

ST MARY'S  
NORTH MYMMS



# Parish Magazine

DECEMBER 2006

Price 40p



## Parish Diary for December

**Sun 3rd      Advent Sunday**

8.00am      Holy Communion  
9.30am      Parish Eucharist (CW) & Junior Church  
11.00am     Home Communions for the Sick  
6.30pm      Advent Carol Service at Cathedral and Abbey Church  
of St. Alban      [*No Evensong at St Mary's*]

Mon 4th    9.30am      Team Communion at St Mary's  
              7.30pm      Advent Concert at St Michael's Birchwood

Sat 9th    10-12 noon    'Readers' Workshop  
              12-2pm      St Mary's School Christmas Fair

**Sun 10th                      Second Sunday of Advent**

8.00am      Holy Communion (CW\*)  
9.30am      Parish Eucharist (CW) & Junior church  
6.30pm      Evensong (BCP) with Communion

Mon 11th 9.30am      Team Communion at St Luke's, Hatfield  
Tues 12th 2.15pm      Women's Fellowship

**Sun 17th                      Third Sunday of Advent**

8.00am      Holy Communion (CW)  
9.30am      Parish Eucharist (CW) with Junior Church  
6.30pm      Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Mon 18th 9.30am      Team Communion

Wed 20th 10.00am      St Mary's Church School Service

**Sun 24th                      Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve**

8.00am      Holy Communion (CW\*)  
9.30am      Parish Eucharist  
4.00pm      Crib Service (children wishing to take part to come at  
3.30 pm - costumes provided)  
11.30 pm      Midnight Mass

CW - Common Worship  
\* - Traditional Language  
BCP - Book of Common Prayer

*/contd. inside back cover*



## Christmas Services at St. Mary's

**Sunday 17th December**

**6.30 pm** Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 24th September Christmas Eve**

**4.00pm** Crib Service (Children wishing to take part to come at **3.30pm** - costumes provided.)

**11.30 pm** Midnight Mass

**Monday 25th December Christmas Day**

**8.00 am** Holy Communion

**9.30 am** Family Service with Communion

### Your Vicar writes:

#### **I wish it could be Christmas every day.....!**

How does that sound? The young among us (biologically and at heart!) might greet that statement with huge enthusiasm. Yet for others – those working in retail, teachers, stressed-out parents, those from small families perhaps – we might be tempted to run screaming for the nearest darkened room and stay there until early January! Yet, love it or detest it, Christmas is almost upon us again and all around the world people are making plans for it in earnest.

All around the world..... it's amazing to realise that in different ways and at different times, so many people are preparing to celebrate Christmas; revellers on the beach somewhere in the southern hemisphere, amidst the snow and ice in the far north, soldiers under canvas in an alien land and at all points and continents in between we'll be wishing each other 'Merry Christmas'. Even people for whom Christmas is not part of their tradition will know something about 25th December.

It's a festival we share with millions of others, a time of year when we are perhaps more inclined to think of some of those 'others'; those who we know and can only keep in touch with by Christmas card, but those who we

don't know but also feel concern about. Christmas is a time for more open hearts, when we're inclined to give to 'good causes' because we're suddenly aware of what we have compared to others around the world.

At the heart of Christmas is the joy of sharing. It is a time to be generous with our homes in hospitality, making space – often literally! – for others to come and stay. It's a time to 'go over the top' with present giving and the season when we want to live and let live – 'it's Christmas, after all!'

Whether we have a Christian perspective or not, we all know the pleasure of sharing and how delightful it is to be generous and to be on the receiving end of other people's generosity.

In our openness and sharing with one another, we are touching on the very essence and the heart of God, who is so generous to us. He comes to us, not showering us with showy gifts to impress and persuade, but quietly, humbly, in vulnerability and at great risk. We may, after all, reject God's carefully chosen gift that he has waited an eternity to reveal to us all. A gift that gives meaning to all the rest of what we're about in life and what makes it worth living.

Remembering God's generosity in the extraordinary story of the arrival of the baby Jesus – and echoing that generosity in whatever way we can – is the essence of the Christmas spirit which we share with millions all over the world. Whether we're rich or poor, eager or stressed out, there's something we each have to give. It doesn't have to be materially lavish, even a smile to the person at the supermarket check-out, a warm greeting to someone we've been avoiding recently, or a cheery smile to the driver who's just pinched 'our' parking space! There are many ways to plug into the Christmas spirit.

Yes, it's an imperfect world and we've still so much to learn, but this is the season to put our sadnesses, fears and disappointments aside, reflect on God with thankfulness at his goodness and join in the celebrations. The season of goodwill to all people, hope for the future of our planet and the diversity of human beings, based on the certainty that God has shown us he thinks we're worth risking everything for, and comes quietly to remind us again and again.

May the love of God unfold before our eyes,  
the light of the Spirit shine around us  
and the Christ-child be met in those we meet  
and in ourselves.

With love and blessings  
Sally

## Year 5 go to Church



In November, we visited two local churches, St Mary's in North Mymms and St Thomas More in Station Road, Welham Green.. We wanted to compare the buildings and their objects.

St Thomas More is a modern church that was named after a man who stood up to Henry VIII.

'We were very surprised when we saw the font, because we didn't expect to see it at the back of the church,' commented Kyle, a child from Year 5.

Father Philip, the priest at St Thomas More, baptised a baby doll. He used special oils to make a cross on the baby's head.

On the 14th of November, we went to St Mary's. We looked at the stained glass windows and saw lots of pictures of Jesus.



My favourite part was eating the bread and grapes. It was relaxing and peaceful,' Natalie told Sally, our Vicar.

We learned different things about each church. My biggest surprise was that I didn't know St Mary's was bombed in the war.

We enjoyed ourselves and would like to thank Father Philip and Sally.

*Year 5  
St Mary's School*



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## A Spirited Woman: Hilda of Whitby



At evensong on Sunday, 19th November, we remembered Hilda of Whitby whose festival occurs that day each year and whose life is celebrated among the saints of the Church.

After a week in which the achievements of women priests in the Church of England were called into question, following a journalist's report of remarks made out of context by the Archbishop of Canterbury, it seemed wholly appropriate to remind ourselves of this inspiring woman's achievements.

Hilda was born in 614 and was grand-niece of King Edwin of Northumbria. Her father is believed to have been poisoned when Hilda was a small child and so she may well have been brought up in the King's household. When she was 13, Hilda was baptised by a Roman missionary, Paulinus, at York. She was mentored in her faith by another missionary, Aidan, who strengthened the work in the region begun by Paulinus. In her early 30s, Hilda decided to become a nun and join her sister at a convent in Gaul. She got as far as East Anglia but was called back by Aidan, who promptly made her Abbess of a religious house in Hartlepool.

After a number of years there, Hilda moved to Streanaeshalch (later sensibly re-named 'Whitby' by the Danes!) where she established a double monastery that was occupied by both men and women. The place grew in influence and became the venue for an historic event that was to be a significant turning point in the history of the English Church. In 664, the King of Northumbria chose the monastery to host a Synod - the first church government of its kind - where representatives of two influential strands of Christianity, Celtic and Roman, came together with the purpose of establishing unity of practice in choosing the date Easter was observed. A further area of debate was, rather curiously, the style of tonsure (shaved head) adopted by monks and clergy.

The Northumbrian King had grown up in Ireland and was brought up according to Celtic Christian customs. His wife, Queen Eanfleda, however, was brought up in Kent and she observed Roman church practices. In such a household where Easter must have been celebrated on 2 different occasions in the year, one can imagine the need for unity in this matter was a pressing concern for the King!

Hilda supported the Celtic party, whose spokesman was Bishop Colman; the Romans were represented by Bishop Agilbert. It was a closely fought debate but Rome won the day. The Celtic clergy who felt unable to accept the decision

withdrew to Iona and later Ireland. In spite of her former allegiances, Hilda graciously accepted this outcome and faithfully worked to reconcile the two parties.

The Venerable Bede describes Hilda as ‘a woman of great energy, a skilled administrator and teacher.’ She gained such a reputation for wisdom that even kings and princes sought her advice.

Yet she never forgot the ordinary folk and showed concern for them too. One such individual was Caedmon, a herdsman attached to the Abbey. He was inspired in a dream to sing verses in praise of God

but had no musical training; Hilda recognised this latent gift and encouraged Caedmon to develop it. He went on to become an accomplished and inspirational religious poet.

Hilda had enormous influence on others too: no less than five monks from the Abbey at Whitby went on to serve as Bishops, and another became a saint - St John of Beverley! Faithful to the gospel, at the heart of which is reconciliation, Hilda dedicated her life to bringing people of difference together. She supported and encouraged education for religious people and lay members of the community and is known as the patron saint of culture and learning. Her strong character nevertheless inspired affection and again, Bede writes: ‘All who knew her called her mother because of her outstanding devotion and grace.’

Hilda died in 680, after suffering poor health for several years – but not before founding another Abbey in Hackness. Living in an era that we don’t usually associate as presenting many opportunities for women to exercise their gifts fully, Hilda is wonderful example of what a person can achieve with tenacity, acting in humility and faithfulness to God. It is right that we continue to remember her and honour her life achievements 1400 years later.

*Sally Davenport*

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## **Borehamwood Brass comes to St. Mary's**

The evening of Saturday, Oct 14th saw St. Mary's, North Mymms, play host to a musical event of high quality, stimulating variety and just great fun. The accommodation of some 14 musicians made elegant use of the Chancel, fully occupying the space created by the re-ordering. Also, my initial fear that such a concentration of brass instruments in a small church would be overwhelming proved to be quite unfounded, the Chancel walls enclosing the sound to produce a most pleasing effect.

As described in the October edition of the Church Magazine, Borehamwood Brass was formed in 1971 and performs locally at venues including churches and fetes in Radlett and Borehamwood, proceeds being donated to the NSPCC. Directed by Derek Holland, a primary school teacher who also directs two Light Operatic Societies, the band's repertoire is said to embrace a wide range of different types of music - from light music to jazz. This claim was amply illustrated by the programme of over twenty items with an interval of 20 minutes for which a sumptuous buffet had been organised by Diana Glanfield and her team.

Starting with a traditional march by Kenneth Alford, the programme moved through a Rossini overture, Tancredi, to Hoagy Carmichael's

Georgia on my Mind, featuring a haunting trumpet solo. This was followed by a vocal item when Samantha Barrington abandoned her tenor horn to deliver a delicate soprano rendering of The Holy City with organ accompaniment by the director.

Two items of British light music were then followed by Grandfather's Clock which included a stunning euphonium solo, and then to a jazz composition, 'Li'l Darlin', composed by Neal Hefti for Count Basie in 1950 and followed by a waltz, Nights of Gladness by Charles Ancliff, designed for the brass band repertoire.

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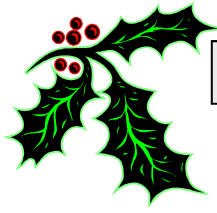
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An excerpt from Gluck's Orpheus and Euridice, featuring a trombone solo, led into Percy Grainger's Shepherds Hey, originally written for piano and the first half concluded with Hoagy Carmichael's Stardust in a special arrangement for brass band.

The second half opened with March of the Bowmen from the Robin Hood Suite by Clifford Curzon followed by music from the Student Prince by Sigmund Romberg. This led to another vocal contribution from Samantha Barrington - Climb Every Mountain from the Sound of Music, also with organ accompaniment

All that Jazz from the musical Chicago then was followed by Whispering Brass, created by Harry Mortimer to demonstrate the use of delicacy in brass band performance. The Sinatra favourite Something Stupid then led to Autumn Leaves, of Mantovani fame and the novelty number Pop Goes the Weasel by George Hawkins.

The evening concluded with the rousing Dambusters' March, written by Eric Coates in 1942 and used in the 1954 film.

A well entertained, though sadly not capacity, audience then departed into the Autumn night. To anyone who missed this event, any similar future occasion can be recommended as a most enjoyable evening.

*Vivian Weeks*

## Music at St Alban's Abbey

**Saturday 9th December 7.30pm**

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Tickets: £20, £16, £10; reserved; £10, £5 - unreserved.

Ticket Secretary tel: 01582 763113

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**Saturday 16th December**

**3.00pm Family Carol Concert**

**7.00pm Carol Concert**

St Albans Bach Choir and Alberti

Brass Conductor: Andrew Lucas

Organ: Andrew Parnell

Afternoon tickets £5 - children under 12 free; evening tickets £7.50

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## Parish Profile: Dave Lines



Dave Lines has been a very familiar face at the garage in Welham Green for almost the last thirty years!

Dave was born in Barnet; the oldest of eight having four sisters and three brothers. His Dad was a milkman and his Mum a housewife. Dave attended Livingstone school and then moved to John Hampden school.

Leaving school at fourteen, he started working at Hudson's Garage in Potters Bar and then moved on to the Clockhouse Garage in New Barnet as a trainee. Dave stayed at the Clockhouse Garage until 1976 when, following a six month stint at Fleetwood Cars in New Barnet, he moved to Welham Green.

On May 23rd 1977, Dave Lines and Malcolm Sargeant began their partnership, which lasted until a couple of months ago when Malcolm retired. The pair spent the first few years building up the repairs side of the business by working seven days a week. (The previous proprietor had run an automatic transmissions business from the garage). Dave found the business a passion rather than work and within a few years they had built it into the business it is today.

In September 2006, the business was

sold and Dave has stayed on in a managerial role. Although still very busy, Dave hopes to be less pressured in this new role.

Over the years of working at Welham Green, Dave has lived in many areas: Finchley, Potters Bar, Datchworth, Bassingbourn, Hatfield and more recently in Vincenzo Close, Welham Green.

He has seen many changes in the ownership of shops in Dellsome Parade and recalls the tradition of pancake races up and down the road. Prior to the building of Vincenzo Close, the garage was hoping to build a workshop on some of the land behind the garage. This never took place as the owner needed the land for his coal yard as the rest had been sold for development into what is now Vincenzo Close.

Dave is married to Janis, an HR Director and he has four grown-up children: Jenny, Craig, and twins Lisa and Dean. He enjoys golf and has been a member of Brookmans Park Golf Club since 1991.

He and Janis have an apartment in Spain and enjoy a couple of golfing holidays with friends every year. The apartment has ten golf courses within a five mile radius. The ladies are now joining their husbands and 'catching up fast' adds Dave with a smile!

*Sara Boothby*

## Interactive Christian Extension Studies

I.C.E.S. are a series of courses written by theologians that help you to explore in depth the Bible and Christian issues. You can study to your own level, whether 'just for fun' or in order to gain a certificate or diploma. (The courses are validated by Middlesex University)

Have you ever wondered who wrote the books of the Bible and why? Why are there 4 gospels and do they contradict each other? Is the Old Testament still relevant today? Well, this might be the course for you.

Each student receives a course book divided into 10 separate units. Each unit takes about 4-6 hours of study at your own home. There is normally a fortnightly tutorial during school term-time when a group of students get together with a tutor to discuss the unit just completed. Tutorials are times of lively debate, laughter and sharing. Because students come from a variety of Churches and backgrounds there is a real opportunity to learn from each other and see how God is working in a wider area.

There are exams but these are optional and many students choose not to do them.

I am a member of St. Mark's Church, Colney Heath. Once my son went to school I decided to do the I.C.E.S. courses in order to explore the Bible in more depth than I was able to do in the Church home groups.

I really enjoyed the discipline of studying the Bible and found the tutorials really helpful in my walk with God. Now having completed the courses I am going to become a tutor locally.

Starting in February 2007 I shall be running 'The Introduction to Christian Ethics' course. Tutorials will be on Wednesday afternoons (1.30pm - 3pm) once a fortnight at my house in Colney Heath.

The course looks at how we as Christians respond to the moral questions facing us today covering such topics as euthanasia, homosexuality, war etc.

In September I shall move on to one of the Biblical courses. You don't have to be academic to do these courses; just have a love for God's word and an open mind to learn. If you are interested and would like to join, or just want to know more then call me :

Amanda Furlong on 01727 825601 or e-mail [thefurlongs@mac.com](mailto:thefurlongs@mac.com)

The price for the course book is £45, the tutorials are free.

If you are interested but work there are other groups in the diocese that meet in the evenings. Sally will have some leaflets, or again contact me.

*Amanda Furlong*

**Statement issued at the bi-lateral meeting between the Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Church of England House of Bishops**

The Church of England House of Bishops and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales joined together for a bi-lateral meeting in Leeds, on November 14th - 15th.

The bishops were chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

The meeting, fraternal in character, was based on shared prayer, discussion and a desire for further development of their shared Christian witness. Their reflections were resourced by the work of the International Anglican – Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM), whose report is expected to be published in 2007.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Statement from Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, and Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor:**

'This historic meeting, forty years on from the visit of Archbishop Michael Ramsey to Pope Paul VI – the meeting from which the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission dialogue flowed – marks a further development in the warm relations that exist between the Anglican and Catholic Bishops in England and Wales. Many of us already meet together regularly at regional and local meetings, and are involved in a wide range of shared projects.

'We recognise the importance of working

together to present a shared Christian witness to our society, and acknowledge the importance of working with other Christian denominations, and with those of other faiths to take forward the common good in society.

'This meeting is a significant sign of our mutual commitment to dialogue and joint witness based on our common faith. It underlines our responsibility to work together as partners in mission and service to the people of our country. The mission given to us by Christ obliges and compels us to engage more deeply and widely in this partnership in mission, grounded in dialogue and shared prayer.

'Our Christian faith is rooted in our common baptism. However, our communion remains imperfect. "Our enthusiasm for dialogue means that we must be honest in addressing issues on which we disagree. This is possible when we hold to the Gospel. We trust in the Holy Spirit to inspire our pilgrimage to unity and common mission.'

The meeting is being held in line with the mandate of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (Communion in Mission Mississauga, May 2000: see notes to editors below). IARCCUM is a joint commission of bishops responsible to the Anglican Communion and the Holy See for finding practical ways to express the fruits of the dialogue between Anglicans and Roman Catholics. Its mandate draws on the recommendations of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Joint Preparatory Commission in Malta, in 1968.

**14 November 2006**

## Archbishop derides 'flawed reasoning' of BA cross decision

The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, has appealed to British Airways to reconsider their decision to refuse the appeal of Nadia Eweida who has lost her fight to openly wear a cross necklace at work at Heathrow.

Referring to the 'flawed reasoning' of BA's decision, which allows male Sikh staff to wear turbans and female Muslim staff to wear hijabs, the Archbishop derided BA's statement that the decision was 'purely a question of practicality' suggesting that BA's explanation meant an employee turning up for work with a 'three foot cross must be allowed to wear it because to hide such a cross under their uniform would be impractical'.

The Archbishop suggested as Britain's national airline, the company ought to consider the place of the Christian values represented by the Cross.

### **The Archbishop said:**

'This decision by British Airways is a nonsense and is based on flawed reasoning.

'The basis for the decision should not be 'practicality', as BA suggests in its statement, but rather whether it impacts on Nadia's ability to do her job. It is clear that Nadia's cross does not form an impediment to her ability to carry out her duties at the check in counter.

'Under BA's current reasoning, an employee who turned up to work wearing a three foot long cross must be allowed to wear it, because to hide such a cross under their uniform would be impractical. Yet in Nadia's case a cross of less than three inches is deemed a problem.

'For me, the Cross is important because it reminds me that God keeps his promises. This horrible instrument of torture now carries something other than the body of that man whom to me is a Saviour and to others is a prophet.

'Wearing a Cross carries with it not only a symbol of our hopes but also a responsibility to act and to live as Christians. This symbol does not point only upwards but also outwards, it reminds us of our duties not only to God but also to one another.

'British Airways needs to look again at this decision and to look at the history of the country it represents, whose culture, laws, heritage and tradition owes so much to the very same symbol it would ban'.

**20 November 2006**

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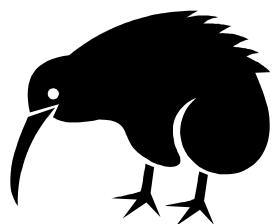
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## Women's Fellowship

Our October speaker was Mr John Britten who, on a previous visit, gave us many interesting facts about our local birds. This time we went much further afield with 'The Birds and Plants of New Zealand'

Through the medium of his camera and commentary we enjoyed the beauty of both islands and the flora of that country. With a climate not dissimilar to our own, perhaps a little milder, many attractive plants of the region are familiar to us in the garden centres. On the other hand the birds are largely unknown to us except possibly the kiwi, the nom de guerre of the 'All Blacks'.



Two unusual birds, both of the parrot family, are the KAKA which attacks sheep for their kidney fat and the playful KEA which has mastered the knack of undoing the straps of rucksacks to plunder the contents.

Our thanks to Mr Britten for another interesting and informative afternoon

Our speaker this month will be Mr Ian Torrance who will take us to 'Iceland, Land of fire and ice' in St Michael's Room, Tuesday 12th December, at 2.15 pm

*Muriel Norman*

## Canon John Morris

*From the Rectory*

During September, Canon John Morris celebrated forty years of priesthood. With typical modesty, he left it to the last minute to reveal what a special time it was for him. For this reason our Benefice celebration of these forty years had to be put back to November, the month of the Saints.

It may seem a bit 'previous' to honour John as a saint, although in the past I've compared him to Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama and Rabbi Lionel Blue! With these three men, John seems to share the same openness of heart and sense of fun, which we've so appreciated over the years that he has been with us.

We will be marking the fortieth anniversary of John's ordination as a priest on Saturday 11th November. We will celebrate a Eucharist together in Hindringham Church, starting at 10.30 am, at which Bishop Graham will preach, followed by a buffet lunch in the village hall. We hope that as many as possible will be able to join us.

*James Muggleton*

*Sheila & Peter Hoile found this tribute to John Morris in the re-launched village magazine for Great Snoring in Norfolk curiously named 'Wide a Wake'!*

## A Big Thank-you

May we thank all those at St Mary's who wished John well in the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Those years have passed in a flash. We both count ourselves particularly lucky, after retirement, to have been asked to help out at North Mymms. It is wonderful to be welcomed back in St Mary's today and sense the feeling of a lively church under your Sally's guidance.

When Margaret and I finally departed, you very kindly presented us with vouchers for spending in John Lewis. After much deliberation we used them to purchase a DVD/VCR recorder. Like all modern electronic equipment, it is not enough just to install; it has to be mastered as well. Fortunately we followed the golden rule with such things; if you find it difficult, get the grandchildren to show you how.

With best wishes to all our many friends at North Mymms,

*John and Margaret Cotton*



## News from Isabel Hospice

**Sun 10th December**  
**Showstoppers Christmas Special**  
**Castle Hall, Hertford at 7.30pm**

The Showstoppers present 'Music, Words and Carols', at Castle Hall, Hertford on Sunday December 10th 2006 at 7.30pm.

Songs, Stories and Poems, all with the theme of Christmas, plus the opportunity for you, the audience, to join in with us and sing many of the most popular carols.

For this performance, The Showstoppers will be augmented from their normal dozen singers and dancers with a chorus drawn from local Operatic Societies and will also see us using the **new raked seating** at Castle Hall, improving your view of the performance plus providing added comfort. With **ALL** profit going to the Isabel Hospice.

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## The season of Advent



'Advent' means 'coming', and marks the four weeks leading up to Christmas and the coming of Christ.

It is traditionally a season of penance and preparation before Christmas. The official Church liturgical colour is purple, symbol of penitence. Weddings used to be forbidden during this season - as also during Lent. Tradition has given its own flavour to each of the Advent Sundays.

The first is 'Stir up Sunday' so named because it was the day for 'stirring up' Christmas puddings.

The third Sunday is 'Gaudete' Sunday from the Latin word for 'rejoice'. On that day everyone took a break from the penitential theme and pink vestments and altar cloths were allowed in church. A rose coloured candle is lit on this Sunday.

In the past an Advent wreath was often made with evergreen branches such as holly, yew or pine. The four Advent candles would be fixed into the wreath, ribbons would be attached and the completed decoration would be hung in the hall way.

Advent calendars are still popular today - usually a card with twenty-four small doors, one to be opened each day from the first day of December until Christmas Eve. Each door conceals a picture. Every morning children open one window of the calendar to see a pretty picture or find a chocolate inside.

This popular tradition arose in Germany in the late 1800s and soon spread throughout Europe and North America. Originally the images in Advent calendars had Biblical themes.

*A Book of Feasts and Seasons*  
Joanna Bogle

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## Christmas Quiz 2006

The first letter of each correct answer gives a five word seasonal greeting.

1. What are Cherubims and Seraphims ?



2a) How do we hear the herald angels sing?

b) Not home in a cot but ..?

c) What the French call Father Christmas.

d) The gift sent for the 11th day of Christmas.

e) A large log burnt on the hearth on Christmas Eve.



3a) A lighted candle set in an orange.

b) Not a kind king to innocent children.

c) Dasher and Dancer, Prancer and Vixen were all?

d) Holly's partner is?

e) He got stoned on 'Boxing Day'?

f) How many ships went sailing by?

g) This King's gift was gold.

h) Roman Emperor who caused Mary and Joseph to take to the road?

i) They heard the seraph's message.



4a) Name of Bob Cratchit's son ?

b) 'Christian children all must be, mild' and what else?



5a) Thanks to this sainted lady, the poor man got his water here?

b) Name of a tall U.S. poet who heard the bells at Christmas?

c) *Adeste fideles*, but what comes next?

*Michael Hockings*

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## Confirmation at St Etheldreda's

It was a crisp clear night on Monday 20th November as ten members of St Mary's wended their way to St. Etheldreda's Church in Old Hatfield to support with her other friends, Barbara Jarman, as she prepared for her confirmation by the Rt. Revd. Christopher Foster, the Bishop of Hertford.

Twenty-one candidates were being confirmed that evening, three of whom were baptized during the first part of the Service.

The candidates from St. Etheldreda's Hatfield, St. John's Lemsford, St Michael and All Angels Birchwood, St John the Evangelist Digswell, and St Mary the Virgin, Baldock, were welcomed by the Rector, the Revd. Richard Pyke, and the service started with the well loved hymn 'Come Down O Love Divine'.

Bishop Chris remarked how apt the words of the third verse of the hymn 'O Thou who camest from above' were for this special occasion:

*'Jesus confirm my hearts desire  
to work, and speak, and think for  
Thee;*

*Still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up Thy gift in me'.*

The Bishop then invited the whole congregation to pray for all the candidates as he made the sign of the cross on their foreheads with the oil of Chrism before he laid his hand on the head of each person.

The rousing hymn 'O Jesus I have promised' brought to an end the welcoming, meaningful and cordial Service as the newly confirmed candidates, carrying lighted candles, and led by the Bishop, processed through the Church.

To Barbara we send our love, prayers and congratulations!

*Diana Glanfield*



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## Update



The Sponsored Cycle Ride and Walk for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust in September raised a total from St. Mary's of £478 - half of which will come back to us and the rest will go to the Trust.

So remember next year, perhaps you could take part!

*Rhoda Brutey*

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**References available**

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## Early Magazine Copy Date

**Copy for the January 2007 issue  
by  
Thursday 7th December  
to:**

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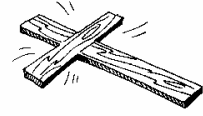
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## From the Parish Church Registers

### Funerals:

Our sympathy to the relatives and friends of:



William John Day	31st October 2006
Herbert John Shadbolt (known as Jack)	6th November 2006
Linda Helena Ward-Walker	9th November 2006
James Cyril Eames	22nd November 2006

### Interment of ashes:

Lillian Martin	4th November 2006
Rose June Morgan	11th November 2006
Joan Margaret Elizabeth Hughes	22nd November 2006

*Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light  
on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.*

*Collect for Christmas Night*

Only the current registers, (Baptisms from March 1980; Weddings from January 1999, Burials from March 1984 and Services from July 1996) are stored at the church. All previous church registers, and parish magazines, are stored at the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8EJ. (01992) 555105, to ensure they are adequately preserved.



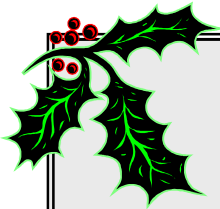
**Mon 25th**                      **Christmas Day**  
8.00am                      Holy Communion  
9.30am                      Family Service with Communion

**Tues 26th**                      **Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**

**Wed 27th**                      **John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Thurs 28th**                      **Feast of the Holy Innocents**

**Sun 31st**                      **The First Sunday of Christmas**  
8.00am                      Holy Communion  
9.30am                      Parish Eucharist  
*No evensong at St Mary's*



**Parish Office Hours**  
**open 9am - 1.30pm**  
**Tuesday/Thursday**  
**tel: 01727 825578**

**On the first Monday of each month the Vicar holds an office hour at the Vicarage from 6.30pm until 7.30pm**

**The Vicar can be contacted at any other time by telephone:  
01727 822062**

### **Weekly**

Wednesday	8.00 pm	Bell ringers' Practice
Thursday	10.00am	Carers' Support Group meet in St. Michael's Room
Friday		Vicar's Day off
	10.00 am	Pramsters meet in St. Michael's Room
	7.00 pm	Choir practice

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