

FROM THE VICAR

The fourth Sunday of last month (November 22nd) was the Sunday before Advent – known in former times, and still by some of us today, as ‘Stir-up Sunday’: a day for making our Christmas puddings, encouraged by the words of the Prayer Book collect, that God would ‘stir up’ our wills to produce the ‘fruit’ of righteousness.

In 1925, however, that changed. Pope Pius XI was becoming alarmed by the rise of fascism in Italy, and elsewhere in Europe, and designated that Sunday as the ‘Feast of Christ the King’ – an opportunity to remember that God’s rule, shown to us in Jesus, is the way not of domination or force but of humble service¹.

The Feast this year fell soon after the Paris atrocities committed by ISIS, and during a time of tension across Europe (as elsewhere in the world) in the face of terrorist threats and the worst violence since the defeat of fascism in 1945. As such it was a reminder to us as Christians of two of the truths that we treasure. First, the future is secure in God’s hands: the destiny of creation is not to degenerate into violence and chaos, but to be fulfilled in God’s kingdom of love, peace and justice. Secondly, that that kingdom has been inaugurated by Jesus, the ‘Servant-King’, who invites us to follow him in the way of loving service, which the resurrection shows us is stronger than the worst cruelties that humans can inflict, more powerful in fact than death itself.



In our Christmas services we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace: details are given in the centre pages of this magazine. This year let’s use the time not only to remember of Jesus the new-born child, but also to recommit ourselves to follow Christ the King – in whose way alone, of loving service to all humanity, is there a lasting hope for our troubled times.

John Partington

¹ *These things take time to reach the Church of England, and it’s only in the last thirty years or so that the Feast has been part of our observance. Since 1980 the ‘stir-up’ prayer is now used on a different Sunday in our church calendar.*

FROM THE REGISTERS

Our love & prayers are with the families & friends of **Brian Pettifer**, whose funeral we conducted recently.

'BOOKS AND BRING & BUY' IN QUENINGTON

Book the date now for a special charity sale in Quenington Village Hall on Saturday 5 March, 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Most proceeds will be given to the Red Cross Appeal for refugees in Europe and in Syria; some will be given to St Swithin's Church, Quenington.

Items for the **Bring & Buy**, including raffle items, toys, bric & brac and clothes (some of your unwanted Christmas presents?) can be brought to any of the monthly coffee mornings; or as indicated in future months' editions of this magazine. All proceeds to the Red Cross Appeal.

Books are being sold with proceeds shared between the Red Cross and Quenington church – part of our regular *CHEQS booksales* for church and charity. Books can be brought to the coffee mornings, or to the Vicarage, or left in any of the CHEQS churches.

CHANGE OF TIME

We're delighted that our new Bishop, Rachel Treweek, is able to join us for our weekly Team Evening Prayer on Wednesday 9th (at St Nicholas, Hatherop). To allow time for her to travel to her evening engagement, we're bringing the time forward to 4.30 pm.

CRIB SERVICES

Children are, of course, welcome at all our Christmas services – and older children may well enjoy our various Carol Services. But for primary-school age children, and younger, we particularly recommend our Crib Services on Christmas Eve – at 4.00 pm and 5.30 pm at Quenington and Southrop respectively. Bring them as they are (to channel their pre-Christmas excitement), or dress them up as participants in the Christmas story: shepherds, angels or whatever takes their fancy!

A TALE OF TWO SERVICES

On one Sunday recently at Hatherop we had a congregation of six, and the following Sunday a congregation of eighty-six (thirty children and fifty-six adults). Both were ‘ordinary’ services, not a Festival or a Baptism, and both were Holy Communion: so what made the difference?

The first service was at 8.30 am, from the old 1662 Book of Common Prayer; and the second was at 11.00 am, using contemporary language – and, crucially, involving a small choir of children from the local school ... many of whose parents also came to support them (though even without choir and parents we would have had a congregation of more than fifty). It had also been billed as our monthly family-friendly service, so that although the service was a fully-adult Communion, it included elements of particular interest to children.

What do we learn? First, that it is possible to hold worship even in small village churches which appeals to, and attracts, a good number of people: it’s a question of ‘getting it right’ – worship at a suitable time, well-advertised and engaging & participatory.

The second thing we learn is that it’s not currently possible to do that very often. Many of our services are at non-ideal times because with five churches we have to use several different time-slots each Sunday. And we have an almost insoluble dilemma in our worship-planning, inasmuch as the sort of worship which most appeals to many of our longest-established and most committed church-members is the very sort which is most inaccessible to many younger, or less church-experienced, potential worshippers.

In a town church the problem is relatively easily solved: we lay on a variety of services each Sunday, and people find their way to whichever suits them best, practically or aesthetically. In a group of villages like ours, I think that there are two ways forward. One is to have a varied-service pattern of that sort, but spread over the five villages and encouraging people to travel to wherever there is a service of the sort and at the time that suits them. The second is to have more worship-leaders, so that we can have more services.

We’re working on both these ways forward. During 2016 I hope to develop a pattern of services which suits all sorts of worshippers better: for example a more conveniently-timed diet of traditional-language worship in CHQ and a more frequent provision of All-Age worship across CHEQS. We’re arranging for more staff, ordained and lay, to help this happen – and news of all these developments will be in future editions of this magazine. Your opinions meanwhile are very welcome, and will help us get it as right as possible.

JP

QUENINGTON CHURCH MEETING

Now that C, H & Q are a united parish, with a single Church Council tackling the legal and financial aspects of our life together, the individual village churches can make many of their own local plans in a more informal and participatory way – with congregational meetings.

All members of Quenington church are welcome to such a meeting on **Thursday 10th, 7.00 pm at the Old Rectory**. On the agenda will be social & fellowship plans for next year, members' pastoral needs, our church's worship pattern ... and anything else that you want to raise. A light supper will be provided – so please let David & Lucy know if you plan to join us

HATHEROP C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have enjoyed the Autumn term immensely with performances by the school choir on All Saints Day at Hatherop Church as well as at our very successful Open Afternoon.

We were invited to be part of the commemoration of the new bench outside our school in memory of servicemen from Hatherop who gave their lives during the First World War. This was a wonderful community event that we were very grateful to be part of.



We have many events planned for 2016. For example, the Life Education Centre will visit in January as well as the children in Year 4, 5 and 6, along with Southrop and Bibury children, will be having a

residential trip in June to Viney Hill Activity Centre. There is much to look forward to.

To find out what is going on at our thriving village school, please follow us on twitter @hatheropcofe or look at our website www.hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk

Coln Community Stores

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 12th December

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



**HATHEROP PRIMARY SCHOOL – CAROL
SINGING**



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SEASONAL ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHROP

Friday 11th. The children from Southrop School with parents and teachers will be Carol Singing in the village collecting for *Shelter*. They will start at Dawes Close at 6.00 pm Other voices will be most welcome to join them.

Wednesday 16th. The Community Shop Christmas Raffle will be drawn at 10.15 am. Join us for tea, coffee and mince pies; buy some tickets and you might win one of the lovely prizes. Then (optionally!) exercise with Tai-Chi!

Friday 18th. Southrop School Carol Service in church at 1.00 pm.

Sunday 20th is the Church Carol Service – “The Story of Christmas”. An event for everyone whether you normally attend services or not. It will be at 6.00 pm, and there will be participants from the school and the village. Please join us!

Thursday 24th. Christmas Eve Crib Service. This will be in the church at 5.30 pm, and all children are invited to dress as a character from the Christmas story.

Friday 25th. Christmas Day Holy Communion in church at 9.30 am. Everyone is welcome – adults and children.

SOUTHROP C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

In September we were pleased to join with many other schools from the Cirencester area in a festival of tag rugby. This was an event hosted by the Cirencester Rugby Club to celebrate the Rugby World Cup and a good time was had by all.

Pupils and staff enjoyed a day at the Cheltenham Literary Festival. Years 1 and 2 met author and illustrator Nick Sharratt, while years 3 to 6 had an audience with Cressida Cowell, author of the popular ‘How to Train Your Dragon’ series. The day has provided much inspiration for our budding story writers!

Firefighter Shirley came in to give us our annual Bonfire Night safety talk, the day before the Southrop Village Firework event.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month saw the whole school observing two minutes’ silence during our special community Armistice Day service in St Peter’s Church. Mr Brown reminded the children of the meaning of remembrance, and the names of all the young men from Southrop and Eastleach who lost their lives during the two World Wars were read out by a group of pupils. Col Longsdon laid a wreath and recited some poems and Mr MacEchern spoke the dedication.

ST NICHOLAS' TIDE

Hatherop Church's name-saint, St Nicholas ('Santa Claus' to the unchurched) has his feast day this month – on Sunday 6th. That day we follow our usual 8.30 am Communion Service with breakfast at Sharringtons (with thanks to Nick & Helen Owen): do come and join us!

There's a change of time for our Evening Prayer in Hatherop on the following Wednesday (9th). Because Bishop Rachel has to leave promptly that day, we're moving the service time to 4.30 pm (from the usual 5.00 pm).

OTHER CHURCHES

ST MARY'S, FAIRFORD – Open daily, 10.00am - 5.00pm. Sunday: 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP), 10.00 am Sung Eucharist (Family Service on last of the month), 6.00 pm Choral Evensong (BCP). 'Funday Sunday' 4.00 - 6.00 pm on second Sundays – crafts, games, worship & a cooked tea.

ST LAWRENCE, LECHLADE – Sunday: 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP), 10.00 am Morning Worship (HC 1st, 3rd, 5th; MP 4th; All-Age 2nd); 6.00 pm Evening Worship (Evensong 1st, 3rd, 4th; Holy Communion 2nd; Healing 5th). For weekday activities see www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk

St Lawrence's Lechlade & St Mary's Fairford both celebrate Holy Communion on Thursdays: at 10.00 & 10.30 am respectively. CHEQS residents are warmly welcome!

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY (ROMAN CATHOLIC), FAIRFORD (Horcott Road) – Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil Mass, Sunday 11.00 am Mass (Children's Liturgy of the Word offered whenever possible). For details of other activities, see www.stthomasparish.plus.com or contact Father Michael Robertson on 01285 712586 or michael.robertson@priest.cliftondiocese.com

FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH (CONGREGATIONAL/METHODIST) – Sunday: 10.00 am Morning Worship & children's activities. Fairly-traded goods for sale. Christmas Services – 6 December 3.00 pm Crib Service; 20 December 10.00 am Carol Service; 24 December 7.00 pm Christmas Eve Communion; 25 December 10.00 am Christmas Day Worship. We wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and warmly invite you to share our Christmas services. Our Contact Group will be meeting on Friday 4th, 12.30 - 2.30 pm – meet friends old and new over tea/coffee and light refreshments. Please note that there will be *no* Contact Group meeting in January.

LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH – Sunday 10:30 am Morning Worship (with prayer from 9.45 am); 6:00 pm Evening Worship (2nd & 3rd Sundays); 7.15 pm *SNAP* Youth Service (4th/5th Sundays). For weekday activities etc see www.lechladebaptistchurch.org.uk

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday 6

8.30 am	Holy Communion	Hatherop	JP
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Southrop	AK
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Coln	JP
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Eastleach	PP
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Quenington	JP

Sunday 13

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Quenington	JP
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Eastleach	JP
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Southrop	PP
6.00 pm	Carol Service	Coln	JP

Saturday 19

6.00 pm	Carol Service	Bouthrop	JP
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Sunday 20

8.30 am	Holy Communion	Hatherop	JP
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Coln	?
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Eastleach	JP
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Quenington	?
6.00 pm	Carol Service	Southrop	JP

Thursday 24 *see next page*

Friday 25 *see next page*

Sunday 27 *St John the Evangelist*

11.00 am	Holy Communion *	Coln	JP
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Eastleach	JE

** united service for the three-church parish*

*We also meet for Evening Prayer each Saturday (except Boxing Day)
at 6.00 pm in Coln church: all welcome!*

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY



Christmas Eve

4.00 pm	Crib Service	Quenington	<i>JP</i>
5.30 pm	Crib Service	Southrop	<i>JP</i>
11.15 pm	Holy Communion	Hatherop	<i>JP</i>

Christmas Day

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Quenington	<i>JP</i>
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Southrop	<i>RL & JE</i>
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	Eastleach	<i>JE</i>
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Coln	<i>JP</i>



Children are always welcome at any of our services. Younger children will particularly enjoy the Crib Services on Christmas Eve.

SUNDAY READINGS, PSALMS, HYMNS & COLOURS

- 6** (ADVENT 2) Benedictus; Hymns 27, 484, 470 *purple*
Malachi 3: 1-4, Luke 3: 1-6
- 13** (ADVENT 3) Psalm 146: 4-9; Hymns 24, 52, 30 *purple*
Isaiah 12: 2-6, Luke 3: 7-18
- 20** (ADVENT 4) Magnificat; Hymns 178, 131, 422 *purple*
Micah 5: 2-5a, Luke 1: 39-45
- 27** (ST JOHN) Psalm 117; Hymns 36, 37, 34 *white / gold*
Exodus 33: 7-11a (E); 1 John 1: 1-10 (C & E); John 21: 20-25 (C)



Southrop C of E Primary School

If your child will be aged four before September 2016 you should apply for a place in Primary school by 15th January.

We welcome personal visits to our thriving church school at any time. Please phone 01367 850246 to make an appointment to

see the school rated by The Times newspaper as the seventh best (of over 250) in Gloucestershire in 2014.

Look at our website for further details of the school: www.southrop.gloucs.sch.uk

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB DRAW

The November winners were: 1st No 25 S. Lawrence; 2nd No 17 J. Lees; 3rd No 8 A.Goddard

SOUTHROP WELCOMES

Stephanie Young and her two children Lilly-Lou and Harry-Tom;

David & Sharon Duff at 9 Dawes Close.

NEW TERM FOR FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Following November's final concert with John Read, the baton has now passed to a new conductor, Marysia Gorska. Originally from Poland, Maria is a gifted musician, who comes with lots of experience playing (guitar, piano and violin), conducting and teaching both adults and children. Rehearsals resume on Wednesday 6 January at Fairford United Church, 7.30 - 9.30 pm and new singers are always very welcome! The choir will be preparing for the next concert – Handel's Messiah on 1 May 2016. Please visit the choir's website for more details: www.fairford.org/choralsociety

CHEQS GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club met at Southrop Village Hall on November 10th for the AGM and End of Year Celebration. Around fifty members listened as the previous year's visits and talks were remembered. Highlights included the garden visits to Ridley's Cheer, Croft House and Bowood Gardens. Jenny Huggett, who took the chair, explained that entrance fees to gardens and the cost of lecturers were going up all the time. A discussion ensued about whether the Club's healthy bank balance should be used to subsidise visits and social events more than at present and it was agreed by members that this could be done. However, a raffle at meetings would be initiated to raise more funds. Members appreciated that the annual cost of membership had remained the same at £6 single or £10 joint.

Jenny thanked the Committee for their hard work during the year. It was a team effort. Whilst the committee is continuing as it is for next year, it was noted that a few committee members had served for a long time and would like to step down. New committee members would be warmly welcomed as fresh ideas make for a thriving club. (Don't be shy if you think you can make a contribution.)

After the more formal part of the evening, members enjoyed a delicious finger buffet and drinks.

The Club takes a rest during the winter and the first event on the new calendar is on Tuesday, March 8th 7.30pm at Southrop Village Hall, when there will be a lecture by Timothy Walker (formerly at Oxford Botanic Gardens) on "A Blaze of Glory". He will explain how to get colour in the garden through the autumn to the first frosts. New members are always welcome, just come along to a meeting or contact the Membership Secretary, whose details are at the end of this magazine.

A BIG THANK-YOU FROM CLIC AND THE LANDER FAMILY.

Once again this year people have been very generous with their donations when taking the fruit and veg from the stall outside our gate. Our grandson who is just over five years of age will hopefully have his five-year cancer all-clear on March 10th next year.

We continue to support CLIC as it helps children and their families coping with cancer. We've already sent CLIC £180, and will continue to send as it comes in.

If next year you have a surplus of fruit or veg please drop it down to Park Lodge so we can raise more money.

Once again thank you all very much. Jane Lander & family.

HATHEROP CASTLE NEWS

I would never have believed that a) I would ever make the journey to China, b) that the visit to China would be so fascinating and c) that visiting China would have had such an effect on me and my thinking. I am not by nature what one would call either an experienced or natural flyer, in fact I was panic-stricken. When I first heard that the British Council, Cultural and Education Section wanted to invite me to join the final year of their 3 year Head Teacher mission I was a mixture of emotions, most particularly in the first instance WHY me? However my intrigue got the better of me and I was excited to visit three major Chinese cities and visit their schools in Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai.

After an interesting flight we landed at Beijing airport terminal 3. This is the new building built for the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and designed to look like a sleeping dragon from the air and it does. We were warmly greeted by the British Council representatives who were to be responsible for us for the next 10 days and it was here that I first saw and was on the receiving end of Chinese hospitality, which is truly amazing. Beijing is a city of nearly 24 million people and 10 million cars, not to mention the bicycles and other varied and interesting forms of transport.

The following day dawned bright and the much bemoaned Beijing smog was nowhere to be seen. We travelled to the Beijing Education Expo by minibus complete with lace head rests and curtains and a driver who was obviously very experienced at driving in the Beijing traffic and was not adverse to the odd risk or two and a few dodgy manoeuvres! Little did we know that the exhibition centre was right next door to the Olympic Park with a superb view of the Bird's Nest, the communications tower and the Aqua Park.

I was whisked away for my first experience of a formal press interview. 5 of us were taken to a large room with 12 journalists and their photographers plus a translator and had questions about British education fired at us. It was interesting that they focused on the recent BBC documentary series about Chinese students at British schools and we had to work hard to convince them that not all British schools are like the large comprehensives they had seen on their televisions. We also wanted them to understand that the BBC has to attract an audience and that sometimes they do this by exaggerating a point, never did we once suggest that the BBC would not always tell the truth.

After the interview it was back to the stand where I was interviewed by two different Beijing radio stations and a local reporter who was working freelance, yes that is now allowed in China. They wanted to focus very much on the lower age group; something I felt well-qualified to talk about and did so with great enthusiasm and commitment as it is something I believe in passionately.

Their questions were searching but friendly and I felt as if I had done the British Prep school system justice. I was delighted that they wanted to talk about creativity and the education of the whole child as an individual.

The following day was also taken up with an educational exhibition but the day after that we had a half day off and we went on an excursion to the Temple of Heaven. The Temple of Heaven was built in a curious and rare combination of architectural styles and technology from the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1912) dynasties. It is divided by two enclosed walls separating the inner part from the outer part and is made up of a lot of beautiful buildings. The Altar of Prayer for Good Harvests is a wooden building of 38 meters in height and 30 meters in diameter and it sits on a round foundation and three levels of white marble stone. It is the most symbolical attraction in the Temple of Heaven and in the days of an Emperor it was where he went to pray twice a year for a good harvest and took with him a sacrificial ox that nobody ate because it was for the Heavenly God. The Hall is the most recognizable building with its cone-shaped blue roof crowned with a gilded globe--a real marvel for the eyes. In China, number 9 used to be designated as the emperor's exclusive number. As a result, the Circular Altar was erected with 9 slabs and each set of steps connecting the tiers is a set of 9. As we wandered around this very busy attraction there was a real sense of purpose and a dignified atmosphere. The gardens are beautifully set out and people of all ages come to relax, to complete their tai chi exercises, to dance to a variety of music and to play cards and other traditional Chinese games. I have never visited anywhere so special and so serene.

After more fairs and interviews I had the chance to visit Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City which is China's largest and best-preserved collection of ancient buildings, and the largest palace complex in the world. I returned to the hotel weary and walked out but invigorated and inspired by China's incredible history and culture. The fact that the old mingles with the new is an amazing sight and something that I will remember for a very long time. In Guangzhou a particular highlight was having individual Year 7 children to take us through the traditional tea ceremony; this was truly delightful and will be a lasting memory. In Shanghai I was impressed by the mix of old and new buildings, particularly the Pearl Tower and the 'Bottle Opener' which sit on the south bank of the Yangtze River.

Paul Easterbrook – Headmaster, Hatherop Castle School

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CHEQS DIARY

for Sunday services see centre pages

- Dec 2 5.00 pm Evening Prayer at Eastleach church
- Dec 6 9.15 am Hatherop Breakfast at Sharringtons (after 8.30 am service)
7.15 pm 'SNAP' Youth Service at Lechlade Baptist Church
- Dec 9 4.30 pm Evening Prayer at Hatherop church
- Dec 10 6.00 pm Quenington congregational meeting at the Old Rectory
- Dec 11 6.00 pm Hatherop School Carol Service
6.00 pm Southrop School Carol Singing
- Dec 12 4.00 pm Coln Community Stores Christmas Fayre (till 7.00 pm)
- Dec 16 10.15 am Southrop Community Shop Christmas Raffle
- Dec 18 1.00 pm Southrop School Christmas Service
- Dec 19 6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight at Bouthrop church
- Feb 10 12 noon Ash Wednesday Communion at Fairford church
7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Communion at Lechlade church
- Mar 5 2.00 pm Quenington Bring & Buy and Book Sale
- Mar 27 Easter Day*
- May 5 7.00 am Ascension Day Communion at Bibury church
7.00 pm Ascension Day Communion at Ampney St Peter
- May 11 6.30 pm Keble Evensong in Southrop church
- May 18 5.00 pm Evening Prayer at Hatherop church
- Jun 22 5.00 pm Evening Prayer at Coln church
- Jun 29 5.00 pm Evening Prayer at Southrop church
- Jul 14 time? 'Young Musician' concert at Quenington
- Aug 3 5.00 pm Evening Prayer at Bouthrop church
- Oct 26 5.00 pm Evening Prayer at Coln church