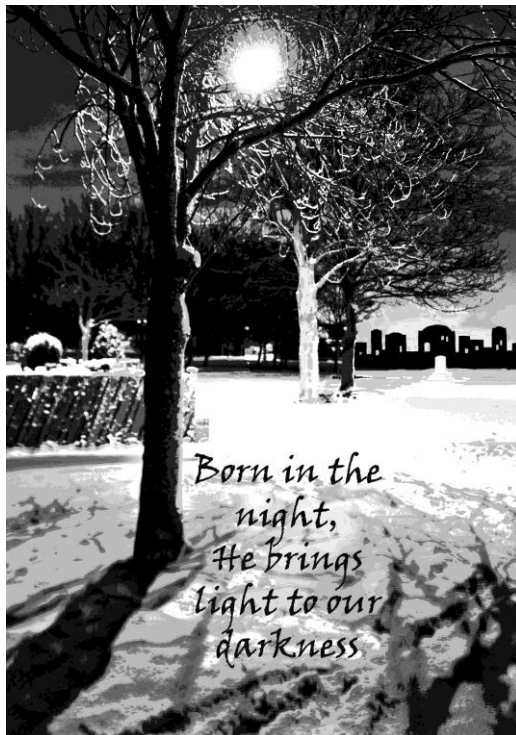


**The Parish Church of St Paul  
Ansdell & Fairhaven**

# **Pews News Extra**

**Issue No 86 – December 2015**



*The Church Family of Ansdell and Fairhaven St. Paul  
Wish You Joy and Peace this Christmastime!*

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **Vicar**

Vacant

### **Reader**

Miss Janet Kimber

### **Reader Emeritus**

Mr Peter Swindells

### **Church Wardens**

Mrs Sheila Swindells

Mr Alan Wrapson

### **Verger**

Mrs Carole Johnson

### **Pastoral Assistants**

Mrs Rhona Robinson

Mrs Marian Wood

### **Parish Secretary**

Mrs Pamela Rowell

### **Treasurer**

Mrs Loraine Lee

### **Organist**

Mrs Linda Carrington

*For a full list of Who's Who as St Paul's please pick up a list from the Parish Office, Church or St. Paul's Fundraising Shop*

**Parish Office**

Tel No 01253 732939

**Fundraising Shop**

Tel No 01253 732253

**Website**

[www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com](http://www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com)

**E-mail**

[stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com)

**To hire the Church Hall please contact**  
**The Parish Office (Tel 01253 732939)**

## **A few words from your Reader ...**

Dear Friends,

It seems hard to believe that we are already approaching the final month of 2016 and are in our fifth month of vacancy! Parish life continues to be busy and December is no exception.



By the time you read this Pews News Extra, we shall be in the season of Advent, a season which signals the beginning of a new church year. It is season of expectation and preparation as the Church looks forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. But it is also a season when commercial pressure makes it harder to retain an appropriate sense of alert watchfulness in our anticipation of Christmas. We become all too easily distracted by the lights and decorations in the shops on the high street as they entice us to buy their goods. How easy it is to get caught up in all this activity and noise.

And certainly, in the midst of all the activity and bustle of December, it is good to set aside some time in which to pause and reflect, as we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child. It is with this aim in mind that we are holding a short series of three Advent study sessions on 9th, 16th and 23rd December. These will be held in the Vicarage and are open to all. Please speak to Pam Rowell if you would like to know more.

During December we have a whole host of extra services, over and above our normal Sunday worship, so please feel free to join us whenever you can. The month begins with the Ansdell and Fairhaven Churches Together Advent Service on Wednesday 2nd December at St. Joseph's Church. The following Sunday (6th) sees our ever popular Christingle Café, when we will once again welcome the Heyhouses Community Choir. So, come and join us for fun, food and fellowship as we create our individual Christingles.

Once you have read the 'Notes from the Organ Loft' page, you

will realise that there are plenty of singing opportunities this month. Our annual Carol Service with Nine Lessons and Carols is at 6pm on Sunday 20th December; and we have once again been invited to take a group of carollers to the South Hey Community Centre and to Lake View Care Home. These occasions are enjoyable experiences for all involved and everyone is welcome to attend.

Lastly, but not least, our Thursday Worship youngsters will be leading our 'Blessing of the Crib' service on Christmas Eve, so please come along and support them. You may also like to return to church later that evening for the Midnight Service of Holy Communion, or return on Christmas Day for an All Age Eucharist. You certainly have plenty of choice!

Whatever you choose to do this month, may you have a happy and blessed Christmas!

Yours in Christ

*Janet K.*



### **A Prayer for the Vacancy**

*Heavenly Father, you have called us together as members of your Church in this parish. Deepen our love for you and strengthen our fellowship one with another as we face this time of uncertainty and change. Keep us faithful in prayer and worship; and fill us with your vision and energy as we seek to bring new life to our community.*



*Strengthen and guide Alan and Sheila, the PCC and the Parish Representatives as they take the Parish forward; and speak into the hearts of all those whom you are calling to serve in this Parish, that they may hear your call and be obedient to your calling. This we ask in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# Mother's UNION

Christian care for families

Hello everyone,

There were a good number of us on 21st October when we joined the Mother's Union Wave of Prayer. We were united in prayer with the worldwide Dioceses of Bhopal, Blackburn, Guinea, High Veld, Nimbale and Niger, reminding us all of the constant work and prayer of the Mother's Union, binding us together in mutual love and support.

Colin Holt MBE was our speaker in October. He brought the DVD showing the presentation of his Order at Buckingham Palace. We were all amazed and delighted at the organisation and expert timing of the event. He also took us through the inception of Orders of Honour and how the focus has changed over the years.

Our delightfully renamed Weese and Chine evening passed extremely agreeably in November. Mr Gould again providing a good selection of cheeses, nibbles and 7 (or was it 8 – I lost count) wines for us to savour. The threat of some seriously bad weather had maybe deterred a few, but those who attended left pleasantly fortified if a little less steady than on arrival. Fellowship is for all the members of the parish and while we had a good turnout it would be wonderful if you could all bring a friend along to these events so that St Paul's can demonstrate outreach in the community.

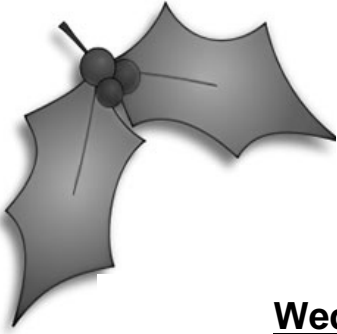
We look forward to our Christmas Lunch in December and of course the celebration of Christmas.

January is our Annual General Meeting - no that doesn't mean you get the afternoon off. Subscriptions are due at that meeting and I'll try to get the details in January's Pews News. Don't forget to bring your green stocking in January and we are having our Bring and Buy stall – this one being a "Green and Red" table.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

*Jean Lyon*





# CHRISTMAS SERVICES DECEMBER 2015

## **Wednesday 2nd December**

7:30pm ~ Churches Together Advent Service  
at St. Joseph's RC Church



## **Sunday 6th December**

2:30pm ~ Christingle Café



## **Sunday 20th December**

6:00pm ~ Carol Service



## **Thursday 24th December**

6:00pm ~ Crib Service  
11:30pm ~ Midnight Eucharist



## **Friday 25th December**

10:30am ~ Family Eucharist



*Please come along and join us!*



# PARISHIONER'S CORNER



## Christmas Greetings

We would like to invite church members to post their greetings in church from the beginning of Advent.

All donations will go to charity.

*Pam &  
Bronwyn*



## Christian Aid

The current Christian Aid Magazine is available on the back table for anyone to look through. It makes uncomfortable reading. It is the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Christian Aid and we look back on the legacy left by those founding churches and celebrate everything which has been achieved.



Yet nothing changes and there are still millions of people all over the world trapped in impoverished lives at the mercy of forces beyond their control. Christian Aid reminds us that behind all the headlines in the papers there are real people who deserve so much better and it does as much as it can.

Please support Christian Aid.

*Marian Wood*



## Notice to Gardeners



Bags of leaves collected from the church grounds are available in exchange for a small donation towards new plants for the garden. The leaves will rot down to give valuable mulch and soil conditioner. Can deliver. Please contact Michele Briers 737493

## *Thank You*

Many thanks to all at St Paul's PCC and the church family for the many flowers, get well cards and telephone messages I received after my stay in hospital for a replacement hip operation.

I am now walking reasonably well, though only for a few dozen or so steps, with the help of my crutches.

I can't wait to get back to the church to become involved the activities which, hopefully, should be before the Christmas season festivities.



*Carole*

## *Thank You*

My thanks to all those parishioners who supported my efforts in making home-made jam during the autumn. It's pleasing to report that the profit was £900 which is to be split between the Lytham Lifeboat and St. Luke's Leprosy Hospital.

I very much appreciate the support from those who provided fruit, pans, jam jars and encouragement and to all those who made purchases of the five varieties of jams and jellies.

After Christmas I will need to start collecting jars again and will let parishioners know when they can hand these over to me.

I will have pots of hyacinths and tete a tete daffodils ready for sale very soon - the next part of a green initiative in support of charities.



*Julian Wilde*



*Many of the articles and pictures in the Pews News Extra are sourced from the Parish Pump Website and the Association of Church Editors monthly edition of "Ideas Forum"*





# NOTES FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

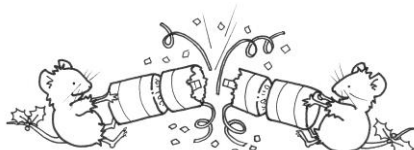
I hope that you are keeping your voices in good order for all the singing opportunities that will be available during December. In addition to a variety of Christmas services in the church or church hall there are two occasions when we will go out into the community to spread our message in the singing of carols. The first one will be at South Hey Community Centre on Monday 7th December when we are invited to sing after the residents' hotpot lunch. The following week, on Wednesday 16th December at 6.30 p.m. we are to sing at Lake View Care Home. Please sign the lists at the back of the church if you would like to be part of the St. Paul's singing team on one or both of these occasions.



For the Christingle service on 6th December we have a treat in store as we're to have a return visit from the Heyhouses Community Choir which delighted us with their singing at our Christingle two years ago. As well as their special musical contribution there will be hymns and carols for everyone to sing.

This is advance notice that the first "Songs of Praise" of 2016 will be on 31st January. That Sunday will be in the season of Epiphany, and is the Sunday when many churches celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Candlemas. As usual, hymn requests should be with me by the first Sunday of the month.

*Linda*



## **READERS' ROTA – SUNDAY (10:30am)**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Reading: 1st:OT &amp; Psalm, 2nd:NT</u></b>		<b><u>Name</u></b>
6th December Advent 2	1st	Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79 (Benedictus)	Bryan Nicholson
	2nd	Philippians 1:3-11	Charlotte Johnston
13th December Advent 3	1st	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6	Marian Wood
	2nd	Philippians 4:4-7	Barbara Jackson
20th December Advent 4	1st	Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7	Liz Geddes
	2nd	Hebrews 10:5-10	Sheila Swindells
25th December Christmas Day	1st	Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98	Sheila Redcliffe
	2nd	Hebrews 1;1-12	Richard Redcliffe
27th December Christmas 1	1st	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148	Audrey Naylor
	2nd	Colossians 3:12-17	Eileen Russell

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## **SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN DECEMBER**

| <b><u>Date</u></b>           | <b><u>Time</u></b> | <b><u>Service</u></b> | <b><u>Leader</u></b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 6th December<br>Advent 2     | 2:30pm             | Christingle           | Pam Rowell           |
|                              | 4:00pm             | Evening Prayer (Said) | Peter Swindells      |
| 13th December<br>Advent 3    | 4:00pm             | Evening Prayer (Said) | Janet Kimber         |
| 20th December<br>Advent 4    | 4:00pm             | Evening Prayer (Said) | Linda Carrington     |
|                              | 6:00pm             | Carol Service         | Janet Kimber         |
| 27th December<br>Christmas 1 | 4:00pm             | Evening Prayer (Said) | Peter Swindells      |

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## **High Days and Holy Days in December 2015**

- 1 **Charles de Foucauld** (1858-1915) ~ hermit in the Sahara
- 3 **Francis Xavier** (1506-1551) ~ Jesuit missionary
- 4 **John of Damascus** (c.749) ~ monk and teacher
- 4 **Nicholas Ferrar** (1637) ~ Deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community
- 6 **St Nicholas** (260-343) ~ patron saint of children, Bishop of Myra and very generous man
- 7 **Ambrose** (397) ~ Bishop of Milan, Teacher
- 8 **Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 11 **Thomas Merton** (1915-1968) ~ Monk and spiritual guide
- 14 **John of the Cross** (1542-91) ~ Carmelite friar, poet and teacher
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
- 25 **Christmas Day**
- 26 **St Stephen** (d. c35 AD) ~ Deacon and first martyr
- 27 **St. John the Beloved** (1st Century) ~ Apostle and evangelist
- 28 **Holy Innocents** ~ a day recalling the massacre of the young male children of Bethlehem by Herod the Great.
- 29 **Thomas Becket** (d.1170) ~ Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr
- 31 **John Wycliffe** (1324-84) ~ Theologian, Bible translator and reformer



### **Woodlands Funerals Limited**

Serving the Fylde Coast

90 Woodlands Road,  
Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 1DA  
Telephone: 01253 732217

Funeral Director: Mr Mark Potter

## *Christmas Answer*

(Luke Chapter 2 Verse 6)



So many refugees,  
So many homeless people,  
So much conflict and despair and pain,  
In a world without answers.  
But God so loved this world  
That he created Christmas  
And came, in Jesus.  
Jesus, born into poverty,  
Jesus, who was homeless,  
Who was a refugee,  
Who shares our conflict and despair and pain,  
Who takes it all and transforms it  
By his life-giving death and resurrection  
Into possibilities of peace and hope and joy,  
Into life in all its fullness.  
Jesus who came out of the stable  
And lives.  
God's answer.  
Hallelujah.  
By Daphne Kitching



## *Christmas Prayer 2015*

Loving, giving Father,

Thank you for Jesus, Emmanuel. Thank you that he came at Christmas and is alive and just as relevant today as he was all those years ago, and will be forever.

As many of us celebrate your coming to us, with our families, in warm, safe homes, in a democratic country, we pray for everyone who has left their homeland because of persecution, for everyone who is without shelter, or food, or family. Give us compassionate hearts, like yours, Lord. Help us, as Christ's body here on earth, to love and serve and make room for each other this Christmas. In Jesus' name. Amen

By Daphne Kitching

## *Mary treasured...*

Giving birth in lowly stable  
Baby's crib a feeding cart  
Loveless place to bear a baby  
Such a truly comfortless start!  
On that chilly morn  
When Jesus was born,  
Mary treasured this in her heart.

From the fields came shepherds telling  
Of the hosts that lit up the dark;  
Praising God and gladly singing  
Tidings glad they had to impart.  
On that early morn  
When Jesus was born,  
Mary treasured this in her heart.

From the east came Magi searching  
For the king they'd seen in their chart  
Frankincense they bowed and presented,  
Myrrh and gold they gave of their art.  
On that holy morn  
When Jesus was born,  
Mary treasured this in her heart.

Christmas morn – and we come seeking  
Gifts that only Christ can impart.  
Life with God that's never-ending,  
Holy light to lighten the dark.  
On this Christmas morn  
When Jesus was born  
We must treasure this in our hearts!

By Nigel Beeton



### **Crossword Answers for November 2015**

**ACROSS:** 1. Thanks 4. Banner 8. Esher 9. Azariah 10. Compare 11. Ishma 12. Doorposts 17. Oaths 19. Galatia 21. Papyrus 22. Frail 23. Listen 24. Hyssop

**DOWN:** 1. Trench 2. Ashamed 3. Karma 5. Ananias 6. Neigh 7. Reheat  
9. Areopagus 13. Observe 14. Satraps 15. Compel 16. Gallop 18. Tapes 20. Lofty

# December 2015 Wordsearch

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

SILENT  
NIGHT  
LOVED  
CAROL  
AUSTRIA

FIRST  
SUNG  
STILLE  
NACHT  
HEILIGE

CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
FATHER  
JOSEPH  
MOHR

YOUNG  
PRIEST  
ORGANIST  
MIDNIGHT  
MASS

MELODY  
SINGLE  
BING  
VERSION  
THIRD

## Silent Night

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

# Time for a Smile

## Keep it a surprise

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said, very seriously, "No, T-shirts don't rattle."



*"I'm sorry Michael ~ even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away in a Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"*

## Knock Knock

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Snow

Snow who?

Snow business like show  
business

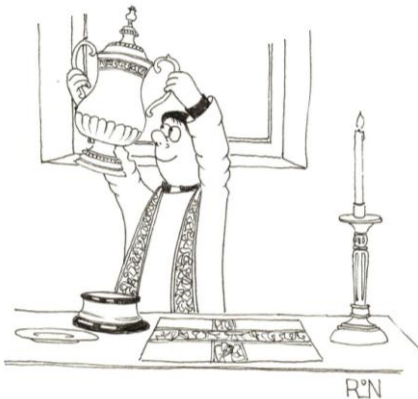
## Don't Eat

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinselitus.

## Rudolph the Red

There was once a great Czar in Russia named Rudolph the Red. He stood looking out the windows of his palace one day while his wife, the Czarina Katerina, sat nearby knitting. He turned to her and said, "Look my dear, it has begun to rain!" Without even looking up from her knitting she replied, "It's too cold to rain. It must be sleeting." The Czar shook his head and said, "I am the Czar of all the Russias, and Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"



*The special silverware only came out once a year.*



Dec15 ©deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



# CAN YOU HELP?

## Hall Booking Secretary Required

*Do you have good communication skills?*

*Are you a good organiser?*

If you have answered 'Yes' to either of these questions then you may be just the person we need to become our Hall Booking Secretary.

This is an important role in the life of our Church because it helps to ensure a financial income from both regular and occasional hall hirers.

The bookings for the hall are now made via our website, over the telephone, by letter and by word of mouth, so it is important that:

- all bookings are co-ordinated and recorded on the hall calendar,
- keys are tracked; and
- all financial aspects are open and traceable.

**If you're interested, please speak to one of the Wardens.**

## Shop Volunteers

Do you have a few of hours a week to spare?

We are looking for more volunteers to work in  
The Friends of St. Paul's Fundraising Shop.

The fundraising shop is an important part of Parish life and without it we would be digging deeper into our pockets for the finances needed to run this parish.

Whatever time you could spare would be gratefully received.

***Please speak to Mrs Victoria Pallister on 01253 732253***

# **Come and Join Us! Everyone is Welcome!**

## **Regular Church Hall Activities**

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
4th Monday	2:15 - 4:15pm	Mothers' Union
	Evening	Zumba Class
Tuesday	6:00 – 8:15pm	Beavers & Cubs (Term-Time only)
	From 10:30am	Church Coffee Morning
Wednesday	8:00 - 9:00pm	Zumba Dancing
Thursday	6:15 – 7:30pm	Family Service
Friday	5:00 - 9:00pm	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides (Term-Time only)

## **Other Regular Church Activities**

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Where</u></b>
1st Saturday	8:00-9:00am	Prayer Breakfast	In the Shop

### **St. Paul's Fundraising Shop**

(Woodlands Road)

### **Opening Hours**

**Monday to Saturday  
10:00am until 4:30pm.**



***Volunteers are needed. If you can help in any way please contact Mrs Victoria Pallister on 01253 732253.***

# **Ansdell and Fairhaven St. Paul**

## **Church Services**

### **Sunday**

8:30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10:30am	Parish Eucharist (CW)
4:00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)

### **Wednesday**

10:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
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### **Thursday**

6:15pm	Thursday Service
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(A service for the younger members of our church, including songs, Bible Stories, prayers and activities.)



(BCP ~Book of Common Prayer; CW ~ Common Worship)

**'Parish Surgery'** ~ *If you wish to arrange a baptism or a wedding; make a hall booking; or to discuss matters of concern, you are welcome to attend either of the following surgeries:*

**Tuesday ~ 4:30-5:30pm at St. Paul's Fund Raising Shop**

**Wednesday ~ 9:00-9:30am at the Parish Office**



### **Requests for Weddings, Baptisms, etc.**

Anyone wishing to arrange a wedding or baptism or perhaps to make an appointment on another matter, please:

- visit our website and complete/submit the form available;
- attend one of our parish surgeries (listed above)
- speak to one of the churchwardens;
- ring or email the parish office;

***All relevant contact details are provided elsewhere.***

Please note that baptisms may be accommodated at any of our services with the main options being:

- during the Sunday morning 10.30 service;
- a separate family service at 12 noon on a Sunday; or
- at the Family Service on Thursday at 6.15pm.

# *Dates for Your Diary*

## *December 2015*

Wednesday 2nd December	<b><u>Churces Together Advent Service</u></b> 7:30pm ~ at St. Joseph's RC Church
Saturday 5th December	<b><u>Prayer Breakfast</u></b> 8:00am ~ in the Shop
Sunday 6th December	<b><u>Christingle</u></b> 2:30pm ~ in the Church Hall
Monday 7th December	<b><u>Carol Singing (Afternoon)</u></b> South Hey Community Centre
	<b><u>PCC Meeting</u></b> 7:00pm ~ in the Vicarage
Wednesday 9th December	<b><u>Advent Study Course</u></b> 7:30pm ~ in the Vicarage
Wednesday 16th December	<b><u>Carol Singing</u></b> 6:30pm ~ Lake View Care Home
	<b><u>Advent Study Course</u></b> 7:30pm ~ in the Vicarage
Sunday 20th December	<b><u>Carol Service</u></b> 6:00pm ~ in Church
Wednesday 23rd December	<b><u>Advent Study Course</u></b> 7:30pm ~ in the Vicarage
Thursday 24th December	<b><u>Crib Service</u></b> 6:00pm ~ in Church
	<b><u>Midnight Eucharist</u></b> 11:30pm ~ in Church
Friday 25th December	<b><u>Family Eucharist</u></b> 10:30am ~ in Church



### **ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY PNE**



If you have an article for inclusion in the January PNE, please make sure that I have it by **Tuesday 15th December**

Thank you.

*Janet Kimber*



*For more information about our Weekly Services and Activities  
please see pages 18 and 19*