

Church Matters

The Parish Magazine of the Strettons : December 2011

Growing together in Faith, Hope & Love; Sharing the Good News of Jesus with all.

CHRISTMAS STARTS WITH CHRIST

'However you dress it up, Christmas starts with Christ!' That is the slogan on banners across the country this Christmas. In an age when even the Rev. Awdry's Thomas the Tank engine has gone PC with 'the winter holiday' and Christmas trees renamed 'trees with decorations,' our aim is to remind our nation what Christmas is really all about!

The message is in modern dress but without altering the history or the truths behind Christmas. Applying the various figures to modern life in the posters, shepherds become cycle couriers and plasterers; wise men are successful, sharply dressed entrepreneurs; and their gifts are iconic treasures of modern culture: a Swarovski crystal perfume bottle, a Faberge egg and a replica Damien Hirst skull.

Mark Elms, of ChurchAds (who have partnered with CPO in this project), comments: 'It is the meeting of Christianity and high street consumerism, with Christ in the middle. In the final few days before

Christmas, millions of people will be heading for shopping centres. Could there be a better time to expose them to this Christmas message?' Research shows that adverts like this do make people think more seriously about the meaning of Christmas.

With the current economic malaise and many other social indicators showing that our country needs to find a new direction, these posters offer an opportunity to us all to point people back to 'The reason for the season' and to the Jesus who is the ultimate answer to our needs at this time. Our nation thinks it has tried Christianity but it did not work. On the contrary, as G.K. Chesterton commented, 'It has been rejected without being tried!' By going back to Jesus as Lord and Saviour and taking up our cross to follow Him, may we live the radical life He offers to us, and, as He transforms us, may He transform others through us and the society around!

May we indeed discover afresh this Christmas the God who came among us.

Happy Christmas to all.

Richard Hill (Rector)

I LOVE CHRISTMAS

Mary and Joseph, a star, shepherds, wise men, angels, and of course the baby Jesus. All participants in a story we know all too well; a story we have probably heard every year of our lives; a story we could recite without any reference to the Bible. But do we, as Christians, sometimes take it all for granted? After all, most of the non-Christians in our country know the Christmas story just as well as we do, and yet it has no real meaning to them.

It's very easy to get caught up in the Christmas spirit and, whilst most of us probably stopped believing in Father Christmas many years ago, if we are not careful we can find that the lights, the trees, the decorations, the music (secular and sacred), the adverts on TV (Coca-Cola anyone?) and the three months of hyperbole and retail-induced excitement can slowly begin to overshadow the real meaning of Christmas.

Don't misunderstand me: I love Christmas, both the secular and sacred, but surely it is a matter of perspective. What is it about Christmas that is important to *us*? Why do we celebrate it? What does it mean to *us*?

Society, as a whole, is under the impression that the quest for knowledge and the elevation of self above all others is all that we need to be happy. All I can say is that there

are millions of people in the world who would strongly disagree: the hungry, the oppressed, the forgotten, the unloved, the lonely, the dying. The answer is not us. We have tried that for centuries and look where it has got us. The answer turned up in a dirty stable in the middle-east over 2000 years ago and Christina Rossetti has expressed it far better than I ever could:

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.*

Christmas is not about trees and presents; it's about the love that God has for us and the response that we make to that love.

Simon Cleaton

CONTENTS :

CHRISTMAS STARTS WITH CHRIST.....	1
I LOVE CHRISTMAS.....	2
FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON 'BACK TO CHURCH' SUNDAY.....	3
BOOKSTALL.....	3
BUILDING IN FAITH UPDATE.....	4
CAROL SERVICE.....	5
MIDNIGHT SERVICE.....	5
CHRISTMAS DAY.....	5
CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS.....	5
HOME/SMALL GROUPS.....	6
YOUTH@ST. LAURENCE'S.....	7
STAFF CONTACT DETAILS.....	7
JUST10.....	8
NEW WINE 2012.....	9
CRB CHECKS.....	10
CHRISTINGLE.....	11
CRIB SERVICE.....	11
ALPHA COURSE 2012.....	12
CHRISTMAS CAROL WORDSEARCH.....	13
DECEMBER SERVICES.....	14
BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES.....	15
MEMORIAL BOOK.....	15
FUNERALS.....	15
BAPTISM.....	15
WEDDING.....	15
DATES OF INTEREST FOR DECEMBER 2011.....	16

FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON 'BACK TO CHURCH' SUNDAY

I read John Callingham's contribution with interest (*Church Matters*, November). However, I'm puzzled by some of his assertions.

Obviously John doesn't feel comfortable in a traditional church setting, and clearly there are a number of people who feel this way. However, it is wrong to denigrate church buildings for this reason. Jesus himself worshipped regularly in the Temple, a fine Jewish building, and we read that the early church followers met regularly in the Temple building (Acts 2:46, 3:1). We also read that they met together in their homes, so there is room for both expressions of worship.

Our church buildings in England were built for the glory of God and often contain the very best of architecture and craftsmanship. Travelling by train one can often see a church spire or tower from a distance, and it is a reminder of the influence that Christianity has played in the history of our nation. When I was a vicar I found that non-church goers would often come into the building for a time of silence, meditation or prayer.

Personally, I think we are very privileged in having such a fine building in our town, and it should be treasured. People still come back to it for their weddings or the funerals of

their loved ones. Of course, this could happen in the church hall, but I don't think many would often take that option! Even the Crematorium has a church-type setting. I think also that millions of people were moved by the glorious service that took place in Westminster Abbey on the occasion of the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

Finally, I'm saddened that John feels that we are not a welcoming church. I certainly was given a very warm welcome when I first came, and this was before people realised I was a clergyman! I agree that we should always be ready to make people valued and appreciated, but this is an ongoing process and comes about when people are filled with God's Holy Spirit, and bear the Fruit of the Spirit. And so it is not only 'Back to Church,' but also 'Back to the Bible' and to the receiving and giving of God's word.

Paul James

BOOKSTALL

Lost for ideas for Christmas presents? Let our bookstall provide the answer!

Do look at the range of biographies, teaching books applying Scripture to our daily lives, children's literature, etc. Please see Elaine Hill (722585) for any book needs, including Bibles. The books are changed on a regular basis so please keep looking in the south transept of St. Laurence's.

BUILDING IN FAITH UPDATE

“This church is an interesting and handsome building, considerably disfigured internally by bad restoration.”

These words, which may shock the reader, were written on 17th September 1967, by the Hereford Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). The report goes on to say:-

- i) The rough stonework is dark and dirty ... no scheme of improvement can really succeed unless the walls are re-plastered.
- ii) The Altar table should be moved to the central crossing to create a corporate setting for Holy Communion services
- iii) The first few pews should be removed to allow an elliptical platform with Communion rails to be formed.
- iv) The pulpit be reconstructed so that the steps do not obstruct the Chancel platform.
- v) The Chancel Area be used for weekday services.
- vi) The Reredos is bombastic in it's present form.
- vii) A large new entrance be formed to provide gathering space, shelter from draughts and weather and space for literature and information. The new entrance should be formed largely of glass.

The DAC report concludes, ***“Nevertheless, the church has possibilities which, if the parish***

is bold enough to realize them, could have highly rewarding results, both aesthetically and in the experience of worship.”

Well, it has taken 43 years but the recommendations made by the DAC have all been completed and we as a congregation are being blessed, and future congregations will be blessed by the result. Everything has been completed except for the provision of a new West Entrance which forms Phase 2 of our *B in F* Project.

Before discussing Phase 2, many will know that the current DAC asked that the side wings of the Reredos (described as bombastic in the previous report) should be re-fitted. We have now fitted the panels, with the DAC's approval, in the South corner of the church adjacent to the South Door. We believe this is a pleasing compromise and will allow us to form a small prayer area in that corner.

Phase 2 – New Entrance

Our Architect is busily developing further drawings to present for discussion to the church, DAC, Amenity Bodies and Conservation Officer. In addition to the recommendations previously made by the DAC to provide gathering space, shelter from draughts/ weather and space for literature, the new entrance will provide toilet facilities, a tea/coffee point and

meeting room. The proposals show elevations, largely of glass, first recommended in the 1967 report.

Discussions with all the interested parties could take up to six months, but it is hoped that by September 2012, all the necessary approvals will have been obtained and we shall be ready to instruct the Architect to proceed with detailed drawings. Full consultations will be made with church members and other interested people before this stage.

We are grateful to God for enabling this generation to undertake the re-ordering work foreseen by others all those years ago.

John Hughes

CAROL SERVICE

The traditional service of lessons and carols at St. Laurence's will be on Sunday December 18th at 6pm. The 'Big Carol Choir' will once again be leading the worship and doing special items. We are very grateful to the very hard-working team who put up all the candles and take them down again – offers of help to Tony Peck or Leslie Penny will be gratefully received.

MIDNIGHT SERVICE

There will be a service of Holy Communion at 11pm on Christmas Eve with carols and Christmas readings – very atmospheric with

the thought of Jesus being born in the early hours. All are welcome even if they do not wish to take communion.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Services on Christmas Day at St. Laurence's:

8am: *Traditional (1662) Holy Communion (with no hymns)*

10am: *Informal all age/family service lasting about 45 minutes.*

After this service there will be a short service of Holy Communion in the chancel.

CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS

All are welcome, as always, to our traditional form of services in December, which will include the following:

11:00am service of Holy Communion on 11th December. We are most pleased that Bishop Alistair is to dedicate the new building at this service. On the following Sunday, the 18th December, our annual Carol Service will be held at 3:00pm. On Christmas Day there will be a service of Holy Communion at 11:00am.

May Evening Prayer at 3:00pm on 1st January 2012 lead us into a peaceful and contented New Year.

HOME/SMALL GROUPS

One way in which we have sought to improve pastoral care is to delegate it to groups for those who belong, on the basis that folks will obey the Scriptural injunctions to care for and pray for one another. To support the leaders and help develop new leaders, as well as to be back up for any difficult problems, the clergy have divided oversight of the home groups into clusters as follows:

Nancy Cleaton:

- Own (Beta) group
- Doug and Adele
- Barbara B. & Romaine

Richard Hill:

- Fane and Sue
- Friday ladies
- Sheila and Anne
- All Saints
- St. Michael's

John Hughes:

- Men's groups
- Wildblood group
- Leslie Penny and Veronica J.

Suzan Williams:

- Own group
- Ann Heath
- Rayners
- Peplers/Robinsons
- Any other groups emerging in the family area

Anybody who would like to join a group may speak to one of the

leaders or clergy. As the groups are an integral part of how we ensure all are cared for, we do strongly encourage all who wish to belong to one!

A way into a group would also be to join Alpha in the New Year (January 18th) from which we hope to develop new groups.

As a report by the parish in 2004 realised, the groups have enormous potential in repairing broken lives, giving support in trouble, helping those in need, being a base from which to do outreach or help the community (maybe in conjunction with other groups in the same cluster), missionary support, and mentoring people in ministry of all sorts of different kinds so everyone is able to develop a ministry that touches other's lives, both in the church and in the world. Please ask the office for a copy to be e-mailed or printed for you.

Richard Hill

CHRISTMAS GARAGE PRAISE

Saturday 10th December 2011

Cardingmill Valley Cafe

7:30pm

Mulled wine, mince pies & carols
by the log fire.

Please ensure you bring a torch!!!

www.garagepraise.co.uk

December 2011

YOUTH@ST. LAURENCE'S

The Youth Christmas Ball on 23rd December needs your help!

Please could you see Sarah or John Wildblood if you can help make this a fun but safe night for our Young people. We need:

STEWARDS (including for the Parish Centre, so a less noisy position), **1st AIDER**, **HELPERS** for moving chairs/tables - Friday afternoon and/or Saturday morning and **SERVERS** of food on the evening.

(If you are helping during the evening then you must be covered by a Diocesan CRB disclosure, thanks.)

If you could help at all, even if only for a short time, we would be most grateful.

Contact **Sarah**: 07847 480780 or sarah.wildblood@strettonparish.org.uk. **John**: 07913 861608

Many thanks and may you meet with Jesus in a new a refreshing way this Christmas time. x

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Role	Name	Email	Phone
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Verger	Rev. Mervyn Williams	mervyn.williams@strettonparish.org.uk	724224

JUST10

How can we live in such a way that the world takes notice of us and wishes they were living as we were? That is the commission given to Israel in the Old Testament, and why they were chosen – to bring all nations to discover the love of God and His grace. The early church grew for several centuries because Christians were noticeably different from society and people wanted what they had.

How many of our current problems would disappear if we all lived by the 10 commandments: greed in the City, MP's expenses, family breakdown, ethnic groups falling out across the world, stress, disrespecting other people's property and reputations, dealing with jealousy, hate and roots of bitterness, and so on? No-one is exempt! Yet God's aim is that we should live contented, fulfilling, satisfied lives with enough for our needs. The 10 commandments, beginning with the story of grace and salvation, are at the heart of this plan, and Jesus came not to abolish them but to explain their true meaning as he showed in the Sermon on the Mount.

Therefore, we are giving over 10 Sundays to these commandments, starting on January 8th and taking us into Lent providing maximum impact on helping us to live a whole life discipleship if we study the

Scriptures in our various home groups. If the Bible is not life changing and leading us to be better disciples we are not reading it right! Booklets are available for small groups – ask me so we know how many more to order – and the Just 10 book by J. John, on which the series is based, is available through the bookstall.

When J. John originally preached this series in major venues across the country about ten years ago, the impact was phenomenal, especially at the younger age, with gangsters giving up their knives, many giving their lives to Christ, relationships being healed and lives made whole. They provide special materials for children, and the booklets of notes and questions for small groups are designed for youth as well as adults.

Some comments on this series:

'I know people's lives have been greatly impacted by the Just10 series across the country – J. John brings God's values right into the 21st Century.' *Rt. Rev. Tom Wright (until recently Bishop of Durham.)*

'God has restored the four most special relationships I have. How that has affected my faith you cannot begin to imagine.' *Paul from Exeter talking about the effect that one week had on his family.*

'Now I feel so fulfilled – I've been touched by God. I've had a lot of

problems and the last few months have been the hardest of my life, but since coming to Just10 and going to church, nothing seems to worry me.' *Karin Ramsey describing her experience of Just10 North East.*

'I have been a Christian since 1946... but Just10 helped me recapture some of the sparkle which I knew when I first became a Christian.' *Brian, who attended Just10 Luton.*

'The Just10 series is an enjoyable and educational re-examination of the Ten Commandments. J. John unpacks their relevance and continuing application in the modern world. I commend the series to you.' *Rt. Rev. John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.*

J. John himself said, 'We have seen thousands come to Christ, thousands renew their relationship with Christ, thousands repent and thousands make restitution and return stolen goods.'

Richard Hill

NEW WINE 2012

29th July to 4th August 2012

Ever tried living the Christian life without help from others? Almost impossible, isn't it?!

Every Christian is strengthened by being part of a small group, and

every church is strengthened by being part of a movement bigger than itself.

Come and join us next year at New Wine in Shepton Mallett; be part of a large movement and see the church and the nation changed by our Lord Jesus.

We are now booking for New Wine 2012 to take advantage of the 'Early Bird' reduced prices before 2nd April 2012. The price includes entry to all venues, full use of facilities on site and the camping pitch.

Interested? Contact Christine or John Hughes on 722582. Adults £131 and Children £45 - £107 depending on their age on 31st August 2012.

Come and be inspired, empowered and fired up to change lives, communities and the nation.

John Hughes



© 2000-2001
'JESUS, WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE IS A BIT LONG FOR THIS FORM ... YOU MIGHT WANT TO JUST USE 'JESUS'

CRB CHECKS

Some people think it is an invasion of privacy, or us being picky, when we ask for CRB clearance! Unfortunately, as sometimes churches have been targeted by paedophiles, we need to be extra vigilant and church officers cannot be in the invidious position of deciding who should be exempt from procedures.

There has been a loophole with regards to retired clergy, as only the Rural Dean (not local ministers) knew who was cleared. I am working on closing this – at least five clergy were found to have records in this regard, from all denominations, whilst I was in Hull, doing the church's reputation no good (at one time we would be spat at in the street if we wore a dog collar!) - so I know from personal experience how important it is that the procedures are followed without fear or favour, and that all co-operate. Some information is not transferable from other agencies and the church's systems are probably the most efficient of all.

Following some recent comments, I asked the diocese's CRB officer to explain and this is her answer:

'The situation at present is that the diocese does not accept checks done by other organisations for the following reasons:

1. Additional information is sometimes provided on otherwise clear checks – this is at the discretion of the police (remember Ian Huntley of the Soham murders had no relevant convictions but many previous investigations – the reason the police originally shouted loudly for the sort of system the ISA would have provided). We would not get this additional information if we relied on the individual to provide their certificate.

2. All diocesan checks are enhanced checks – many people with a check do not know if theirs was standard or enhanced and the hassle of agreeing to accept and then finding it is not enhanced would cause more aggravation.

3. The CRB check is as good as the day it is done and the Diocese needs to be sure that at the point of employing any individual, paid or voluntary, is appropriate for the role.

4. The decision has been made that until the Freedom Bill is translated into an act, the diocesan policy will remain as it is, to avoid a series of confusing changes to policy. The government hopes that the first measures will be enacted early next year. At that point the National Safeguarding Body of the Anglican and Methodist Churches will reconsider their recommendations to dioceses and Methodist circuits.

5. The last reason is, of course, that if we relied on evidence produced by the individual there is a small risk that, if they have the wrong intent, they may have falsified the documents. National statistics tell us that 39% of convicted child abusers join a church, and they often move area and change their name.

The diocese will reconsider its guidelines in the light of the new Freedom Act when it arrives.'

I have enough paper around my study without this, but we are under authority and we would not have a leg to stand on, including with regards to our insurance policy, if we bowed to pressure from some not to make all checks required by law. So, sorry for the inconvenience, but the safety of the weakest members of our community is a priority for those who share Jesus' priorities.

Richard Hill (on behalf of the HR committee)

CHRISTINGLE

Our Christingle Service was a great success, in terms of numbers at the very least, as the Church was full. It was a great joy to me to see so many families there enjoying the occasion and feeling at home; chatting amongst themselves at times which signified to me that they

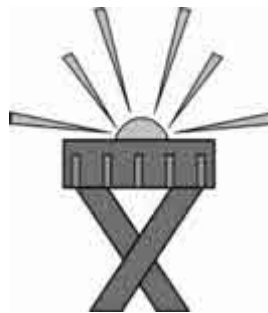
were relaxed and at comfortable in their surroundings. Oliver, Gideon and Dominic Turner were the educators, helping us understand the Christingle. We used a pumpkin, red tape, kebab sticks with marshmallows and dates impaled onto them, plus a large glow stick to explain the meaning of each part of the Christingle. Thanks to all those who took part; it was a real sacrifice of their time and energy which I greatly appreciated.

Sarah Robinson

CRIB SERVICE

This year there will be a Crib Service at St Laurence's Church on Christmas Eve at 2:30pm.

The more mobile folk can gather at the Co-op car park at 1:30pm to travel through town to the church with Mary, Joseph and Dusty the Donkey (yes, a real donkey, kindly being loaned to us from Acton Scott Farm). Will there be room at the inn? Come and find out! The service will be



in the church, is open to all and will be suitable for children from 0 to 100. Come and play pass-the-parcel and prepare your hearts for God's best Gift to the world.

Sally Cooke
Page 11

ALPHA COURSE 2012

We are starting an Alpha Course on January 18th 2012. The Alpha Course is open to anyone interested in discovering what Christianity is all about. Guests come to investigate whether God exists or to find out more about the Christian faith and some have questions they would like to discuss. Why not book the following dates in your diary - come along - bring a friend (or two) - enjoy a meal - listen to a talk - join a lively discussion.

January 18th	Who is Jesus?
January 25th	Why did Jesus die?
February 1st	How can I be sure of my faith?
February 8th	Why and how should I read the Bible?
February 15th	Why and how should I pray?
February 25th	Who is the Holy Spirit?
	What does the Holy Spirit do?
	How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
March 7th	How does God guide us?
March 14th	Does God heal today?
March 21st	How and why should I tell others?
March 28th	How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

The February 25th date is at the Ludlow Conference Centre 9:30- 4:00pm and includes lunch. Application Forms can be obtained from the Parish Office. Further information from Richard (Tel 722585) or John and Christine (Tel 722582)



CHRISTMAS CAROL WORDSEARCH

M E H E L H T E B F O N W O T E L T T I L O E S U N W W U O
O C O M E A L L Y E F A I T H F U L D Q H W U Y W A G D S E
S F J R T C S D Z F V U L W S Q N A K E C Z W G Y R M O U O
B S U I A Q M L Y H I S Y J C V T U R N P T O Z E E I D L C
S L N S L E U N A M M E E M O C O E M O C O X W O G E W Y K
P O X E L D L R O W E H T O T Y O J F R O U Q S Z N H A Z C
G V H K M V U C R U F A D B T S P N C P H U P P Y A Y Z J H
G E L A O E Z P T B C A U W M R R U I O E E S D I M K L Z Y
E C L W R A L A W H O I S H E I N Y O N D E R S T A L L R W
U A V A T D C T S R G C Q U L A Q U T J X H S O Q N U M E M
E M D S A L S O N C E I N R O Y A L D A V I D S C I T Y T K
A E J N L M W V T E Y F N M Q P G P S K V X Y N F Y Y T N O
C D T A F D I M H S G Y Z D N T O F T Q R T L T R A K F I L
R O N I L Z E X G D O Y N Q I L C S V W D T T H L W P I W M
E W B T E G Z B I I S Y R E D M C Q W E W X L E J A U V D Y
G N I S S L E G N A D L A R E H E H T K R A H F K J D F I N
Q A C I H H I Y T W Z L J S E P Q H Z P C V Q I H L Z X M G
C T M R K K H X N N Y Y G Y P M N F T G J F F R X N O Y K T
C C X H E I W S E E A M I D T H E W I N T E R S S N O W A J
K H V C E M E F L E L S T B K I N Y F Y O A U T U J L V E A
Z R D J P U S Z I C A T V T U S O A T Y T P F N B Z D L L E
E I C I S R S R S C X M E P V T M N N S I A U O I D W R B Y
Z S L Y I G G O O D C H R I S T I A N M E N R E J O I C E Y
K T T F L F J U N T O U S A B O Y I S B O R N L M X X Z H R
H M G D D H I V A W S D R E U P E A S S A V D V A A H V T N
E A S L N K G I I U K I J X P F F X G M V X X O E M C G N D
I S A W T H R E E S H I P S C O M E S A I L I N G I N T I U
U F C R B S U I D L X F C F X N M M F O Q F S F K Y P N I Z
D I P C T W C J Z I K X N O J G T G L P H I R Z X D I E Q O
J G Z D E H C T A W S D R E H P E H S E L I H W Z C S O R K

AWAY IN A MANGER
CHRISTIANS AWAKE
GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN REJOICE
HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER
I SAW THREE SHIPS COME SAILING IN
IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR
JOY TO THE WORLD
LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENT
LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
O COME O COME EMMANUEL
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
ONCE IN ROYAL DAVIDS CITY
SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW
SILENT NIGHT
THE FIRST NOEL
UNTO US A BOY IS BORN
WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE
WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED
WHO IS HE IN YONDER STALL

One of the carols listed above is not in the wordsearch. Can you work out which one?

DECEMBER SERVICES

		St. Laurence's			St. Michael's		All Saints'	
	8:00am	9:30am	11:05am	6:00pm	10:30am	11:00am	3:00pm	
	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship – Order Two) Suzan Williams Nancy Cleaton	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship) Suzan Williams Nancy Cleaton	<i>All Age Service</i> All Age Team Nancy Cleaton		<i>Morning Worship</i> Rector		<i>Evening Prayer</i> (BCP) John Hughes	
4th Dec	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship – Order Two) Suzan Williams Nancy Cleaton	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship) Suzan Williams Nancy Cleaton	<i>11.05 Special</i> Suzan Williams Bp Mike Bourke		<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship) Valerie Morris	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship – Order Two) Rector Bp Allstair		
11th Dec	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship – Order Two) Rector	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship) Suzan Williams Bp Mike Bourke	<i>11.05 Nativity Special</i> Suzan Williams Sarah Robinson					
18th Dec	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship – Order Two) John Hughes	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship) Nancy Cleaton John Hughes	<i>11.05 Nativity Special</i> Suzan Williams Sarah Robinson	<i>Carols by Candlelight</i> Rector Suzan Williams	<i>6pm Carol Service</i> David Morris		<i>Carol Service</i> Rector	
25th Dec	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship – Order One) Rector	<i>10am Christmas Family Worship</i> (followed by a short communion) Suzan Williams Rector			<i>9:30am (URC)</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i> (Common Worship – Order Two) Paul James		

24th December 11:00 pm. Midnight Communion
St Laurence's – Suzan Williams, Rector

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Siobhan Morris
Dominic Turner
Oscar Russell



BAPTISM

On the 20th November we welcomed Keira Elizabeth Harris into the church family. May she and her family grow in the love of Christ.

MEMORIAL BOOK

In November we gave thanks for lives of:

Gladys Duke	1/11/1989
Rita Wakefield	1/11/2003
Kieran Harris	6/11/2002
Ernest Phillips	13/11/1988
Derek Bolton	13/11/1995
Cyril Sumpter	23/11/1990
Percy (Bill) Gatter	24/11/1997
Derek Pyle	26/11/1999
Geoffrey Dickenson	26/11/2003
Arthur Coleshaw	30/11/2000

FUNERALS

The following funerals took place during the last month:

Barbara Forsyth
Eddie Conning
Harold Mills
Daphne Wall
Roy Coad
Angela Smallwood
Molly Cooke
Beryl Powell
Tony Daniell

We hold their families and friends in our prayers.

WEDDING

On the 19th November St. Laurence's hosted the wedding of:

Angela Patricia Jones
and
John Ellis

We wish them God's blessing and many happy years of marriage together.

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Deadline:
The deadline for submissions for the January edition of Church Matters is **Sunday 18th Dec**. If possible, can all articles be emailed to simon.cleaton@talk21.com preferably in the form of **unformatted** Word Documents. Alternatively, drop them in to the Parish Office.

Note:
The editor reserves the right to amend, curtail or expand, and to select appropriate headings and subsidiary headings, for all articles submitted for inclusion in Church Matters.

DATES OF INTEREST FOR DECEMBER 2011

Date	Time	Event	Location
4th	3pm	Bible Sunday United Service	St. Laurence's
6th	12:30pm	Mothers' Union Lunch	Parish Centre
7th	2:30pm	Women's Fellowship - A Christmas Talk by Tim and Barbara Oakley	Parish Centre
10th	10am	Little Acorns Coffee Morning	Parish Centre
10th	7:30pm	Christmas Garage Praise	Cardingmill Valley Cafe
14th	3pm	Carols and Teas for the elderly	St. Laurence's
15th	2pm	Busy Bees Nativity - All are welcome	St. Laurence's
18th	3pm	Carol Service	All Saints'
18th	6pm	Carol Service	St. Michael's
18th	6pm	Carols by Candlelight	St. Laurence's
23rd	7pm	Youth Christmas Ball	St. Laurence's
24th	2:30pm	Crib Service	St. Laurence's
25th	10am	Christmas Family Worship	St. Laurence's

Also on in December:

Check with each group about when they stop meeting for Christmas.

- Church Prayer meeting every Wednesday, 7:30pm, Owen Room
- Holy Communion every Thursday, 11:30am at St. Laurence's
- Parents and Toddlers every Thursday, 10:00am, Parish Centre
- Worship Choir every Wednesday, 7:30pm, Parish Centre

The weekly diary is viewable in Contact, and please remember that details of all recurring events are also on the church website at www.strettonparish.org.uk.