



NESTON CHURCH



Pew News December 2015

SERVICES

December 6th

10.00am Holy Communion
at **Gastard** – Rev Victor Howlett
4.00pm Christingle Service
Rev Phill Harrison

December 13th

10.00am Morning Worship
Neil Pidduck
6.00pm Carol Service
Rev Victor Howlett

December 20th

10.00am Family Service
Rev Andrew Johnson, Rev Phill
Harrison

December 24th

4.00pm Great Big Nativity
Rev Phill Harrison

December 25th

10.00am Holy Communion
Rev Jeremy Bray

December 27th

10.00am Team Holy Communion
at **St Bartholomew's** Rev Victor
Howlett

Services in December

Services in December are usually different from other months, both because we have extra services celebrating the birth of Jesus as the light of the world and bringing the message of peace, and because 25th December does not fall conveniently on a Sunday. So this year our first Christmas related event is the **Christingle Service**, on 6th December at 4pm, replacing Jump Start for this month. On 13th December, as well as the Morning Worship service at 10am, we also have our traditional **Carol Service** at 6pm. Our choir, formed specially for this service, has been practicing hard and will be performing John Rutter's "Shepherd's Pipe Carol", a lovely modern carol, well worth coming to listen to. We then have the **Great Big Nativity** which has become a tradition on Christmas Eve, with children encouraged to dress up. Last year we had characters from Star Wars as well as the more traditional Shepherds, Mary's, Josephs and donkeys. On **Christmas Day**, we look forward to welcoming Reverend Jeremy Bray to take our Holy Communion Service. Jeremy comes to us from St Andrew's Church, Chippenham. And on 27th December we have a team

Holy Communion Service at **St Bart's** led by Victor. All in all, a busy month.

PCC News

The PCC met on 19th November and discussed a number of important issues. One of these was the Parish Share – the amount that we pledge to give to the Bristol Diocese through Chippenham Deanery each year. The Deanery had asked that we consider giving 5% more in 2016 than we are giving this year. This is because the Diocese is running at a deficit and using reserves to cover this. Steve Lumb, PCC Treasurer, produced a detailed budget for 2016 which showed that unless we can find ways of increasing giving, we will also have a deficit of around £2500 next year. In the last 3 years we have increased our parish share each year, mostly by using some of our reserves. After discussion the PCC decided that we could not afford to increase the amount we give and would therefore give the same in 2016 as we are currently giving, which is just under £19,000.

We also discussed the quinquennial inspection of the church by our designated architect. This is an inspection of the fabric of the church to ensure that we are looking after it properly. We were able to tell the architect that we had attended to all the items raised at the last inspection, particularly the crack in the Chancel wall and he was impressed by the other work that has been carried out, including the decoration of the church,

the installation of new lighting, the replacement of the central heating boiler, and the new kitchen. We also have a further inspection this month by Ecclesiastical Insurance, who insure most UK churches to confirm that our insurance cover is adequate.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care training for a group of volunteers continued throughout November, with a small group within our congregation now in a position to determine the way forward in the New Year. We hope to be able to provide appropriate support to those in need in our congregation and our village.

Social Events

The events we put on during the year, Lent lunches, cream teas harvest lunch and this year a quiz evening, are well known to all. For the last few years the main organisers of these events have been Jill Hall and Jane Bushell. Jill and Jane have decided that they now wish to take a back seat and we are very grateful to them for all their efforts. This means that we will need someone (or several individuals) to form a social team and start planning for the things we want to do next year. One of the events we need to plan is the celebration of the 150th anniversary of our church next May. If you can help, please let the church wardens or a member of the PCC know.

Thank you.