

*Oving with*  
Pitchcott  
*Newsletter*



**December 2006**

[www.all-saints-oving.org](http://www.all-saints-oving.org)

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JANUARY 2007  
CONTRIBUTIONS

Please let me have contributions  
for the January newsletter  
by Monday 11th December  
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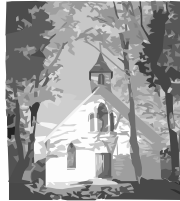
Many thanks, Valerie Adams,  
12 The Pightle, Oving 640296  
Email:- valadams@waitrose.com

LADIES NIGHT

Come for mince pies and  
perhaps a glass of wine to  
the next meeting on  
Wed. 13th Dec at 7:30 pm  
Newcomers welcome.  
Call Val on 640296 for info

Sunday School - December

**Sunday School will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December at the  
Parish Church between 11.00 and 12.00.  
All children between the ages of 5 – 11 are welcome.**



**If you would like more information then please contact  
Jeremy Shields on 641020.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec – 11:00am	Family Service – Travelling crib launch and Advent Wreath
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 6:00pm	Traditional Festive Carol Service. Come along and enjoy hot mulled wine and mince pies
Christmas Eve – 3:00pm	Crib Service – Children welcome to come and dress in nativity costume
Midnight Mass – 11:30pm	Led by Revd. Andy Bell
Christmas Day – 11:00am	Family Service

The Baby in Manger Thing - Again.

Did you know its advent? Probably because each day you open your Homer Simpson Advent calendar and have your little chocolate-shaped doughnut and read a snappy phrase from the great yellow guru.

For Christians Advent is supposed to be a 'penitential' season. We are supposed to mortify ourselves in some way like we do in Lent - and indeed Advent used to be 6 weeks like Lent. But even in the middle ages people couldn't be abstemious for that long so a wise bishop shortened it to 4 weeks.

But we still don't keep Advent. We get swept away with the whole run-up-to-Christmas thing along with everyone else. I dutifully tell people from the pulpit that they should be '*watching and waiting*' in the Christian expectation that God will come again and sort this topsy-turvy world out. But I speak as someone girding up my loins (a biblical expression meaning 'preparing') for Christmas just like everyone else. I suppose I could give up mince pies - but since I don't like them anyway...

But God's success in His first coming as a baby in a manger was such a stunningly good bit of PR that the whole thing has blotted out any expectation of the thing happening again - in fact its blotted out just about everything else about Christianity. The world loves the baby - but it never was terribly interested in what the baby had to say when it was grown up. So if God is coming again this Christmas, I would counsel Him not to do the baby thing - because otherwise most people will drown in commercial sentimentality and miss the message - just like they did last time. Perhaps he could come as a fat, balding yellow man. Everyone seems to want to hear what he has to say.

Merry Christmas to you all - Revd. Andy Bell

Churchyard Clean-up

A great big thank you to everyone who turned up on 28<sup>th</sup> October to help with clearing the churchyard. The churchyard looks much tidier now and I look forward to the next occasion after Christmas.

Thank you all again.

Linda Nicholls

[www.all-saints-oving.org.uk](http://www.all-saints-oving.org.uk)



### CHRISTMAS CHILD APPEAL

A big thank you for everyone who gave us boxes for this years' appeal; a total of 65 boxes were collected including some from Cublington nursery, Buckingham and a few from Stoke Mandeville.

This year our boxes and thousands more from Abingdon depot will be going to Belarus again in Russia for children that have been orphaned from the Chernobyl disasters. I'm sure these boxes will be well appreciated by all those children.

Many thanks – Caroline Jenner.

ROTAS						
	03-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec	31-Dec	07-Jan
11.00 am	Family Service			Crib Service 3:00pm		Family Service
Sidesmen	K.Ryell J.Goss	D.Midwinter C.Roberts	H.Bowen N.Shields	J.Shields Robin		S.Larman R.Firth
Readers at 6.00pm		M.Ponsford	Carol Service	S.Hodges R.Goss 11:30pm	Team Service	
Chancel	J.Brunswick	J.Brunswick	M.Hodges	M.Hodges		K.Couper
Nave	L.Watson	H.Fone	S.Berriman	D.Hilton-Jones		C.Jenner
Path and Bins	J.Peeters	R.Smith	E.Watson	P.Goss		D.Goss
<b>Family communion on Christmas day is at 11:00am. (Sidesmen TBA)</b>						

BOOK CLUB		
DATE	HOST	PHONE NO
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas meal	
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Ann	641314
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Trina	641188
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Pam	640360
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Jo	641644
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Kit	641694
New book lovers welcome. Reading list details available from anyone in the above list.		

### Green Scene – How to have a low carbon Christmas

I can already hear you saying to yourself ....she's going to ask us to turn the heating down and wear three pullovers and gloves, have no Christmas decorations or tree, give reused or biodegradable presents and eat only potatoes and turnips grown in the allotment. Would I do that to you?!! Well not quite.

People in my village know not to give me a Christmas card. Apart from the fact that I'm Jewish, I think that actually saying happy Christmas in person and talking to your neighbour is much more in the spirit of Christmas. People feel terribly obligated to give a card to everyone who gives them one. So with workmates and friends you regularly see, be brave and tell them you are not giving cards any more, but prefer to give your greeting in person and save a bit of the earth for the future. Christmas is about catching up with people and having a bit of quality time with your nearest and dearest.

Most people will admit that Christmas is over hyped and marketed to death. It is hard not to be carried along with the frenzy to consume and to think that the latest gizmo will bring more happiness. It is that over consumption that grates with me. Most of us have a house full of stuff that we don't need or use. Consumption is creating huge issues with climate change as nearly every part of our life depends on fossil fuels. Clothes, food, transport, work, material possessions, entertainment, recycling and so on, all use energy.

I have been doing a lot of educational work lately on climate change. I ran a workshop for 6<sup>th</sup> formers at Waddesdon C of E School and presented one side of a debate to all 250 of them. I am about to go off for a 'jolly' week at Butlins Skegness to deliver a climate change module to 650 12 year old. Not sure whether I've got the short straw on that one! The fact that carbon emissions and climate change have become one of the hottest media and political topics of late shows the seriousness of the situation. The recent Stern Review on the Economics of Climate change stated that we don't have time to wait for someone else to do something. Each one of us has a duty as a global citizen to take responsibility and act right now.

So here are some low carbon ideas for the Christmas period.

- If you want to buy someone a present ask them if they need anything first
- Give an unusual gift like a membership to an organisation, a magazine subscription, a ticket for a theatre show or even something from a company like Good Gifts see [www.goodgifts.org](http://www.goodgifts.org)

- If buying toys for children go for quality rather than 5 minute wonders. If batteries are needed buy rechargeable ones.
- Choose Christmas cards made from recycled paper or even better make your own cards from magazines/old cards/photographs
- Support British farmers when buying Christmas food – could you actually have an entire meal sourced in the UK?
- Use string rather than sellotape to tie the wrapping paper, then it is easier to reuse the paper
- Shred your Christmas tree or avoid buying one and decorate a large house plant instead
- Choose Christmas decorations that can be re-used or better still make your own from scrap material – great for keeping children occupied
- When shopping take your own bags to the store
- Switch your electricity supplier to a renewable energy company like [www.ecotricity.co.uk](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk) 08000 326100 (the price matches regional suppliers)

And at the end of the festive season sort your rubbish into materials that can be recycled and composted. I'll be looking out for those overflowing wheelie bins!

Have a low carbon Christmas if you can and of course, enjoy yourself.

Rachel Gershon – Aylesbury Vale Friends of the Earth

Tel: 640967 email: [info@avfoe.org.uk](mailto:info@avfoe.org.uk)

#### CAROL SINGING

This year we will be Carol Singing round the village on Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Do come and join us!

The money collected will be shared between  
The Children's Society and  
Christian Aid.

Meet at the Church Porch at 6:30pm.



### **Garden Farm: Autumn**

It has been just over a year since I started writing this column for the Parish Magazine, so this seems like a good time to take stock and review what worked – and what didn't

It is a quiet time of year in the garden – maintenance work and some preparation. I'm not planting anything over the winter, as I'd rather use the time doing structural work, as you will see below.

My original intention was to write about beekeeping. In the event I did not get my bees until quite late in the year (for bees) at the end of May which gave the colonies little time to build up and forage over the summer. In the event I took no honey – what there was (about 10lb in one hive and half that in the other) I have left for the bees this winter. Most importantly to me though was the fact that I made a start – I attended a course, joined a club, bought the hives and equipment and got some bees. I even had a swarm and captured it and re-housed it.

The garden has been very enjoyable and productive. In recent months I have been commuting every day which has left me with much less time to work in the garden. I hope that will change in the New Year as there is a lot of preparation to do. We have had bountiful crops of potatoes, onions and runner beans. All things we will eat plenty of, and we have stocks to last right through the winter. For my first year I am happy with that, however next year I want more variety and now that the catalogues have started to arrive I realise I have more ambition than space!

The chickens have been a major success. After all the brown ones were £4 each and have laid one egg a day since we got them more or less. The Scots Dumpies have been entertaining, good to look at (and occasionally noisy when the cockerel gets his timing wrong). They have really slowed down on the egg laying now. Keeping them has been straightforward and feed is not expensive – even the organic feed we use. The quality of the eggs means it would be hard to use supermarket ones ever again – and our friends who have either tried ours or have their own chickens feel the same way.

The fruit crop this year was also bountiful – in fact we still have some apples on the trees in mid-November. We made cider for the first time in a few years which will be ready in Spring – cider undergoes a chemical change when the temperature rise above 15 degrees (called malo-lactic fermentation for the scientists) which completely changes the taste from a

vaguely alcoholic apple juice to cider as we know it. We have three gallons which I doubt will last long – next year will be bigger and better!

I've also made wine, sloe gin and damson vodka. The wine and sloe gin will take a year, but the damson vodka will be ready next month – woo-hoo!

Other hedgerow produce I missed this year – nothing with the abundant blackberries. Next year will be different I hope.

So to next year. The willow hurdles look very fine around the vegetable plot and needs completing. I think I will re-site the bee hives, which is a pain as they can only be moved 3 feet a week – otherwise the bees get lost! The ground will need turning over once the weeds have died down a bit and I want to incorporate some spent mushroom compost – I've found a place online that supplies it by the cubic metre – and I've worked out we'll need at least 10! More fruit and more veg will need more space which will mean more preparation of the ground. I need to finish the "plumbing" on the water butts and probably add another one and of course – add a polytunnel!

So the year has started again. I write this in November for the December issue, so have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

**A.P.R.E.**  
**November 2006**  
**apre@oving.org**

#### KIT's TRAVELS (continued)

##### Day twenty two

Good nights sleep in my room whilst it continued to pour down on the tents outside. Went into Banos on the bus with Mark and Bev, wandered round the town, beautiful place, typical Ecuadorian little town, people very friendly. Went to the hot springs, fed by the nearby volcano, evidently the reason we are not stopping in Banos is because the UK Foreign Office has a warning posted for Brits not to stay there because the volcano is showing signs of activity. Unfortunately, it behaved itself whilst I was there, I would have liked to see an eruption.

##### Day twenty three

Up at 6.00am, had to dismantle tent and stow gear on the truck. I am on cook duty with Katherine and truck duty with Beverley, storing the tents. But I may have to change this with one of the men as I can't manage the weight lifting.

Long drive today, 7.30am start and we arrived at hotel at 9.15pm. We travelled through the high Andes and when we stopped for a picnic lunch, a group of the mountain village children gathered. They waited patiently whilst we ate and then Duncan our guide lined them up and gave them the rolls and food we had not eaten. They were so polite and friendly, beautiful faces, full of grins, we also gave them a football, and they started to play volley ball and football on the very steep mountain side, when the ball went over the edge one of them scrambled down for it. Shared a room at the hotel with Bev, Kim, and Geraldine

Day twenty four

Good nights sleep, set off at 7.30am we had to go through passport control at the border with Peru. We passed through a very busy market town, everybody selecting their Christmas lunch, i.e. chasing the turkey you wanted and sticking it under your arm, evidently you kill it once you get it home, that way you know it is fresh. Try that at Sainsbury's. Duncan arranged for a money changer to get on truck and change our \$'s to Peruvian Sols, evidently there are so many false notes, even the banks distribute them. I am becoming expert at spotting them. Once in Peru it is very noticeable, the scenery changes, it seems a much poorer country. We travelled down from the Andes to the coast to Punta Sal, beautiful golden sands. We pitched up on the beach outside a restaurant with a bar. Temp is in the 80's there are big surfing waves breaking. This is my first camping night, lovely meal cooked by group cooks, shared a bottle of red wine with Kim. It is now 10.15pm my time 3.15am UK time, Happy Christmas everyone. This is the most unusual Christmas Eve I've ever spent, listening to the waves crashing about 40 feet away, somebody's i.pod playing Christmas songs, gentle hum of people talking, quite idealic. Am writing this using my headtorch in the tent.

Day twenty five

Christmas Day, slept well, woke up 7.30am, cleaned out my locker looking for my sunhat, I'm going to need it today. Breakfast and then spent 1hr 30mins trying to phone England. Spoke to family. Had lunch at the restaurant, lovely green salad and linguistines. Lazing on the beach, Frigate birds overhead, went for a long walk along the deserted beach, went swimming, the riptide and breakers are strong so it was really a play rather than swimming. Reading Dan Brown's Angels and Demons and the Daisy dog is running amok on the beach. Christmas meal was gigantic fresh tuna cooked on campfire.

**SCHORNE TEAM OF CHURCHES**

**SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2006**

	Granboro'	N Mairston	Oving	Dunton	Hoggeston	Hardwick	Whitchurch	Quainton	Waddesdon	Westcott	Winchendon						
<b>10 Dec</b>									8.00 HC/PB LW								
<b>Advent 2</b>	11.00 HC AB	9.30 HC AB				11.00 MS JB	11.00 FC PM	9.30 FS PM			9.30 FS LW						
<b>Purple</b>			6.00 HC AB					4.00 PM Christingle									
<b>17 Dec</b>								8.00 HC/PB PM									
<b>Advent 3</b>		9.30 FS AV				9.30 HC DM	11.00 HC DM	4.00 Carols PM	11.00 LW Carols								
<b>Purple</b>	4.00 Carols AB		6.00 AB Carols		6.00 JB Carols		6.30 DM Carols			6.00 SD Carols	5.00 LW Carols						
<b>24 Dec</b>							8.00 DM HC/PB										
<b>Advent 4</b>						9.30 FS JB At Weedon	11.00 MS DM	3.00 Crib PM	4.00 Crib LW		9.30 HC LW						
<b>Purple</b>		11.30 pm HC AV	11.30 HC AB	6.30 DM Carols		11.30pm HC DM	5.00 Crib DM	11.30 pm HC PM	11.30 HC LW								
<b>25 Dec</b>																	
<b>Christmas Day</b>	11.00 FC AB	9.30 HC AB	11.00 HC* JB		9.30 DM HC/PB	9.30 HC/PB SS	11.00 HC DM	9.30 FC PM	11.00 FC LW	9.30 FC LW							
<b>White</b>																	
<b>31 Dec</b>	8.00 HC/PB AB																
<b>Christmas 1</b>							11.00 HC DM										
<b>white</b>																	
<p><b>Holy Communion at Weedon Schoolroom</b>  <b>Thursdays at 10.00am</b>            7 Dec PM 14 Dec AB            21 Dec LW 28 Dec DM</p>																	
<p>Rev David Meakin 641606            Rev Andy Bell 670298            Rev Liz Wellers 655069            Rev Philip Meurs 655237            Rev Simon Dickinson 658038            Janet Bayly 670245            Rev Ann Varke 423363            David Heffer 670273</p>						<p>HC Holy Communion            FC Family Communion            FS Family Service            UA United Service at Parish Church            UM United Service at Methodist Church            +B With Baptism HC* by extension</p>						<p>PB Prayer Book            MS Mattins            ES Evensong</p>					