



Getting in touch with us: The Church office is not currently staffed regularly, except Monday mornings when volunteers come in to pay bills. If you have a claim for expenses or a bill that the Church should pay, please make sure it is left in the church office by then.

Rev. Bill is often available at the Rectory or Office from 9.30am – 12.00 on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please feel free to drop in for a chat or phone to make an appointment.

If you would like to publicise an event in the newsletter, please leave in the Church office or email the church mailbox by Thursday lunchtimes. Please put “newsletter” in the title line.

Church email: office@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

Team Rector: The Rev'd Bill Blakey (rector@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk) tel: 846996

Team Vicar: The Rev'd James Maddern (vicbrizecarterton@btinternet.com) tel: 844175

Assistant Curate: The Rev'd Jo Reid (curate@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk) tel: 843173

Churchwardens: Mike Cox (tel: 841069); Doreen Trezise (tel: 843080)

PCC Secretary: Linda Wooloff (tel: 840133) pccsecretary@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

Websites: NEW!! And still being built; www.stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk
Ideas, comments and contributions (including pictures) welcome.

Contact webmaster@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

Also... www.achurchnearyou.com (search for Carterton)

ROTAS	25 December	1 January	8 January	15 January
Cleaning	Tracey Crouch Louise Hicks	Doreen Trezise	Volunteer please	Ray Goodson
Welcoming	Jean Brown	Mindy Rowlands	Jenny Cridge	Barbara Goudal
Reading		Sue Blakey Lyndsay Baker	Ray Goodson	Geoff Furnival Doreen Trezise
Leading Prayers	Rev Bill	Steve Bostock	Lyndsay Baker	Phil Scott
Chalice		Rev Jo Alan Carter		Hilda Parrott Lyndsay Baker
Sidesperson	Doreen Trezise Linda Wooloff	Volunteers please	Guides	Ros & Will Fiennes
Refreshments	No refreshments	Liz Wood Vanessa Tinson	Alison Brown Volunteer please	Hilda Parrott Linda Wooloff

The Church of St John the Evangelist, Carterton

www.stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

18 December 2011 - 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday

Welcome to worship!

If you are new or visiting, please stay and join us after the service for refreshments



Sunday Services:

SPECIAL OFFERINGS for Gatehouse and Besom (see page 3 for details)



Every week: including Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion

Today: 10.30am Holy Communion
Mary—a lifetime of waiting.

Romans 16.25-27 & Luke 1.26-38

4.00pm Christingle –please pick up collection candles. + invite people

Saturday, 24 Dec

5.30pm Children’s Nativity Service

11.30pm “Midnight” Holy Communion

Sunday, 25 Dec—Christmas Day

10.00am Morning Celebration followed by Holy Communion at 10h45 **NOTE TIMES**

Sunday 1 January

10.30am Holy Communion

Text for 2012 Rom 15.13 (see bookmarks!)

Romans 15.1-13 & John 1.43-51

Sunday, 8 January

10.30am Parade Service

Meaning of Baptism (Belonging to God)

Mark 1.4-11

Thursday mornings: not 29th Dec

10.30am - Holy Communion

NOTE: Work in the car-park to remove the old dying trees and to plant a beech hedge started on Thurs 15th for a week. Please take care!

Congratulations: Birthdays!

December: Tracey Crouch (20th); Terry Ingram (21st); Margaret Browne (22nd) January: Liz Wood (6th); Finlay Reynolds (10th); Betty Giles & Andrea Black (17th); Michael Welsh (21st); Francesca Ford (25th); David Flitney (26th); Lawrence Cooper (27th); Pauline Evans (31st)



Prayer priorities this week:



- Thanks for Mary and her unique role in bringing Jesus to the world.
- Thanks that God acts in His time seeking a response to His challenging message.
- Thanks for those who donate and for the money given that keeps our church afloat. A good tax rebate has arrived.
- Preparations for Christmas worship.
- This week we pray for families in the lead-up to Christmas and for those for whom it will be a lonely time.
- Pray for the homeless and those in crisis. For Gatehouse and Besom Projects
- For HM Forces people serving abroad, and for their families. Those apart for Christmas.
- For those injured in war and here at home, those who are unwell and those giving thanks for recovery, including: Charlotte Asher, Lyndsay Baker, Joyce Baskerville, Jean Brown, Reg Brown, Liz Bullock, Rose Collinson, Thomas Crawford, Rosemary Day, Barbara Furnival, Emma Goodson, Victoria Gulley, Terry Ingram, Sue James, Rev Jo, Joyce & Sam Justin, Gary Moore, Pete Norgrove, Norah Pearman, Keith Pike, Steve Richards, Rose Savage, Tony Spurrett, Pat Williamson, Adam, Kim, Meg, Peter, Shaun & Timothy.
- Those who mourn—the family of Bill Foster (former Lay Reader here)



Let’s Sing! All Welcome

December Practices on Thursday 22nd

Bookmarks for Christmas:

Please collect a bookmark which is a Christmas card from Rev Bill, Sue and Rev Jo. Happy Christmas and 2012!

TEXT for 2011 1 Peter 2.5a

“You, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house”

Dear All

If you watch or read the news you could be forgiven for thinking that the world in which we live is a gloom ridden, depressing place full of awful things and terrible people. Lots of us seem to have bought into the prevailing culture.

For many there is a belief that this country is ruled by others based in Brussels, that everything we hold dear is falling apart and that our young people are evil.

This is just the sort of situation that persisted in the Holy Land 2000 years ago.

Then Jesus was born.

It is tempting to say that his birth made little difference but history tells otherwise. Since then His followers have learnt to make a positive difference in the world both personally and on a larger scale. The Church in the UK is by far the largest provider of voluntary services and youth work. We often don't celebrate what is going on behind the scenes, there is so much good. Look around at our super children and young people both in and out of the church and celebrate!

Sure there have been mistakes and squabbles, but Jesus' followers are ordinary sinners who, like St Paul (see Romans 5, 6 & 7) struggle with the inner battle between good and evil. In Romans 7.24&25 he asks who will rescue him and the answer is Jesus. This is why He came to earth, for real, ordinary people.

So Christmas is a time for rejoicing because Jesus came for all of us. To help us by being an example and by being with us. When we are fearful he says, "Fear not" when we need it he says, "I will always be with you". When we need hope, forgiveness and healing He is there. Good News indeed.

Enjoy celebrating His birthday he reckoned that we were worth coming for. Yes, that means you. Let Him be your light and hope.

Happy Christmas

Rev Bill Blakey



Fellowship Together is a vital part of the Christian life:

Why not ask one of the leaders about joining a group?

NEW MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME.

Home Groups Tuesday evenings 7.30pm at the Rectory (except last Tuesday of the month) Looking at Philipians. **Talk to Sue Blakey or Linda Cox**

Wednesday evenings 7.30pm for 8 pm @ 34 Brampton Drive studying "The Purpose of Christmas" hosts **Mindy & David Rowlands.**

Fellowship Breakfasts: Bi-monthly Saturday morning Ladies' and Men's breakfasts. Next meetings in January

Coffee mornings: Second Saturday each month in St John's.



For the Children & Young People In term time, Drop-In for pre-school infants & parents Friday mornings (9.00—11.00am) @ St John's Church MADDER: Sundays @ 39 Bluebell Way @ 6.45 pm - next meeting tba Messy Church—see website for full details—invite another family along



Our vision is to be a growing vibrant church, rooted in Christ, that reaches out and serves the whole community.



Notices

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare for the Christingle service.

Special Collections this Christmas—Please help

Gatehouse Project—retiring Offerings for the next couple of weeks we will be running our usual retiring offering so that we can buy warm clothing for the people helped by the gatehouse Project.

Besom non-perishables. After Christmas Besom runs low on stocks of food for families so we are collecting tins packets of non-perishable food and cosmetics to help them in January. We will deliver them to their Witney base in mid-Jan. Please put donations in the box below the Christmas Tree.

Don't forget our Epiphany Party on Saturday, 7 January. Relax and laugh together, food, games etc. More details about arrangements will be in next week's newsletter.

Badminton. Anyone interested in playing for fun in the New Year should contact Sue Blakey or Mike & Linda Cox.

Help with refreshments is needed for the mid-week evening Carol Party on Weds 21st. Your donations of food or money are valued. Please see Sue Blakey.

Christmas at St John's: See leaflet & website for full details.

Wednesday, 21st Churches Together service of Lessons & Carols.

7.00pm in St John's for those not on the 6.30pm walk; Christmas Eve:

5.30pm Nativity Story; 11.30pm Midnight service; Christmas Morning services 8am & 10am.



Regular giving envelopes for 2012 now available: Please see Alison Ford in church or call on 846522 if you would like a set of envelopes for your regular weekly giving, although we would like to encourage you to start up a standing order instead. Forms available from the office. Many thanks for your continued generosity.

The Gatehouse Next sandwich making session is Friday, 23 December. Volunteers are needed to help in the New Year when sandwich-making moves to a Sunday. Please see Lyn Bostock.

Margaret Brewer has three male kittens which need good homes. Please contact her on 209801 or 07779 857307.

Looking Ahead

Messy Church: Next events are on 15 January, 19 February and 18 March. Wedding Banquet spectacular in February—come in traditional costume as worn in the time of Jesus!

If you have a celebration we can all share or an event to publicise, please tell the

