

Sunday Snippets

Decorating the Church

Thanks to the small band of arrangers/helpers whose decorating efforts can be seen today. There was more berried holly available this time than for some years past. Perhaps this is due to the birds being able to find plenty of food in the mild weather.

Predictions of a hard winter have yet to prove accurate and it remains to be seen how much longer the waiting toboggans continue to gather dust.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

The fourth candle to be lit today reminds us of Mary who said 'yes' to God's request to bear the Son of God.

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, as we are called to serve you, to be like her in responding and carrying out the work you give us to do. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel who brought the good news and blessed is Mary. We pray that you will bless your church as we prepare for Christmas. Amen.



Community Christingle

It was really good to have the choir from St Edward's CE Primary School to sing a number of songs at last Sunday afternoon's Christingle Service when there was an attendance of well over 100. Everything went with a real swing and, thanks to Tesco's of Transit Way, there were sufficient oranges for all.

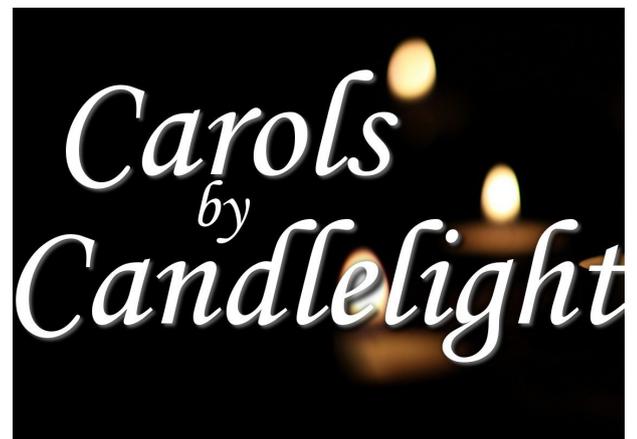


Carols by Candlelight

Our traditional service of Readings and Carols by Candlelight is being held this evening at 6.30pm. It is anticipated that the church will be packed so you are strongly advised to come early to claim a seat.

Invitation to a Baptism

This afternoon will see the Baptism of Raphael Kingston-Bray. His parents, Guy & Jules, would like as many members of our church as possible to join them here at three o'clock to share Raphael's special day. Also, there is an open invitation to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine afterwards in the church hall.



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Will the Donkey come to St Edward's

We're all hoping the weather will be sufficiently fine for a donkey from the Sanctuary at Ivybridge to join us at the Christmas Eve Crib Services next Thursday. These will be at 2.30pm and 3.30pm. Children are expected to turn up in large numbers dressed in Nativity costumes. There will be Christmas crafts, mulled wine and refreshments in the hall throughout the afternoon.



Only Joking!

A cash strapped zoo was desperate for a major attraction to boost falling visitor numbers. Unable to afford any new animals, the zoo manager employed a young man to dress up in a gorilla costume and masquerade as a great ape. This worked well as the man enthusiastically devoured bunches of bananas, swung from branches, prowled around his cage menacingly, vigorously beating his chest. Then one day he accidentally fell into the lion enclosure next to his cage. "Help, help," cried the bogus gorilla. The lion let out a tremendous roar, rushed over to the gorilla, put a paw on his chest and growled, "Shut up, or we'll both be out of a job."

Who says "Oh, Oh, Oh?"
 Father Christmas walking backwards.



Other Christmas Services

Our other Christmas Services are the Midnight Communion at 11.30pm and a Christmas Day Communion at 10.30am.



Church Toilet a Step Closer

A Faculty has now been granted for the installation of a toilet and baby's changing area in the base of the tower. The work is expected to commence in April when it is hoped that certain grant applications will have been successful.



Flag

The more observant may have noticed that the flag on the church tower has not only become rather the worse for wear but is also snagged around the pole following the strong winds of the past few months. Thanks to a generous donor, a new flag has been purchased and will be in place as soon as the weather permits. The hope is that this will be in time for Christmas.

