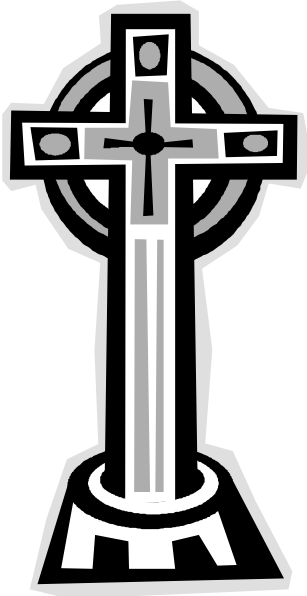


**The Parish Magazine of  
Whitchurch-on-Thames  
and Whitchurch Hill**



**November 2001**

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## A letter from the Reverend Father Peter Jefford

Dear People of the Parish,

We have all be living through some times of great sorrow and of great danger for the world. We know what happened on September 11th, the vivid images that we saw on the TV and in the national newspapers.

We know what has taken place.

We know what is happening at present.

But we do not know what will happen in the future.

As we go into the dark times of winter we may well all feel a darkness in our hearts. But as we search for sources of light in the dark so we must do the same with our wills and our souls. We must look for light and make sources of light our hope for the future. For it is always better to light a candle than to curse the dark. And Christ who came at Christmas came to this world to be the light of the world and to lighten men's hearts in the world.

*TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR,  
HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE.*

Where you live, at night you will see above your heads the lights of the aircraft that are either inbound on descent into Heathrow or outbound on their climb. You will see their bright lights pulsating in the dark, at all times. What is remarkable is how small the lights are and how you can see them from such a distance. In real life they are called the Cloud and Collision Beacons (or in RAF parlance, the Coll and the Clonk lights). Whatever the time or the weather they are always on. In use.

Why are they there? To keep you safe. These tiny points of pulsating light on the wing tips and the

fuselage are always on. They are there to keep you safe. For it says "Take note. I am here. Keep away". Those lights do two things for other aeroplanes for they give both range and direction and always speak of motion. For in the end they give a precise vision of the aircraft and its motion.

So we also need light in our lives, pin points of vision to help us on our way. We need to see, and to be seen, in the dark.

When we are young, as students and later on, we need people to give us that vision. We call them heroes, people who qualify for our real admiration by the real quality of their lives. Perhaps in football at present there is no better image of a Hero than Michael Owen, who seems to play the game with a marvellous simple magic. And we are now really on our way to the football World Cup Competition next year.

But in the early Church the people then needed real heroes in their lives, so that they might become examples to follow in their steps. So on All Saints Day we can remember not just the names of our favourite Saints but we know that God will know all the names of all His Saints.

Also in November we need to remember as well not just all the Saints but all the Souls, all the Souls of his servants here before us.

Lastly in that month of November we need to remember all the sufferings brought to the world by war and all who have paid the price of conflict with their lives and with their sufferings, and who suffer still with grief and pain.

For all of us in November there is a lot of Remembering to be done. But as well, there is a great deal of need for a great deal of praying to be done. Praying that from all this present darkness a light will come and shine upon mankind—and



## Mothers' Union

This month our meeting will be held on Thursday, November 22nd. at 2.15p.m. at Abbots Lodge. We will begin with a short service which will be followed by our AGM and tea.

Our monthly Prayer Group will be on Thursday November 15th at 2.30p.m. at Roxana.

*Mary Kent*

### **REMINDER**

**The Venerable The Archdeacon of Oxford John Morrison will be preaching to us at Parish Communion on Sunday 4th November at 10am at St Mary's.**

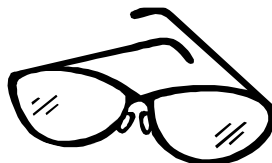
**The Remembrance Day Service at 9.30am at St John's on Sunday 11th November will be conducted by the Rev'd Joan Impey**

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### **A Churchwarden's Duties**

A past duty of the Churchwardens, not one that is commonplace these days, was to appoint a dog-whipper. Towards the end of the eighteenth century dogs, including sheepdogs and turnspits, accompanied their masters and mistresses to church as a matter of course. The dog-whipper, in some areas known as the 'knocknobbler', was not to evict all dogs and was only called upon if the dogs were badly behaved. To do this he would use dog-tongs which were made of iron or oak in the form of two crossed arms to make a folding lattice with handles—when extended they formed a pair of long range forceps with which to grip a misbehaving dog round the neck and so eject him from the church.

The accounts of Sutton Bonnington St Michael's, Notts, have a reference in 1731 'for pases dog wip' and 'for wiping ye dogs'. A pair of tongs is preserved at Clodock, Herefordshire, and a dog whip at Baslow, Derbyshire. At Youlgreave, Derbyshire, the dog-whipper's pew remained until 1868.

The dog-whipper was well paid at 10s a year and his other responsibilities were to wake sleeping members of the congregation and keep an eye on the children. One [unknown] parish record states he was 'appointed for keeping out the dogges and keeping in the boyes'. Pass or Pase at Sutton Bonnington also swept the reeds (on the floor) in St Michael's. At Southwell, Notts, the position still exists as a sinecure.

Ref: Eric Delderfield (1966) *Discovering Church Treasure, A Guide to church Furniture*

W.E.Tate (1969) *The Parish Chest*

## My Faith

I have not had a great deal of response to my request for article on *My Faith*. Is this, I wonder, due to people thinking their literary style is not good enough for the magazine? My answer to that is that a point of view comes across much better in someone's own words than when 'sanitised' by an editorial blue pencil.

Then again, it could be lack of time-a universal problem. Or lack of interest, either in faith or the church (in which case you are probably not reading this magazine anyway) or a feeling that people may not be interested in your point of view. Or, maybe you just want to keep your faith to yourself because you feel that your views on faith would invite ridicule or perhaps may not fit the proscribed view and therefore upset someone.

I think I probably fit somewhere into this last category, however, as editor of the Parish Magazine I ought to give you some idea of where I am coming from. And I suddenly have a page to fill.

I read at an early and impressionable age *The Little World of Don Camillo* by Giovanni Guareschi, followed by *Don Camillo and the Prodigal Son*. These are short humorous stories about an Italian Roman Catholic priest, the Communist mayor Peppone and the Lord, set in Italy in 1946. From these books I developed my faith which in a nutshell is that good can win over evil but it is often a struggle, other faiths have an entirely relevant point of view, God has a sense of humour and you can chat to God (as opposed to praying which is a bit more formal) as much as you like as long as you are not always expecting a reply. As Guareschi says 'if anyone is offended by the conversations of Christ, there is nothing I can do about it: for the voice...is of my Christ- that is, the voice of my conscience'.



Can you write a word, or even a poem using the letters of the word ADVENT showing the things you are doing to get ready for Christmas?

A  
D  
V  
E  
N  
T

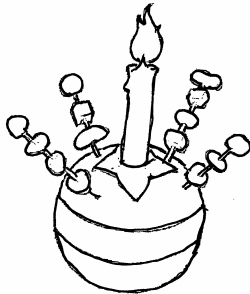
(Send your list or poem back to Sue for her to print in the next issue of this magazine.

*Geraldine Witcher October 2001*



Something else to look forward to

**St. Mary's. 6pm. Christmas Eve.**



**CHRISTINGLE**

## **A l l C h u r c h e s T o g e t h e r E v e n t s**

All Churches Together in and around Pangbourne will be holding an Advent Carol Service at St James Church, Pangbourne, on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. This service is a lovely way to start the Christmas celebrations so do come and join the members of local churches as we sing familiar carols and listen to traditional readings.

On January 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in St Mary's Church, Purley, there will be a service of Christian Unity, to which everyone is also invited.



### **CONFIRMATION**

A CONFIRMATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN ONE OF THE Langtree Team Ministry churches in Spring 2002 and the Reverend Alan Johnson has invited anyone within our parish who wishes to be confirmed to join them.

He is planning four preparation sessions before Christmas and a further four in the New Year. The preparation will be designed primarily for adults (because currently the youngest candidate is a mature 15 year old) but if there are younger candidates it will be adapted as necessary.

Any candidate for confirmation who wants to be received into the Church of England, or anyone who want to renew their exploration of faith should contact The Revd Alan Johnson on 01491 680252 (fax 01491 682625, email langtreerector@hotmail.com)

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**HARVEST SUPPER**

What a delightful evening.  
I was so pleased that so  
many parishioners seemed  
to thoroughly enjoy a grand  
Parish social occasion. I  
must again reiterate my  
thanks to our organisers, Jo  
Adams, Tanya Hawley and  
Wendy Ferguson (not  
forgetting the Baty's) and  
the other willing helpers.

The evening is all about  
enjoyment but it is  
appropriate to note that it  
raised in the region of £800  
for church funds.

**Uphill**

Christmas Mini Market  
Goring Heath Parish  
Hall Saturday 8th  
December.

**Downhill**

The Christmas Market  
will be held in  
Whitchurch Village Hall  
on 1st December at  
2pm.





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<p><b>Whitchurch Theatre Club</b>  ...takes you to plays and  concerts about once a month;  matinees &amp; evenings, London  &amp; provinces. If interested,  contact Mr &amp; Mrs A.Seager,  'Little Court', Swanston Field,  Whitchurch-on-Thames RG8  7HP  Tel: 0118 984 3521</p>	<p><b><i>Chiltern Domestic  Appliances</i></b>  Guaranteed repairs and  servicing for Hoo-  ver,Hotpoint, Zanussi, Ben-  dix, Indesit and all major  brands. Washing machines,  tumble dryers and dish-  washers. Low call out fee.  Free estimates and  prompt attention.  Tel: 01491 681526</p>

## **Choir Robe Fund-Reminder**

With my complete blessing our organist, Anne Bolam, has opened a fund for the purchasing of new choir robes.

At present we intend to keep the colour red but of course any colour or style will be presented to the PCC for their opinions and final choice.

The account has been opened at the HSBC Bank in Pangbourne so if you would like to make a donation either pay it straight into the bank or contact either Anne, Alan or myself and we will bank amounts on a regular basis.

*Jo Adams*

*Church Warden*



Please submit all copy for the next month's magazine by the 20th. I look forward to receiving your news, views, letters, etc. This magazine appears in the Church section on the village web site, see: [www.whitchurchonthames.com](http://www.whitchurchonthames.com).

Some of you have been wondering whether there is any point in having a parish magazine that arrives so late that most events have already been and gone. We are still trying to streamline the system but please remember that your magazine delivery is done by volunteers who lead busy lives which means they are not always able to get out on their round right away.

*Sue Matthews*



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## **PRAYING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2001**

Bishop Richard, the Bishop of Oxford, and Bishop Colin, the Bishop of Dorchester, have asked that we use Advent as a special time of prayer and reflection. Excellent packs have been prepared for use by families and individuals, youth and school groups and in our Sunday worship.

The P.C.C. have agreed that we will start Advent with a special time of prayer for the future of our church – both in Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill. It is a very important time as we are thinking of joining the Langtree team and are preparing for a new House for Duty priest to join us.

**On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December St Mary's in Whitchurch will be open for a special time of prayer from 10.00a.m. to 12.00 a.m. and St John's in Whitchurch Hill from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.**

There will be a short time at the start of those sessions when people can pray together – otherwise please pop in, for as long as you wish, when you are free to do so.

If you want further information about the Advent packs please contact Rosemary Pearce on 984 3106 or Wendy Ferguson on 984 1262.

## **Officers of the Parish**

*Officiating Priest:*

Reverend Father Peter Jefford  
27 Ashlong Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 0NH  
01865 760593

*Churchwardens:*

Alan Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close  
0118 984 4489

Jo Adams, Windings, Whitchurch Hill  
0118 984 3362

*Honorary Secretary:*

Wendy Ferguson, 21 Swanston Field.  
0118 984 1262

*Organist and Choirmaster:*

Anne Bolam, 6 Hillview Close, Long Lane  
0118 942 1020

*Honorary Treasurer:*

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*Editor, Parish Magazine*

Sue Matthews, Ashdown, Duchess Close  
0118 984 4489 or email [suematt@waitrose.com](mailto:suematt@waitrose.com)

# Services for .....

## November

### 4th November, 21st Sunday after Trinity

St John's                      8 a.m.      The Holy Communion

St Mary's                    10 a.m.      Parish Communion  
*Celebrant: The Venerable The Archdeacon  
of Oxford John Morrison,*

### 11th November, Remembrance Sunday

St Mary's                    8 a.m.      The Holy Communion

St Johns                    9.30 a.m.    Parish Communion

*Celebrant: The Revd Joan Impey  
Wreath Laying Ceremony at the War Memorial*

St Mary's                    6 p.m.      Evensong

### 18th November, 23rd Sunday after Trinity

St John's                    8 a.m.      The Holy Communion

St Mary's                    10 a.m.      Parish Communion

### 25th November, Sunday next before Advent

St Mary's                    8 a.m.      The Holy communion

St John's                    10 a.m.      Parish Communion

St Mary's                    6 p.m.      Evensong

### 2nd December, 1st Sunday of Advent

St John's                    8 a.m.      The Holy Communion

St Mary's                    10 a.m.      Parish Communion