



News and Notes

for Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock January 2017

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Happy New Year! from Revd Rick Williams

And let's face it, in January we have to be told that, because there isn't much else generally to commend January! It is a cold, dark month, and the one when the bills from Christmas come in!

One could set New Year any time, I suppose... and indeed, various societies do. Revolutionary governments are fond of picking the anniversary of their revolution, as a way of saying, "History started afresh here". The Jewish New Year falls in our September (or early October) and is said to mark the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, but may also be linked to the agricultural year. The Islamic year is calculated as twelve lunar months, so not as long as our solar year, which means its new year can fall in any season... the current Islamic year began on 3rd October 2016. The Chinese New Year falls on the new moon between 21st January and 20th February.

Insofar as there is a Christian New Year, it actually begins on Advent Sunday (the fourth Sunday before Christmas), since that is the one the church calendar officially recognises! How many people in Britain know that, I wonder? But the one that is generally recognised derives from the Roman calendar (as modified several times, most notably by Pope Gregory XIII. It was the Romans who made 1st January the first day of the new year, presumably based on exactly that miserable fact about January with which I started this article... it is, near as makes no odds, the middle of winter, the coldest and darkest part of the year. Its name is linked to that of Janus, the two-headed god of doorways, who looked both backwards at where you had come from, and forwards to where you were headed.

And maybe the reason it is the New Year that has caught on is exactly that. It is at the darkest, coldest time of the year that we do indeed pass through a transition. Things can only get warmer and lighter! The only way to go is up. Janus can look back regretfully at the summer that has died, but also with hope to the summer that will be (*cont. on p2*)

Church of England Services

1 st January 2 nd Sunday of Christmas	10.00am 11.00am	Short Benefice Communion Morning Service & Lunch	Bishopstone Broad Chalke Chapel	CB CB
8 th January Epiphany	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion Choral Mattins (BCP) Family Service	Odstock Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett	AP MC JT
15 th January 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am 11.00am 4.00pm	Parish Communion Parish Communion Evensong (BCP)	Nunton Homington Britford	CB RW RW
22 nd January 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service Choral Mattins	Charlton All Saints Odstock Coombe Bissett	CB RW CB
29 th January Candlemas	10.00am	Benefice Communion	Homington	JT/RW
5 th February 4 th Sunday before Lent	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Family Service Family Communion Evensong (BCP)	Britford Nunton Coombe Bissett Homington	CB AT AP DB

CB = Revd Catherine Blundell, JT = Revd Jenny Taylor, RW = Revd Rick Williams,
DB = David Blundell, AP = Revd Ann Philp, MC = Michael Chandler, AT = Adrian Taylor
BCP = Book of Common Prayer

Team Rector ~ Revd Catherine Blundell: 01722 780134 Team Vicar ~ Revd Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081
Team Vicar ~ Revd Rick Williams: 01722 330628 Team Administrator ~ Mrs Helen Atkinson: 01722 781112

News & Notes
Editor: Adrian Taylor
07753 829027
(email below)
Deadline:
18th of each month

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham WI

12th December 2016

Gill Dodd

As always, this meeting was a great social event. We had been asked to wear a Christmas hat, and they were spectacular. There were about 15 to choose from, and Hatty Hillier won with her beautiful Xmas fairy.

The President, Heather Marrison, welcomed everyone including 2 guests: one a founder member Mary Boyd Camps; the other Liz Stanger.

The business meeting and usual group activities were announced and kept short. We were reminded that our subs were due in January, and to bring our resolution forms to the next meeting.

There was a Bring & Buy stall, Xmas quiz and a large Christmas Raffle. We were served with mince pies, coffee and mulled wine whilst attempting a Xmas competition. Margaret Barrow was thanked for her usual wonderful catering.

The final delight was a quartet of singers – Stella Flux, Rosemary Stephens, Susi Appleford and Gill Sawridge who sang novel renditions of Xmas songs and carols. It was clever and amusing, especially when we all took part in “The 12 Days of Christmas”.

Pam Trubshaw thanked all the hard working Committee on our behalf, and the President extended her seasonal wishes to us all.

The next meeting is on 9th January when the talk is “Bless This Child”. We have been asked to bring Christening robes.

Accommodation Wanted

Elderly gentleman, currently living in Britford and attending St Peter's Church, is looking for a quiet bungalow/annexe/flat etc. to rent. Must be completely non-smoking.

Please call Robert Isles on 01722 349526.

Short Mat Bowls

The Short Mat Bowls Club has now been successfully running at Radnor Hall for over 3 months. We have been meeting every other Thursday evening from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. If others would like to join us they would be most welcome; just pop along for a couple of hours to try it out.

We will be meeting on the following dates in the New Year:-

Thursday 12th January; Thursday 26th January
Thursday 9th February; Thursday 23rd February;
Thursday 9th March; Thursday 23rd March.

Ring call Keith Bradford on 01722 329740 or Rod Poynting on 01722 322236 if you wish to know more.

Happy New Year *(continued from front page)*

..... And maybe that's the reason why the Christians, despite playing about with other options (such as Advent Sunday, as mentioned, and March 25th, which had some popularity in the Middle Ages), in the end were happy to stick with the pagan Roman date. For that sense that hope comes when the darkness is at its greatest is at the heart of our Christian belief, when we think about how Jesus had to pass through the darkness of the crucifixion before rising to glory.

New Year is a dark time when we dare to hope. Our New Year resolutions are a sign of that hope... setting ourselves targets for improvement. The Bishop of Salisbury has made “Renewing Hope” his slogan for the Diocese. There are worse things we could do! Let's try to use this January to do just that... to look forward in hope to what the future may bring, for 2017 is a new year with new opportunities.

CURRY NIGHT

Friday 27th January 2017, 7.30pm
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Britford Parish Council

Britford Parish Council has added some useful literature regarding flooding advice and information to its website (www.britfordparishcouncil.co.uk), or you can contact the Parish Clerk, Mandy Atkins at clerk@britfordparishcouncil.co.uk for more details.

Computer Table

Computer table, 23"x 20" top, 3 shelves, 2 sliding. Free. Collect from Nunton. 01722 328608

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The Other Nunton

Sherwood Elcock

For the past couple of weeks I have been fortunate to find myself working as a locum doctor on the island of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides.

I was delighted to find that my short drive to the hospital each day takes me through the small settlement known in Gaelic as Baile nan Cailleach, which translates as Town of the Old Ladies, or to use its anglicised name, Nunton; the only other Nunton in the UK.

Nunton on the island of Benbecula is a small community of no more than a dozen houses, the largest and most impressive of which, Nunton House, was once a Nunnery. There is no pub and no shops but there is a small art gallery and museum which doubles as a cafe.

There is no church here today but the community originally developed around a small monastery, the windswept remains of which are still standing in the cemetery. The building dates from the 13th century but there is evidence that the first monastery here was built in the 7th or 8th century, probably by monks driving from Ireland. The cemetery is well kept and contains several graves of unknown sailors who fought in the Battle of the Atlantic and whose bodies washed up on the adjacent Atlantic coast.

The name Nunton, and presumably the Gaelic "Town of the Old Ladies", derives from the fact that the land here belonged to a group of Nuns. They were granted the land in the 16th century by the son of the local Laird who, after a misspent early life, sought to appease the community and find favour with his maker by donating land to the church.

Nunton is on the west coast of Benbecula. The shoreline consists of long stretches of silver sand backed by sand dunes and exposed to the full force of Atlantic gales. This sand, mainly composed of shattered sea shells, is blown inland where it mixes with the peat to produce an easily worked, well-drained soil that supports hundreds of small crofts mainly raising sheep and beef cattle. The crofters use fairly traditional farming methods and this results in the glorious flower meadows of the Machair, the local name for this fertile coastal plain, which also has large numbers of birds, including many species now rarely seen elsewhere in the UK. At present there are huge flocks of geese and plovers on the fields. In the early summer Corncrake arrive in the grasslands and can be heard calling at night, a sound once common but long forgotten in Southern England.

It has been a privilege to work in this community and to have the opportunity to visit patients in their homes, occasionally requiring the assistance of an interpreter for some of the older residents for whom English is a second language.

I first came to work here in the summer when I enjoyed the long days when even in August it was still light at 10pm. Now of course it is different, it is still October and the sun doesn't rise before 8.30am and has set before 6pm.

I think I will head south to the other Nunton for the winter!

Reading Group in Britford

Enid Alston

I have spoken to several people who are interested in a Book Group, but as this has been at social evenings, I have instantly forgotten their names. I also now have a list of several people who I do know and have been in contact with. If you are one of those who is interested, please give me a ring on 01722 331705. We are hoping to get together for the first time in the last week of January.

Odstock Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

Roderick Mackay

The group is now working on a first draft of the plan based on the collected views of residents. It is intended to present this to the Parish Council and circulate to residents. We then will have an open meeting in the New Year, when all residents can have their say.

We now have formal consent from Wiltshire to our designated area, received on 23rd September 2016. Whilst this is an important stage it merely allows us to base our plan on the civil Parish including Bodenham, Nunton and Odstock.

You may have heard that Downton has now been successful in their Neighbourhood Plan, and we now need further input from the members of the parish and those working here, so that their views are taken forward in our own plan.

The Housing & Planning Act 2016 had been passed and The Neighbourhood Planning Bill has got underway. Both support and encourage neighbourhood plans.

Any further views and observations in advance the open meeting will be welcome. Please send an email to madra@myfwi.co.uk.

Bible Study Group The Orchard, Nunton

We shall be using the **York Course** titled **Faith, Hope & Love**. The course is based on the three great qualities celebrated in 1 Corinthians 13. This famous passage begins and ends in majestic prose. Yet it is practical and demanding. St Paul's thirteen verses take us to the heart of what it means to be a Christian. We will hold the 5 sessions during Lent starting with session 1 on Tuesday 21st February 2017; we like to start promptly at 7.30pm.

Do come and join us, we are a friendly group and love to include new members whenever we can. The discussions will be lively but not threatening! The course booklet, which you will find very helpful, will cost £3.59. But there will be no other charge. We meet in the Community Room of The Orchard and the entrance to come in by is situated across the garden behind the Bus shelter on the Nunton/Odstock Road. (Just follow the path near the Post Box) The door will be unlocked between 7.15 and 7.45pm, so feel free to come on in.

Any queries please contact Marian Hearne 01722 335685 or call in and visit me at No 3 The Orchard.

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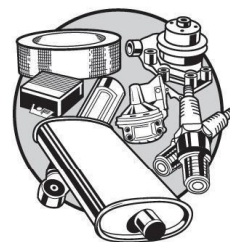
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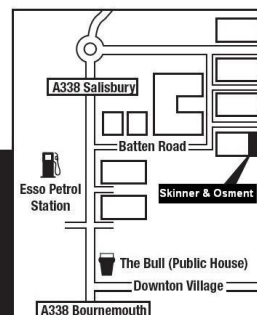
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Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Singing Group	Tuesdays (ex. Aug/Dec.), 4.30pm or 7.00pm, Barker Room, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Tiny Tots	Wednesdays (ex. Aug.) 9.45 – 11.45am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham (Suzie Orchiton - 01722 502026)
Mobile Library	Britford (The Green), 10.10am – 10.30am (Wednesday 4 th January)
Acorn Club	Coffee Morning – Wednesdays 10.30am at the Orchard
'Local Vocals'	Singing group for everybody. No need to read music. 1 st and 3 rd Mondays each month. Radnor Hall, 7.30 - 9.30pm. Please check with Clare Chitty 07899 718780
Circle Dancing	Simple dances from many countries to join in with, no partner or previous experience necessary. 2nd and 4th Mondays at Radnor Hall, 7.30 - 9.30pm. Contact Clare Chitty 07899 718780
Village Prayers	If you'd like prayers to be said for someone you know, a particular situation or yourself, you may either put a note in the Village Prayers box at St Andrew's, Nunton or St Mary's, Odstock, email details to villageprayers@live.com or come along. Next meeting: 7.00pm – 11th Jan – The Barker Room, Nunton

Diary Dates

25 th January	The Filling Station, The Radnor Hall, 7.30pm (see page 2)
27 th January	Curry Night, Britford Memorial and Community Hall, 7.30pm (see page 2)
7 th July	Ebbfest, Nunton Field
8 th July	ONB Fête, Nunton Field