



THE BANSFIELD BENEFICE

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CHURCH NEWS



Volume 7, Issue 11



We support

Traidcraft

December 2006

Dear friends,

How good are you at 'making do'?

Older people are better at this than most - they remember earlier times when resources were harder to come by, especially during the war when food and clothes were rationed, and people reused things, made the food go further, less was thrown away and 'useful' things were put to one side in case they could be used for something else.

We don't live in an age when making do is a popular way to live. It's easier to throw things in the bin as rubbish than reuse them. Rather than having a kettle repaired it is cheaper to go and buy a new one, to wear clothes a few times and then buy more, food cooked but not eaten so put in the bin. We live in a throw away society.

As Christmas approaches I am reminded that the way we live in such a disposable society is actually not the way God thinks or acts.

God is a God who 'makes do'.

He 'makes do' with a young unmarried girl to give birth to His Son. He 'makes do' with a stable for His Son to be born in, an without a cot He 'makes do' with an animal feed trough. Jesus 'made do' with a group of disciples who were often slow on the uptake, rough round the edges, who would dissent Him at the end. He 'made do' with water at a wedding to change into wine, bread and fishes to feed five thousand people, the food of tax collectors and other sinners to give Him hospitality. He 'made do' with a boat pushed out from the shore as a pulpit to preach to a large number of people, a donkey to travel into His triumph in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, bread and wine to share with His disciples as His final meal, a rough wooden cross to die on as a common criminal, a stranger's tomb for His final resting place.

And God makes do with us - imperfect as we all are. He knows that, and yet He still persists in calling us to follow Him .

For God loves the world so much that He gives His Son Jesus to be born in Bethlehem and live among us here on

earth so that whoever believes in Him will be assured of a place in eternal life.

Unbelievable?

But its true!

The message of Christmas is this.

So why not come and give thanks at Church this Christmas?

Give thanks that God loves us and can 'make do' with each one of us if we allow Him to use us in His service.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man I would do my part!

*Yet what I can I give Him,
give my heart.*

Details of all services in our Benefice Churches over Christmas are detailed on the back of this Newsletter and in a leaflet specially produced for delivery to the houses of the parishes.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS to you and your loved ones.

Rev. Ian Finn

CHURCH & VILLAGE EVENTS : December 2006 & January 2007



Services in the Churches for December, Christmas, New Year & January see back pages.
Saturday 2nd December 10.00am Traidcraft Coffee morning in the Benefice Hall
Wednesday 6th December 7.30pm Benefice Ministry Team meeting at the Vicarage
Thursday 7th December 10.00am Stansfield PCC meeting after 10am service in church
Saturday 9th December 2.00pm Stradishall Christmas Bazaar in the Church
Tuesday 12th December 7.30pm Benefice planning meeting in the Benefice Hall
Christmas Eve 11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS of the Nativity—Ousden church
Sunday 31st December 3.30pm Churches Together service at Wickhambrook church
Saturday 6th January (Epiphany) 10.00am Eucharist in Wickhambrook church
10.00am Traidcraft Coffee morning in the Benefice Hall
Sunday 21st 3.30pm Evensong and Stradishall PCC meeting
Tuesday 23rd Christian Unity Week service URC Wickhambrook
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2007 4pm
Wickhambrook Church—raising money for The Children's Society





Benefice Services for December 2006



December 2006	St. Nicholas DENSTON	All Saints STANSFIELD	St. Margaret STRADISHALL	All Saints WICKHAMBROOK	St. Margaret COWLINGE	St. Mary LIDGATE	St. Peter OUSDEN
Sunday 3 rd ADVENT	10.30am Matins BCP Fiona Evans	9.30am Matins BCP John Dennis		9.30am HC ext CW Philip Draycott	9.30am Morning Prayer Ann Jones		11.00am Matins John Dennis
Tuesday 5 th						10.00am HC	
Thursday 7 th		10.00am HC					
Sunday 10 th ADVENT 2						10.00am Benefice HC BCP IMF	
Tuesday 12 th	10.00am HC						
Thursday 14 th					10.00am HC		
Friday 15 th						7.00pm CAROLS	
Saturday 16 th	6.00pm CAROLS						
Sunday 17 th 2 nd b. Advent		8.00am HC CW IMF	6.30pm CAROLS IMF	9.30pm Family Paul Bevan	9.30am HC CW IMF	11.00am HC CW IMF	
Tuesday 19 th			10.00am HC				7.30pm CAROLS
Thursday 21 st				7.00pm CAROLS			10.00am HC
Friday 22 nd					7.00pm CAROLS		
Sunday 24 th CHRISTMAS EVE		5.00pm CAROLS		9.30am HC CW IMF			11.30pm Midnight Mass IMF
Christmas Day	9.00am HC CW					10.30am HC CW	
St. Stephen					10.00am HC		
St. John			10.00am HC				
Holy Innocent		10.00am HC					
Sunday 31 st CHRISTMAS 1				10.00am HC CW IMF			

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

January 2007

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

January 2007	St. Nicholas DENSTON	All Saints STANSFIELD	St. Margaret STRADISHALL	All Saints WICKHAMBROOK	St. Margaret COWLINGE	St. Mary LIDGATE	St. Peter OUSDEN
Sunday 7 th Epiphany 1	10.30am Matins BCP Fiona Evans	9.30am Matins BCP John Dennis		9.30am HC CW IMF	11.00am Morning Prayer Ann Jones	6.00pm Evensong BCP IMF	11.00am HC BCP IMF
Tuesday 9 th	10.00am HC						
Thursday 11 th					10.00am HC		
Sunday 14 th Epiphany 2		10.00am Benefice HC CW IMF					
Tuesday 16 th			10.00am HC				
Thursday 18 th							10.00am HC
Sunday 21 st Epiphany 3	9.30am HC BCP IMF		3.00pm Evensong BCP IMF	9.30pm Family Paul Bevan	11.00am HC CW IMF	9.30am HC ext CW Philip Draycott	11.00am Matins BCP John Dennis
Tuesday 23 rd						10.00am HC	
Thursday 25 th		10.00am HC					
Sunday 28 th Epiphany 4				10.00am Benefice HC CW IMF			
Tuesday 30 th	10.00am HC						
Thursday 1 st					10.00am HC		