

THE MESSENGER

Christmas 2017



Dear Friends,

This year has brought many challenges for many different people around the world; the summer saw fierce storms which devastated the lives of many especially the poorest. Our news has brought stories of ongoing war and violence in parts of the world. We recently observed Remembrance Day when we called to mind those who have fallen in war and prayed for those whose lives are still affected by war; some of you reading this may have loved ones serving our country abroad this Christmas season. This may have been a year of financial hardship or anxiety. Some of us may look at the political state of the country and wonder where things may lead.

Why celebrate at times like this?

We celebrate because of one small word: Hope. At Christmas, Christians believe something quite extraordinary happened. God came to be with us. The Creator of the Universe came to live alongside us; to be there with us in our times of joy and in our darkest hour when things seem absolutely hopeless. God chose to be with us because he loves each one of us more than we can ever imagine. Every single one of you is loved and of infinite value to God no matter what you may feel or what some might say.

This is why we celebrate. We celebrate this love which God has for us.

This year I invite you to a wide variety of services ranging from the Christingle and DIY Nativity at St Nicholas', Broadway on Christmas Eve to our popular carol services and the mystery and beauty of Midnight Mass at St Laurence, Upwey. (If you want to know what a DIY Nativity is, come and find out for yourself. It should be fun.)

I wish you all peace and joy as we come together to celebrate this holy season.

Philip Elliott Vicar



The Church of England Churches
of Bincombe & Broadway,
Upwey and Buckland Ripers

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Thursday December 21 at 6.30 pm
At St Laurence Upwey

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday December 24

10.30 am Holy Communion-Buckland Ripers
4.00 pm – Christingle with DIY Nativity -
Broadway
6.00 pm Carol Service - Bincombe
7.00 pm Carol Service - Buckland Ripers
11.30 pm Midnight Mass – Upwey

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday December 25

9.15 am Christmas Communion- Bincombe
9.15 am Christmas Communion –
Buckland Ripers
10.30 am Christmas Communion – Upwey
10.30 am Christmas Communion - Broadway

VISIT OF THE BISHOP OF SHERBORNE



Recently appointed Karen, Bishop of Sherborne, paid her first visit to our group of churches to attend a special Choral Evensong at St Laurence Church, Upwey. The Bishop preached a relevant sermon on the rich man entering the Kingdom of Heaven as easily as a camel can pass through the eye of a needle, and related it to our daily values. The choir was conducted by Sue Bruce-Payne and accompanied by organist David Bruce-Payne. At the end of the service the Bishop blessed the new altar in the side chapel which has been given by parishioner Gwen Nayler in memory of her husband Lindsay.

In the packed congregation was the Mayor of Weymouth and Portland, Kevin Brookes, who

presented a cheque from the Mayor's Christmas Fund towards the church's facilities fund.



BINCOMBE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest Festival at Bincombe, was celebrated in the little church by the farm yard. Members from all four of our churches gave hearty thanks singing a selection of favourite harvest hymns. Then we gathered in the Geoffrey McSevney barn across the lane for a sit-down meal provided by Judy Foot with her friends and family. It was a happy occasion for making new friends and catching up with old ones.



NEWS FROM ST NICHOLAS BROADWEY

This year has been a busy one for St Nicholas' church and we have a lot to praise God for. We've had a variety of services, from noisy Cafe Church to a beautifully reflective All Souls' communion. We've celebrated weddings, baptisms and confirmations, made some changes in the church and renewed the wiring and had great fun raising money for our church and other charities. A recent concert, '**BATS IN THE BELFRY**' included jazz, classical, pop, choral music and hand bells! **A TRIP TO NEPAL** Lucy from St Nick's is going to Nepal with a group from Wey Valley School. She and Oliver have been busy raising money for their own costs and for the charity that supports the work in Nepal. They have raised an extra £1000 towards the charity's community projects in the area they will be visiting. *Well done!* 2018 will be another exciting year for St Nick's, as we continue to serve God and the communities in which we live.

ST LAURENCE FACILITIES

We have so far raised over £42,000, with a further £24,500 promised, which brings us closer to the point when we can start the work. Many thanks to all who have been supporting our efforts. **See the list of events for more opportunities to swell the funds.**

Our Vicar – Rev'd Philip Elliott can be contacted by phone on 01305 459971



FIREWORKS

The Upwey Society once again gave a brilliant and safe display to a record crowd of 1000, young and old. Thanks to those who made it possible, including the Foot Family farmers. If this event is to continue volunteers are needed to replace those who must retire. If you will help next year please contact George White on 01305 753603 or georgewhite105@btinternet.com.



A KING IS BORN!

That is the title of the Christmas production at St Nicholas and St Laurence School on 6 December.



WHAT'S ON

CHRISTMAS DINNER Sat 9 Dec. At Upwey Old School. 7 for 7.30 with a welcome drink. BYOW Tickets 12.50 from Maureen Carter 812723

THROUGH THE WARDROBE TO NARNIA

A day of crafts, games, music, film and fun!

At St Nicholas Church, Broadwey

Saturday, 9 December 11.00 am till 4.00 pm

Pre-book £5.00 including lunch

(Reduction for large families)

Contact: 07411 530 404 or

stnicksevents@theweytojesus.org.uk

FOOT FAMILY FARMING- Talk by Sam Foot

Thurs 8 February at Upwey Old School

Entry free – Donations invited

COFFEE MORNINGS - MONTHLY

Upwey – Second Wednesday 10.30 in various homes – see posters

Broadwey - First Saturday 10.30 at St Nicholas Church