

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

Wednesday 2	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in St Peter's Hall
Thursday 3	7.30pm	Coates Gardening Club Christmas Quiz
Friday 4		Kemble RBL Christmas Meal
Saturday 5	2 - 4pm	Rodmarton Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 5	6.30pm	Quiz Night in Sapperton Village Hall
Thursday 10	2.30pm	Good Companions Christmas party
Tuesday 15	10.30am	Festive Community Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates Village Hall
Tuesday 15	2pm & 7pm	Sapperton School Nativity Play in St Kenelm's church
Tuesday 15	7.30pm	Frampton Mansell Rural Cinema <i>Mr Holmes</i>
Saturday 19	8pm	70's & 80's Music with Live Band in Coates Village Hall
Sunday 20	3.30pm	Coates Carol Service
Tuesday 22	7.30pm	Cirencester Choral Society Christmas Concert in the Cirencester Parish Church

### JANUARY

Tuesday 5	7.30pm	Coates parish council meeting
Wednesday 6	7.30pm	BEAT meeting in St Peter's Hall
Tuesday 19	10.30am	Community Coffee, Cake and Chat in Coates Village Hall
Tuesday 19	11.55am	Mobile library visiting Coates
Tuesday 22	11.55am	Mobile library visiting Coates

## Quiz night - Sapperton Village Hall

Sat 5th Dec - see inside for details

email for tickets: [rachel.mchugh@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rachel.mchugh@yahoo.co.uk)

### FRONT COVER

The front cover of the magazine was drawn by Fred Douglas-Pennant. It was chosen from drawings done by the children of Rodmarton School. The standard of entries made the choice of winner very difficult. Thank you to all the entrants.

## THE WATERSHED MAGAZINE



©Fred Douglas-Pennant

December 2015/January 2016

## RECTOR

**Rev Trevor Kemp**

770550

Coates Rectory, Coates GL7 6NR

rev.trev@btinternet.com

## CURATE (Non-stipendiary)

**Rev David Austin**

860692

davidreaustin@hotmail.com

## READERS

**Barrie Cran**

770809

Liz Collins

770698

## STRATEGIC YOUTH MINISTER

**Anton Wynn**

07816 315423

anton.wynn@psalms.uk.net

## COATES

**Church Wardens:**

Sarah Fuchs

771393

Anne Chilton

770726

**Secretary PCC**

Liz Collins

770621

**Treasurer PCC**

Liz Allen

771229

## SAPPERTON WITH FRAMPTON MANSELL

**Church Warden:**

Jeremy Hoskins

760227

Elizabeth Twinch

762897

**Deputy warden**

**St Kenelm's**

Mark Hamer

760715

**Rotas**

Kate Gordon-Lennox

760651

**Secretary PCC**

Natalie Hunt

760421

**Treasurer PCC**

Charles Houldsworth

760300

## RODMARTON AND TARLTON (Chapel of Ease)

**Church Wardens**

**Rodmarton**

Simon Biddulph

841462

Susie Edmond-Rees

07881 954650

**Tarlton**

Jasper Biddulph

770230

**Flower Team Leader**

Wendy Taylor

841263

**Secretary PCC**

Jane Marlowe

770401

**Treasurer PCC**

Simon Biddulph

841462

## MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS

The mobile library visits Coates every 4 weeks. The visit for the next 2 months will be on Tuesday 22 December and 19 January between 11.55am and 12.55pm outside the village hall.

[www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk](http://www.thamesheadchurches.org.uk)

We are delighted to announce the arrival of the new Thameshead Benefice Website!

From **Sunday 1 November**

Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, starting out at church or already a member or if you just want to know more, there is something for everyone.



Runners up in our competition for the front cover from Eliza Barrow and Jemima Gorden of Rodmarton School.

## ADVERTISING IN THE WATERSHED

If you wish to advertise in our parish magazine please contact Bob Merrill at Glebe House, Coates, GL7 6NU. Tel 771496, Mobile 07866 972389 or by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at [watershedmag@gmail.com](mailto:watershedmag@gmail.com).



## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Watershed Editor	Bob Merrill	07866 972389
Watershed Treasurer	Janet Loines	841578
Watershed Intercession Group	Anne Chilton	770726
Coates Parish Council Chair	Bob Allen	771229
Coates Parish Council Clerk	Libby Harrison	07791 943822
Coates Gardening Club	Margaret Reynolds	771354
Coates Social Club secretary	Annabelle Crapper	770266
Coates Tree Warden	Geoffrey Moore	770869
Coates Village Hall	Susan PJ	770596
Coates Neighbourhood Watch	Liz Allen	07771 553061/771229
Frampton Mansell Village Hall	Bookings	760102 or 760300
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Chair	Paul Drake	770267
Rodmarton & Tarlton PC Clerk	Susan Hare	ex-dir
Rodmarton School		841284
Rodmarton Village Hall	Jasper Biddulph	770230
Rodmarton Cricket Club	Nick Clarke	841421
Sapperton with FM PC Chair	Sarah Osborn-Smith	760874
Sapperton/FM PC Clerk	Kath Sanderson	760480
Sapperton/FM Snow Warden	Mark Franklin	760226
Sapperton Tree Warden	Paul Dingley	760788
Sapperton Village Hall	Annette Bullock	760468
Sapperton School	Dawn Thomas	760325
Royal British Legion	John Chilton	770726
Good Companions	Betty Mixture	770569
Watershed RDA	Bob Merrill	771496
Watershed Farm Club	Liz Collins	770621
District Councillors		
Ermin Ward	Nicholas Parsons	623000
Avening Ward	Jim Parsons	01453 836596
County Councillor	Anthony Hicks	01666 504792
Member of Parliament	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	01452 371630
Cirencester Hospital		655711
Police non emergency (24hrs)		101
Lynn Saunders - Village Agent		07776 245 754
Coates Resilience plan agents	John Birch	770360/07989946224
	David Lattimore	771006/07836511011

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

<b>2 December</b>	<b>Midweek Wednesday</b>	
10am	Kemble	Holy Communion
<b>6 December</b>		
9.30am	Kemble	Holy Communion
3pm	Kemble Scouts	Carols
9.30am	Coates	Holy Communion
11am	Poole Keynes	Family Service
11am	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
11am	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
11am	Sapperton	Family Holy Communion
<b>9 December</b>	<b>Midweek Wednesday</b>	
10am	Kemble	Holy Communion
<b>13 December</b>	<b>Third Sunday before Advent</b>	
9.30am	Coates	Holy Communion
9.30am	Kemble	Family Service
9.30am	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Tarlton	Christingle Service
11am	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Rodmarton	Mattins
11am	Frampton Mansell	Holy Communion
<b>16 December</b>	<b>Midweek Wednesday</b>	
10am	Kemble	Holy Communion
<b>20 December</b>	<b>Second Sunday before Advent</b>	
6.30pm	Kemble	Carols by candlelight
3.30pm	Coates	Carol Service
3pm	Poole Keynes	Carol Service
4.30pm	Somerford Keynes	Family Service
11am	Rodmarton	Carol Service
11am	Sapperton	Carol Service
<b>24 December</b>		
4pm	Kemble	Crib Service
6pm	The Tavern, Kemble	
11pm	Kemble	Holy Communion
3pm	Somerford Keynes	Nativity Service
11pm	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11pm	Coates	Holy Communion
5.30pm	Tarlton	Carol Service
6pm	Frampton Mansell	Crib Service

## SERVICES IN OUR BENEFICE

### 25 December

8am	Tarlton	Holy Communion
9.30am	Kemble	Holy Communion
11am	Coates	Holy Communion
9.30am	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
10.30am	Somerford Keynes	Family Service
11am	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
10.30am	Frampton Mansell	Family Holy Communion

### 27 December

10am	Shorncote	Benefice Service
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### 30 December

#### Midweek Wednesday

No service

### 3 January

9.30am	Kemble	Holy Communion
9.30am	Coates	Holy Communion
11am	Poole Keynes	Family Service
1am	Somerford Keynes	Morning Prayer
11am	Rodmarton	Holy Communion with choir
11am	Sapperton	Family Holy Communion

### 6 January

10am	Kemble	Holy Communion
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### 10 January

11am	Tarlton	Holy Communion
4pm	Kemble	Christingle Service
9.30am	Coates	Holy Communion
9.30am	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Rodmarton	Mattins
11am	Sapperton	Holy Communion

### 13 January

10am	Holy Communion	Kemble
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### 17 January

9.30am	Kemble	Family Holy Communion
9.30am	Coates	Family Service
11am	Poole Keynes	Morning Prayer
11am	Somerford Keynes	Family Service
11am	Rodmarton	Holy Communion
9.30am	Frampton Mansell	Family Service

### 20 January

10am	Holy Communion	Kemble
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## SERVICES IN OUR BENEFICE

### 24 January

8am	Tarlton	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Kemble	Morning Prayer
6pm	Kemble	Source (Informal Service)
9.30am	Coates	Holy Communion
9.30am	Poole Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Somerford Keynes	Holy Communion
11am	Rodmarton	Family Service
11am	Sapperton	Holy Communion

### 27 January

10am	Holy Communion	Kemble
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### 31 January

10am	Coates	Holy Communion with Christian Aid Speaker
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## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY

The week before Advent we welcomed a guest speaker from SAT7, a charity that works to share the story of Jesus and support Christians in the Middle East. Recently some of their staff were arrested because they are a Christian broadcaster. In some places there are clear laws against not following the state's preference. Places such as North Korea where it is an offence punishable by death to be a Christian or some Islamic states where to change your religion from Islam is not permitted. In others there is a clear bias where there are effectively (if not actually) different laws for Muslims and others.

We are fortunate to live in a country where there is little trouble following any religion or none. Even so there is in our modern world an increasing bias against the religious and a wilful re-writing of the past to expunge its positive impact from view whilst shouting loudly at any failures. Most of the time I don't mind that, especially where a priest clearly breaks their calling to live in a way that is honouring to God. We are all sinners of course but priests in particular are called to make Christ present by their lives and should have the self-control to ensure their actions support and encourage the growth and well-being of others, not damage them. As St Paul said we are to "live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly" we are to be a people "zealous for good deeds". This is a matter of choice, do I follow Christ and have ethics and courage to suit or do I follow the ways of the world? The ethical standard commanded by Jesus is actually very high and he

summed it up by telling his followers that they must love God with all they are and love their fellow human being as they love themselves.

As we struggle to respond to the current refugee crisis how does a Christian perspective hold up a light to the human disaster before us? Our responses seem to be little more than analogous with little boys and fingers in dykes. With one hand we offer some hope with the other we are helping the violence to continue there seems an obvious incompatibility in our decisions and actions. These are truly difficult questions and I won't pretend to have any good answers but it seems to me 'the West' has failed miserably and only made the situation more unstable over the last fifteen years. That maybe unfair and perhaps if we had not been involved at all it would be worse than it is. The simple fact is that in many parts of the world there are large numbers of people fighting and killing and maiming and destroying and there seems little hope of stopping it.

Hope is something Christians should excel at because we believe in someone greater and better than we are. Christmas is all about unexpected hope. Salvation and freedom are normal themes in life, freedom from political oppression, salvation from economic slavery, freedom from our own poor self-image, salvation from our failures and weaknesses. We hope eternally that tomorrow will be better than today, some people buy lottery tickets, some are walking across Europe in hope of a better tomorrow. What do you hope for as Christmas approaches? Advent is a time to reflect on what is truly important and to get ready for an eternal tomorrow in the promise of Jesus.

When Jesus is born it is not for God's benefit but for ours, it is the greatest gift of love offered by the creator for the created. It is the ultimate solution to the evils of our world if we can but grasp it and put aside our fears and weaknesses. On the cross the purpose of God is fulfilled, you cannot have Easter without Christmas and Christmas has no purpose without Easter.

What will be top of your Christmas list this year? Can you buy the things you value the most? "Peace on earth" the angels sing, the transforming presence of God offers real peace and freedom and most of all the assurance of true love. What do you hope for this Christmas?

With love and prayers  
Trevor Kemp  
Rector

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**NEWS FROM COATES**

**NEWS FROM ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH**

The Festival of Light for All Souls Day was a great success with a full church and many people travelling a great distance to attend. The churchyard twinkled from all the candles lovingly placed on graves by the congregation. Thank you to those who supplied and helped with refreshments, flowers and cleared up the following day. There was a real buzz when we enjoyed refreshments and people met up with old friends they had not seen for years.

The Pamper and Shopping Evening was an enjoyable evening, well attended and with many having treatments and starting some Christmas shopping for others and for themselves! Many thanks to all those who baked cakes and helped prior to and during the evening. We raised approximately £650 towards the running of the church and the purchase of a loo for the church. Thanks also to all those who attended and to the therapists and stall holders for their contributions.

**Upcoming events**

Advent Sunday is 29 November as we go into our preparation time for Christmas. Our Carol Service is on 20 December 2015 at 3.30pm followed by refreshments. The choir are practising weekly so should be in fine voice by then! **Please note, there will be no morning Service on this day.**

On behalf of the village hall, social club and the church we warmly invite you to a Festive Community Coffee, Cake and Chat on Tuesday 15 December 2015 from 10.30am - 12pm in Coates village hall.

The Midnight Holy Communion at St Matthews Church is 24 December 2015 starting at 11pm. On Christmas Day there will be a service at 11am.

There will be a Community Coffee, Cake and Chat on Tuesday 19 January in the village hall from 10.30am – 12pm. Please contact Sarah on 771393 with any queries. All welcome to any of our events!  
Anne Chilton and Sarah Fuchs

**TIME OUT BIBLE DISCUSSION**

The Time Out Bible discussion group for mothers of school age children in the Benefice meets twice each month on Thursdays at 10am. For further details please contact Julie on 770123 or email [julieallen47@btinternet.com](mailto:julieallen47@btinternet.com) or [juliepaulmorton@gmail.com](mailto:juliepaulmorton@gmail.com).



## COATES PARISH COUNCIL

The latest Coates Parish Council meeting took place on 2 November 2015 and the following items were discussed:

1. The Parish Council expressed its dismay at the District Council's decision to withdraw the communal recycling bins from the village. The loss of this service will impact greatly on the activities of the village club and the village hall.
2. A volunteer litter pick will be organised shortly to deal with litter problems stemming from the Halloween period. Children and young people will be particularly welcome to volunteer for this environmental project.
3. A new street sign for May Tree Close should be installed in January 2016.
4. Playground equipment repairs and a general clean-up of the area are to take place. Parents are asked to discourage their children from climbing up trees in the play area as this activity may result in injury.
5. A small budget has been earmarked to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday next year.
6. The district ward councillor's Green Fund will be used to clean and tidy road signs in Coates and to re-locate some of the dog waste bins.
7. Cotswold District Council's consultation on their Local Plan (Planning Policies) is running until 21 December 2015. Residents who wish to comment on this need to use the comment form which is available by emailing [localplan@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@cotswold.gov.uk) or from CDC offices.
8. Gloucestershire's draft Local Transport Plan Consultation (2015-2031) is now running until 5 February 2015 and a public consultation event on the Funded Public Transport Consultation will be held in Cirencester on 2 December 2015 in the Bingham Gallery at 6.30pm. Anyone who would like to attend should contact [victoria.powell@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.powell@gloucestershire.gov.uk). The consultation survey is proposing reductions to the bus services through Coates so residents are encouraged to attend the meeting or complete the survey at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fundedtransport](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fundedtransport).

The next Coates Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 5 January 2016 in the village hall at 7.30 pm.

Libby Harrison Coates Parish Clerk

## KEMBLE AND DISTRICT RBL WOMEN'S SECTION

During November it has been an immense pleasure to link up with Kemble School primary children to re-enact an evacuee event and also on the 11.11.11. animals at war remembrance at Kemble war memorial both bringing young and old together to create memories to pass on to future generations.

The Christmas Whist Drive with Derek Dunn as MC will take place in Kemble village hall on Thursday 3 December.

Pat Ayres poppy area organizer 770385

## CIRENCESTER EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

The local team will be on hand for the monthly meeting to be held on Wednesdays 2 December (with Christmas in mind, the discussions will be around managing family get togethers and the impact an eating disorder can have on those around the sufferer) and on 6 January which takes place in St Peter's Lounge, St Peter's Court, St Peter's Road, Cirencester from 7.30 - 9pm.

Please feel free to call me for a chat anytime; if the answer-phone kicks in I will ring you back at my earliest convenience.

Further details about the group in confidence can be obtained from Pat 01285 770385.

## PRAYERS IN THE BENEFICE

- ◆ Wednesdays at Kemble at 10am (Holy Communion)
- ◆ Tuesdays at Kemble at 8.30am
- ◆ Fridays at Rodmarton at 9.15am
- ◆ Saturdays at Somerford Keynes (first Saturday in the month only)

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION KEMBLE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

**Friday 4 December** - Branch Christmas evening meal at The Thames Head Pub – all members will in due course receive a letter from our Branch Chairman, John Chilton, about this event. If you are not already a member of the Royal British Legion and would like more information please contact me for details.

Julia Clarke - 770472



# WHAT'S ON @ Sapperton Village Hall

## QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 5th December  
Doors open 6.30pm, quiz starts 7.00pm  
BYO food & drink  
£5 per person - price includes a mulled wine\*  
and mince pie, teams of up to 6  
Tickets - Rachel/Chris McHugh  
01285 771183 / 0788 4130 490  
rachel.mchugh@yahoo.co.uk \*over 18s only

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paulatkin41@tiscali.co.uk

## COATES VILLAGE LOTTERY

The eighth draw of this year's Coates Village Hall lottery took place on Friday 13 November at 7.30pm, at the Family Day. There were 52 participants. Prizes were awarded as follows:-

First prize	£50 to no 32	Bob Merrill
Second prize	£30 to no 49	Margaret Reynolds
Third prize	£20 to no 44	Jan Hitchcock

Please remember that new subscribers are always welcome.

Subscriptions cost £4 per month, for any number of months from one to the number of remaining months in that year. Forms are available from Diana Crane, Betty Mixture, Ron Smith or Michael Vaughan. The next draw will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 11 December, at the village hall if there is a Family Day, or at the Old School if there is no Family Day. All are welcome to attend.

Diana Crane

## LIVE BAND

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## THE GOOD COMPANIONS

Our Christmas party will take place on Thursday 10 December. Members are asked to arrive around 12.15pm for a drink and a chat before the meal is served at 1pm. Mrs Sharon Scriven is catering for us again so we are assured of a good traditional meal. Afterwards Sharon Driscoll will entertain us and a super Christmas raffle will follow.

This occasion is for members and their guests only whose names are on the list held by the chairman, Neeve.

There will be no meeting in January so our next meeting will be on Thursday 18 February.

Betty Mixture 770569

## ?? THREAT TO COATES BUS SERVICES ??

Are you aware of the Gloucestershire County Council 'Funded Public Transport Consultation' currently underway (ends 4 January 2016)?

The GCC is apparently consulting the public about local bus services – in our case the 54A and the 881 services.

Whether you are a regular user of these services, an occasional user, or a non-user, this 'consultation' is important because the outcome could affect not only your ability to get out and about – to appointments, meetings, shopping etc., but it will affect the overall amenity in Coates.

The purpose of the survey is, according to GCC, to make these bus routes 'more sustainable in future.' The choices for route 54A, for example, are as follows:

**Option 1: Run regular interval faster and more direct route between Cirencester and Stroud on Mondays to Saturdays with a community transport solution linking villages to the main service.**

**(In other words the 54A will by-pass Coates)**

**Option 2: Run fewer journeys on Monday to Friday.**

**(In other words, the 54A would service Coates only at beginning and end of the school/work day, with nothing in between – effectively cut out the current 'free' service to travel pass holders and leaving many without transport during the day or dependent on taxis.)**

We are being asked to vote for either Option 1 or Option 2, although there is room for comment as to which would serve us 'Better' or 'Worse' or 'Same.' Survey forms are available at Gloucestershire libraries or on-line at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fundedtransport](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fundedtransport)

Or should we as Coates residents be doing something as a community? Could it be a Parish Council matter (given that Parish Councils are 'allowed to take part in any public enquiry')?

Angus Edmonds Meadway, 3 Victory Row, Coates

## RBL POPPY APPEAL, 2015

Coates residents gave nearly £400 to the Poppy Appeal this year. Thanks to everyone for their donations and to poppy sellers, Dee Perks (£51.77), Shelagh Harrison (£61.94) and Anne & John Chilton (£281.18). A further £132 came in from the two Parish pubs.

**Jolly Nice...**

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## Christmas and New Year Waste collection arrangements



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



*Collections on all days are unchanged until Friday 25 December*

Normal collection day

New revised collection day

Friday 25 Dec  
Mon 28 Dec  
Tues 29 Dec  
Weds 30 Dec  
Thurs 31 Dec  
Friday 1 Jan 2016  
Mon 4 Jan  
Tues 5 Jan  
Weds 6 Jan  
Thurs 7 Jan  
Friday 8 Jan

Mon 28 Dec  
Tues 29 Dec  
Weds 30 Dec  
Thurs 31 Dec  
Sat 2 Jan  
Mon 4 Jan  
Tues 5 Jan  
Weds 6 Jan  
Thurs 7 Jan  
Friday 8 Jan  
Saturday 9 Jan

*Collections will return to normal on Monday 11 January 2016*



### CLOSING DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Contributions should be sent to Bob Merrill at Glebe House, Coates, GL7 6NU. Telephone 07866 972389 or by e-mail to the Watershed magazine at [watershedmag@gmail.com](mailto:watershedmag@gmail.com). Articles should be in Arial font at 11 point with **formatting kept as simple as possible**. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles. **All articles should be submitted by 12 January at the latest for inclusion in the next issue.**

### Ad Hoc Property Management

All your rental, weekend or holiday property problems handled on an 'as required' basis, so no management fees or monthly retainer. Just a professional, quick and friendly service to organise:

Gas/electric, smoke and carbon monoxide checks/certificates; boilers, cooker/Aga and fire extinguisher serviced; cookers and carpets cleaned; leaks and white goods fixed; drains unblocked; chimneys swept; gardeners overseen; painting/redecoration and inventories organised and property advice.

For help or more information for properties in the Cotswold please contact Kate Dickins on 07887 500966 email

[Kate.dickins@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Kate.dickins@yahoo.co.uk)

### COBALT ANNUAL SALE

The sale was held on 31 October and raised £615 for the Cobalt funds. I am so grateful to the helpers on the day and all who supported by donating prizes, items for sale and cash and to those who came to spend! It all made for a very pleasant and sociable afternoon. Thank you.

Betty Mixture

### COATES GARDENING CLUB

The last meeting of the year will be on Thursday 3 December at 7.30 pm when we will hold our light-hearted Christmas Quiz, devised again by Carol Wilson, and tuck in to a buffet supper in Coates village hall. A glass of wine and soft drinks will be provided. For £2.50 visitors will be very welcome to join the party.

There will be no meeting in January. On February 4, 2016, Sue Albone will share some personal insights into the planning, construction and planting of one of the fabulous gardens at Chelsea Flower show in May 2015. We hope that this topic will whet appetites for another year of enjoyable outings and talks on wildlife, and local and environmental issues – all part of a gardener's world here in the Cotswolds.

Margaret Reynolds 771354



## NEWS FROM SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL

### FORGET-ME-NOT

One of my favourite times in Frampton Mansell is the annual crib service on Christmas Eve. Each year the young children sit on the floor of the church as the age old story is told around the stable. As the tale progresses, they are invited to fetch the model figures of the shepherds, baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph and so on. The children's obvious delight in this activity reminds me that the incarnation is so profound and yet so simple that all can appreciate it on different levels. Some years ago I had the privilege of visiting Bethlehem and entering what is claimed to be the birthplace of Christ. Whether it really is or not, it certainly made a profound impression on me. Firstly, one had to stoop to enter the very simple cave. The place was not grand in any kind of way. In fact it was about as humble as you could find, the rock-face blackened in places and as unattractive as could be – which gave it a ring of authenticity. I recalled those verses in Philippians chapter 2 :... "Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on the cross." (verses 5b-8)

Those verses inspired the poem which I quote in part:

### GOD

Great immeasurable Goodness,  
Perfect purity, cosmic Creator,  
Transcendent,  
Resplendent:

Becomes baby  
Born lowly  
In stable,  
Not able  
Even to feed himself-  
Needs nursing,  
Totally dependent  
on a weak woman.

### GOD

Almighty, all seeing,  
All knowing, each being  
completely made by His caring,  
Is crying,  
Helpless lying  
In a manger-  
Later, dying  
a dreadful death  
on a cruel cross.

Cannot we comprehend,  
Begin to understand  
what it cost to leave so much?

## NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

"Thanks be to God!" – cough, splutter, cough, sneeze. The older the building, the richer the acoustics and the more resonant the coughing - which breaks out randomly in one part of the nave, then spreads through the aisles, skipping back and forth, echoing, gaining in resonance and cadence, finally reaching the chancel.

The pregnant pauses are even more bizarre at Bath Abbey, as the cries and chants of partying youth outside periodically permeate the building – "Thanks be to God!" – cough, splutter – "Here we go, here we go..." , cough, splutter, snuffle, wheeze. Once a very loud "Bleeding 'ell!" came in upon the midnight clear there, just after it had been announced that the darkness had apprehended it not.

Then there's the over-excited very small children in the congregation who know something massive is happening, but haven't a clue what, and get stressed out and break down in tears, noisily – exit a shushing Mum, with small child, invariably wearing noisy shoes which clod-hopper spectacularly on the ancient flagstones.

But never mind any of these minor impediments. There is always the crying of humanity, and on Christmas Eve it is almost unanimously happy for once. We should celebrate that. Better still, the Christmas message always conveys itself across. Because it is not a story. It is actual, even if we punctuate it with absurd amounts of interjectory coughing.

So this Christmas Eve, please don't forget your cough sweets...  
Matthew Oates

## DILLYCOT FLOWERS

Country garden flowers, grown and arranged naturally for all occasions. Freshly gathered and seasonal, for parties, weddings, bouquets, also available to flower arrangers.

Email: [sally@dillycot.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:sally@dillycot.fsnet.co.uk)

## NOTES FROM CULKERTON (cont)

### GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY (cont)

much in one time will produce an abundance of non-flowering water shoots.

Salad leaves can be picked through the winter and if the weather is mild another sowing of the winter mix can be made under glass. If you have sufficient space with a little heat early January sowings of tomatoes, aubergines, antirrhinums and sweet peas. Remember to have enough growing on room during March and April.

Christmas table decorations and presents can be grown using various bulbs: Narcissus 'Paperwhite', Hyacinths, Crocus, Tulips and Amaryllis. At this stage they may not flower in time for Christmas but they will give the recipient something to look forward to, and promising buds are always attractive to gardeners, who relish anticipation. Grow most bulbs on in good light and away from direct heat, keep just moist. Amaryllis on the other hand grows very fast and loves a sunny windowsill, also 24hr warmth, so move into the room over night, and water on demand once the bud starts to grow! Walk around your garden at Christmas for flowers to cut and bring into the house. There is often a surprise out of season contender to make you smile!

Also look out for unusual winter garden visitors like bullfinches. A few weeks ago a migrating yellow or grey wagtail briefly made a visit to us; you never know what you might see!

Sally Oates

### NINE LESSONS

The highlight of Christmas for me is the Nine Lessons & Carols service my family attends at Bath Abbey. They always include *Of The Father's Heart Begotten*, my favourite carol.

I would go to more than one Nine Lessons service, only there are, at best, two windows of opportunity – Christmas Eve and, if you're lucky, the Sunday before Christmas. Perhaps Christmas Eve brings out a competitive element within the C of E, with every parish church simultaneously bidding for our attendance. I have been known to go into Cirencester on a Saturday morning before Christmas, purely to drop in at the Shoppers' Carol Service in St John Baptist church.

One curiosity about Nine Lessons is, of course, the coughing. Indeed, it could be dubbed Nine Lessons & Coughing, on account of the spontaneous coughing that breaks out during each pregnant pause –



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### SERVICE AND COFFEE

We are holding a said communion service, followed by coffee on the first Tuesday of the month, 1 December, at Woodstock in Frampton Mansell. The service will start at 11am with coffee and a natter at 11.30am.

We would love to see you for either or both. Want to know more? Need a lift? Phone Pepita or Paul on 760211.



### Need Help Around the Garden?

No job too small

Lawn Mowing & General Garden Maintenance

Reliable, Coates based, Competitive Rates

Contact Paul 01285 771190 - 07890 642360

**FRAMPTON MANSELL RURAL CINEMA  
IAN McKELLEN**

in

**MR HOLMES (PG)**

**on Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm**

**(Doors open at 7pm)**

***'A subtle and moving film'***

Long-retired and near the end of his life, Sherlock Holmes (Ian McKellen) grapples with an unreliable memory and must rely on his housekeeper's son as he revisits the still-unsolved case that led to his retirement.

Adults : £3.50, under 16: £2.50

**Christmas Special – mulled wine and mincepies!**

**SAPPERTON AND FRAMPTON MANSELL PARISH  
COUNCIL**

Sapperton and Frampton Mansell Parish Council meets monthly (except in August) on the second Tuesday of the month and we alternate the venue between the village halls in each village. The parish councillors are: Sarah Osborn-Smith (Chair), John Bullock (Vice-Chair), Charles Houldsworth (Treasurer), Sara Taylor, Paul Dingley, Paul Lane and Kath Sanderson who is also the Clerk. Our contact details and the dates and venues of our meetings are posted on the village notice boards. We also put the agenda and the minutes of each meeting on the notice boards.

At each meeting, the agenda includes a public forum and we welcome your attendance. Should you wish to raise an issue, please do not hesitate to contact us. For further information about the parish council, please contact:

Kath Sanderson at [sappertonandfmpc@btinternet.com](mailto:sappertonandfmpc@btinternet.com) or on 760480.

**NOTES FROM CULKERTON**

**GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

As soon as the clocks go back I'm in winter gardening mode with the evenings drawing in far too soon. So continue a general tidy up, weeding being the primary task and clearing unattractive herbaceous top growth, but leave architectural seed heads.

Any garden pots not planted with evergreens for winter or spring displays of bulbs are best emptied of compost and stored in a dry shed; particularly if ceramic pots are not frost proof. Many imported terracotta pots are not fired to a high enough temperature and crack or flake apart during the cold wet months. Planted pots can also be wrapped in insulating layers of bubble wrap, which can be made more attractive with a final layer of hessian and secured with twine. In severe cold this also prevents root damage. Check that any surplus water can drain from the pots; pot feet, bricks, tiles or stone used in threes avoiding the central drainage hole will help.

Trimmed herbaceous tops, annual weeds, leaves and old compost from summer pots can all be added to the compost bin; by turning the bins the composting process is shortened. Simply fill the bins to full capacity and when the level inside drops by about a quarter, remove the bin by pulling it up and away from the contents. The part made compost can then be forked back into the bin, and is completely turned in the process. I'm careful to be gentle with the many resident worms as these are my compost makers.

If you notice puddles forming in vegetable or flower borders, loosen any compacted soil to allow free drainage. Worn areas of turf can be aerated with a fork.

While the weather stays mild without frost there is still time to move plants and split large clumps; aim to retain as much root as possible, add compost to the planting holes and water in this allows fine soil particles to be next to the roots rather than air pockets.

Winter pruning fruit and ornamental trees should only be carried out in dry frost free weather, when dormant. The basic rules are remove dead wood first, then crossing or inward growing and finally step back and see if the overall shape needs adjusting.

In older fruit trees reducing congestion is important, as this will improve the fruit size and quality allowing more light and air to ripen the fruit. This may well be more renovating than just an annual prune and a much bigger task, so aim to do this over several coming winters as too



## RODMARTON CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 5th December 2pm  
until 4pm

Visit Father  
Christmas in his  
Grotto



Rodmarton Village Hall  
Free entry - everyone welcome

Stalls, crafts, Christmas tree of  
wishes, mulled wine, mince pies,  
Crepes and lots more...

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11:15am - 2yrs+



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kimsjojingles@gmail.com  
www.jojingles.com/centralglos



## SCHOOL TIES - SAPPERTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL NEWS



School's Out! And it's the run up to Christmas – the busiest time of the year in a primary school! And for those of you who are still reeling from the triple broadsides of Halloween, Fireworks and the School Disco in Coates village hall (I say - can you still hear me?) all within a fortnight, I am afraid to say that there is just not going to be any respite!

First of all there is the Advent Service at 2pm on Monday 30 November in St Kenelm's Church (Sapperton), followed at 0930hrs the next day with a return of the creative *ISingPop!* group that led the school in a rousing singathon before half term – this time with a more theatrical style agenda (please keep an eye on Parent Mail for more details) - then its on to Bishops Walk, Cirencester at 10am on Saturday 5 December for carol singing with the school (in uniform and tinsel) before returning to St Kenelms 10 days later for the Nativity Play on 15 December with performances at 2pm and 7pm. Finally, we steam back up harbour and Pay Off for the end of term on 18 December - Phew!

Mind you, it could have been worse - I have been informed that the Press Gang, although they collared enough recruits for service in the Queen's Navy, actually ran out of sea room (village hall space) and, as a result, the *Parents' Panto* has had to be postponed until the New Year. This means that all you shy thespians out there can now relax and walk around in perfect safety for a month or so – well apart from the raffle ticket privateers of course.

No *School Ties!* Is complete without a quick bit of *Sports News* and last month the main events were the X-Country Relays at Kingshill School which saw Sapperton, with all hands to the pumps, field both boys' and girls' teams for years 3 - 6, managing to enter a team for every race. Not bad considering that many of our competitors came from much larger schools.

Finally, and as ever, all are welcome to all events described above and, if any of you happen to be passing though the school en route, do please enjoy the toasty warmth generated from the storage heaters in the new classrooms.

Enjoy the run up to Christmas!  
Molesworth

## **NEWS FROM RODMARTON, TARLTON, CULKERTON AND HAZLETON**

### **THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT**

And in thy meditation, when our Lady fleeth into Egypt, let her not go alone, but go with her, and have an opinion that it is true that she was taken by thieves. And among them the master-thief had a son, which started to our Lady and undid her lap, and found her sweet child lying. And there came such gleams of light and brightness out of his blessed face that this thief knew well in his heart that this child was of greater majesty than any other poor man, and for great love he clasped him in his arms and kissed him, saying devoutly, O thou most blessed among all that ever were, hereafter when thou comest to thy great Lordship, in case thou see me ever in any mishap, help me and have mind of this time, for I will keep thee and thy mother harmless. It is said that this was that same thief crucified on Christ's right side, which rebuked that other that hung on his left, saying to him, Dost thou not fear God. And then he turned to Christ, and seeing the same shining and brightness that he had long before seen in his face on his mother's lap, with all the veins of his heart he cried, Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Sister, to stir thee to more tenderness of love, have an opinion that this tale is true, without the rashness of wholly affirming it.

St Aelred of Rievaulx (1109-1167), *A Rule for Recluses, to his Sister*  
anonymous translation, ca. 1390

### **RODMARTON CHURCH CHOIR**

Forthcoming choir services are:

20 December	Carol Service
25 December	Christmas Day
7 February	Candlemas

### **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION AT RODMARTON FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Rodmarton was delighted to welcome the local branch of the Royal British Legion to their annual Remembrance Sunday service on the afternoon of 8 November. The Cirencester Band provided the music, and a full church repaired afterwards to the village hall for a splendid array of cakes and tea. Thanks to Marian who organized the teas and to all who assisted.

# Quiz Night

**Saturday 6 February 2016, 7.30pm prompt**

**Venue:**

**Rodmarton Village Hall**

**£12 entry per person including 2 course meal**

**Wine Bar**

**All profits are in aid of the churches of St Peter and St Osmund**

**Teams of six or join a team: to book please ring**

**01285 770401**

### **RODMARTON BELLS**

At the time of writing it is expected, fingers crossed, that the three bells at St Peter's, Rodmarton will be restored to full working use for swing chiming very soon. Two of the bells date from 1626 and the younger one from 1716 so they have seen a few changes in their time. The bells themselves are in good order but the working parts and some of the supporting timbers were worn out and needed replacing. Money was raised to pay for it from donations, grants and a bingo night. Many thanks to all involved.



## **COME AND JOIN US!**

**At Kemble Primary School**

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**(with an option to collect at 11.45am)**

**Now also open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from  
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