



# **ST GILES HORSPATH PARISH MAGAZINE**

**February 2009**

Reverend Stevie Cross from the Wheatley Team writes:

Christmas and New Year celebrations are well behind us and I hope that you all had a happy and healthy time. The beginning of February sees the last of the church's Christmas celebrations, the final mention of the baby Jesus in the bible.

Candlemas - February 2<sup>nd</sup> - is one of those lesser known events and sitting here in the middle of January with the heating on I am reminded of the old rhyme:-

*If Candlemas day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight.  
If Candlemas day be shower and rain,  
Winter is gone and will not come again*

"Candlemas" is the day for observing the ritual purification of Mary forty days after the birth of Jesus as well as the presentation of Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem as required by Jewish law (Luke 2:21-40 & Lev.12). It is celebrated at the same time as the Celtic festival of Imbolc which had great significance in the rural calendar, because the date lies half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so it marks the day upon which winter is half over!

The Mass of Lighted Candles can be traced to at least 543 AD and is mentioned by Bede. It was at the presentation of Jesus in the temple that the old man Simeon, moved by the Holy Spirit, came to speak with the holy family the words which have become an important part of evening prayer, the Nunc Dimittis, where he refers to the infant Christ, "*A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*"

We have enjoyed the mystery of candlelit carol services, Advent candles etc., but must not forget that Jesus, the light of the world, is for all times and all places, not just this time of year. In the old days at Candlemas huge bundles of candles would be stacked in church waiting to be blessed, enough candles to see the church alight throughout the year. We too are called to see the light of the love of God shining in our parishes throughout the year.

With the current economic climate, job losses and falling savings it does seem a very dark time of year and for many people money worries are piling up. There may not be very much we can practically do to help but often a smile, a word and a prayer can help to bring some light into a dark situation. So let's not worry what the weather is doing on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, but as we leave the baby for this year, think how we will follow the man he became. If we can strive to follow the two great commandments to love God and love our neighbour then the warmth of God's love can be spread around.

I pray that we, like Simeon and Anna, may know the glory of the Living Lord and reflect his light in the year ahead.

### CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

1 <sup>st</sup>	11 a.m.	Parish Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Family Service
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 a.m.	United Service at the Methodist Chapel
25 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday	
	7.30 p.m.	Team Service at St Mary's Wheatley

**Messy Church.** A new and exciting way of doing church for all the family begins on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February in the Methodist Chapel from 3.00 to 4.30 p.m. with crafts, songs, prayers and tea.

**Confirmation and Adult Baptism.** If you would like to be confirmed, or simply to explore your faith further, the Wheatley team will be setting up separate classes for children and for adults in the New Year for a service in St Mary's Wheatley on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009. For further information please contact me on 361381.

### **From the Registers:**

#### **Baptisms**

7 <sup>th</sup> December	Henry Herring
11 <sup>th</sup> January	Stanley Shorter
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Jack Stroud

#### **Funerals**

19 <sup>th</sup> November	Peggy Turner
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Kathleen Talbot
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Jimmy Lathwell

## FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

Sundays	1 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Lewis	8 <sup>th</sup>	Gill Gray Carol Cuthbert
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Hamlet (wedding)	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Muriel Walker Nancy Llewelyn

## HORSPATH SENIOR RESIDENTS' CLUB

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February: Our New Year Lunch. Entertainment provided by Diane and Ian, *Millennium 2*. 12.00 for 12.30 p.m. in the village hall.

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February: A talk by Amanda Wood about the Hidden Tribes of India. 2.00 p.m. in the village hall.

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March: A talk by Alan Copeland on Cotswold Curiosities. 2.00 p.m. in the village hall.

- Sheila Dandridge

## HORSPATH GARDENING CLUB

Horspath Gardening Club usually meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the Methodist Chapel at 8.00 p.m. We welcome everybody so come and enjoy an interesting talk, followed by refreshments and a time to catch up on all the gardening news. The next event is:

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February** - we are lucky to have an intriguing talk from Joanne Everson who works at Kew Gardens: *Mud Mountains and Flowers* - an expedition to Bhutan.

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March** - *Vegetables, Pests and Diseases*. A return visit from Ali Quantrell from the Botanic Gardens - a talk with plenty of time for questions.

There will be a charge to cover the costs of visiting speakers and the hire of the hall. For further information, contact Sheila Frankum on 872793.

### **Community Emergency Foodbank (CEF)**

Many thanks to all those who have been generously giving to CEF each week. The foodbank is really busy at the moment and we have noticed an increase in numbers of people who have been hit by the current financial crisis. Please do continue to donate if you can - we particularly need UHT milk, puddings, cereal and tinned vegetables. There is a box in the back of the church, or you can drop off donations at 11 Gidley Way, Horspath. Many thanks.

- Clare Hayns

**Messy Church, Horspath**  
**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February – 3.00 to 4.30 p.m. Horspath Methodist Church**



**CRAFTS, PAINTING, COOKING, PLAYING, SINGING, EATING,  
PRAYING AND GENERALLY MAKING A MESS!**

**Messy Church** is a fun time on the second Sunday of every month for children and teenagers, parents, grandparents, carers, uncles, friends ... whoever! to get creative together, meet up with old and new friends, relax in a friendly informal short service and get a taste of God's generous love through sharing Sunday tea with everyone else - young and old.  
It's also a time to get very ... Messy

*We would love you to join us!!*

Free

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information or to see how to be involved in any way please contact Clare Hayns – 01865 876439 –  
or Revd Emma Pennington

**The next event is on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March from 3.00 – 4.30 p.m.**

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**Dr A Harnden and Partners**

**Morland House Surgery, London Road, Wheatley OX33 1YJ. Tel: 01865 872448.**

The Surgery and Dispensary is open: Monday to Friday, 8am - 6.30pm, and Saturday morning.

Surgery appointments times:

Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 11.00am and 3.30pm - 5.50pm

Saturday: 8.30am - 11.20am

On Saturday mornings we have a limited number of pre-bookable appointments and emergency *walk-ins* until 11.00am on the day.

Please telephone 01865 872448 for an appointment or to register with the practice. Alternatively, visit our website – [www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk) – for further information on appointments and the full range of facilities and services that we offer.

The Surgery is currently accepting new patients from the local area.

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