



CHURCH DIARY FOR January 2009

Sunday, January 4th - Epiphany

10.00 am All-age Service

Sunday, January 11th - Epiphany 1

8.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, January 18th - Epiphany 2

9.30 am Parish Communion

Sunday, January 25th - Epiphany 3

9.30 am Morning Prayer

There will be a midweek service of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 10.00 am at Holy Cross

From the Register RIP

December 29 The funeral of Derrick Bush

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE The Revd Roger Powell (01793 740369)

CHURCHWARDENS Charlotte Frost (841361)
Gordon Mudge (841338)

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Please provide any contributions for the next issue to the new Editors by 20th January. Full contact details on the front page.



The Dragon

The Village Newsletter for
Ogbourne St George

January 2009



Welcome to the New Editors

Good News to start the year – the Dragon will continue to be published and delivered to your door in 2009. There hasn't exactly been a stampede of volunteers beating a path to my door but I am delighted to say that Megan Shaw and Julia Wall have put themselves forward to take on The Dragon.

Megan, with her husband Mike, runs the Inn with the Well and is well known in the village. Her two daughters Natalie and Lauren attended the village school and have now moved on to secondary education. Julia lives with her husband Andy at "Staddles". Their three sons – Jake, Zach and Raff also attended the Village school and are now at St John's.

The Dragon was the idea of Timothy and Richenda George. They started it in July 1999 and ran it successfully for five years – although don't probe too deeply about where the Dragon logo came from!! Its purpose is to foster community spirit in the village by keeping everyone informed of what is going on in this small community. The aim is to let villagers know what events are coming up and to give details of the work of the Parish Council and the Church and the achievements and personal stories of villagers. The Dragon is totally dependent on its readers to supply information that will be interesting or useful to others. Those that run it are editors rather than reporters. The subtle difference is that they rely on others to provide the information rather than having to go out and source it.

Megan and Julia will do an excellent job of producing The Dragon and I wish them every success. Please give them all the help you can by keeping them informed of what is happening – diary dates, special birthdays, anniversaries, sporting prowess, and school successes and pupil achievements. The contact details for the February issue are:

**Julia Wall Tel. 07814970923 email julia.wall@btconnect.com and
Megan Shaw Tel. 841445 email info@theinnwiththewell.com**

A Big Thank You to all my Helpers. In this, my final issue, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to my helpers who have toiled through all weathers to deliver the Dragon to your doors. Many thanks to Dave and Dilys Childs, Ron and Heather Elsey, Charlotte Frost, Ineke Scott and George Edwins. Not least - thank you also to Cliff Freeman for his help in printing the Dragon.

The Revd Roger Powell writes...

Happy New Year! None of us knows what lies ahead for us, no doubt the coming year will, as always, have its own mixture of good and bad experiences, both in the wider world and in our own personal lives too. We cannot predict the future and isn't that a good thing too.

We can, however, be sure that whatever happens God will not desert us. His name is 'Emmanuel', which means 'God-is-with-us'. God never abandons us. The Bible has many passages concerning God being with his people no matter what. One of the most memorable comes at the end of chapter 8 of St Paul's letter to the Romans it says,

"I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

If we are able to live our lives radiating this confidence, what a difference it would make to us and to those around us.

There will be good times, there will be bad times, but at all times let us remember that our God is 'Emmanuel', 'God-is-with-us'. **Fr Roger**

Please save your stamps!

The Albatross are under threat because they go under the water to fish for food and they get caught and killed by the fish hooks on the fishing lines. You can help the albatross by collecting stamps and in January we will send all the stamps to the RSPB who will sell the stamps. The money is used to buy an Albatross scarer.

So that they won't go near the fishing boats. I would be grateful if you could collect all your stamps and give them to the school or Veronica Macdonald at The Sanctuary.

Church Choir. "We are always looking for singers to join the church choir. There is no commitment to sing every Sunday or attend a lot of rehearsals. Anyone who may be interested please contact Rosemary Wallace." Tel 841405. email: raw_orestonehse@btinternet.com

More than 80 Wiltshire walks to download and print FREE!

There's no doubt about it, walking is good for you. It's good for your heart, it's good for your lungs, it's good for the muscle and bone growth of your children and it's good for your feeling of wellbeing! Strong scientific evidence now supports the many benefits to health of regular walking – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day. So, how do you find out what is on offer? John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for – he had better create it! So <http://www.walkinginwiltshire.org.uk> came into being.

<http://www.walkinginwiltshire.org.uk> gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County: Details of more than 80 walks to download and print free, details of all the Wiltshire walking groups, maps and walk books – plus loads more information.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council held an additional meeting on Friday December 12th in order to let villagers have the opportunity to discuss the planning application for the proposed new school hall. Following the resignation of Keith Wallace at the previous meeting, Martin Groves was elected as the new Parish Council Chairman and Paul Rouse as Vice Chairman. The minutes from the last meeting were amended to include that the Chairman of that meeting, Cllr Keith Wallace, had read out two statements, one being a solicitor's letter. These documents have been retained within the Parish records.

Following matters arising from the previous meeting the Council discussed the School Hall Planning Application taking into account comments they had gathered from Parishioners. Two councillors, Christine Mudge and Paul Willis both declared a personal interest because they live close to the proposed new hall.

Essentially the Parish Council has no objection to the plans and noted that the School had made considerable effort to listen to objections and had amended the plans accordingly. It was proposed to approve the plans with two conditions:

"that the new hall should be used for community uses which cannot be held at the village hall" and

"the community use should not continue beyond 10pm whilst the village hall exists."

The meeting was thrown open to the public so that further discussion could take place. After listening to the views of those attending, the first condition was amended to state:

"The school hall will not be in competition with the existing facility of the village hall but will only complement the existing provision where there is a specific need to do so." There was unanimous approval of the two conditions and it was resolved to make these conditions known to the planning authority.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday January 8 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Gras, A Carnival of Fair Trade

Devizes Town Hall on Saturday 21st February 10.00am – 3.30pm. All Welcome

How much do you know about Fair Trade? You are invited to visit Devizes Town Hall to find out more. Wiltshire Churches Together, Devizes Town Council and The Devizes Fair Trade Group have come together to organise a day of feasting and fun and to promote Devizes Fair Trade fortnight (Monday 23rd February to Sunday 8th March) and to celebrate the commitment to Fair Trade by Wiltshire Towns and Churches.

On Saturday 21st February 2009 from 10.00am to 3.30pm catch something of the taste and flavour of Fair Trade and Ethically produced food and drink in a Carnival, New Orleans style atmosphere. The Town Hall will host the event with various stalls, a wine bar and opportunities to sample and buy Fair Traded food, wine and a variety of different products and gifts. Browse around Fair Trade stalls and drop in and hear from a variety of speakers about Fair Trade issues throughout the day. At 11am there will be a service of celebration at St John's church. Come and join in fun and games for all the family. This is a great way both to have a good time and to help the Fair Trade cause and hopefully brighten the end of a Wiltshire Winter Further details from Danela Adams at the Ramsbury Office on 01380 729808