



Dear Friends,

I hope that you were able to enjoy a happy and blessed Christmas and the final days of 2019. As we now turn over the first page of our 2020 calendar and contemplate what lies before us, we may perhaps have mixed feelings. The past year might have been a good year for you and you may be wondering whether this can possibly continue. On the other hand, if you have suffered pain, loss, disappointment or frustration during the last twelve months, you will no doubt be hoping for something better in the year ahead. We know what has happened in the past; but what, we wonder, does the future hold?

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Because humans are fundamentally optimistic, we often hope for the best and wish each other happiness, prosperity and blessings in the New Year and perhaps make a resolution or two to underline that the First of January marks a new beginning. Hopefully, if you have made New Year resolutions, these are still in place by the time that you read this letter!

And some news stories point to things around the world which do appear to be improving. In the 1950s the number of people killed in wars was 250 per million; now it's about 10 per million. There are now nearly 100 democracies in the world; in 1960 there were fewer than 40. As we know, living in a democracy isn't, by some distance, the same as living in paradise but it's probably preferable to living under dictatorship. Democracy may not be perfect but at least the people have some influence over who will lead them, there is some accountability and power can change hands without bloodshed.

For many people, however, there doesn't seem to be much cause for optimism; for them, too many times in the past, New Year hopes have proved ill-founded and resolutions short-lived. Whether we call this cynicism, honest scepticism or realism, their experience, coupled with gloomy political and economic forecasts and saddening news of unrest,



violence, poverty and abuse from all parts of the world, mean that they find it difficult to believe that this year will be better than those which have gone before.

At home there is much uncertainty in our lives. As I write, with Brexit still one of the great unknowns, we are just days from a general election, amid a great deal of noisy and colourful rhetoric. I pray that wisdom will prevail, that people will have been able to discern sincerity from unedifying posturing and substance from unachievable promises and that, as you read this, we shall have elected a new government which is beginning to settle down to productive and effective business; uniting the people of this country, protecting the most vulnerable, caring for those most in need, working for justice, building good, strong relationships with our neighbours and giving us direction, confidence and hope.

For Christians, there is always ground for hope, which has nothing to do with who is in government, nor with the vagaries of fate; it is not based on faith in human nature nor dependent upon our own good intentions for the future.

*there is
always
ground
for hope*

No, the reason for our hope lies in God, who has already proved in Jesus Christ both his love for the world and his power over the forces of evil. The future is in his hands and we know that, no matter how or when, "all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well" (words of the 14th century English mystic, Julian of Norwich). It is not for us to have details (Acts 1:7) and we wait in faith for more of God's surprises, since "hope that is seen is not hope" (Romans 8:24). And within Christian faith, whilst it is of course important to believe in God, it is much more important

to trust in God.

St Paul, putting his own personal sufferings behind him, provides advice for those who may be worried about what the New Year holds (Philippians 3:13-14). Try not to dwell on any hurt, regret or disappointment of the past, a knock down is not a knockout, but press on to see what opportunities await, for each day is a new day, God is in that day and his Kingdom is our prize.

Therefore, I wish you a happy New Year and pray that God may bless you.

With love in Christ,

Peter Mitchell, Lay Minister.



All Saints Church Services

Sunday 5th January - Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
6.00pm Healing Service

Sunday 12th January – Baptism of Christ

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Praise with Baptism
6.00pm Evensong

Saturday 18th January

3.30-5.30pm Messy Church

Sunday 19th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Journey through a Parish Communion
6.00pm Informal Worship

Sunday 26th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am All Age Communion
10.00-3.30 Wedding Preparation Day
6.00pm Evensong

Please note: from Sunday 5th January our 09.30am service will move to 10.00am.

This is for a six-month trial period and will then be reviewed.

Morning Prayer is said Mon-Fri at 8.30am – everyone is most welcome.



The church is open during daylight hours, for private prayer. If you wish to light a candle, there is a candle stand in the chapel.

Baptisms

Sunday 12th January Atlas Bradshaw

Funerals

Friday 6th December Mrs Sheila Chester

Friday 13th December Mrs Barbara Boswell

Next Messy Church dates: 18 January and 15th February

For all families with pre-school/primary aged children. The whole family is welcome to Messy Church – grandparents and carers included.

Join us for this fun-filled afternoon of craft, games, singing, Bible story, prayers and sharing a buffet meal together. We meet in the Church Hall from 3.30pm - 5.30pm.

Further information can be found at www.allsaintsdenmead.org.uk/messy-church or from Revd. Emma Racklyeft on 023 9226 2647, or from Lewis Jones youth@allsaintsdenmead.org.uk



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

*The Church of the Sacred Heart and St Peter the Apostle
356 London Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7SR*

Parish Priest:

*Rev Mgr Canon Jeremy Garratt
(023) 9226 2289*

*shspa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk*

Mass Times

Saturday Mass Vigil: 6.15 pm

Sunday Masses: 10.30 am

Children's Liturgy; 6.30 pm Folk
Mass

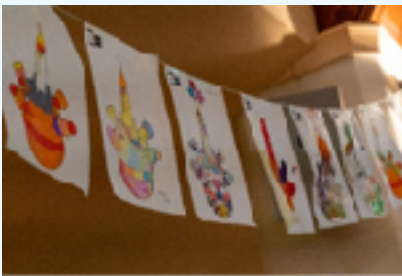
Please refer to Newsletter for weekday Mass times.



Celebrating Christingle

On Sunday 1st Dec All Saints hosted a special Christingle Service. Christingles originate from Moravia and mean 'Christ-light'.

A Christingle tells the story of the Christian faith. The orange represents the world made by God. The cocktail sticks represent the four seasons and are covered in dried fruit and sweets to represent all of God's creation and provision. The red ribbon around the orange reminds us that God sent his son Jesus to rescue us from sin because he loves us and wants to know us. Finally, the candle in the middle reminds us that Jesus is light to the whole world, bringing hope to those who live in darkness.



The Children's Society adopted Christingles 51 years ago and now encourages churches nationally to host a special service to raise awareness of, and funds for their work with vulnerable children and young people.

At All Saints we enjoyed a short service of songs, prayers, talk and video clip all focussed on the Christingle. The church was filled with pictures of Christingles decorated by local children from our Messy Church and Little Stars groups.

At the end of the service came the special moment when we lit our own Christingles and thanked God for sending Jesus as light to our world. A collection was taken, and we raised over £200 for The Children's Society.

Thank you to all who came and joined with us and all those who gave so generously.

Revd Emma



Epiphany

On 6th January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the 8th century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.



Pastoral Care and Home Visiting

If you are lonely, sick or housebound or would just like someone to visit you for a chat and a cuppa, All Saints has a confidential Pastoral Care Team that can help.

Please phone the Church Office on 9226 8757; if the answerphone is on leave a message and we will phone you back.

Karen Gaskin, Pastoral Care Team Leader and Revd Emma.

Bereavement Support

There is a monthly 'Tea and Friendship' afternoon for anyone recently bereaved. This is an informal time when people can meet others, have tea and make friends.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month between 2-4pm in the church hall. For more information please phone All Saints Church office 9226 8757.

A fabulous evening with the Royal Marines!

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth made a welcome return to All Saints on Wednesday 27th November for another fantastic concert.



A Royal Marines band has performed each year at All Saints for 20 years and is a firm fixture in our diary! The Royal Marines have an international reputation for the quality and variety of music that they perform and the development of some of the country's finest young musicians.



The concert in Denmead, apart from entertainment, is the finale of the Conductor's course and several budding conductors are put through their paces in front of a supportive audience. This year Bd Cpl Green took the baton award for his performance of 'Star Wars' written by John Williams.

We are already looking at a provisional date for next year's concert so keep your eyes peeled for the confirmation announcement.

Tickets sold out very quickly this year.

Gill Barge



The Story behind the Hymn...

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

This well-known Victorian hymn was written by Frances Jane von Alstyne who was more popular known by her maiden name Fanny Crosby, which she continued to use for publication. Fanny was an American descended from the Pilgrim Fathers. She worshipped as a Baptist in New York and as well as her prolific hymn writing also wrote many patriotic songs supporting her beliefs in being a keen abolitionist and unionist. Fanny was blind from shortly after birth, she attributed some of her work to this saying "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by

the beautiful and interesting things about me." She is also recorded as saying "when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior".

Blessed Assurance was included in the hymn book "Sacred Songs and Solos" which was shipped to troops in the Transvaal campaign (also known as the Boer War). As one group of soldiers passed each other one would greet the other with "494" and they would receive the reply "six further on". Hymn 494 in that book was God be with you until we meet again and number 500 was Blessed Assurance.

Cdr Mark Barton RN. Originally written for the Naval Christian Fellowship and published in April 2017 in the Portsmouth Methodist Magazine.

COME
& SING



Portsmouth
Choral Union

FAURÉ REQUIEM

Conductor: David Gostick Accompanied by Ian Richardson

Saturday 11 January 2020

All Saints Church, Hambledon Road, Denmead, Waterlooville PO7 6NN

**A fun evening is in store for singers regular and rusty,
with a sing through for family and friends to round it off**

Registration at 7 p.m.

Rehearsal starts 7.30 p.m. – refreshments at 8.30pm

Performance at 8.45 p.m.

Price: £7.50 singers, £3 audience. Music hire: £1

Get your tickets online at www.pcuchoir.org or on the door

Profits will be shared with a local charity John Pounds Trust

Email: pcutickets@gmail.com Tel: 023 9282 2227 www.pcuchoir.org

Registered Charity No. 28894 Find us on  

Denmead Afternoon Women's Institute

At our December monthly meeting our President, Janet Pearce, demonstrated making Christmas cards before members made their own. Jan, who makes beautiful cards in support of The Rowans, makes our members' Birthday cards which are always most welcome. Any readers wishing to buy a card for any occasion can find them at Denmead Community Centre.

Members were invited to sign one of Jan's cards for the institute with donations going to Associated Country Women of the World to which the WI is affiliated. We enjoyed mince pies with our tea and coffee.

The competition for a Christmas Decoration was won by Norma Plowman with Margaret Kennett second. The Flower of the Month was won by Rosemary Simpson with Joan Downing second. Our meeting concluded with members receiving gifts from the Secret Santa festive sack.

This month we will have a New Year Lunch at Barnards on the 8th instead of our monthly meeting. We will be taking part, once again, in the County Skittles Tournament in the Spring. Some members will be attending the twice yearly County Meeting at Portsmouth Guildhall in March when the guest speaker will be Ben Fogle.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday 5th February when we look forward to the return visit of John Pitman to talk about Shopping in the High Street 1940 – 1950.

We wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Joan Downing (9226 5458)

We invite all ladies to our meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4pm in the Memorial Hall, Hambledon Road. We have monthly talks and demonstrations, with a relevant competition, on a wide range of subjects so there is something to suit all tastes and interests. If you have recently retired or moved to the village the WI is the ideal way to make new friends or renew old friendships as well as learning new skills. We sit informally around small tables not in formal rows and introduce you to other members so you will not feel alone.

You are welcome to come as a visitor to "try us out" or if a particular subject is of interest to you.

If you are unable to attend an afternoon meeting the Evening Institute would welcome you to their meetings at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday (except December when they meet on the second Wednesday.)

Denmead Horticultural Society

www.denmeadhorticulturalsociety.btck.co.uk

Since my last report we have been busy with our Pumpkin Show, Craft Fair, AGM and Christmas Social.

We had a wonderful selection of cucurbits of all shapes and sizes at the Pumpkin Show in October – of the giants Debbie Windebanks 195lb pumpkin and Phil Stocks 37lb marrow were winners. We also had some lovely floral exhibits, the owl and the pussycat setting sail in a marrow boat, some weird squashes and committee members dressed as witches, a bat and a pumpkin, all great fun.

Following the business at our AGM in November we had a cheese & wine supper with home made pickles and chutneys and a pictorial quiz that tested our horticultural knowledge. The following Saturday our Craft Fair was a great success with some lovely stalls and delicious cakes and lunches encouraging visitors to linger and chat to their friends, a great social event as well as a successful fund-raiser.

We ended our year with a Christmas Social evening in December – fun quizzes, silly games and a fish and chip supper. Harvo, our new Punch & Judy man from the summer show, came to do some conjuring tricks and everyone enjoyed the evening.

If you like the sound of what we get up to and are just a bit interested in gardening you would be very welcome to join us. We don't have a meeting in January but are back on 4th February with a talk from Portsmouth Water on how the Havant Thicket Reservoir is being developed with wildlife in mind, 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Our annual membership fee is £12 or you can come as a visitor for £2 per talk.

We have eight talks a year as well as our social events and topics this year include growing potatoes, history of strawberry growing in Hampshire, running a smallholding, design tips from a talented young garden designer, late summer perennials and grasses and tales of the plant hunters. We will also organise some summer garden visits as well as the Spring Show and of course the Village Show in August. This is our 70th year so we are planning to make it a show to remember.

Happy New Year and Happy Gardening.

Liz Williams, 023 9226 9642, liz@greensleeves.eclipse.co.uk

Dementia Support in Our Community

To enable people with dementia to live well they need to feel safe and valued by their friends, family and the wider community.

It was this feedback from carers and people living with dementia that prompted us to establish Kim's Café in All Saints Church Hall.

It is a place where people can come and be themselves, enjoying peer support over tea, coffee and homemade cakes. We host speakers and a variety of activities every month, and as well as making it fun and friendly we offer advice and support.

The Denmead Practice support the event and we have a nurse on hand as well as a dementia advisor and carer support provided by Andover Mind along with help from our local care homes.

**All are welcome to join us
on the second Wednesday of every month 11:00 - 12:30**

A new memory café is due to open next year on the first Monday of every month at Waterlooville Community Centre 11:00- 12:30 and will be supported by The Vine Medical Group.

We host two cinema events:

Wellington Vale shows on the third Wednesday of each month at 11am. 023 9224 0486

Pear Tree Court shows on the first Wednesday of each month at 11am. 023 9387 9820

Please phone to book a place and enjoy a film, lunch and a chat. There is no charge, however a voluntary contribution towards a local charity is appreciated.

Waterlooville Library have amazing resources. Pop in on the Third Thursday of every month between 11am and 1pm to learn more about this, stay for the art group hosted by Creative Mojo or get some advice from the dementia advisor

For more information contact Kim and David Badcock on 07739461667

Denmead Twinning Association

Our last social event of the year was at the end of November when we welcomed our good friend Shep Woolley and his band. Shep is a wonderful local entertainer with his catchy music and humorous stories, and his band are excellent musicians. They gave us a great evening of entertainment. He said a couple of times during the evening that this would be his last visit; he has been coming to us many times since 1995 and hope that this is not true!!



After Christmas and New Year, it will probably seem rather quiet socially and a bit of an anti-climax. However, we have two events – one for members and the other for everyone. Our AGM and Members' Meal will be at Barnards in January and then in February we shall be having a fun evening learning to do some American Line dances. None of us know what

to do at the moment so why not come along and learn too!!

The date 29 February (it is a leap year) in All Saints' Church hall. Details (how to buy tickets, prices etc) will be included in the next edition!

Interested in joining us or you have any questions - please contact Patrick Binks 9226 2912.



Denmead Community Centre

Denmead Film Night

Saturday 18th January, 7.30pm – **Mrs Lowry & Son (2019)** 12A, 91 mins. (British Biopic/Drama) A Portrait of the artist L.S. Lowry and the relationship with his mother, who tries to dissuade him from pursuing his passion. Director: Adrian Noble with Vanessa Redgrave, Timothy Spall, Stephen Lord and David Schaal, **Tickets: £5.00**

Citizens Advice – Need free confidential advice? Just drop into the Centre between 09.30 and 11.30 on any given Tuesday – no appointment necessary.

Denmead and Waterlooville Rowans Support Group

Race Night

Denmead Community Centre, 1st February 2020

7.00pm first race 7.30

Films of genuine races for you to place your bets and have lots of fun whilst supporting you local hospice.



Tickets £10

from patricia.bailey333@gmail.com 07947611699

Bring your own drinks. Generous nibbles provided.

Useful Local Contact Numbers

Health Centre: 023 9223 9630

The Registrar of Births and Deaths: Appointments Only. Telephone: (01489) 894044

General Visiting, and Help in Bereavement – please contact Church Office: 9226 8757

Age Concern Hampshire, Village Agent: Lin Powell
07791 012 304

Denmead Community Care Group: (COMMUNICARE) 023 9223 9630



Denmead Community Centre: 9225 6132
9am - 3pm, Monday-Friday

Memorial Hall Bookings:

Mrs S Thomas: 07534 024388

Police Contact No: 08450 45 45 45

Burial Ground enquiries: 9224 7947

Denmead Parish Council: 9224 7947

Winchester City Council 01962 840222