

Cranborne with Boveridge, Edmondsham,
Wimborne St Giles, and Woodlands

Quintet
Newsletter
DECEMBER 2017



The Rector writes:

"It all sounds rather good, but it's a bit like believing in Mickey Mouse isn't it?". That, or something very like it, is a comment a wedding guest apparently made after listening to my wedding sermon. I reckon I scored 2 out of 3 for that. The guest had at least listened to the sermon for one, and for a second had even found the content attractive! It's not a bad summary of how many of us feel about believing in God. It sounds good, it would be nice if it were true but really it can't possibly be, can it?

Let's come back to Mickey Mouse. We know he came out of the imagination of Walt Disney and his first 'incarnation' was Steamboat Willie in 1928. Could Walt have ever conceived how Mickey would catch the world's imagination and spawn the multi-million dollar industry that is modern Disney with its 12 theme parks and huge film empire? There is an objective reality to Mickey Mouse. You all know who I mean by Mickey, I met him as a six year old. The reality of Mickey Mouse as an instantly recognizable figure and brand cannot be denied. In that sense he has hugely outgrown the idea in Walt's head and taken on a life of his own.

Could God be like that? A nice idea that has massively overtaken the original concept? There is a reality to God, whether you believe or not. God is big business, religion a recognizable 'brand' in the world. There remains the sneaking suspicion that the organizers of religion are trying to lure us in, just as the Disney executives are. I know now that the Mickey I met in 1967 was a Disney employee in a costume. We know that some medieval monks did a pretty good job of persuading the credulous to believe fake miracles and the like. Is that all that religion can be boiled down to?

But it's not that easy to dismiss God. The rise of Christianity is nothing like the rise of the Disney Empire. For the first 350 years it didn't bring its followers fame, fortune and power. Quite the opposite. It brought poverty, persecution and martyrdom. Yet there was enough substance in the belief driving those first Christians that their own lives were transformed, ideals of love, sacrifice and service replaced selfishness and greed. In turn the harsh and brutal Roman Empire itself was changed. Mickey hasn't made quite that difference and I suspect the brand would never have got off the ground if it had brought Walt nothing but jail-time, pain and financial loss.

So what am I saying? None of this is proof that the Christian story is real. It could well be proof though that the Christian story can make a difference. So this Christmas, please let me challenge you to take it seriously long enough to start making a difference to your life. Don't start with 'is it true?', start with 'can it work?' and I believe that we can all find that it can and that it can become real in our lives. Then we can start wondering about whether it is true.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Reverend Robert Simpson

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Do please let the Rector know if you would like him to visit, whether to discuss some particular matter in confidence, or in the case of illness or infirmity, to visit someone in hospital or just for a chat. Alternatively, you are welcome to come to the Rectory – formal appointments are not necessary, but it's helpful to phone beforehand if you can

From the Parish Registers

Baptism

"We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock"

22nd October at Wimborne St Giles:

Hugo Oliver Subbiah Pillai

Funerals

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord"

18th November-Burial of ashes at Cranborne:

Kenneth (Ken) Haskell

21st November-Funeral and burial at Woodlands:

Jean Walter

Charity of the Month

The result of the October collection for the EMERGENCY APPEAL: FOOD CRISIS IN EAST AFRICA was £295.07.

The result for the November collection for **S.S.A.F.A.** will be announced in due course.

Our **December** collection will be for **Dorset Nightstop**: Dorset Nightstop provides safe, secure emergency accommodation for young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

We have been asked to remind people in the Knowlton Parish area of the **Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund.**

If your organisation has a community project within the Knowlton Parish area that you would like financial help with* you can apply for a grant by completing the application form, which can be found on the Knowlton Parish Council web-site at: www.knowltonparishcouncil.org.uk and send it to the Parish Clerk for consideration. *NB: This fund cannot award grants for religious or political purposes.

Dorset Chamber Choir Christmas Carol Concert at Cranborne Church
Saturday December 16th - 7pm

Carols from the 16th century up to modern times
Music by Byrd, Sweelinck, Warlock, Darke, Berlioz, Rutter and others
and some familiar carols for everyone to sing!
Tickets £10 (students/children £5) on the door or by phone -01202 699321.

www.dorsetchamberchoir.com

Church Services in DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd December

8.00 Holy Communion
9.30 Parish Communion
11.00 High Mass
6.00 Advent Readings

Advent Sunday

Edmondsham
Woodlands
Wimborne St Giles
Cranborne

Sunday 10th

8.00 Holy Communion
9.00 Breakfast Church followed by
9.30 Parish Communion

Advent 2

Wimborne St Giles
Cranborne

Sunday 17th

8.00 Holy Communion
9.30 Parish Communion
11.00 Matins and Holy Baptism
* 6.00 Quintet Carol Service

Advent 3

Woodlands
Edmondsham
Cranborne
Cranborne

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

8.00 Holy Communion
9.30 Parish Communion
* 4.00 Crib Service
* 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Advent 4

Cranborne
Wimborne St Giles
Edmondsham
Wimborne St Giles

Christmas Day

* 8am Holy Communion
* 9.30 Quintet Parish Communion
* 11.00am Family service followed by Shortened Holy Communion

Edmondsham
Woodlands
Cranborne

Sunday 31st December

8.00 Holy Communion
9.30 Quintet Parish Communion

Christmas 1

Edmondsham
Edmondsham

Sunday 7th January

8.00 Holy Communion
9.30 Parish Communion
11.00 High Mass
6.00 Evensong

Epiphany

Edmondsham
Woodlands
Wimborne St Giles
Cranborne

Wednesdays 10.00am Holy Communion at Woodlands

This month in the Quintet Group

Mon 4th 10am

Prayer Group
The Old Vicarage, Cranborne

Wed 6th 7pm

The Fireside Theatre
A reading of "Table Manners" by Alan Ayckbourn plus buffet supper. Information: Glen Carlyon 01202 813517

Mon 11th 12 00 noon

Quintet Lunch Club
Cranborne Garden Centre

Wed 13th 10.30am

Coffee morning and cake sale
Woodlands Village Hall

NB: There will be no Quintet Coffee Club this month

Thank you to everyone who helped with, or supported the recent Table Top Sale at Verwood Memorial Hall. £62.31 was raised for the Quintet

Carols in Woodlands Village Hall

Friday 15th December

Join us to sing some traditional carols accompanied by John Radford on his keyboard.
Refreshments at 7.00pm - including mulled wine, mince pies, tea and coffee.

Carols from 7.30pm, until about 9.00pm. This is a free event so do come along, adults and children, to support your local village hall – the more the merrier!

More information from Marian Eldrett: 01202 826181

NB: Church Diaries will be available soon. Don't forget to get yours!!

Woodlands Methodist Church

Minister The Rev'd Nigel Deller

12, Spring Close, Verwood BH31 6LB (01202 822212)

Coming Events and Services: Everyone welcome

More information: phone 01202 822066 or visit

www.woodlandsmethodistdorset.org.uk

Sunday 3rd

10.45 Holy Communion

Rev Nigel Deller

Sunday 10th

10.45 Morning Service

Mrs Cathryn Malmberg

3pm Messy Church

6pm Worship for You

Rev Robert Simpson

Sunday 17th

10.45 Morning Service

Rev Robert McBain

6pm Carol Service – carols by candlelight with Verwood Brass Band followed by tea/coffee and mince pies

Sunday 24th

10.45 Morning Service

Rev Linda Chester

Christmas Day

9.30am

Rev Nigel Deller

Sunday 31st

10.45 Morning Service at Holtwood

Rev Nigel Deller

COFFEE MORNINGS:

1st and 3rd Thursday each month

10.00am to 11.30am Bring & Buy, Raffle, Book sales.

QUIET TIME

Monday December 4th

6.30 to 7pm

An informal time of prayer together. All are welcome

SKITTLES EVENING

Friday Dec 1st - Woodlands Village Hall

£6.00 - with ploughman's supper. Tickets now on sale to book phone 01202 822066

For more Quintet news go to www.dorsetquintet.org.uk

Any news or contributions for future editions please to Averil Cubitt 01202 828797 averilcubitt@gmail.com by the 15th of the month