## HARPSDEN PARISH NEWS DECEMBER 2019



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## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY

## Dear friends

I can hardly believe that Christmas is almost upon us - my desk currently has Advent services and Carol services all over it, and hopefully in the next few days I will finally put together all the services planned for this special time of year. I would urge you all to look at the calendar in this issue so that you do not miss any of the opportunities that each of our churches offer during this Christmas season - and why not bring along a friend to a service, they might just enjoy it.

Remembrance Sunday saw services around the Benefice, and amazingly the torrential rain that we had had all week stopped and we were able to continue our acts of remembrance in the dry, with many locals joining the services at the War Memorials in Dunsden and Shiplake. I always find these services deeply moving, especially when the names of the fallen are read out and the last post is sounded. All our communities were at the time of the first and second World Wars actually very small communities and the number of people who gave their lives for the freedom of their country is quite staggering, even in today's larger villages to lose so many young people would be devastating. Let us thank God for their sacrifice and let us not forget our past so that we may truly go forward into the future to seek peace and pursue it.

## A prayer from USPG:

God, our refuge and strength
bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Looking forward to Christmas there are many services that I would encourage you to come to and I would like to highlight three, one from each of our beautiful churches.

Harpsden - 9 lessons and carols, a lovely service with the choir signing magnificently and congregational carols for all to join in. This is on Sunday $15^{\text {th }}$ December at 6 pm .

Dunsden - Carol Service, with hand bells and carol singing followed by lovely refreshments in the beautifully redecorated Dunsden Church - again Sunday $15^{\text {th }}$ December but at 11am - please note that there is no service at Shiplake on the $15^{\text {th }}$ as we are trying to encourage as many people as possible to come to our special services.

Shiplake - Saturday $14^{\text {th }}$ December, 11 am and 4 pm - the Benefice Live Nativity. A service/celebration for all the family. Lots of dressing up - we have many costumes, including this year several camels!! Lots of refreshments provided by Shiplake College, and the service itself is in candlelight - last year we had over 200 candles lit in the church to create a truly amazing atmosphere. This event is particularly suitable for people of ALL ages, children, elderly, all are very welcome.

There will be at the back of church from Advent Sunday a hard copy of next years diary of services which I would encourage you to take and make a note of all the activities and event that go on in this amazing benefice. I would also encourage you to try something new next year - there are lots to choose from, and if you do not come to these services/event how do you know that you do not like them? and if you came to a new event last year and enjoyed it them please do tell others and bring them along.

May I wish you all a very Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and New Year. Yours in Christ
Robert


# Editor's Note: Remember you can find details of church services and so much more on the Benefice Website: 



Dear All,
Next year I will have served as Bishop of Dorchester for twenty years. I will also reach the ripe old age of 70 , which means that it is time for me to retire from my episcopal ministry and to move on to the next stage in life.

As I begin to plan for retirement, I feel tremendously grateful for the many partnerships between churches, local authorities and civil society created to serve this wonderful County of ours. I've witnessed much excellent work to combat loneliness, support communities new and old and to improve our links with schools and young people. We have achieved much by working together, and I know that the strong bonds between our organisations will continue long after I have laid down my crosier.

There is something heavenly in being able to engage with people's ordinary lives, and the church has responded to changing needs over the last 20 years with love, just as it always has. From street pastors to the flu friendless, food banks to Messy Churches, mother and toddler groups to bereavement support, prayer spaces to pilgrimage routes and the provision of any number of loos and serveries, the unceasing heartbeat of parish ministry in our villages, market towns and new housing estates is very special indeed.

It has also been my privilege to ordain, baptise and confirm many people over the last twenty years. Each occasion has been unique and special, never routine. Similarly, it has been a great joy to be involved in the appointment of nearly all of the clergy who currently serve the 326 churches in the Dorchester Area. Be assured of my continued prayers for all of you.

I couldn't have fulfilled my ministry without the hard work and dedication of the Dorchester team. I am hugely grateful to Archdeacon Judy, my PA's Carolyn and

Sarah, Charles Chadwick as Parish Development Adviser and everyone in the Area Team for their support and wise counsel over the years. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this period of transition as well as for those who will be responsible for the appointment of my successor.

My episcopal ministry comes to an end on Sunday 4 October with a tea party followed by a service at Dorchester Abbey. All are welcome, so please look out for an invitation nearer the time.

For now, the team and I will be continuing just as we have always done; working to achieve our common vision of a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world.

With every good wish,


## SIDESMEN FOR DECEMBER

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1st Benefice Service at Shiplake
8th}\quad\mathrm{ Rob and Carol Lewis
15th Susan Hunt and Angela Liveing
15th 6.00 pm - Carol Service: Bruce Brown & Jo Pavey
22nd TBA
24}\mp@subsup{}{}{\mathrm{ th }}4.00 pm - Christingle: TBA
24th 11.30 pm - Midnight Mass: TBA
25th Kester and Pippa George
29th Tony and Sue Wright
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## WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

The Tuesday Prayer Group meets every week. If you would like someone held in prayer please contact Jennie Griffiths (01491 575137)

## ROTA FOR DECEMBER READERS

| $1^{\text {st }}$ | Benefice Service at Shiplake |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $8^{\text {th }}$ | Sarah Bevan | Isa. 11.1-10 |
| $15^{\text {th }}$ | Pat Needham | Isa. 35.1-10 |
| $22^{\text {nd }}$ | Kester George | Isa. $7.10-16$ |
| $24^{\text {th }}$ | $(11.30$ pm Paul Barrett | Micah $5.2-5 \mathrm{a}$ |
| $25^{\text {th }}$ | Valerie Nicholson | Isa. $52.7-10$ |
| $29^{\text {th }}$ | Martyn Read | Heb. 2.10-end |

## PRAYER LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

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1st Benefice Service at Shiplake
8 th Brenda Wright
15 th Pat Needham
22 nd Nick Brown
24 th }11.30\mathrm{ pm (Midnight Mass) Jane Burtt
25 th May Mosawi
29 th Tilden McKean
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## FELLOWSHIP LUNCH



PLEASE CONTACT Hazel Cooke by the preceding Monday by phone (01491 575876) or by email: hazelcooke01@gmail.com IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN THE FELLOWSHIP LUNCH ON
WEDNESDAY $4^{\text {th }}$ DECEMBER
at $\mathbf{1 2 . 3 0} \mathbf{~ p m}$ at the Maltsters' Arms PLEASE MAKE YOUR MENU CHOICES FROM BELOW


## DECEMBER SERVICES

| SUNDAY <br> $\mathbf{1}^{\text {ST }}$ DECEMBER | 11.00 am | Benefice Service | Shiplake |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MONDAY <br> $\mathbf{2}^{\text {ND }}$ DECEMBER | 10.00 am | Morning Prayers | Shiplake |
| TUESDAY <br> $\mathbf{3}^{\text {RD }}$ DECEMBER | 10.00 am | Prayer Group | Harp |


| MONDAY $16^{\text {TH }}$ DECEMBER | 10.00 am | Morning Prayers | Shiplake |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WEDNESDAY $18^{\text {TH }}$ DECEMBER | 9.30 am | Eucharist | Harpsden |
| SUNDAY <br> $22^{\text {ND }}$ DECEMBER | 9.30 am | Sung Eucharist | Harpsden |
|  | 11.00 am | Sung Eucharist | Shiplake |
|  | 11.00 am | Sung Eucharist | Dunsden |
| MONDAY $23^{\mathrm{RD}}$ DECEMBER | 10.00 am | Morning Prayers | Shiplake |
| TUESDAY <br> $24^{\text {TH }}$ DECEMBER | 4.00 pm | Christingle | Harpsden |
|  | 11.30 pm | Midnight Mass | Harpsden |
|  | 11.30 pm | Midnight Mass | Shiplake |
|  | 11.30 pm | Midnight Mass | Dunsden |
| WEDNESDAY $25^{\text {TH }}$ DECEMBER | 10.00 am | Sung Eucharist | Harpsden |
|  | 10.00 am | Sung Eucharist | Dunsden |
|  | 11.00 am | Sung Eucharist | Shiplake |
| SUNDAY $29^{\text {TH }}$ DECEMBER | 9.30 am | Benefice Service | Harpsden |

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Monday 2 <br> 10.30 am <br> necember | Boys' Brunch <br> The Ark, Shiplake |
| :---: | :---: |
| Wednesday $4^{\text {th }}$ December <br> 12.30 pm | Fellowship Lunch <br> The Maltsters |
| Thursday $5^{\text {th }}$ December <br> $1.00-3.00 \mathrm{pm}$ | Craft Group <br> The Ark |

## COFFEE ROTA

December
$1^{\text {st }} \quad$ Benefice Service at Shiplake
Brenda Wright Jo Pavey Sue Wright
$29^{\text {th }}$ Jane Burtt

January
$5^{\text {th }} \quad 10.00$ am Florence Phillips
12 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Karen Drakeford-Lewis
19 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Anne Brown
$26^{\text {th }}$ Bex Day


## SPONSORSHIP OF THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

Dec 1st -7th In memory of Catherine Slee: sponsored by her friend Sue Wright
Dec 15th - 21st In memory of Hilda Farr: sponsored by Pat Needham
Dec 22nd to 28th In memory of Winnie Daniel: sponsored by Jo Taylor
Dec 29th to Jan 4th In memory of Ginnie Truelove: sponsored by Jo Taylor

## The new book for sponsoring the sanctuary candle for 2020 is at the back of the church. Please see Pat Needham for payment.

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Harpsden Parish News is written for and by the people of this parish, and contributions are always welcome. However, the views expressed therein are those of the writers and are not necessarily shared by the Rector, the Editor and Churchwarden.


