since Norm died on 30 July. We knew what a special, precious man he was but it has been humbling to realise just how loved and respected he was by so many. His passing has left such a huge emptiness in our lives and we thank you all for your love and support at this very sad time.

Jill, Em and Jack Horton, 21 October, 2007.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE



Your response to the Shoe Box appeal was wonderful and generous! A total of 65 boxes have been handed in, packed full of love and presents. This means 65 children will have a much happier Christmas as a direct

result of your effort. They were collected by volunteers, checked, then taken by volunteers in a lorry to Belarus.

Everyone I have spoken to was full of the joy they had found while packing their box. We shall repeat the appeal next year so start collecting little presents. I have the knitting patterns for the glove puppets and finger puppets if you would like a copy of them to keep you busy for a year. I also have the DVD of the children opening their boxes last year (it's quite a tearjerker) for anyone to borrow.

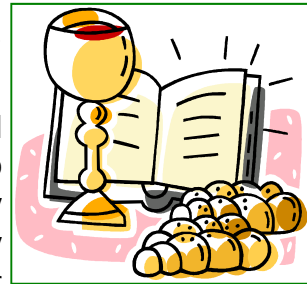
So a big "thank you" on behalf of all the children and don't forget to pray for "your" child as she/he opens your box. Vivien Hall 0115 989 0250

Holy Communion at Christmas?

The roots of Holy Communion lie in the Last Supper, the final meal Jesus had with his disciples before he was crucified. In Luke's Gospel (chpt 22) we read that Jesus took bread and wine, gave thanks for it and shared it with his disciples. As he broke and gave them the bread he said * "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me". Taking the cup of wine he said "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (chpt 11) we read that the early church was eating bread and drinking wine in accordance with Jesus' instructions to his disciples.

Sharing Holy Communion, The Mass, The Lord's Supper or The Eucharist (which means Thanksgiving) is something which most Christian Denominations do in some way, each having its own traditions. Some use bread some use wafers, some use red wine, others white and some use non-alcoholic wine.

The Canons of the Church of England state that "it is the duty of all who have been confirmed to receive Holy Communion regularly and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter



and Whitsun or Pentecost." You will see that there are services of Holy Communion throughout our villages, Church and Chapel, in December, especially on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. All Christians, of all denominations, are invited to share in Holy Communion not just at Christmas but throughout the year. The Lord's Table is open to all, and if it is not your normal practice to receive bread and wine you are invited to come forward for a blessing. *Bronwen Gamble* * NRSV

From the registers (2007)

Baptisms

At St Andrew's Langar

6 October Harry Malcolm Dean

14 October Alexander Rhys Horwood

4 November Thomas James Potter

11 November Victoria Louise Wood

Confirmation

At Southwell Minster by the Rt Revd George Cassidy,

Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham on 15 September

Margaret Rose Croxall, Cropwell Bishop

Adrian Fleming, Barnstone

Admission to Communion prior to confirmation

At St Andrew's Langar on 7 October

Edward Alexander Fleming

Harry Malcolm Dean

Funerals

5 Oct Graham Owen Wallis St Giles, Cropwell Bishop

5 Oct Annie Tyler St Giles, Cropwell Bishop

25 Oct G W Ralph Harvey St Mary's, Arnold

Ashes interred at St Mary's Colston Bassett 10 November

9 March Doris Mary Athow-Frost Wilford Hill

Ashes interred at St Mary's Colston Bassett 19 November

Granby Church **Roofing Fund Award of £3,000**

All Saints' Church, Granby has been awarded a £3000 grant from Historic Churches Preservation Trust for repairs to the roof.

The Trust receives no financial aid from government or church authorities, but has given out £23.1 million in 11,000 grants since 1953. Their declared aim is "Keeping Churches Alive" but are not just "bricks and mortar", more "bricks and mortals".

About 18,000 enquiries are made per year, 400 actual applications creating 350 grants in an average year. The estimated total of eligible repairs required is £55 million per year with an average cost per year, in 2002, of £104,000.

Twelve million people visit churches every year where they find peace, and a haven for quiet meditation. The church is the only public building in some villages providing a focal point for the community at key moments in people's lives.

Churches are steeped in history by the people who designed and built them; where baptisms, marriages and funerals over more than ten centuries have taken place. Here in the church and churchyard people can find, and feel, their ancestry.

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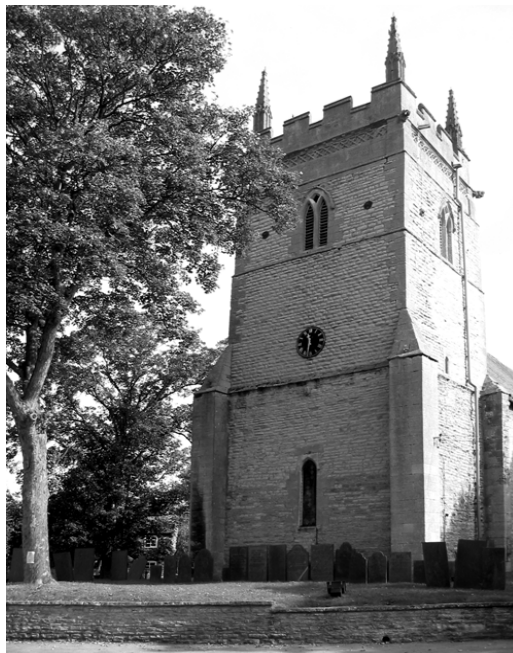


Photo J Cranswick

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Granby Church It's a challenge to keep churches in order and 38% of communities applying to the Trust have a population of less than 500 with the average grant being £6,000.

To stop churches becoming redundant you can help by a subscription of £15 per year (£25 in the first year) or a donation or legacy—every bit helps. For further information contact: Historic Churches Preservation Trust, 31 Newbury Street, London EC1A 7HU. Tel 020 7600 6090.

Website: www.historicchurches.org.uk

Email: info@historicchurches.org.uk

We are very grateful for this grant , the roof repairs may cost in excess of £100,000, so this is most welcome. Rector.



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Small ads for small businesses

The Wiverton News offers advertising to self-employed people living in our parishes, at a special introductory rate of £7 for two successive editions. Please send up to 50 words to: The Rector, Revd Bronwen Gamble at 2 Dobbin Close, Cropwell Bishop, Nottingham NG12 3GR, 0115 9893172 or email brongamble@hotmail.com together with your address for an invoice. Inclusion is at editor's discretion.

Rod Pugh – Handyman: Odd jobs with integrity. For all those little jobs waiting to be done! Established 15 years. Cropwell Bishop 0115 989 0109.

Michael Smart – All joinery undertaken by joiner with over 30 years' experience. Laminate flooring, fitted wardrobes, flat pack assembly, doors decking, also pvc windows and replacement sealed units. Good quality work at reasonable price. Call 01949 869505 for quote.

C.M. James - Builders: Sunset Barn, Sutton Cum Granby, Nottingham NG13 9QA. New Builds - Extensions - Conversions. Established in Vale of Belvoir for 15 years. References and site visits available. Tel: 01949 851244, Mobile: 07815 318253.

Langar Daily Services – Do you need a cleaner? We are a small family business providing a professional, reliable, flexible domestic cleaning service. Choose from regular or short-term house work. For further details contact Glenis for an individual package to suit your requirements. Tel: 01949 861651 or mobile 07727 061065.

***Are you planning a community event?
The Wiverton News can advertise it free of charge. Contact us at the address above.***

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Who's who

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Mr Barry Garner. Tel 0115 914 6851

Methodist Church

Grantham & Vale of Belvoir Circuit

Minister: The Revd Christine Perry

32 Mallow Way, Bingham, Nottingham. 01949 837330

Lay leaders:

Mrs Liz Jackson (Methodist Lay Worker) 01476 570207

Dr David Woodcock 0115 933 4256

Mr Roger Winfield 0115 989 2103

For baptisms, weddings, funerals, confirmation and admission to Holy Communion in the Church of England, and churchyard matters, contact Revd Bronwen Gamble.

For dedications, baptisms, weddings, funerals and membership in the Methodist Church contact Revd Christine Perry or Liz Jackson

<p>Copy Deadline for the next edition of the Wiverton News (for February and March) is 15th January. Please send Articles, news items and adverts to the Rector at the above address.</p>
