



Sedgeberrow



Hampton - Fairfield - Thistledown
Eastwick Park - Charity Crescent



Hinton-on-the-Green

THE HERALD



Christmas Services

Sunday 18th December

Christingle Service – 11am – Hampton

Carol Service – 3pm – Sedgeberrow

Carol Service – 4.30pm – Hinton

Carol Service – 6pm – Hampton

Saturday 24th December

Crib Service – 3pm - Hampton

Crib Service – 4.30pm - Hinton

Crib Service – 6pm - Sedgeberrow

Christmas Eve Communion – 10pm – Sedgeberrow

Midnight Eucharist – 11.30pm - Hampton

Christmas Day

Holy Communion – 8am - Hampton

Family Eucharist – 10am - Hampton

Family Service with Carols – 10am - Hinton

Holy Communion – 10am – Sedgeberrow



***For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.***

Prayers

*I will give you thanks, O Lord, among the peoples,
I will sing praise to you among the nations.*

During the weeks of **Advent** look forward in preparation to the great **Feast of Christmas**, that it may break upon us with joy, to greet the birth of the Christ child, our Saviour. Pray that it may be a time of rejoicing within the family of Christians throughout the world. Pray for Christians communities who are oppressed for their faith in the hope that they may become able to worship without fear. Give thanks for the love of your own family and greet them in your prayers as you greet them in person. Bring before God the lonely at this time: people who know loneliness when others are spending the season happily together. Especially pray for those who have nowhere to live and for organisations who make it their business to care for them, for example Crisis who organise hostels for the single homeless, or any others you may know.

On the 26th the **Festival of Stephen**, the First Martyr, pray for strength that you may bear worthy witness of your own faith. On the 27th, the **Festival of John**, Apostle and Evangelist, give thanks for his example of service and for his Gospel. Ask that all those who read it may find enlightenment. On the 28th, the **Festival of the Holy Innocents**, pray for children everywhere, especially those who are forced into child labour and those who know only lives of suffering. That they may find relief and protection in the comforts and joys of childhood.

We are asked to pray for the churches situated around Bredon Hill , those grouped around Pershore and for the International Students spending Christmas in Worcester.

Ask God to shine the light of his wisdom on those whose responsibility it is to **govern** and **guide** their people, in the hope that we may see peaceful and prosperous **communities** developing. Especially in need of guidance are the people of Libya as they work to establish a new, democratic government, uniting the many different factions. Pray they may be ready to forgive past misdeeds in the cause of an assured future.

Throughout the holiday period **hospitals** and **emergency services** will continue to work as usual. Ask for the Holy Spirit to inspire them in their duties of bringing aid and relief to those who need immediate help and treatment and for those needing longer attention; help those who care for them to exercise their skills with consideration for their patients' demands. Pray for the **patients** who will spend this Christmas in hospital away from their loved ones, that they may find patience and comfort together with the joys of the festive season to share with their fellow patients. Remember their families who are anxious for them.

Among the **sick** pray for Pat Bayliss, David Brasher, Pamela Collins, Monica Garston, Lillian Haughtey, Sue Jones, Clifford Lewis, Beryl Lord, Iris Pinkstone, Rosie Rencher, Alan Roberts, Philippa Shepherd, Celia Sheward, Joan Simpson, Pat Smith, Margaret Thomas, Doug Thompson, Clive Thomson, with anyone known to you personally.

Pray for all **those who have passed into eternal life** and by name people you wish to remember specially.

From: Mark Binney, Priest in Charge

It's nearly Christmas 2011! All the preparations have to be made; the presents thoughtfully chosen and daintily wrapped, the cards to write and send, the food shopping and fancy goods.

Decorations need to be retrieved or replaced so that your home glitters. Throughout Advent there is an anticipation that something great is about to happen. For children it might be Father Christmas and all those presents. For adults it might be the joy of spending time with the family.



I believe that there are many layers to Christmas. What do you think is the most important thing about Christmas? It is a good question to ask and one that will vary. Some parents declare that Christmas is for the children, and it's their duty to make it a magical time with lots of presents. Unfortunately this misses the point; Christmas is about being prepared to let Christ into your life, and to celebrate His Birth.

Another way of looking at it is like this: you may imagine that for faithful Christians most of the preparations appear to be similar to the icing on the cake: the real substance is hidden from view but we know it is there! At the heart of Christmas lie truths profound and moving. That God entered our world as a baby for the purpose of redeeming it: Christmas is about Christ.

On that first Christmas Mary and Joseph must have had a sense of anticipation. They had done their best to make ready for the arrival of their baby. Joseph had found a place in a stable at the back of an Inn where Mary could give birth. Amidst the straw they waited as Mary went into labour. There is simplicity to this scene which resonates with the birth of every baby into the world. The juxtaposition of the pain of labour and then the joy as this new small baby is born. Ironically this new King who would redeem himself for us, came into the world so vulnerable, yet an object of wonder.

What a privilege it must have been to be present at the birth of Jesus. God had allowed himself to be that vulnerable baby, and this is the joy which gives meaning to our Christmas celebrations, and about which we sing in our Carols. It is the real Christmas, the first Christmas.

All the trimmings, decorations and presents only have meaning if Jesus is at the heart of it all. How empty must it feel to celebrate Christmas without Jesus? Even as a child I was aware of the meaning of Christmas, although the presents did seem to occupy my mind! During my teenage years I discovered the depth to Christmas in the midnight communion service, which made all the festivities that much more enjoyable. The words:

'Unto you is born this day a Saviour' have special meaning when you hear and receive them on Christmas day.

This December let us receive Jesus who was, and is, Christmas:

'O Holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today!'

The Mission of the Church

The people of St Andrew's Church have a purpose...

- To worship God...
- To declare his love...
- To welcome all...
- To be useful in our community...

Financial Costs

To carry out our work in the church and community we need a secure income. Christians are expected to contribute a proportion of their income to support the work of the church. The PCC is very grateful to those who contribute regularly – either through the Envelope Scheme or through a Regular Payment from their bank account. These methods allow the budget for the year to be planned and help the PCC with their task as 'good stewards' of our financial resources.

As we approach the start of the New Year we invite those who are not part of the Regular Giving Scheme to consider joining and those who presently contribute through the scheme to review their giving. A contribution of 50p per week amounts to £26 for the whole year and £10 per week would provide us with an income of £520 over the year.

If you would like to know more, please talk to one of the churchwardens (Gabrielle or Michael) or to the treasurer (Cath) or to Shirley who looks after the envelope scheme on behalf of the PCC.

If you are a tax payer we would encourage you to Gift Aid your giving. This does not involve any effort on your behalf but the church can claim 25p for every £1 you give. So a regular contribution of 50p a week will be worth £32.50 a year to us; £10 per week 'gift aided' would be worth an extra £130 over the course of the year. It is always good to get some benefit from the tax you pay!

Many people in the community have said they would want to secure the church for future generations. Even if you don't come to church you can still contribute to help ensure its future. To find out how you can support the church please contact Michael Hunter on 41490 (or michael@hamptonchurch.org.uk).

St Andrew's Prayer Group

The newly formed St Andrew's Prayer Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in St Andrew's Church at 6.45pm. This is an opportunity to come together to pray as a Christian Community. The group got off to a good start in November and some others said they would attend in future.

As well as some prepared prayers there is an opportunity to bring your own prayers to the group. There is no pressure to share your prayers with the rest of the group if you don't want to; there is space for silent prayer too. Do come along on 20 December and join in – we all know the power of prayer.

St Andrew's Community Survey

Over the summer members of the congregation spoke to a cross-section of people from the Parish to find what they thought about the Church and the Community. We thank all those who took part whether asking or answering the questionnaires.

We were delighted to get 69 completed survey forms returned. These have now been collated; the results are included in the supplement to this month's Herald. Over the coming months the PCC will look at the information we have gleaned and use it in our planning for the future of the church.

News from Sedgeberrow

Christmas Tree Festival

Once again Sedgeberrow Church is having a Christmas Tree Festival. The church will be open on Monday 19, Tuesday 20, and Wednesday 21 December from 10am until 12noon. Refreshments will be available. Contact Ann Banks (881623) or Ella Hardman (881088) for more details.

Hinton-on-the-Green

Annual Parochial Meetings

Following the preparation of the Church Electoral Roll, the Annual Parochial Meeting will be held at 4pm on Sunday 11th December in the Church. This is an important meeting for the future of the church and will see the election of the churchwardens and the PCC.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012

Once again **Churches Together in Evesham and District** have arranged services to support this week of prayer. There are short services each day at noon and the week comes to an end with a Joint Service with the United Choirs.

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---|
| Monday 16 January | 12noon | Friends Meeting House |
| Tuesday 17 January | 12noon | Baptist Church |
| Wednesday 18 January | 12noon | Methodist Church |
| Thursday 19 January | 12noon | All Saints, Evesham |
| Friday 20 January | 12noon | St Andrew's, Hampton |
| Saturday 21 January | 12noon | Elim Christian Centre |
| Sunday 22 January | 6.30pm | St Peter's, Bengeworth Joint Service with the United Choirs |



What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: John

'I like the comparison of John's Gospel to a pool in which a child may wade and an elephant can swim. It is both simple and profound. It is for the beginner in the faith and for the mature Christian.' (Leon Morris).

The Apostle John is usually credited with the authorship of the fourth Gospel, writing in Ephesus (Asia Minor) at the end of the First Century. John writes 'that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.' (20:31). He stresses the deity of Christ, and presents Jesus as the Son of God. His gospel is quite different in character from the three synoptic gospels, with different stories, but highly literary and symbolic.

The prologue (1:1-14) brings together the gospel's major themes, like an overture in a musical work. John proclaims Jesus as the pre-existent and incarnate Word of God revealed by the Father to us. Throughout the gospel many references are made to Jesus' deity. Most notably Jesus declares, 'Before Abraham was born, I am!' (8:57-58), referring to Exodus, where God describes himself as 'I am.' John also presents the contrast of darkness and light; Jesus has come as light into the world so that those who believe in him will not remain in darkness (cf 12:46).

The heart of John's narrative contains seven signs or miracles, which demonstrate who Jesus is and show his creative and transforming power over creation and in people's lives:

- turning water into wine at Cana (2:1-11)
- healing of the royal official's son (4:46-54)
- healing of the paralytic at the pool (5:1-18)
- feeding of the 5000 (6:1-14)
- walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee (6:16-21)
- healing of the man born blind (9:1-41)
- raising of Lazarus (11:1-44).

After these signs, Jesus 'hour' arrives, and the story moves into the discourses in the upper room that interpret the meaning of the death, and resurrection narratives that follow. The whole gospel is a progressive revelation of the glory of God's only Son, who comes to reveal the Father and then returns in glory to the Father.

It can be well summed up in its most famous verse:

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16).

Contributions for the January Edition should be received by 4 December, for the February Edition by 8 January 2012 and for the March Edition by 5 February 2012.

The email address for contributions is editor@hamptonchurch.org.uk

Events Update – December 2011

Events take place in church unless indicated. **Bold** for new or changed entries. Unconfirmed and provisional in *italics*.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| St Andrew's Tots | Fri | 2 Dec 1.15pm | Scout & Guide Community Hall |
| School Christmas Fair | Fri | 2 Dec 6pm | St Andrew's School |
| Bingo | Sat | 3 Dec 8pm | Sedgeberrow Village Hall |
| Hampton PCC | Mon | 5 Dec 7.30pm | Hampton Parish Room |
| St Andrew's Tots | Fri | 9 Dec 9am | Scout & Guide Community Hall |
| Open Morning | Sat | 10 Dec 10-12 | Hampton |
| Hinton Church AGM | Sun | 11 Dec 4pm | Hinton |
| Mothers' Union | Tue | 13 Dec 2pm | Vicarage |
| St Andrew's Tots | Fri | 16 Dec 1.15pm | Scout & Guide Community Hall |
| Christingle Service | Sun | 18 Dec 11am | Hampton |
| Carol Service | Sun | 18 Dec 3pm | Sedgeberrow |
| Carol Service | Sun | 18 Dec 4.30pm | Hinton |
| Carol Service | Sun | 18 Dec 6pm | Hampton |
| St Andrew's Prayer Group | Tue | 20 Dec 6.45pm | Hampton |
| Crib Service | Sat | 24 Dec 3pm | Hampton |
| Crib Service | Sat | 24 Dec 4.30pm | Hinton |
| Crib Service | Sat | 24 Dec 6pm | Sedgeberrow |
| Christmas Eve Communion | Sat | 24 Dec 10pm | Sedgeberrow |
| Midnight Eucharist | Sat | 24 Dec 11.30pm | Hampton |
| Wedding | Thu | 29 Dec 1.30pm | Hampton |

2012

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|---|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Open Morning | Sat | 14 Jan 10-12 | Hampton |
| St Andrew's Prayer Group | Tue | 17 Jan 6.45pm | Hampton |
| Prayers for Christian Unity | | 16-22 Jan | Evesham Churches |
| PCC Meeting | Wed | 18 Jan 7.30pm | Hampton Parish Room |
| PCC Meeting | Wed | 21 Mar 7.30pm | Hampton Parish Room |
| Annual Church Meeting | Sun | 22 Apr 10am | Hampton |
| <i>Diamond Jubilee 'Big Lunch'</i> | <i>Sun</i> | <i>3 June</i> | <i>Vicarage Garden</i> |
| <i>Benefice Party</i> | <i>Sun</i> | <i>1 July</i> | <i>Vicarage Garden</i> |
| St Andrew's School Fête | Fri | 6 July 6pm | St Andrew's School |
| St Andrew's Summer Fête | Sat | 14 July 2pm | Vicarage Lawn |

The Herald is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month prior to the publication date. Items for inclusion should be received by the first Sunday of the month prior to the publication. Articles are submitted on the understanding that they may be edited to fit the available space. The Herald is edited by Michael Hunter.

Articles can be submitted by email to: editor@hamptonchurch.org.uk

or sent to The Editor at 8 Chestnut Close, Evesham WR11 2PA

or left for the editor in St Andrew's Church.

Large Print editions of the magazine are available on request only.

St Andrew's CE First School

As we approach Christmas we are getting ready for our celebrations at St Andrew's school with rehearsals for our Early Years and Key Stage One production, 'Children of the World'. The children will be performing on 6th and 7th December in the school hall – tickets are available through the school office.



Key Stage Two children are learning songs for their Christmas Carol Concert which they will perform to families and community members on the evening of 15th December at St Andrew's Church. Year 4 and 5 pupils will also be singing locally at Morrison's to raise money for a local homeless charity.

We look forward to our School Fete on Friday 2nd December organised by the St Andrew's School Supporters Association which is always a fantastic event welcoming everyone from the Evesham community. We are also delighted to be visiting Roses



Theatre to watch Sleeping Beauty on 8th December. We will gratefully receive a super Christmas Lunch provided by SASSA on the day we break up for the Christmas holidays on 16th December, after our church service in the morning at St Andrew's.

We enjoyed a fantastic day outside as we broke up for half-term when we celebrated Outdoor Learning through Maths, Literacy, Science, Art and Forest School activities.

Website: <http://www.st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk/>

From the Registers – October

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----------------------------|-------------|
| Baptisms | 2 | Lewis Van der Merwe | Hampton |
| | 9 | Faye Alexandra Jennings | Sedgeberrow |
| | 16 | Molly Olivia Rock | Hampton |
| | 23 | Charlie Price | Hampton |
| | | Craig James Loveridge | Hampton |
| | | Teanne Claire Merry | Hampton |
| | 30 | Louie Oliver Harvey | Hampton |
| Weddings | 21 | Natalie Wright / Luke Webb | Hampton |
| Funerals | 3 | Vera Richards | Hampton |
| | 19 | Douglas Cordwell | Hampton |
| | 28 | Raymond Hinsley | Hampton |

Sedgeberrow CE First School

A very busy half-term finished with a day of celebration for Mrs Sue Beasley who retired on her birthday. We gave her a lovely send off with each class performing their favourite song she had taught them in Reception. Many past staff and governors were able to join us for the party and it was a lovely day throughout. We wish Sue a very happy retirement. Here are Year 4 learning about circuits and conductors in Science. They started the unit



by seeing what different circuits they could make using buzzers, motors and light bulbs and some managed to make enormous circuits which took up the whole table! Next they moved on to investigating which materials conduct electricity and which are insulators. As you can see they were absorbed in this work and very proud of their end results.

Our next event will be the annual Sedgeberrow Talent Show which is always very popular and often uncovers a side of the children we haven't seen before! We will also be having a 'Spotty Day' to raise funds for Children in Need with all sorts of activities taking place. After this we will be busily practising for Christmas performances which take place in December. Our Christmas Fair takes place on Friday 25th November from 3.30 – 5.00pm so do please come along if you can.

Just a reminder that the closing date for applications for Reception in 2012 is 17th January. Visits are welcome by appointment and forms can be collected from school. Alternatively you may apply online.

Sedgeberrow CE First School wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Website: <http://www.sedgeberrowfirstschool.uk.org/>

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|----------------------------|--|
| Priest in Charge | The Revd Mark Binney (01386) 424235 mark@hamptonchurch.org.uk The Vicarage, Pershore Road, Evesham WR11 2PQ |
| Honorary Assistant Priests | The Revd Leonard Burn (01386) 881160 The Revd Patrick Wooster Tel: (01386) 45907 |
| Licensed Lay Readers | Mr John Lynch (01386) 553392 Mrs Elaine Major (01386) 40722 |

Church Wardens

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| St Andrew's Hampton | Mr Michael Hunter (01386) 41490 michael@hamptonchurch.org.uk Mrs Gabrielle Falkiner (01386) 41302 gabrielle@hamptonchurch.org.uk |
| St Mary the Virgin, Sedgeberrow | Mrs Ann Banks (01386) 881623 Mrs Doreen Hayes (01386) 881965 |
| St Peter's, Hinton-on-the-Green | Mr Bill Newman (01386) 442421 Mr Ron Gardiner (01386) 443596 |

Saint Nicholas – December 6

Father Christmas seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children, and was given 6 December as his day.

Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution.

According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)

Over the centuries many, including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron.

Perhaps it was on account of S Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6 December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night - or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival.... and after awhile his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the window sill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind - Krishkinkle as they knew him - and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded good ones with presents.

Hampton Friendship Club

The Friendship Club meets each Wednesday at 2pm in Hampton Working Men's Club in Workman Road. The varied programme includes guest speakers, excursions and also bingo and social meetings. The key aim is of course, a place to meet and enjoy friendships.

7th Dec Christmas Tea with carols led by Diana Scorse on keyboard

14th Dec Christmas Lunch Outing (last meeting of 2011)

2012

11th Jan First meeting of 2012 – Social and Service



Hampton WI - November 2011

Joyce Davey welcomed members and visitors to the meeting on 10 November and reminded those who had not attended last month of the Christmas Social on 8 December. As well as the bring and share supper there will also be a bran tub, for which members were asked to bring an inexpensive, wrapped gift to put in the 'lucky dip'.

On conclusion of business, Joyce introduced Paul Harding from Discover History, who gave a most interesting talk on The Civil War in Worcestershire. The county played an important part in the war, which began with a preliminary skirmish in Powick in 1642, resulting in victory for Prince Rupert, and ended nine years later with the battle of Worcester, in which the Royalist cause was finally defeated.

There will be no speaker at our meeting on 14 January, but we will get together for refreshments and a chat. Our New Year lunch will be at Broadway Golf Club on 2 February.

Our meetings are held at the Hampton Guide and Scout Community Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome. Please contact Joyce Davey on 01386 443755 for more information.

Bible Readings - December

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 4th Advent 2 | Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8 | Sunday 11th Advent 3 | Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8, 19-28 |
| Sunday 18th Advent 4 | 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38 | Sunday 25th Christmas Day | Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12] John 1.1-14 |

Regular Events

| | |
|---|--|
| Mothers' Union 2nd Tuesday of the month - 2pm Hampton Vicarage | Church Open Morning 2nd Saturday of the month - 10am-noon Hampton Church |
| St Andrew's Prayer Group 3rd Tuesday of the month - 6.45pm St Andrew's Church | Benefice Youth Group Thursdays in term-time - 7pm Hampton Parish Room |
| St Andrew's Tots - Fridays in term time | |
| 1st and 3rd Fridays - 1.15-2.45pm Scout & Guide Community Hall | 2nd and 4th Fridays - 9-10.30am Scout & Guide Community Hall |

Services for December 2011

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1st | Sunday 4 | 8am | Holy Communion | Hampton | |
| | Advent 2 | 9am | Holy Communion | Sedgeberrow | |
| | | 11am | Family Service | Hampton | |
| | | 2pm | Baptism | Hampton | |
| | | 6pm | Healing Service | Hampton | |
| | Wednesday 7 | 10am | Holy Communion | Hampton | |
| 2nd | Sunday 11 | 8am | Holy Communion | Hampton | |
| | Advent 3 | 9.30am | Eucharist | Hampton | |
| | | 11am | Family Service | Sedgeberrow | |
| | | 2pm | Baptism | Hampton | |
| | | 4pm | Evensong and AGM | Hinton | |
| | Wednesday 14 | 10am | Holy Communion | Hampton | |
| 3rd | Sunday 18 | 8am | Holy Communion | Hampton | |
| | Advent 4 | 9am | Holy Communion | Sedgeberrow | |
| | | 11am | Christingle Service | Hampton | |
| | | 3pm | Carol Service | Sedgeberrow | |
| | | 4.30pm | Carol Service | Hinton | |
| | | 6pm | Carol Service | Hampton | |
| | | | Wednesday 21 | 10am | Holy Communion |
| | | Saturday 24 | 3pm | Crib Service | Hampton |
| | | Saturday 24 | 4.30pm | Crib Service | Hinton |
| | | Saturday 24 | 6pm | Crib Service | Sedgeberrow |
| | | Saturday 24 | 10pm | Christmas Eve Communion | Sedgeberrow |
| | Saturday 24 | 11.30pm | Midnight Eucharist | Hampton | |
| 4th | Sunday 25 | 8am | Holy Communion | Hampton | |
| | Christmas Day | 10am | Family Eucharist | Hampton | |
| | | 10am | Family Service with Carols | Hinton | |
| | | 10am | Holy Communion | Sedgeberrow | |
| | | Wednesday 28 | 10am | Holy Communion | Hampton |
| | Thursday 29 | 1.30pm | Wedding | Hampton | |

Services for January 2012

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------|--|-------------|
| 1st | Sunday 1 | 8am | Holy Communion | Hampton |
| | | 9am | Holy Communion | Sedgeberrow |
| | | 11am | Family Service (No Healing Service) | Hampton |
| | Wednesday 4 | 10am | Holy Communion | Hampton |
| 2nd | Sunday 8 | 8am | Holy Communion | Hampton |
| | | 9.30am | Eucharist | Hampton |
| | | 11am | Family Service | Sedgeberrow |
| | | 4pm | Evensong | Hinton |

St Andrew's Parish

Community Survey Results

Introduction

69 people completed the survey – thanks to them for giving up their time. Thanks also to the members of the congregation who asked the questions. This is a great response and one we can use to take the church forward.

Not all the questions were answered and some people gave more than one response. So the results will be shown as percentages and the total may add up to more than 100%. Results are presented without any analysis.

The majority of forms had no additional comments; those remarks which are recorded therefore represent a minority.

Who took part?

Gender Female 67% Male 33%

Age

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Under 20 | 21-30 | 31-40 | 41-50 | 51-60 | 61-70 | 71-80 | 81+ |
| 5% | 6% | 14% | 11% | 15% | 25% | 12% | 12% |

Employment

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Full-time Working | Part Time Working | Retired | Student | Not working / Other |
| 22% | 19% | 42% | 3% | 14% |

Where do they live?

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Hampton | Eastwick Park | Fairfield | Charity Crescent | Thistledown | Outside Parish |
| 67% | 3% | 6% | 11% | 3% | 10% |

The Parish

What is the most significant change while they have been leaving here?

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| More people / houses | Busier roads/ More cars | Loss of Amenities /shops | Immigrants | Old market gardeners gone |
| 42% | 13% | 12% | 7% | 4% |

Other changes mentioned include:

Recession/ people out of work; Public Transport; Leisure Centre; Rougher / Lack of consideration; Friendlier; Neighbours; Older; the Scout Hut, Give up full time work to spend time with daughter.

Other Comments:

“Liked coming to church but afraid of sitting in somebody’s seat”

“More houses but new ones are better than old”

What did they like most about living here?

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Countryside 30% | Friendly 21% | Quiet 18% | Amenities in walking distance 13% | Town / Work close by 10% | |
| Central to UK 7% | Park 7% | Nice village 5% | Leisure Centre 3% | Local school 3% | Family live close 3% |
| <i>Other things they like about living here:</i> Potential for development; local places to visit; lovely | | | | | |

What is the most difficult aspect of living here?

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Public Transport (no car) / increasing fares 29% | Busy Main Road 18% | Lack of decent shops 11% | Recession/lack of Jobs 11% |
| Lack of respect from Children / neighbours 8% | Influx of immigrants 8% | Away from Family/friends 5% | |
| <i>Other difficulties reported:</i> Building work; no bypass round Hampton; no play areas; cost of living; lack of (community) resources; no focal point in community; long way from sea | | | |

The Church

When were they last in St Andrew's Church?

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------|
| Within last month | Within 6 months | Within last year | Over year ago | Never |
| 21% | 22% | 25% | 22% | 10% |

What was their reason for going in?

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Baptism | Wedding | Funeral | School service | Christmas/Easter | Service Communion | Other |
| 8% | 7% | 32% | 12% | 15% | 8% | 20% |

What was the experience like when they went into the church?

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Welcoming 34% | Peaceful 32% | Calming 27% | Interesting 21% | Spiritual 18% |
| Engaging 13% | Boring 10% | Celebratory 10% | Ordinary 6% | Special 6% |
| Lively 6% | Cool 5% | Funny 5% | | |
| <i>Other experiences mentioned:</i> Conservative, focussed, exciting, noisy, affirming, deep ,sad, brilliant | | | | |

Other comments:

“Zen – use church to relax in daytime”

“Not enough content”

What did they 'feel' on the occasion they were in the church?

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Happy 27% | Comfortable 19% | Interested 16% | Moved 11% | Positive 11% |
| Sad 10% | Warm 8% | Accepted 8% | Included 8% | Loved 6% |
| Indifferent 5% | | | | |
| <i>Other feelings:</i> | | | | |
| Nothing, enjoyed, isolated, excluded, cold, anxious, tender | | | | |

Other Comments:

- “Christmas / Easter Services no different to the ordinary service”
- “(Felt) nothing – it has lost its holy feeling for me –no special sacredness”
- “Felt welcomed but service did not make me feel anything”
- “11am service boring”

What would you feel if the church was closed?

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Sad / terrible / devastated 52% | Loss of centre of community 24% | Would miss it 9% | Loss of important historical landmark 9% |
| Not bothered 5% | If closed would go elsewhere 5% | There when you need it 5% | |
| <i>Other thoughts:</i> | | | |
| “Lose contact with vicar”; “Do not believe it would happen”; “Young people must be attracted and the Church must change so it does” | | | |

Did they know that St Richard’s Hall is our church hall?

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Yes 55% | No 46% |
|---------|--------|

What did they think about renaming it ‘St Andrew’s Church Centre’?

| |
|---------|
| Yes 98% |
|---------|

Other Comments:

- “Hold services there again”
- “Car parking is a nightmare”

The Future

What were their hopes for the future?

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Not too many (no) more houses 19% | Stays as is / doesn’t change too much 17% | More / better shops 11% | More Jobs 9% |
| Stay friendly / community feel 9% | Remain low crime area 7% | Continue to thrive / prosper 6% | No more / Not too many foreigners 6% |
| Facilities / Roads for growing Population 6% | New Houses for locals 4% | Rally Round to support church 4% | Youth Facilities in Hampton 4% |

Other hopes for the future:

Hope hospital will survive; Better transport; More youngsters come to church (Mother and Toddler); Tolerant of all cultures with reduction in immigration; Gentle growth; Local farming / growing not lost; Empty shops filled

What did they think the church could do for the community?

“Church to keep in touch”; “More home visits to those who are ill”; “Visit newcomers”; “Have coffee morning in church especially those who live on own”

“I am happy: but if service was at regular time it might encourage others to come”; “church in the week as can't come on Sundays”

“Help us to know God better”; “uphold Christian values”

“Activities for teenagers”; “provide activities for children”;

“too many glum faces coming out of church”

What could they do for the church?

“Help at Fete”; “help with coffee morning”; “Sing”; “Bell ringing”;

“Welcome people into God's family”; “Pray”

There were many who said they would / could not help – reasons varied but included:

“not at present due to family commitments”; “Too old to do much”

What did they think about putting toilets etc in the church?

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Yes 72% | Become hub of community / Cafe 13% | Don't want building pulled about 9% | Should be in separate Building 6% |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Other comments on improvements:

“If no change church will stagnate”; “About time”; “Taking step in faith”

What other comments did they make?

“Enjoy going into the church building - beautiful - history - mustn't lose it”

“Church is central to community - banners good for publicity”

“Extra space in church - more welcoming than Community Hall”

“More face to face contact with community”

“Used to go to St Richards - would go if services there”

“Used come into church when it was open - miss that”

“Church music was a major part of my life - here it is not an integral part of your worship”

“I stopped going because no toilets”

“Glad we are doing survey shows we are open-minded”