



# ST GILES HORSPATH PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2010

## Our Vicar, Emma Pennington:

By now many of you will have heard the sad news that Emma was taken ill just after Christmas, which resulted in her having an operation at the John Radcliffe Hospital on 7<sup>th</sup> January. As this magazine issue was being prepared, she is now back at the Vicarage in Garsington making a recovery. She has suffered intermittently from a painful and unpredictable condition known as trigeminal neuralgia which, when it comes on, results in it being very difficult to talk or eat. Let us all support her in our thoughts and pray for her effective and speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing her amongst us very soon.

While Emma is indisposed, quite naturally the thought of church services comes to mind. It is gratifying to know that we have the full support of the Team Ministry, with help coming principally from our friends at Cuddesdon, and so the rota of services will continue as normal. The list for February is in this magazine and our grateful thanks go to those who have stepped into the breach at such short notice. Don't forget that the usual 11.00am Parish Communion on the first Sunday of the month (7<sup>th</sup>) is being replaced by an important cluster service in Garsington at 9.30am when Bishop Colin Fletcher will be preaching in support of stewardship and the way forward for our parishes.

For all other pastoral needs, you are recommended to call the Revd James Watson on 01865 872224 for any assistance you may require; our thanks to him also.

- *Brian and Barbara, Churchwardens*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Sundays	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Cluster Service at St Mary's Garsington (Bishop Colin)
	14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Parish Communion
	21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Family Service
	28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Morning Worship (Mark Chapman)

## FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

Sundays	7 <sup>th</sup>	Brian and Carol Lowe	14 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Lewis
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Gill Gray Carol Cuthbert	28 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Llewelyn Muriel Walker

### **Carol Singing**

A hardy group ventured out into the snow on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> December to carol sing around the village. We had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and were very grateful to Andy Austen for playing the accordion so enthusiastically! We particularly appreciated the mulled wine (and even mulled beer!) and food provided by the Grays before heading off for some more mulled wine at the Queen's Head. The children collected for the Church (in between their snowball fighting) and we raised £129.81. We all decided this will have to become an annual event, so look out for the details next year and do come along and join us.

### **Christmas Thank You:**

Once again to Father Christmas, the Snowman and the team for bringing the magic childhood to us all in the village;

To all the people who made up the choir for the village Carol Service – and to those who supplied mulled wine and mince pies afterwards;

To all who put up the Tree of Hope and organised the messages;

To Stan and Janet at the *Queen's Head* who greeted us in church at 12.45am after Midnight Mass with mulled wine and mince pies;

And to the bell ringers and hand-bell ringers over the Christmas period.

- Carol and Brian Lowe



**Next month it's going to be the first birthday for Messy Church so we will have a celebration on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> February.**

### **Horspath Methodist Chapel**

Did you know that this historic and valuable village resource is likely to be sold by the Methodist Church - possibly for development?

You may not know but it was refitted only about 4 years ago and is a lovely space to hold meetings, children's events, quiet days and a wealth of other activities.

The Methodist Church is currently considering its options and one option might include a Horspath group renting (or buying) the Chapel. They are hoping to make a decision in early March 2010. It seems to us that we should take a good look at all the possibilities available before it is too late.

If you are interested, perhaps you would like to attend an informal meeting to discuss possible options. With this in mind, we have booked the chapel for a meeting on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. Alternatively, you can contact either of us to put your views.

*Anna Radcliffe (872173)*

*Sally Humphrey (873860)*

## **HORSPATH SENIOR RESIDENTS' CLUB**

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February: New Year Lunch. 12.00 for 12.30pm in the village hall.

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February: A talk by Amanda Wood. 2.00pm in the village hall.

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March: An intellectual quiz? presented by your chairman, Peter Prescott. 2.00pm in the village hall.

- Sheila Dandridge

## **HORSPATH GARDENING CLUB**

Horspath Gardening Club meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the Methodist Chapel at 8.00pm. We welcome everybody so come and enjoy an interesting talk, followed by refreshments and time to catch up on all the gardening news!

The next event is:

**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February - *Food Production in the Modern World*** - a talk by Lyn Cornwallis. Lyn has been farming locally for 30 years and has a very interesting insight into sustainable agriculture, pertinent to organic gardening for produce. Lyn is well-known to the people of Horspath and we welcome him back for an entertaining evening.

**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March - *The History of the Oxford Botanic Garden*** with some interesting and unusual information about the development of the garden. This may be the last time we are able to meet in the Methodist Chapel; we'll keep everyone informed about the event in April.

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

### **Horspath in Bloom - Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

We shall be holding another Horspath Gardens and Church Open Day in June and I should like to hear from anyone who is interested in being involved, either in the planning or helping on the day. Two years ago, 18 gardens were open, the church was beautifully decorated, the village resplendent and we managed to raise a considerable amount for church funds. If you can help in any way, please contact Sheila Frankum or email [frankum100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:frankum100@yahoo.co.uk). There will be a meeting for discussion and planning on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 16 Manor Farm Road at 7.30pm.

### **An Unusual Fact ...**

During my researches into the history of Horspath, I have discovered an unusual fact about one of our vicars, who ministered here at St Giles from 1861 to 1889. His name was Henry Ramsden Bramley and he left us a legacy which is international. We have just celebrated the Christmas season, singing many of the very familiar carols across the Christian world and yet those very carols were first brought together by Henry Ramsden during his time at Horspath.

The origins of all this lay in his being a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford where in 1860 he met another Fellow, the famous composer Sir John Stainer (of '*Crucifixion*' fame). Together they published a collection entitled '*Christmas Carols New and Old*' in the early 1860s and containing 20 carols. By 1871 they had produced a second version with another 22 carols and by 1878 a third was printed with 28 carols, making a total of 70 songs. Many of the carols we know so well come from these original books, which were continuously reprinted into the 1950s.

Thus it is that through the collaboration of the Vicar of Horspath and the organist of Magdalen College, the world-famous carols we sing today came about, and emphasize our familiarity with the *Victorian Christmas*. Yet Henry Ramsden left us more than this, for his generosity provided St Giles with our present treble bell (1866), the set of twelve hand-bells, and the chancel screen now at the western end of our church. He went on to be the Canon of Lincoln Cathedral and died in 1917.

- Brian Lowe

# Encounter

*Informal, Contemporary Worship*

**St Mary's Church,  
Wheatley**

**Spring series  
“I am the bread of life”**

*24<sup>th</sup> Jan “Making the bread”*

*28<sup>th</sup> Feb “Using the bread”*

*28<sup>th</sup> March “Breaking the bread”*

**Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, starting at 6pm**

**Contact: John Baker  
on 01865 874999  
or 07801 24268**