

# THE OLD CHURCH NEWS

O P E N T O A L L - O P E N T O G O D  
VOLUME 4 ISSUE 6 DECEMBER 2013



## G O D W I T H U S

This time of year is a great time to look back and look forward, I feel it is something to do with the changing season as the summer sun becomes a distant memory, I hear the rain against the window and the thermostat gets turned up ready for the cold winter nights. We look back and remember with sadness, loved ones or others lost at the commemoration of All Souls, the celebration of All Saints and the sombre pageantry of Remembrance Sunday. For me this is part of the rhythm of my life and evokes many a childhood and adult memory. While we rejoice in the heroic example of the saints, we feel the loss of those we know and love.

But also this is a season of promise of looking forward to a new Church year in Advent, the season of watching and waiting, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, born amongst us, in all the vulnerability and fragility of a homeless young life. Not simply 'preparing for Christmas', but also something more deeply resonant and challenging of the second coming of Jesus as king. We look forward to the whole festive season, sometimes with dread, ending in New

Year's resolutions, so often earnestly promised, but so quickly broken!

The reality of this season is the incarnation of Christ, that of Emmanuel, 'God with us'. In the humanity of Jesus, God uniquely invades history and is now truly with us here and now. There is no evidence that Jesus received this as a personal name, but the very meaning of the word should bring comfort and hope to us all.

So no more should we look back with regret or guilt, no more should we look forward with dread or fear. God is with us here and now, today, in this very moment, and so maybe we should spend our time with God now. This takes away fear or guilt, allows us to live in the present moment and embrace the future whatever it may hold. We can look around and become more effective, free to love, give and serve without worry. So in all the remembering the past, the preparing for the future, and the ultimate feasting and celebration with family or friends, remember God is with you in Jesus, Emmanuel, here and now.

*Eddie Wynn*

## L A S T M O N T H ' S N E W S

At the beginning of November All Souls' day was commemorated at Old Church with two services when loved ones that are no longer with us were named and remembered during periods of reflection and prayer. Both services were well attended and those present had the opportunity to light a candle in memory of their loved ones at this time.

The theme of remembering continued during the morning service on Remembrance Sunday. The traditional two minutes silence was observed and those men and women who were killed during the two World Wars and other conflicts were held in our thoughts.

The Baptism of Suzi-Lin and baby Sonia was held during the morning service on 24<sup>th</sup> November. At 12.15pm Kim, Jack and Tommy -Lee were also presented for Baptism. We pray for all those Baptised and their families.

Later that day we were treated to a concert of choral music given by the Oakville Singers. Their programme included music ranging from the shows to psalm settings. The choir then led us in a service of Choral Evensong to celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Those attending really appreciated the very high standard of the singing and accompaniment.

## CHRISTINGLE

Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of the Christian faith. Lots of churches hold Christingle services around Christmas time. The custom of giving out lighted candles in these services began in Germany in 1747 but it wasn't introduced to the Anglican Church in England until 1968.



A Christingle is an orange, representing the world, with a candle placed in the top of it to symbolize Christ the light of the world. A red ribbon encircles the orange, symbolizing the blood of Jesus. Four cocktail sticks with dried fruits or sweets are placed into the sides of the

orange. The cocktail sticks represent the four seasons or the four corners of the world and the sweets or dried fruit remind Christians of God's gifts to the world including kindness and love.

This simple visual aid vividly represents the purpose behind Christ's coming - to bring light into the darkness and to redeem a broken world by shedding His blood.

## THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS

It's not the glow you feel when snow appears,  
It's not the Christmas card you've sent for years,  
Not the joyful sound when church bells ring,  
Or the merry songs that children sing.

The little things you do on Christmas Day  
Will not bring back the friend you've turned away.  
So may I suggest the secret of Christmas  
Is not the things you do at Christmas time  
But the little things you do all year through.



## DECEMBER

- 1st **ADVENT SUNDAY** Holy Communion service to include lighting the first candle of the Advent Wreath
- 2nd 7.30 pm **Fashion Show** in aid of 'Paul & Barneys' at George Rd Church Hall. Entrance ticket £1.00 from Judy Eynon
- 8th 5.00 pm **Hymns of Praise and Readings for Advent.** All welcome
- 10th 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm **Carol Singing** at ASDA Cape Hill. Come along and join in singing to raise money for charity.
- 22nd 10.15 am **Holy Communion and Junior Church Nativity Play**
- 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
4.00 pm **Crib Service**
- 24th 11.30 pm **Midnight Mass**
- 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10.15 **Holy Communion**

## ADVANCE NOTICE

### Jack and the Beanstalk by Alan Wood



Dame Trott has fallen on hard times and to pay her taxes to the odious Giant she sends her son, Jack, to sell the family cow. Jack stupidly sells the cow for a bag of beans. But these are no ordinary beans and this is just the beginning of his adventures up the Beanstalk as he

battles the giant and his nasty allies to save the village from destruction, rescue the princess and find the goose that lays the golden egg. A giant of a family Panto with just a few unusual twists on the way.

A trip to an evening performance of the family pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Oldbury Rep is being organised to take place in January 2014. **Please see Christine Tanner by 8<sup>th</sup> December if you wish to book a place. Tickets are £10.00 each to be paid at the time of booking.**