

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

December 2015

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." *Isaiah 9 v6*

Changes to the Times and Dates of Services from December 2015 – Unfortunately, it has been necessary to make some changes to timings of services to retain all the services across the Benefice. The loss of several well established Readers meant it was becoming very difficult to provide a priest or Reader for all the services on the current schedule. Under the new timings it has been possible to add 3 extra services. The new schedule will be reviewed, in due course, to see if any adjustment is possible which could lessen any concerns raised by individual churches.

Details of the new services are shown on the usual pages at the start of the CBO News. The key change for Buckland St Mary is that services will start at 9.15am and for Birchwood that the 8.30am service will now be the 3rd Sunday of the month and the 6pm evening service (held in the summer only) will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month. **Please note, though, that the Christmas Day Family Communion Service is at 10.30am as usual.** There will be no refreshments afterwards so people can get back to check on their Christmas dinners!

Children's' Christmas Club Day – 10.00 - 12.00 Noon 12th December 2015 – at Buckland St Mary Village Hall - following the tremendous success of the summer holiday and Harvest events, Cheryl Govier, the Church Youth Worker, is inviting children (of all ages) to a morning of fun Christmas Activities! **N.B** Please note the event is for children although parents (and other family members or guardians) are invited to stop and have a coffee and mince pie when collecting the children at 12.00.

Birchwood Church Carol Service – 3pm on 13th December 2015 – is the date of the annual carol service by candlelight. Please come and experience the very special atmosphere of the beautiful church in the wood - all are welcome.

Churchyard Clean up – 7th November 2015

Unfortunately, because of the bad weather this event was cancelled. Some people did nevertheless turn out to give the churchyard a spruce up despite the wind and rain; many thanks for your efforts.

Remembrance Sunday – 8th November 2015

This year's Remembrance Day service was well attended although the poor weather meant the actual act of remembrance took place in the church, instead of by the War Memorial. The collection of £248.15 (£8 of which was gift-aided) will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

Community Carol Service at the church of St Mary the Virgin Buckland St Mary – 6.30pm on Thursday 17th December 2015 – a time for all the village to come together – young and old – with friends and family to enjoy a traditional carol service. Pupils from the village school and the Community Choir will be taking part. Seasonal refreshments will be served after the service.

Community Coffee Morning – please note there is no Community coffee morning in December - Surprisingly there are no bookings for Community Coffee Mornings for 2016 – we do need people to step forward to run these events which are a great way for the village to get together for a chat and a drink whilst raising money for your chosen cause.

If you would be willing to run a coffee morning for a chosen charity or good cause please contact Margery Harkness on 01460 234599 who takes the bookings for these events. We could really do with someone for January so please do get in touch.

100+ Club Draws – renewals for 2016 will be sent out shortly and we hope everyone will be happy to continue to take part. If you are not a member but are interested in joining please contact Kay Wyatt, Treasurer, 01460 234475 or email kay@kenandkay.plus.com for details.

Happy Christmas and New Year – to all people in the parish and we hope we can welcome you to your church at some point in the near future. Do let us know if transport issues or other causes make it difficult to attend so we can see what help we can offer.

Vicki Bell and Lynda Creek, Churchwardens