



Portsmouth Parish News December 2008

On top of the hill, at the heart of the Community



Christmas message

Nothing seems certain any more. "Invest in property", they used to say, but this year house prices have fallen. Banks have failed, shares have dropped and pension schemes are struggling. Nothing seems certain.

Yet at Christmas we will celebrate an unchanging truth. In our church services we will be looking back and celebrating the birth of a special child who changed history - but this isn't just a history lesson. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who was to go on to become the saviour of the world, and has changed the lives of millions of people since.

I hope that you will be able to join us at Christ Church as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas. In this card you will find details of our services; you will be most welcome at any of them.

Whatever your hopes and fears for 2009, I pray that God will grant you peace and a happy Christmas.

With every blessing

Rev'd Andy Wilson - Vicar

A prayer for Christmas

God of love, open our hearts and minds this Christmas time to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ. May those whose lives are insecure or empty find, in the one born at Bethlehem, all that they need today, and much more besides..

Parish Magazine

Once a month we publish our magazine "Portsmouth Post". If you would like to receive a copy at the modest price of 35 pence per month (£4.20 per year) please drop a mail to magazine@christchurchportsdown.org or call our parish office on 023 9237 9992 and leave a message on our answering machine.

Parish Web Site - Listen on Line

Have you visited our web site recently? If you have not visited recently why not do so now. The web address is <http://www.christchurchportsdown.org/>

This year we launched "Listen on Line" which allows you to listen to recordings of our Sunday Services. Great if you missed a service or want to listen in and see what we are all about. You can listen to services right back to March this year. The recordings are published a day or two so after the service so you not check it out. You can use "pod catching" software (eg iTunes) to get automatic notification once the recording is published. *Nigel Wheatley - Webmaster*

Friends of Christ Church

Christ Church has a scheme called "Friends of Christ Church" which is open to everyone. The annual meeting of the Friends will be late February or early March so do watch out for the posters.

The Church is not only there as the centre of Christian worship in Widley, it's a beautiful building, with an interesting history, set in a nature reserve and green space. Our Churchyard was awarded 2nd prize in the Place of Worship category and the Best New Entry award in this years Portsmouth in Bloom competition. As well as regular worship the Church is used to give thanks for new life at baptism, to celebrate marriage and to commit loved ones to the eternal presence of God. The hall is available for private hire for parties and celebrations, or for clubs and societies to meet.

The "Friends of Christ Church" is there as a group of people who appreciate the importance of the buildings to the community and who want to ensure they continue to be there for the use of future generations.

Maybe you are interested in helping to maintaining these facilities, helping with our Church Watch, want to use them yourself or just want to know what's going on. Maybe you are able to help financially, practically or just want to meet other people locally - We hope that joining the "Friends of Christ Church" is for you.



Christmas Blessings

HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2008

This card comes with Christmas Greetings from your local Parish Church of Christ Church, on Portsdown Hill.

Inside are details of our services over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. We hope you will be able to join us in worship. Please contact us if you are unable to get to church and would like a home visit.

If you unfold the card you will find our latest News Letter inside with information about the Parish.

A very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to you all, have a great time celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Christ Church Ministry Team and Church Wardens

Andy (Vicar), Sandy (Curate), Cynthia (Reader), Ann and Sylvia (Wardens)

Vicar : Andy.Wilson@christchurchportsdown.org 023 9237 5360

Church Office : parish.office@christchurchportsdown.org 023 9237 9992

Services in December 2008

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Wednesday 3	10:00	Holy Communion
Sunday 7	08:00	Holy Communion
	10:30	Holy Communion
	10:30	Junior Church -Church Hall (age 5 to 17)
	18:00	The Mighty Youth -Vicarage (age 13 to 19)
Wednesday 10	10:00	Holy Communion
Sunday 14	08:00	Holy Communion
	10:30	Toy & Nativity Service
	18:00	The Mighty Youth -Vicarage (age 13 to 19)
Wednesday 17	10:00	Holy Communion
Sunday 21	08:00	Holy Communion
	10:30	Holy Communion
	13:00	Junior Church Party Lunch -Church Hall
	15:00	Christingle Service
	19:00	Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 24 Christmas Eve	10:00	Holy Communion
	15:00	Carols around the Tree
	23:30	Midnight Communion
Thursday 25 Christmas Day	08:00	Holy Communion
	10:00	All Age Service with Holy Communion
Sunday 28	08:00	Holy Communion
	10:30	Family Service
Wednesday 31 New Years Eve	23:30	Watch Night Service