



Sedgeberrow



Hampton - Fairfield - Thistledown
Eastwick Park - Charity Crescent



Hinton- on- the- Green

THE HERALD

St Andrew's School Nativity Play



Key Stage 1

Look out for this month's Supplement - Family Focus December 2011

Family Focus is distributed once each half term to the schools and playgroups and also to the Tots and the Youth Group.

The magazine of the Churches of
Hampton, with Sedgeberrow and
Hinton-on-the-Green

30p

January 2012

Prayers

The great Festival of Christmas comes to an end with Twelfth Night on 5th January, the Feast of the **Epiphany** when the **Three Kings** came to pay homage to the Christ Child. Give thanks for the joy which this Festival has brought and for the promise of eternal life which we have celebrated. We pray for **all in authority**, that they will humble themselves to worship the baby Jesus as the Kings worshipped and use that authority to serve according to the will of God the Father. As a **New Year** begins grant us guidance and strength for the tasks that lie before us in our own lives and in the work in our Benefice to bring the Gospel to the people we serve. Open our eyes to the opportunities to continue in support of one another that the promise of the Christ Child may be fulfilled. The week of 18-25 January is given over to **Prayer for Christian Unity**. God our Father, we ask your blessing on all Christian people and on their witness in their own communities; help us to see all that we have in common and to understand our differences that we may move forward together towards the establishment of your universal kingdom. We give you thanks for the life, work, writings and example of **Saint Paul**, who's **Conversion** we celebrate on the 25th of this month. May we share the excitement enjoyed by his early disciples. We give thanks for the members of our congregations who greet us as we arrive for services and make us and our visitors feel at home. We pray for the work of our **PCCs** and for the meeting of **St Andrew's PCC** on 18th January that their discussions may be guided by the Holy Spirit.

We ask for your blessing on the community in which we live, the people who live here and the organisations which shape our lives. Especially we remember before you the **schools** which our children and young people attend and as they return for the new term. We ask that they may be happy places, where the students of all ages develop the arts of living together, to value the friendships they form and to play their parts in creating a happy community. We give thanks for the work of the teachers, their assistants and everyone who contributes to the well-being of these schools.

We pray for the **victims of the financial problems** which worry many people, especially those who have become unemployed and find it difficult or even impossible to meet their bills. Be with them at this time and with everyone who **cannot heat their homes** as they should, that they may find relief from this trouble. We ask for your blessing on the shops and **businesses of our Benefice**, that they may come through these difficult times and bring help to those they serve and find fulfillment in their work.

We remember before you everyone who is unwell, those we know personally with Maggie Bailey, Pat Bayliss, David Brasher, David Canning, Pamela Collins, Monica Garston, Lilian Haughtey, Sue Jones, Clifford Lewis, Beryl Lord, Elaine Major, Brian Palmer, Iris Pinkstone, Brenda Quantrell, Rosie Rencher, Alan Roberts, Philippa Shepherd, Celia Sheward, Joan Simpson, Pat Smith, Margaret Thomas, Doug Thompson, Clive Thomson. And pray for the **repose of the souls of all those who have passed into eternal life** and for those who mourn them.

Send out your light and your truth that they may lead me.

From: Mark Binney, Priest in Charge

We welcome the New Year in the middle of Christmas. The television and newspapers are keen to look back at the big news stories which have affected us all. Sometimes the national stories overlap into our own personal experience. We all have joys and disappointments during the year. Perhaps we would rather forget some experiences although they are still part of what we call life. The crunch comes when we have to face up to the future. What will the New Year bring?



This year we celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Games in London, the 350th anniversary of The Book of Common Prayer, to name just a few of the things that might involve us. To this we have to add our own plans for the year. It is appropriate that we look ahead at Christmas time. The year begins and ends with Jesus Christ. He is the light who gives meaning to the darkness that many people call life. He shows us the way forward to understanding more about our journey through life and ultimately our destination to be with him. To follow Jesus is to enter each New Year with a purpose.

The Prayer Book has a special prayer for the New Year:

'O Eternal Lord God, who hast brought thy servants to the beginning of another year: Pardon, we humbly beseech thee, our transgressions in the past, and graciously abide with us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

(At Petertide we also celebrate 25 years since Mark's ordination as a priest. Ed.)

Epiphany – 6 January

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.



Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

St Andrew's Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets in St Andrew's Church at 6.45pm on the third Tuesday of the month (20 December, 17 January and 21 February). Everybody is welcome.

Food and Hospitality

Mealtimes are a traditional part of family life and sharing food is often a key element of many gatherings from Royal Banquets to coffee and biscuits after a church service. We enjoy coming together to chat and some food makes any event more enjoyable. Many times in the Gospels Jesus shares meals - from the feeding of the five thousand to meals in various homes.

Food always seems to taste better if it is 'home made' as I'm sure you'll know if you have made a meal from scratch with fresh ingredients. Each month Phillipa Henly, our resident cook, will be guiding you through the stages of making some tasty dishes.

Whether you are young or old why not try out the recipe each month, invite some friends or family to share it you and let us know how you get on!

Cream of Potato Soup - a favourite winter warmer

500g/1lb Potatoes

1 large onion

2 medium celery stalks

40g/1½oz butter

450ml/¾pint of water

1 tsp. salt and a shake of pepper

25g/1oz cornflour

200ml/½pint of milk

2-3 tbsp. Double cream

2 tbsp chopped parsley

Method

Cut potatoes into dice, and thinly slice the onions and celery.



Melt the butter in a saucepan and fry the vegetables very gently for 10 minutes, without browning.

Add the water and seasoning; bring to the boil, cover the pan and simmer gently for 45 minutes.

Liquidise or push through a sieve, then return to the saucepan.

Mix the cornflour to a smooth paste with a little of the milk, then stir in the remainder. Add the milk mixture to the soup, and bring to the boil, stirring all the time.

Simmer for 5 minutes, then ladle into warm bowls, stirring a little cream into each bowl.

Sprinkle with chopped parsley

Enjoy!

Grace

As this is January we feature the **Kirkcudbright Grace** written by Robert Burns.

(Burns' Night is 25 January).

*Some have meat and cannot eat,
Some can not eat that want it:
But we have meat and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit.*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012

Once again **Churches Together in Evesham and District** have arranged services to support this week of prayer from 16 – 22 January. There are short services each day at noon and the week comes to an end with a Joint Service with the United Choirs at St Peter's Bengeworth at 6.30pm on 22nd.

For details see the Events Diary on page 8.

Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper - November 19th 2011

This was a new venture for us, held in the newly renamed St. Andrew's Church Centre on the Fairfield Estate on Saturday 19 November. Eight teams battled it out with **The Hopefuls**, one of the Sedgeberrow teams, taking the honours. The Fish and Chips from Andrew's Fish Bar were excellent and it was a very happy and successful evening, with the added bonus of £175 being made towards Church funds. We intend to repeat the event in the Spring when Hampton will have to do better!

Here is a sample round on '**The Bible**' for all the family to practise on. (Not to be taken seriously!)

1. Why was Moses the most wicked man?
2. What animal could Noah not trust?
3. What are the two smallest insects in the Bible?
4. Which book in the Bible is a maths book?
5. If Moses had dropped his rod in the Nile what would it have become?
6. Who was the Bible's straightest man?
7. Who was the first person to have surgery performed on him?
8. Why did the people on the ark think the horses were pessimistic?
9. What is the first game mentioned in the Bible?
10. What vegetable did Noah refuse to take on the Ark?

The answers are on page 8

News from Sedgeberrow

Our coffee mornings through the year have been a great success. The October one made £129 and the November made £ 174 for Church funds. They will start again in March. The December Bingo also made £ 165 for Church funds. The next Bingo is on Saturday January 14th at 8pm.

We would like to wish you all a very peaceful and happy new year.

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.

- 11th Jan First meeting of 2012 – Social and Service.
18th Jan Simon Hall, Community Support Officer (CSO), will be welcomed as our first speaker of the New Year, to talk about '**Cops and Robbers**'.
25th Jan **Music and Sing-along** with Mr Bill Davies.
1st Feb Social and Service.
8th Feb Talk and Film - Jenny Ashman will talk about the work of the **Air Ambulance**.

Egypt: The Christian View

Part of a recent statement about Egypt by the Bishop of Egypt:

The situation now is very serious. Demonstrations, which were initiated by Islamic groups, have been going on in Tahrir Square and other locations all over Egypt. Many have been killed and more injured as a result of them.

The known reasons of these demonstrations are:

- *The rejection of a document produced by the interim government which will be used as a guideline for the upcoming constitution. This document states clearly that Egypt will be a secular country with the Sharia Law as the main source of legislation and affirms the right of citizenship and equality between all Egyptians.*
- *The fear that the military would not give up its control of the country to a civil government.*
- *The cessation of the investigation and judgment of civilians by the military as it has happened at the time of the Maspero killings on 9 October 2011. (It is worth mentioning that the military was involved in the incident of Maspero and was also involved in the investigation and judgment--which is a conflict of interest.)*
- *The lack of clarity in what is going on and what is going to happen in the future. Both the Military Council and the interim government have not communicated well with the people and there are unacceptable delays in dealing with conflicts and problems.*

For these reasons, and for other unknown ones to me, the demonstrators, the majority of whom are Islamists, are calling for the resignation of the interim government and the withdrawal of the Military Council. They also called for appointing a “rescue government” until an elected government is appointed. I personally wonder if the desire is to create a vacuum of leadership in order to push some extreme Islamic leaders to rule the country. Other moderate Muslims also share this concern with me.

In response to the current demonstrations, the Military Council consulted with politicians from different parties and responded by providing a clear timeline for the hand-over of the country to an elected President on the 30th of June 2012. During this time, the election of the Parliament, the Shura Council (the senate), and the writing of a new constitution would be accomplished.

I am proud of courageous Christian young people who were present at Tahrir Square to help the injured. It was also great that one of the Presbyterian churches, close to Tahrir Square, opened its doors to receive the injured. Christian and Muslim doctors were serving the injured side-by-side in that church.

The Church in Egypt is praying hard for the situation. We in the Diocese encourage our people to be pro-active, positive, and participate in the elections. We continue to serve all Egyptians, Christians and Muslims, through our churches, hospitals, community development centres and schools. We believe that sharing the love of Jesus is very much needed at such a time as this. We also believe that God has a great plan and that no one can change this plan. It is a time to fix our eyes on God who grants us hope.

+ Mouneer Egypt

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of the Apostles forms an essential link between the gospels and the epistles: 'In many ways the Epistles are not fully intelligible until they are read against the background of the book of Acts. The book shows effectively the main trends in the development of Christianity and presents in effect samples of the continuing work of Jesus' (Donald Guthrie).

Its author Luke was a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. Acts complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1). It was probably written around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment and just before Nero's persecution (AD 64).

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus began to do and teach, Acts tells us what Jesus continues to do and teach through his disciples who are empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3). Luke's purpose is:

To present a history. Acts records the founding of the Church and the spread of the Gospel across the Roman Empire. Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts goes on to provide an account of the spread of the Church as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

To give a defence. We read speeches made to both Jews (e.g. 4:8–12) and Gentiles (e.g. 25:8–11), showing us how the Early Church coped with pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic society.

To provide a guide. We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution. The success of the Church carrying the Gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that Christianity is not just a human work. It operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The theme and content of Acts is best summarized in 1:8: 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, he can do the same for us today!

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

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

Events Update – January 2012

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

St Andrew's Tots	Fri	6 Jan 1.15pm	Scout & Guide Community Hall
Mothers' Union	Tue	10 Jan 2pm	Vicarage
St Andrew's Tots	Fri	13 Jan 9am	Scout & Guide Community Hall
Open Morning	Sat	14 Jan 10-12	Hampton
Service for Christian Unity	Mon	16 Jan noon	Friends Meeting House
Service for Christian Unity	Tue	17 Jan noon	Baptist Church
St Andrew's Prayer Group	Tue	17 Jan 6.45pm	Hampton
Service for Christian Unity	Wed	18 Jan noon	Methodist Church
PCC Meeting	Wed	18 Jan 7.30pm	Hampton Parish Room
Service for Christian Unity	Thurs	19 Jan noon	All Saints, Evesham
Service for Christian Unity	Fri	20 Jan noon	Hampton
St Andrew's Tots	Fri	20 Jan 1.15pm	Scout & Guide Community Hall
Service for Christian Unity	Sat	21 Jan noon	Elim Christian Centre
Service for Christian Unity	Sun	22 Jan 6.30pm	St Peter's Bengeworth
St Andrew's Tots	Fri	27 Jan 9am	Scout & Guide Community Hall
Open Morning	Sat	11 Feb 10-12	Hampton
Standing Committee	Wed	15 Feb 7.30pm	Hampton Parish Room
PCC Meeting	Wed	21 Mar 7.30pm	Hampton Parish Room
Annual Church Meeting	Sun	22 Apr 10am	Hampton
Diamond Jubilee 'Big Lunch'	Sun	3 June	Vicarage Garden
Benefice Party	Sun	1 July	Vicarage Garden
St Andrew's School Fête	Fri	6 July 6pm	St Andrew's School
St Andrew's Summer Fête	Sat	14 July 2pm	Vicarage Lawn

Answers to Quiz on Page 5

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He broke all Ten Commandments at one go. (Exodus 32 15-19) 2. The Cheetah. 3. The window's mite and the wicked flea. (Mark 12:42 and Proverbs 28:1) 4. Numbers. 5. Wet. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Joseph - Pharaoh made a ruler of him. 7. Adam - God removed one of his ribs. 8. They were always saying neigh. 9. Adam and Eve played hide and seek with God. 10. Leeks |
|--|--|

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.

St Andrew's CE First School

The New Year is always a special time in a primary school. At St Andrew's we celebrate the period of Advent by looking forward to new beginnings and the potential opportunities that lie ahead. We start afresh after a highly successful OFSTED visit which praised our good progress. The lead inspector informed us that we were on 'a rapid journey of improvement' which puts us firmly on the right track in our ambition to become an outstanding school.



We enter January offering several new after school sports clubs to our pupils. Dodgeball, Dance, Tag Rugby and Football clubs are available this term. This is in addition to Gardening, Cooking, Drama, Breakfast and After-School Club and Film Club which all run until the Easter holidays. We offer all our clubs in consultation with the children, offering the activities they want to take part in out of school hours.

Our end of term events were extremely well attended. We had over 320 at our Key Stage One performance during December (pictured on the front cover), a packed out St Andrew's church for the Key Stage Two Carol Service and we celebrated together at the school Christmas service in St Andrew's Church, followed by a thoroughly delicious lunch provided by our parent / teacher association – SASSA.

St Andrew's School Supporter's Association held a very successful Christmas Fête on 2nd December and raised over £1200. This will go towards a new Lighting, PA and Microphone system which will help enhance future children's performances for years to come. Further fundraising this year will help us have this in place for our end of year school production – which we are looking forward to already!

At St Andrew's we ask each class to write and read out a prayer every lunchtime.

Dear God

Thank-you for Christmas Day

and for presents under the tree

Thank you for our Christmas story

*Help us remember those who
don't have much*

Thank you for this time of year

Amen

By Chloe Savage-Boswell and Katie Haines,
Year 5

From the Registers – November 2011

Baptisms	6	Olivia May Dolphin	Hampton
	20	Angus Alan Taylor	Hampton
Funerals	17	Eric Phipps	Hampton
	22	Marg Smith	Hinton
	23	Thomas Burke	Hampton
	23	Doris Smith	Hampton
	24	Gerald Bayliss	Sedgeberrow

Sedgeberrow CE First School

A Happy New Year to everyone and we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

The lead up to Christmas at school was very busy as usual. On 'Children in Need' day we all dressed in spots and brought in donations for the 'Pudseyometer' aiming to raise a target of £250 for which Mr Holdstock had pledged to have his hair shaved. In fact we raised a magnificent £555 and he now has a rather cold head!



At the end of November Year 2 went to Cheltenham Synagogue where they were able to see all of the different things that they had been learning about in school. They saw the Ark where all of the beautiful Torahs are kept and also got to sit on some of the oldest synagogue furniture in the UK - more than 250 years old!

Our Christmas Fayre was a great success raising a profit of £733 which F.O.S.S. will be donating towards new ICT equipment for the school. Thank you to everyone in the village who came along. School Council ran their own stall selling Christmas decorations and candle holders made by pupils and managed to raise a wonderful £126.



We return to school on January 5th when the children will be doing some work about pantomimes before our whole school theatre visit on the 6th to 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury. We will then be starting new topics and making more visits to Sandfield Farm. Do look at the class blogs on our website which include lots of information about work going on in school.

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

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

Bible Readings – January

Sunday 1st Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Numbers 6.22-27 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21	Sunday 22nd Epiphany 3	Genesis 14.17-20 Revelation 19.6-10 John 2.1-11
Sunday 8th Epiphany	Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	Sunday 29th Epiphany 4	Deuteronomy 18.15-20 Revelation 12.1-5a Mark 1.21-28
Sunday 15th Epiphany 2	1 Samuel 3.1-10 [11-20] Revelation 5.1-10 John 1.43-51		

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



Hampton WI – December 2011

Our Christmas Social on 8 December was very well attended, and members enjoyed a Bring and Share Supper, followed by entertainment by the Committee in the form of a mini-pantomime ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’ and a reading by Ann Davis of an amusing version of ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’.

There will be no speaker at our meeting on 12 January, but we will get together for refreshments and a chat. Our New Year lunch will be at Broadway Golf Club on 2 February, and at our meeting on 9 February, Phred Newbury will give a talk, entitled '**E**' is for Elephant.

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.

Services for January 2012

1st	Sunday 1	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Naming of Jesus	9am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Family Service	Hampton
	Wednesday 4	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
2nd	Sunday 8	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Epiphany	9.30am	Eucharist	Hampton
		11am	Family Service	Sedgeberrow
		4pm	Evensong	Hinton
	Wednesday 11	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
3rd	Sunday 15	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Epiphany 2	9am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		11am	Welcome Service	Hampton
		4pm	Evensong	Hinton

Prayers for Christian Unity **16-22 Jan** **Evesham Churches**

See Events Diary on page 8 for details of all Services

	Wednesday 18	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Friday 20	12noon	Joint Service for Christian Unity	Hampton
4th	Sunday 22	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Epiphany 3	9.30am	Eucharist	Hampton
		11am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		6.30pm	Joint Service for Christian Unity with the United Choirs	Bengeworth
	Wednesday 25	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
5th	Sunday 29	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Epiphany 4	10am	Benefice Eucharist	Hampton

Services for February 2012

1st	Sunday 5	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	3rd Sunday before Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Sedgeberrow
		9am	Holy Communion	Hampton
		11am	Family Service	Hampton
		6pm	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing	Hampton
2nd	Wednesday 8	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	Sunday 12	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Eucharist	Hampton
		11am	Family Service	Sedgeberrow
		4pm	Evensong	Hinton



Not only on
Sundays



Hampton - Eastwick Park - Thistledown - Charity Crescent - Fairfield

FAMILY FOCUS

Christmas Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 18th December

11am Christingle Service

This service is in aid of the **Children's Society** and will include the distribution of **Christingles**.

6pm Service of Carols and Readings

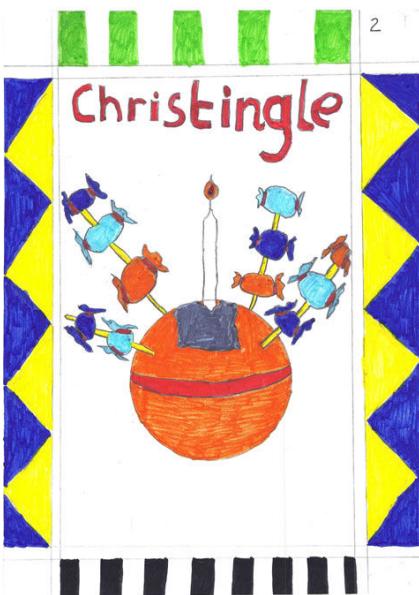
Saturday 24th December

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service

This is short service for younger children.

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist



Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion

10am Family Eucharist

This Christmas morning Communion welcomes families with children of any age.

The Congregation at St Andrew's wish everyone:

A Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful 2012

St Andrew's Church
Family Focus
December 2011

Revd Mark Binney - Priest in Charge
Telephone Number - 01386 424235
Email - mark@hamptonchurch.org.uk
Website - www.hamptonchurch.org.uk

Mark Binney, Priest in Charge

It's nearly Christmas 2011. 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.



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. There is a simplicity to this scene which resonates with the birth of us all into the world. The pain of labour and then the joy as this new small baby is born, 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. This is the joy which gives meaning to our Christmas celebrations and which we sing about in our Carols. It is the real Christmas, the first Christmas. All the trimmings, decorations and presents make sense if Jesus is at the heart of it all. 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!'**

St Andrew's Tots

The Tots Team are encouraged to report growth in the number of people coming especially the morning sessions. Numbers were small at the beginning, we prayed and recently we have seen numbers grow (five adults with eight children last time).



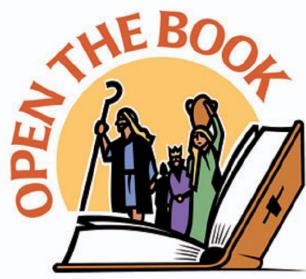
Doors are still open to welcome more mums / carers with children as well as volunteers to join us in play, chat and refreshment.

The Tots meet in term time on Fridays: 1st & 3rd Fridays 13:15 to 14:45 and 2nd & 4th Fridays 9:00 to 10:30hrs. For more information please contact Rhoda on 07932 652 646 or drop into one of the sessions.

OPEN THE BOOK

Pupils at St Andrew's continue to play an active part in the Tuesday "Open the Book" Acts of Worship.

Over the last few months the assemblies have featured stories from the Old Testament under the heading of "**Men who dared to do right**":



The Burning Bush

Exodus 3-4

The King Who Would Not Listen

Jeremiah 36

Down in the Well

Jeremiah 38

The Boys who Liked to Say No!

Daniel 1

During the Christmas Season the stories take on a **Christmas Theme**:

Joseph's Story

Matthew 1

The Shepherd's Story

Luke 2

The Wise Men's Story

Matthew 2

In January the next module has the theme "**Children Play their Part**" which has five stories.

The Helpful Servant

2 Kings 5

Snatched to Safety

2 Kings 11-12

Small King, Big Task

2 Kings 11-12

The Two Sons

Matthew 21

Be Like Me

Matthew 18



The St Andrews Church team members are grateful to pupils, parents and staff for their support and wish you all:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

St Andrew's First School



Family Learning has continued to be popular with a fully subscribed adult learning group taking place each Thursday morning. This resumes in January after the Christmas break.

Evesham Library have supported an Arts project with local artist Maria Leydon working with our Year Four and Five classes to create a permanent mural for one of their walls. All classes in our school make a library visit once a half-term and will be able to see their work on display over the next few years.

St Andrew's Football Team has been well supported during this term by parents and pupils. We enjoyed taking part in the newly formed Evesham League and look forward to doing even better next year!

When we come back in January we will be providing three new **after school clubs** for children: Tag Rugby, Dance and Dodgeball. These are based on a survey of which clubs children would like to try and will run until the end of Spring term.

Don't forget, our school hall is available for private and commercial bookings during evenings and weekends. Please contact the school office on 01386 41351 or office@st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk for more details.

From all of us at St Andrew's First School, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

St Andrew's Open Morning

St Andrew's Church is open on the second Saturday of each month. The next open morning will be on **Saturday 10th December** from 10am until noon. Come along and join us for a coffee, tea or squash and a chat.

There will be Fair Trade goods for sale along with our Christmas Cards and hand-made greetings cards.

