



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 19

January 2012

From the Registers

Holy Baptism:

(4th December) Henry Weston, Hollie-Mae Price; (11th) Wick Leo Winckler

Funerals:

(16th December) Marianne Trickett; (28th) Betty Deadman.

Calendars 2012 — just a few left

The 2012 calendar for Englefield Green is now on sale for £6. It contains twelve historic photographs of Englefield Green, together with views of the same spots today.

Calendars can be bought at St Jude's Church after any service or on Saturday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm, or from Cafe Rendezvous in the Village Centre, which is open from 9am (10am in school holidays) to 4pm on weekdays and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays. Alternatively we can send copies by mail: please send £1.50 extra for post and packing within the UK or £3.00 extra for overseas.

For more information please email
calendar@stjudeschurch.info

Carol Singing

Many thanks to all who turned up for carol singing on 22nd December — we were blessed with a very mild evening and raised well over £200 for The Children's Society. Many thanks too to all those who brought along food and drink (especially Geoff and Jenny Chew for the mulled wine!).

2012 — a new series of Concerts

**Community
Concert
in St Jude's
Saturday 7th January
4.00pm
Admission free
(donations invited)**

Explore and Discover

Think a minute. Do you have an explorer whose bravery or persistence grabs you? Does what enthused them enthuse you just a little bit?

Discovering things is what life is all about, as you realise when you watch small children discovering what is in a parcel on Christmas day or climbing up to the table top to see what the world looks like from up there, or seeing that if you drop a toy, it always goes down, never up — unless you throw it. But discovery goes on and continues to fascinate and excite, even into older years. Some discoveries are by accident, it seems, and we call that serendipity, but some are the result or by-product of careful searching or painstaking effort, sometimes by heroism verging on the foolhardy.

Captain Scott reached the South Pole on January 17th 1912, one hundred years ago. I must have seen *Scott of the Antarctic* at about the age of ten; the film was fairly new and was a 'must' for school cinema trips and of course Scott remains for me the quintessential explorer. His discoveries were geological. He arrived at the geographical South Pole, not the magnetic Pole. One thing I would like to know is how in the middle of hundreds of miles of snow and ice he knew he had arrived? Probably if I did some more exploring of information on such matters I would find out. (Maybe someone reading this can enlighten me?) The other thing he discovered was that Roald Amundsen had pipped his team to the Pole, by about one month. Maybe that was because Amundsen was from Norway and far more used to skiing and snow. A book that came out in 1979 also went some way to establish that Scott's heroism was a myth and that Amundsen was far better prepared for the conditions than Scott. All his team survived, whereas Scott and his last five companions all perished from exhaustion, frostbite and starvation only 20 kilometres from the base camp that might have saved them by its resources. However the courage and persistence of those last five and Scott's perseverance in keeping up his journal to the end for future reference remain in national consciousness.

There is outside exploration and there is inside. I am aware that I put off making decisions. For instance, there was a damp patch on the dining room ceiling before Christmas to which I failed to respond, so that when I came back from a night away, there was water dripping in the dining room from an upstairs radiator, requiring the urgent attention of a plumber. Now all is well I am glad to say.

Exploring our own reactions to situations and motivation for doing things is essential in life. Sometimes the resulting discoveries are not comfortable to accept, which is why repentance is at first most uncomfortable but later leads to life and health. It is something that both John the Baptist and Jesus began their work saying was necessary. For a 'whole' life, outside and inside exploration go on being important.

I wonder who reads *The Ship*, since it goes to most houses in Englefield Green. Some possible readers will have had school or Sunday school information about Christianity. Some will have been brought up in another faith or no faith. Some may have been church-goers for a long period. If any readers would like to explore Christianity in a friendly, accepting environment, just turn up at *Christianity Explored* in the Village Centre on January 10th.

I make no apology for ending with an advertisement for the *Christianity Explored* course, but I add a promise from Jesus himself: "Seek and you will find."

Rita Berry

Christmas at St Jude's

Many thanks to all those who provided flowers and greenery and to those who came along and helped decorate the Church for Christmas.

We were delighted to welcome so many people to the Christmas services (standing room only at the Crib Service!)

Christianity Explored

People do the *Christianity Explored* course for different reasons. Some know virtually nothing about the Christian faith; some have previous contact with church or Sunday school; some go to church but want to find out more or go a bit deeper. Some do the course to keep someone else company!

The next course in Englefield Green will start on Tuesday 10th January 2012. It lasts for seven weeks, finishing on Shrove Tuesday, 21st February. Don't worry if you will have to miss a week; you can catch up with the handbook and/or a chat with someone who was there.

It will run in The Village Centre from 7.00pm starting with supper. Then 8.00pm friendly groups, DVD, more small group discussion, and it will finish at 9.30pm. There is no charge for the course though, of course, you may make a contribution to the costs if you wish.

Local churches are involved in running the course.

For more information phone:-

Roy on 01784 435602 Rita on 01784 433560
Linda on 01784 471110 at the Village Centre between
10.00am and 4.00pm.

You are most welcome!

The Epiphany



The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. In the East, where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It also celebrates Jesus' birth.

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the

magi (wise men) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11 they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from 6th January until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. Other traditions, observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany counted as Ordinary Time.

The Village Centre in Victoria Street

The Rendezvous Community Cafe is open 9am–4pm during school terms and 10am–4pm during school holidays. Saturdays 10am–1pm.

Our Community Computer Room is open Monday–Thursday from normal opening hours until 12 noon.

Our Information and Support Service (Similar to CAB with trained staff) is open Tuesdays from 1.30pm–3.30pm. Please book via the Centre Manager.

Wet room (walk in shower) is available at a small charge for people who cannot access their own bath at home.

Informal art group, support group for people with dementia and their carers and lots more.

See our website (www.villagecentre.org.uk) or phone the centre on 01784 471110

Help Needed

**Are you a 'no job too small handy man'?
If so the Village Centre needs you !**

We need someone who is able to look round the premises fairly regularly to spot jobs which need to be done and who has the time to do them before they accumulate and cause trouble.

If this is something you could do for us please ring Linda at the Village Centre in Victoria Street or better still, call in for a break from your busy day and sample the delicious food served daily!!

Contact Linda on 01784 471110 for further details – we look forward to hearing from you.

Paying our way

Although the Church Commissioners still make very generous contributions to the finances of the Dioceses, much of the Church's running costs fall to the parishes.

The Vicar's stipend comes from this. But we in St Jude's contribute far more than his stipend to the Diocese. In 2011, our *Parish Share* as it is known was £53298. In 2012, it will be £56229, an increase of about 5.5%. We are required to find this even before we pay for our electricity and gas and all the other running costs. Perhaps now is a good time for everyone to consider what they are currently giving to the Church and, if possible, to increase it so that we are able to pay our increased costs and contribute to the Church nationally.

January Diary

- 1 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30pm Family Communion (sung) 6.30pm Taizé service
- 4 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 6 Friday The Epiphany
- 7 Saturday 4.00pm Community Concert – admission free – donations invited
- 8 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Family Communion (sung) 6.30pm Evensong and Sermon
- 9 Monday 10.00am Holy Communion (said)
- 11 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said) 8.00pm Fabric Committee meets
- 14 Saturday The BIG breakfast 9am–11am at the Village Centre (Cafe open until 1pm)
- 15 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Family Communion (sung) *Traidcraft goods after 9.30am service*
- 18 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said) The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- 22 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Family Communion (sung)
- 25 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion (said) 8.00pm Church Council meets
- 27 Friday 8.00pm Prayer Group *For Such a Time as This* 16 Laurel Avenue
- 29 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Family Communion (sung)

All events take place at St Jude's Church unless otherwise marked

The Church is open every Saturday 2-4pm for tea and a chat and to discuss weddings and baptisms