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Dr Chris Green, Mrs Ann Wait

BENEFICE OFFICE – 01934 742535

Open every Saturday between 10am and 12noon
to arrange baptisms, weddings and any other special services.

CHEDDAR

Churchwardens Richard Scourse 01934 743013

Jim Reeve 01934 744442

Deputy Wardens Rod Walsh 01934 741598

Margaret Gelder 01934 742165

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Mike Brownbill, Rod Walsh

Treasurer Dawn Hill Secretary Gill Halliday

Church House Bookings Anne Langford 01934 742763

DRAYCOTT

Churchwardens Thea Oliver 01934 744739

(& Treasurer) David Cheetham 01934 740255

Deanery Synod Reps Tricia Lumley, Thea Oliver

Secretary Chris Green

RODNEY STOKE

Churchwardens Jane Holmes 01749 870467

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Deanery Synod Rep Jo Symes

Treasurer Len May

Secretary Ann Percival

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www.rodneystokewithdraycott.org.uk

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Cheddar: Margaret Gelder e: margaretgelder@hotmail.co.uk

Rodney Stoke and Draycott: Rob Walker e: editor.rsdparishmag@gmail.com

Deadline for Magazine copy is 11th of each month

The Parish Churches of Rodney Stoke and Draycott



Contents include:

Armistice Day Poem

Harvest & Bats Bats

Bats update

Vital Organs

Lebanon—first im-
pressions

Seasonal Music for
you

Gr....Gr....Grrrrrr


Posada

Human Givens

50p

November 2013

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A Poem for Armistice Day

Return of Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of *The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.*
 Killed in Action or who have died whilst on Service Abroad in the War of 1914 to 1921.

Rgt. or Army number	Rank	Name in Full (Surname First)	Age	Country of Birth	Date of Death	Place of Death	Cause of Death
22311.	Private	ROSENBERG Isaac	27	England.	1-4-18	B.E.F. France.	Killed in Action.

An Entry relating to the death of *Isaac Rosenberg*

In the Trenches

I snatched two poppies
 From the parapet's ledge,
 Two bright red poppies
 That winked on the ledge.
 Behind my ear
 I stuck one through,
 One blood red poppy
 I gave to you.

The sandbags narrowed
 And screwed out our jest,
 And tore the poppy
 You had on your breast ...
 Down - a shell - O! Christ,
 I am choked ... safe ... dust blind, I
 See trench floor poppies
 Strewn. Smashed you lie. *Isaac Rosenberg (1916)*

Isaac Rosenberg is one of the finest of our First World War poets and, unlike some, he cuts a recognisably modern figure. Born in Bristol of Lithuanian immigrant parents, the asylum seekers of their day, he grew up in considerable poverty in London's East End. An engraver by trade, he attended night school classes at Birkbeck College. Later chance, and his talents, took him to the Slade where he was a contemporary of Spencer, Gertler and Blomberg. Suffering from chronic bronchitis he joined his sister in South Africa hoping for a cure only to return to London in 1915 to help support his mother. Unable to find work, he enlisted in the army so she could obtain the 'Separation Allowance'. He was in the trenches for two years and was killed in action on 1 April 1918.

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,



November! With the clocks having changed and the nights getting longer, it really does seem as though winter is upon us. It's the time of year which I always associate with romantic notions of families gathering around a blazing log fire to recount the deeds of the year – a real triumph of hope over experience, at least in the case of my family! But perhaps this is not a bad time to reflect on some of the changes there have been in our benefice, not least in our Ministry Team ...!

Those of you who see the Pew Notes in Church regularly may have noticed that the list of names in the box at the top has changed quite significantly; we have been delighted that Rev Julie Sims has joined the team, bringing a different flavour as her main focus of ministry is at Sandford Station retirement village where she is chaplain. Rev Hilary is now Priest in Charge at Allerton whilst Canon Gordon is enjoying retirement (on at least the 3rd attempt!). The changes have been as great among our Readers, with Richard Dingley having stepped back to give more time to care for Sylvia and Ann Wait finding that her appetite for ministry has changed following her cancer treatment, leaving a desire to be more in the background and less 'up front' than previously, whilst Nikki is taking some time out of Readership.

We therefore have a leaner, but hopefully not meaner, team today. I know how much we all value the different voices of Christine, Judith, Chris, Thea and Alistair and it would be good to increase the team again. To that end I am delighted that four people in the benefice are taking up the chance to train as lay worship assistants. Following completion of the course they will have the option of being commissioned by the bishop to help lead some of our services, such as the first half of the Communion service. The clergy already enjoy sharing such leadership with the Readers and it will be good to widen that circle.

Next year there will also be a course called **H+** which is intended to build confidence in understanding and talking about the Bible – important for all Christians but which may also inspire some to look at further possibilities for getting involved, along with Thea, in the Preaching Fellowship – so lots of changes and lots of possibilities. They say when God closes a door, he also opens a window – maybe he is opening a window for you?

Sue Rose

November 2013 Rotas

DRAYCOTT

	3	10	17	24	Dec 1
Sidesman	R Dingley		G Jeff	N Devitt	R Dingley
Intercessor	T Oliver		C Green	N Devitt	President
Organist	D Cheetham	I Ames-White	B Rose	D Cheetham	TBA
Readers	T Lumley C Green R Dingley	<i>Remembrance Service in Memorial Hall</i>	T Oliver J Jeffries G Jeff	R Dingley T Oliver L Whittle	J Jeffries T Lumley R Dingley
Coffee	C Jeff		F Irving	T Heckbert	J Jeffries
Cleaning	J Jeffries H Jeffries	C Jeff G Jeff	T Lumley	T Heckbert	J Jeffries H Jeffries
Flowers	G Salt	A Moulton	A Moulton	Advent	Advent

RODNEY STOKE

Sidesman	D Banks		A Newman	C Kembrey	J H Newman
Organist	Michael		Michael	Barry	Joanne
Reader 1	C Kembrey		D Banks	I Turner	A Percival
Reader 2	R Mann		H Neave	S Percival	A Jeffries
Cleaning		M Banks S Wild		S Kembrey J Symes	
Flowers A	V Andrews	D Johnson	L Davey	H Neave	Advent
Flowers P	J Holmes	M James	A Percival	I Sealey	

From the Registers

Baptisms:

We welcome into the Church family:

Charley & Evie Farrant, Harry Rickard, Ruby Polden.

Marriages:

Congratulations to the newly married:

Paul & Claire Smalley (4th October)

Funerals:

Our prayers are with those who mourn the death of:

Sheila Poole, Maisie Plaistow, Joyce (Neddy) Netherton, Pearl Western, Mervyn Barber, Jack Skinner, Vera Smith, Shirley Villiers, Vera Houghton RIP

Diary November 2013

Sat 2	4pm	All Souls Memorial Service	Cheddar
Tues 5	10.30am	Greenhill Communion	Cheddar
	12 noon	LMG Planning	Cheddar, Den
	2.15pm	Mothers' Union meeting	Church House
Wed 6	8pm	Draycott PCC	Draycott
Thurs 7	9am	LMG Morning Prayer	Axbridge
	2pm	Cheddar Valley Bible Society	N St Chapel
Mon 11	10.50am	Remembrance Service	R Stoke
Tues 12	12.30pm	Chapter	Weare
	8pm	Ministry Team	Cheddar, Den
Wed 13	11.30am	MU Communion	Cheddar
	1.30pm	Sealey Close Communion	Draycott
	2.30pm	Laurels Communion	Draycott
	7.30pm	Friends of St Leonard AGM	R Stoke
Thurs 14	9am	LMG Morning Prayer	Weare
Sat 16	10-12	Bible Society Coffee Morning	Cheddar Baptist
	2pm	Rodney Stoke Christmas Fayre	Bucklegrove
	2.30pm	Messy Church	Draycott
Mon 18 – Wed 20		Sue to General Synod	London
Tues 19	10.30am	Greenhill Communion	Cheddar
Wed 20	11am	Court House Communion	Cheddar
Thurs 21	9am	LMG Morning Prayer	Cheddar
	11am	Cheddar Court Communion	Cheddar
	2.30pm	Homestead Communion	Cheddar
	7.30pm	Cheddar PCC	Den
Sun 24	12 noon	FoSA AGM and lunch	Church House
	6.30pm	Answers that need questions	RS Church Hall
Mon 25 – Thurs 28		Sue & Chris to Clergy Gathering	Derbyshire
Sat 30	10-12am	Christmas Coffee Morning	Church House
	7.30pm	Barn Dance	Cheddar

Fancy a coffee, a biscuit and a good chat on a Tuesday 1000 -1130?

Join us at Sealey Close Community Hall



From Bishop Peter, Taunton

As many of you will know, this period in the Church's year between All Saints and Advent is known as 'The Kingdom Season', and it invites us to reflect on what we believe the church is for.



You will have your own views, but at the heart of my response to that question as I look forward to Advent and Christmas is my continuing belief in a God who chose to come and make his home among us.

In other words the church is called to be a sign of the God who has come to earth to dwell with his people. Our purpose as a church is not only to make better the lives of individuals, but through them to enable local communities to flourish as well. It is only when a community flourishes that the individuals who live there can live well, which is why the church is right to be so concerned at the levels of increasing poverty and debt that we are witnessing across the country.

'Seek the welfare of the city', God told the exiled Jews through the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah, because in its welfare you will find your welfare. On a recent visit to the Halcon Estate in Taunton that is what I witnessed. The church at the heart of one of the most deprived parts of our diocese working in partnership with the school, the police, social services and other willing partners to enable the community to flourish – the Kingdom of God at work!

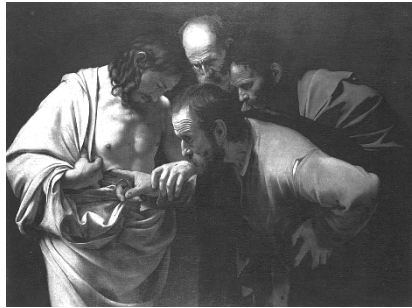
For all its weaknesses and foibles the church is still populated by Christian people who quietly go about the business of being Christians in their workplaces and communities, transforming them by their patience, kindness and generosity often over long periods of time. May God give us grace to continue to give evidence to the Kingdom by seeking the welfare of the communities in which we are set.

+Peter Taunton

Review: *The Power of Parable* by John Dominic Crossan*

A Roman Catholic priest starts his sermon -"A pope and a pimp went into Saint Peter's to pray".

This is how JD Crossan tries to convey the visceral *punch* of the opening of one of Jesus' parable. In Luke's Gospel (18, 10) the characters are a Pharisee and a tax collector, in the Temple. And to a first century Jewish audience, the former was all religious correctness, the latter was - well, scum. Jesus would have had his audience's full attention!



To Crossan, there are different kinds of parables. *Riddle* parables present a puzzle to be decoded - allegorical stories. Next, *example* parables show us how to act- or how not to act (think of all those improving Victorian tales). The third category is *challenge* parables. These try to get us to see the world differently, by combining a familiar setting with some deliberate dissonance or changed perspective. Who comes out better in the Jesus' story? The tax collector! When is a pimp better than a pope?

Crossan is convinced that Jesus' principal teaching method was challenge parable. But the gospels often repurpose his material as a *different* type! Mark sometimes casts them as riddle, Luke and Matthew as example (John's Jesus doesn't really tell any). And there is a fourth category - the *attack* parable. You find these in each of the Gospels - but Crossan doubts Jesus ever used them.

This would have been enough - well, challenge - for most people, but is only the first half of the book. The second half picks up on the subtitle: 'how fiction *by* Jesus became fiction *about* Jesus'. This is *not* an attempt to debunk or demolish gospel stories. But have you ever asked why there were four Gospels, not one? And why it is so difficult to fit them in to a single consistent narrative? If such questions intrigue you - read the book!

Chris Green

*ISBN 978-0-281-06811-1

Sunday Services in November 201

	Cheddar	Draycott	Rodney Stoke
Nov 3rd All Saints	8am BCP Communion 10am Parish Eucharist 12.30pm Baptism	9.30 Parish Communion	11.15 Parish Communion 1830 St Leonard's Day Service
Nov 10th Remembrance	8am BCP Communion 10am Parish Eucharist	10.50am Remembrance Service Draycott Memorial Hall	
Nov 17th 2 Before Advent	8am BCP Communion 10am 3 rd Sunday Worship & Baptism	9.30 Parish Communion	11.15 Parish Communion
Nov 24th 1 Before Advent	8am BCP Communion 10am Parish Eucharist	9.30 Parish Communion	11.15 Sung Matins

Readings in November 2013

Date	Page	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Nov 3rd All Saints	1039	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	149	Ephesians 1: 11-end	Luke 6: 20-31
Nov 10th Remembrance	1045	Job 19: 23-27a	17: 1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:15, 13-end	Luke 20: 27-38
Nov 17th 2 Before Advent	1050	Malachi 4: 1-2a	98	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21: 5-19
Nov 24th 1 Before Advent	1054	Jeremiah 23: 1-6	46	Colossians 1: 11-20	Luke 23: 33-43

Weekly events in November 2013

Sunday	6pm STARR rehearsal, Church House, Cheddar
Monday	9am Morning Prayer, Cheddar 9.30 Beginners Line dancing, Church House, Cheddar 10.30 Intermediates line dancing, Ch House, Cheddar
Tuesday	9am Morning Prayer, Cheddar 6.30pm Evening Prayer, Rodney Stoke 8pm Bell ringing, Cheddar
Wednesday	9.10 D&RS School Service, Draycott 10am Holy Communion, Cheddar (except 2 nd Weds) 6.30pm Evening Prayer, Draycott
Thursday	9am LMG Prayer – see diary for venue 2.30 House Group, 4 Southfield, Cheddar 7.30pm Bell ringing, Rodney Stoke 7.30pm Sight Reading classes, Draycott
Friday	10am St Andrew's Toddlers, Ch House, Cheddar 6.15pm St Andrew's Choir practise, Cheddar 7pm STARR Rehearsal, Church House, Cheddar
Saturday	9am Morning Prayer, Cheddar 10-12 Open Office, Den, Cheddar

Parish magazine makes the news

Just in case you missed it, this Parish Magazine had its micro-moment of fame at 0823 on Sunday 6 October when the Editor was interviewed live on BBC Radio Bristol/Somerset. The editor's proud boast that we handsomely outsell the Sun in Draycott and Rodney Stoke had found its way into a Diocesan press release – see <http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/news/story/596/?view=current> – and, as well as attracting a good response from the Social Networking community, it was picked up by the Beeb.



The Editor thought the interview went well. The Beeb are clearly well practised at getting the hapless through the interview ordeal and when the talk strayed into contentious areas he was gently, but expertly, steered away. The topic was food banks, with your editor saying that it is a current issue here in the parish and '...who would have thought that could happen a few years ago'. Maybe it was the throwaway quip '....next thing we will be looking at re-opening the workhouse' that finally did the trick.

HOME COMMUNION

It is one of the great privileges in ministry to be able to bring communion to the elderly and housebound or those who are temporarily unable to get to church due to injury – do let Rev Chris know if you, or someone you know would appreciate this aspect of the Church's care. The Church Office can be contacted on 01934 742535



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Harvest

We held our harvest celebration in St Peter's church in Draycott on Friday 4th October. It was a lovely service and wonderful that so many parents were able to attend. We decided to take the theme of Scarecrows this year. Our parents and children were fantastic and made scarecrows no bigger than A4 size and brought them into church on the morning of the service and we decorated the rood screen with them so that they could brighten up, not just our service, but also the Harvest Service on the following Sunday.



The children learnt songs, the youngest singing 'Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow' while everyone sang 'Mr Scarecrow' and the older children told the story of 'Mr Scarecrow's Hat'. The children worked really hard to make their voices clear and loud so that every part of the story could be heard in the church, no matter where you were sitting. The service finished with the song 'Autumn Days'.

I was particularly pleased that we were able to ask for and receive so many gifts of food to decorate the church. In past years there have been prohibitions on collecting food for fear of health and safety issues however, in these more austere times, those objections seem to have gone by the board. The food will be delivered to The Sisters of the Church in St Pauls, Bristol who feed enormous numbers of homeless people each week. We are so grateful so much was collected. Thank you all.

Bats Bats Bats update



We are still waiting to hear about the road crossing on the A361 but the roof of the old building is to be replaced next March. We have to have a special licence and someone on site to see that we do the job properly and we have to make additional provision for the bats in the new roof so, when we have finished, the bats will have a brand new state of the art detached property to live in rather than the rather crumbly one bedroom apartment they currently occupy (all 3 of them)!

Cathy Lowe

St. Leonard's Rodney Stoke
music for the eve of Advent Sunday

Mozart Requiem

Bach's Cantata - Wachet Auf

7.30pm Saturday 30 November 2013



Conductor: Michael Taylor

Organ: Barry Rose

Soprano Soloists: Kiran Ellis &

Naomi MacLeod Jones

Counter -Tenor: David Cheetham

Tenor Soloist: Mark Hounsell

Harpichord & Alison Blundell &

Cello Continuo: Cressida Nash

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Don's Poem and Mary's Recipe

November

The mellow year is hasting to its close:
The little birds have almost sung their last,
Their small notes twitter in the dreary blast -
That shrill-piped harbinger of early snows;
The patient beauty of the scentless rose,
Oft with the morn's hoar crystal quaintly glassed,
Hangs a pale mourner for the summer past,
And makes a little summer where it grows;
In the chill sunbeam of the faint brief day
The dusky waters shudder as they shine;
The russet leaves obstruct the straggling way
Of oozy brooks, which no deep banks define,
And the gaunt woods, in ragged, scant array,
Wrap their old limbs with sombre ivy-twine.



Hartley Coleridge

2 Tbsp finely chopped rosemary
500g mashed potato
1 Lemon finely zested
4 sliced, cooked sausages
4ozs Brie cubed
3 heaped Tbsp plain flour
3 Tbsp olive oil
Greens shredded & wilted
Fruit chutney to serve

Potato, Brie and Sausage Patties

1. Combine rosemary. Potato, lemon zest, sausage, cheese & 2 heaped Tbsp of flour in a bowl. Season. Shape into 8 patties & dust with remaining flour.
2. Heat oil in large frying pan & cook patties for 4-4 minutes on each side until golden.
3. Simmer shredded greens in boiling water for 2 mins. Drain.
4. Serve patties hot with chutney & greens.



'Surviving in an age of uncertainty'

Human Givens



Emotional health is critical. Depression in our society has been steadily rising, in tandem with social complexity, in defiance of supposed social connectedness. By 2020 the World Health Organisation forecasts depression behind only heart disease in its debilitating effect. Economic uncertainty doesn't help.

Emotional health needn't be mysterious. I study Human Givens, an approach combining the best existing knowledge with new understanding. Humans need security, control, attention, emotional and community connection, privacy, status, achievement, and meaning to be well. These are not surprising, nor optional, but givens. Lacking them we are stressed; at worst, ill.

Witness the sunflower. A seed finds favourable soil and weather, and enacts its genetic inheritance perfectly. Humans whose needs are met are no different. They flourish emotionally. It follows that those experiencing emotional distress are not having their needs met. They may have genetic damage, resulting for example in autism, they may be experiencing environmental difficulty, or simply lack coping skills for their situation. But these only complicate rather than prevent needs being met. This is not to minimise people's real suffering, but to throw an equally real lifeline: emotional distress is a normal response. Not unknowable, impenetrable. Normal.

We understand more of the brain than ever. Our personal resources - also a given - are formidable: we can recall memories, learn, imagine solutions and check these rationally, build relationships with helpful people, deactivate pernicious stress levels through dreaming, relate previous successes to new problems. Harnessing these, and focusing on needs, HG lifts mild to moderate depression in 50% of cases and provides improvement in an additional 20%, in as little as 2-3 sessions. But the more valuable gift is simple emotional management skills that everyone of us can use.

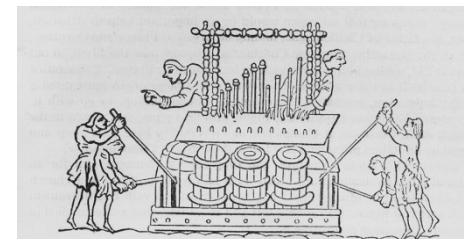
An example, known to anyone who sings or meditates: 7 11 breathing. Breathe in for a count of 7, out for 11, breathing from the abdomen rather than the chest alone. Practice extending the outbreath. This will activate the body's parasympathetic nervous system, inducing calm, independent of any stress you feel. Calm generates space, and space, solutions

Murray Heckbert

Vital Organs

Singing and organ playing are important aspects of the worship in both our churches, and we are fortunate to have two organs which sound well, are in good order, together with organists keen to play them.

Draycott church in 1861 had a reed organ, which stood on the spot where the boiler is now, but it would hardly have been adequate to lead the singing. It was probably in the 1890s that the church was reordered and a new pipe organ was installed in the corner which had originally been reserved for children. (After that, the stained glass window showing Christ blessing the children was only visible to the boy who pumped the organ.)



The organ has eight registers on two manuals and pedals and a total of 397 pipes. Some pipes are wooden, like the pedal pipes looking into the weekday chapel, but most are made of a lead/tin alloy, like the pipes which face into the choir. Some of the inside pipes are extremely quiet.

The organ in Rodney Stoke is bigger, with 13 registers and 601 pipes, which vary in speaking length from 8 feet down to 1 inch. Its design is typical of the year 1850 or thereabouts, and it includes a reed register (the fine trumpet stop) and some upperwork - high pitched pipes which add considerably to the instrument's richness and character.

It is clear that the organ was not built where it stands now: the painted front pipes face the vestry and the view from the choir shows no case at all. It has probably been turned clockwise through 90° at some time, maybe because previously the organist had been tucked round the corner without either sight or hearing of the service. There is also a story that the organ had been transplanted here from a different church, perhaps even a side chapel of a cathedral.

If you want to know more, ask any of the organists for a demonstration of these interesting instruments.

David Cheetham

First impressions from Lebanon

Well I arrived to find Hob-nobs in the fridge! The team are amazingly friendly and quite over-whelmingly glad to see me, mainly because it is frantically busy here. There's also quite a social whirl going on – earlier today was asked to help prepare salad ready for a team steak dinner a bit later - the team seem lovely, a real mix of people, as usual. It's been a real houseful this weekend, but I gather that it will calm down a bit during the week as the field site team go back to their base early tomorrow morning.



This place is bizarre, everything you can imagine is available and then you turn a corner and see damaged buildings. I have to remind myself to think, 'ah, civil war' rather than 'ah, earthquake'. It's a bit like the juxtaposition between perfect normality in Beirut and shocking unreality in the refugee camps. Speaking to some of the young people in the camps they talked of their boredom, without their lap-tops, mobiles and MP3's, without their schools and missing their friends. It is quite different to Haiti where everything we did was improving an already dreadful situation, but here people are just about surviving and we are part of the horror of what they are enduring, even though what we are providing is vital for their continuing life.

On a quite different note, I went to church this Sunday at Beirut's Anglican Church. It was surreally familiar – it happened to the monthly all age service and we ended up singing 'My God is so big' and 'Jesus' love is very wonderful'. I thought of you all. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support.

Alice Rose, MedAir in Beirut

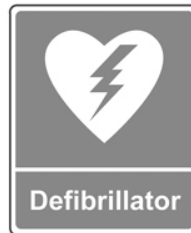
Rodney Stoke & Draycott Defibrillator Appeal

Cream Teas to die for.....

Sunday 13 October

A big thank you to all helpers £465 raised!

Don and Mary



News from the Supporters of St Peters

Curry and Quiz Nights

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Curry and Quiz Nights and especial thanks to the Strawberry Special. A good time was had by all.

Apologies for Cancellation of the Miscellany Concert, Friday 11 October

There was a Health and Safety problem with the floor at St Peter's floor necessitating urgent repairs.—and cancelling the concert at the last minute.

Christmas Fayre 1000—1200 Saturday 7 December

Put the date in your diary. More details to follow. It will be held in St Peter's and the School.

POSADA

***May God bless you as you prepare for Christmas.
May your Advent journey be filled with hope, joy and
the light of Christ Jesus.***



This year we are again hoping to raise money for charitable causes by hosting our figures of Mary & Joseph & the donkey in homes around our benefice area and maybe even further afield!

Posada means 'inn' in Spanish. Posada celebrations originated in Mexico where two young people were chosen to dress up as Mary and Joseph. They travelled from house to house in their village telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus and asking them if they would give him a room. Then on Christmas Eve they would re-enact a community play and bring figures of Mary and Joseph to be placed in the crib.

The modern day equivalent is based on this concept but encourages Churches to enable people to give a home to their nativity figures for a night. This symbolises making room for Jesus in their hearts, homes and communities. Each night during Advent the figures travel around the parish from home to home arriving in Church on Christmas Eve in time for the arrival of our Lord.

The journey encourages people to think about the meaning of Christmas and to share the message with others. On Christmas Eve when the figures arrive back in Church the crib scene is built up during the service in preparation for Christmas Day.

Please sign up in Church or speak to Thea (01934 744739) to host Mary & Joseph this year.

Gordon's Corner

Gr....Gr....Grrrrrr



So far in my monthly column (getting near the end of my year's stint!) I have been non-political and probably not particularly controversial. But every time I read my newspaper I get angrier and angrier.

Having been born in 1932, a lot of my life has been lived in the aftermath of those incredible post-war years when despite the dire post war straights, the NHS was formed, massive housing projects developed, education flourished for everyone, and the very rich were required, quite rightly, to pay their fair share through much higher taxation.

But today we have a situation where people seem to shrug their shoulders and passively accept that the obscenely rich will continue to get even more obscenely rich and the poor get even poorer, while the government does nothing except to increase that gulf between rich and poor ... housing help up to £600,000, for goodness sake..... Food banks in one of the richest countries in the world = Cameron's Shame.

It goes on – Fracking ...Wasteful HS2 railway line ... surveillance ... bedroom tax evictions ... barely regulated building on green sites when there are masses of brown sites available ...new house sizes half the size of those built in the 1920s...

But when Christians raise these matters with those in authority, people in power say that religion is only about personal prayer.

Try telling that to the Old Testament prophets, who were political to their fingertips. Try telling that to the Mother of Jesus, or whoever wrote the Magnificat, 'He has put down the mighty from their seat and exalted the humble and meek'. Or Jesus himself, even more fiercely, 'It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven'.

Gordon Jeff

Friends of St Leonard's Annual General Meeting

Rodney Stoke Church Hall

7:30pm Wednesday 13th November

Everyone is welcome to attend the FOSL AGM

Friends of St Leonard's Marquee



FOR HIRE

TEL: Tim Bibby

01749 870415

FOSL Scaddens Farm Barn Dance

Saturday 14 September

£700 raisedand

over 100 attendees

Thank you one and all



N.S.Garden Services

**Lawns mowed, reseeded and turfed, Hedge trimming,
Pruning, Garden clearance, Fencing, Decking, Patios,
Small tree surgery. Hardwood logs by the load or bagged**

TEL: Nick Smith 07813037743



starting in January 2014
led by Judith Rose, Paul Spanring and Sue Rose
please contact any of them if you would like to know more.

- How can we have more confidence in the Bible?
- What do we make of the Conquest of Canaan?
- Can history help us understand Genesis today?
 - Does biblical writing convey meaning?

This is the Bible Society's ground-breaking 10-session programme to help you interpret the Scriptures. Incorporating discipleship material, practical exercises, expert advice, facilitator input and audiovisual features, H+ deals with questions like the ones above and many more to help you

... make good sense of the Bible.



Visit Kafue in 2014?

Rev Sue is looking at the practicalities of taking some people from the benefice to Kafue parish in the Spring.



There are 2 options:

A short visit - Thursday to Wednesday, mostly in Kafue parish getting to know our friends there, with some time in Lusaka.
(Cost approx £1,300 per person)

A longer visit – 12 days, Thurs to Wed as above, plus a trip to Livingstone to visit the famous Victoria Falls, along with opportunities such as a sunset river cruise, safari or lion encounter experience. (Cost approx £2,300 per person)

Please contact Sue if you might be interested in either option.

SEASONAL MUSIC FOR YOU - WITH YOUTH AT THE HELM

7pm Saturday 14 December at St Peter's Draycott

The Roses (Barry and Nicola) are back for a concert of old and new favourites, and this time, their guests will be two very able and talented younger musicians, Helena (11) and Catherine (14), who are going to delight you with their singing and flutes.



Both Catherine and Helena are pupils of Barry Rose, at Bramdean School, Exeter, and with their parents, both are specially making the long journey not just to entertain us, but also to help raise money for the church - All proceeds this evening go to church funds.

If you've been to either of the St.Peter's Festival Evensongs in the past two years (or both), you'll already have heard Helena singing solo, and been so impressed that you're likely to be one of those who have asked if we can hear her again.

Now's your chance, and children of all ages will appreciate this concert - so please get your tickets early - £10.00, to include seasonal refreshments, and available from early November - and to encourage a younger audience, we are offering free admission for one child under 15, and half price for any others.

This will be a very special occasion, with music ranging from classical to pop, solo items, duets, and even a trio or two. Don't miss it!



first of the year as ever'

2pm Saturday 17 November



St Leonard's Christmas Fayre

Bucklegrove Caravan Park



Donations & offers of help please call Josie

Symes 01749 870968

