



CHRISTMAS 2010



**ST PETER'S SHARED
CHURCH**

**THE CHURCH IN
JACOBS WELL**

Christmas is coming!

The very thought of Christmas may bring us out in a warm glow, or a huge dose of bah hum-bug! Somewhere in the midst of our reactions and some last minute shopping frenzies there will be our hopes, either for particular gifts or perhaps peace, or something more. So what are we hoping for this Christmas?

Things may be feeling a little tricky and uncertain for us at the moment after the inevitable budget cuts that the government have just made. And we may well be thinking if only they knew what it was like to survive, how the decisions they make affect us. We may wish they would come and see what it's really like on the ground. How some hopes and dreams can be dashed.

At Christmas we celebrate that someone *did* take up the challenge to see what it is really like to live like us. A child born into a rapidly changing and unsettled world. Someone who knows what it's like to love deeply, to be betrayed by a friend, to laugh and tell stories, to be misunderstood by authorities.

Someone who came to bring peace and hope to people's lives. God never stayed at a distance but has come to us in Jesus.

My hope this Christmas is that the God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Kirsten
your vicar

JOY
HOPE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

What's on this Christmas?

From oranges to mince pies there is something for everyone at St Peter's and Jacobs Well this Christmas. Why don't you come along to one of our special services?

Sunday 12th at 4pm **Christingle** for children and their families, with oranges and candles.

Sunday 19th at 4pm **Jacobs Well Carol Service** (at Scout & Guide HQ)

Sunday 19th at 6.30pm **Carol by Candlelight** with mince pies afterwards!

Christmas Eve at 4pm: **Crib Service** for families and especially children where we retell the nativity story. Come dressed as a shepherd, angel or king if you like.

Christmas Eve at 11.15pm **Midnight Holy Communion**.

Christmas Day at 10am **Family Communion Service**

Sunday 26th at 10am Come along for a **short family service** and a bacon buttie!

Joe, Bert and Pete

"It's chilly tonight I feel quite cold" said Joe. Bert looked up from where he was sitting near the meagre fire and replied "you can cuddle up with the sheep, that should keep you warm and perhaps it will keep you from grumbling all night."

"We need a bit of excitement around here that will curb Joe's moaning" said Pete "and give him something else to talk about." Pete and Bert were laughing to themselves "I don't think we're in for a peaceful night" said Bert. "Joe get some kip for a while, you'll be more amiable later on."

The three shepherds settled down by their fire and Joe nodded off to sleep. "His snoring will frighten the wildest animals away" joked Bert. Pete laughed and snuggled under his blanket.

Both began to doze under the clear and calm night sky, a million stars twinkling above them. The three felt at ease and content. Suddenly there was a brilliant light shining all around them. Pete and Bert's stomachs churned in fear. They shouted "wake up mate." Joe stumbled from his drowsy state and began to tremble at the brightness. All three were cowering on the ground, shielding their eyes, scared to the core of the unknown that was happening around them. From the light emerged a figure of pure white. The shepherds peeped from behind their hands. Pete kept mumbling "God help us" over and over. A voice from the white shining figure spoke with a calm voice, "Do not be afraid I wish you no harm." The figure paused for a beat and continued, "I have a message for you so listen carefully. Tonight in Bethlehem a saviour is born, you will find him in a manger wrapped in cloth. Go and worship him."

"What's that to do with us?" whispered Joe. "Shut up!" chorused the other two.

Then before their very eyes a sight so wonderful and elating, the three trembled as angels appeared singing "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all whom God favours."

Then the light was gone, the singing was silent. The three with hearts beating a drum roll began to gather themselves together. "What's that all about?" asked Joe. "I think we need to go into Bethlehem and find this child" said Bert. "I agree" replied Pete. "I think we have been chosen for a very special task" continued Bert, "the sheep will be ok."

So the three set forth on their mission. This was something none would ever experience again, what had happened on this special night. What a marvellous story they had to tell. The three set off with hope and apprehension in their hearts. They ran down the hillside towards the town lights, feeling like young boys again on an adventure. They scouted around and found the stable where mother and baby were. They entered on tiptoe and bowed low before the infant. It was just as the shining white figure had told them. "Come close and see the baby" the mother said. The three peered into the manger with hearts beating in their ears and tears glistening in their eyes. "'Tis a wondrous sight" whispered Bert. The shepherds returned to their flocks proclaiming that what had happened had come from God, praising and glorifying the heavenly father. The first Christmas had happened!



A Christmas long ago

One Christmas, many years ago,
I set out to walk from home.
The presents all were opened,
Christmas turkey yet to come.
Cups of tea and pies of mince
had been handed out all round,
Whilst carols from the wireless set
gave out a Yuletide sound.
The fairy lights were glowing
on the tinselled bedecked tree,
Whilst bon-bons waited
cracking over Christmas cake and tea.
For some a homeward coming,
festive joy would soon be theirs,
Mince pies upon arrival,
and perhaps the cup that cheers;
All the young ones gathered round them,
their pleasures now replete,
The festive board soon groaning,
and for one, the carvers seat.
The church bells rang through empty streets,
sound bounced from frost-bound walls,
(It seemed a world remote from stars,
wise men, and cattle stalls).
And yet, the windows I passed by,
bright moisture on each pane,
Reflected out the inward glow
which Christmas brought again.
A cosiness within each home
shielded from winter's cold
Just as a stable barely did
in stories yearly told.
I sensed real joy of Christmas
radiates from each ones heart,
It was not from food or presents,
nor yet the heated hearth,
But 'tis love for one another,
God gives us to impart,
To comfort poor and lonely,
all the sick, and sad at heart;
It is from the certain knowledge,
Jesus came to human birth
To be our blessed Saviour
and the sweetest name on earth.
R.A.S.

**Do you know someone who
has made an active contri-
bution to our community,
who is an inspiration to
those they meet or work**



with? If so, then maybe it is time they were recognised for their contribution! Surrey Strategic Partnership is looking for people whose actions will inspire people to volunteer or help others – people and groups who contribute to their neighbourhoods and help in their communities by volunteers. You can nominate anyone, the important factor being the good work he/she/they do on behalf of the community in Surrey. There are many categories that are accepting nominations including, Chief Constable Award, Youth Award, Community Safety Award, Working Together Across Communities, Courage Award, Life-time Achievement Award, Going Green Award and Inspiration Award. For more information visit their website or to download a Nomination Form please go to their website at www.surreyca.org.uk/index.htm or contact the Church Office who can assist in completing the form. Your nomination(s) for the Surrey Inspiration Awards must be received no later than 14 January 2011.

Emmanuel Church invited St Peters to take part in their Christmas tree festival and they sent several photographs of trees in their last festival. Apparently any thing goes and there was even one festooned with eggs. Being more of a traditionalist, I decided to do 'The Holly & The Ivy' in a more modern way. My daughter-in-law supplied the holly and I "stole" the ivy from the Doctors surgery in the time honored way of flower arrangers. (I did ask permission first!) The festival is running from the 4th Dec to 11th Dec & I do hope you manage to see it. Mo



Regular Sunday Services in the area

St Peter's Shared Church

8.30am Communion 2nd and 4th Sunday

10am Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday,

10am Morning Worship 2nd Sunday,
all with children's groups and crèche

10am All ages 4th Sunday

6.30pm Worship Service 1st Sunday

The Church in Jacobs Well at Scout & Guide HQ

4pm Worship with HC 1st Sunday

New Hope Fellowship

Meeting at Christs College **10.30 am**

St John's Stoke

9am Holy Communion, **10.30am** Worship

7pm rhythm

Latest news: 61 shoeboxes have been sent from St Peter's to the Crimea. Thanks to all who gave.

What does Christmas mean to you? This is what some of our children and young people say:

Rosie: Atmosphere, family together, sharing the Christmas spirit, seeing friends, going to church, seeing everyone so happy.

James: Sharing presents, celebrating Jesus birthday, being with friends and family, Christmas food.

Emily: Being with family, church, singing carols, Christmas dinner.

Megan: Delight upon faces of family when opening presents, scented candles, presents and Christmas dinner.

Calum: Presents, Christmas crackers, dinner, church on Christmas morning.

Brook: Presents, toys, seeing Father Christmas

Alisha: Presents, Christmas dinner, dressing up in new clothes, seeing all the family.

Hannah: Presents, being with family, Yorkshire pudding.

Harvey: Presents and X-Box

Everyone likes presents! We all have been given the greatest present one could receive: Jesus.

Light Party

This was the second Light Party we have held at St Peter's in recent years. Over 30 children came and had fun playing games like pass the parcel, and dancing in the dark with glow sticks. This was followed by some food and a fun reminder from Kirsten that Jesus is the light of the world. He will light our darkness and is always with us no matter how dark it seems.



Contact us:

St Peter's Shared Church, Hazel Avenue, GU1 1NP

Telephone: 01483 572078

E-mail: office@stpetersguildford.org

Web: www.stpetersguildford.org

Vicar: Kirtsen Rosslyn-Smith 01483 451908

OLM: Brian Rich 07799 426090

From the Registers

Sept 12 Thanksgiving Louise Farrell

Sept 29 Renée Aitken burial of
ashes