

December 2017 Newsletter

Church services in the Benefice for December (**Duns Tew in Bold**)

03.12.17	4pm at Sandford St Martin	Benefice Christingle Service
10.12.17	5pm at Duns Tew	Service of Lessons & Carols
17.12.17	9.30 am at Duns Tew 4 pm at Steeple Barton	Eucharist Benefice Service of Lessons & Carols with Choirs
24.12.17 (Sun.)	4pm at Westcote Barton 11.30 pm at Duns Tew	Benefice Crib Service Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
25.12.17 (Mon.)	11am at Duns Tew	Christmas Day Eucharist
31.12.17 (Sun)	09.30am Sandford St Martin 5.30pm at Westcote Barton	Eucharist service New Year's Eve service Followed by drinks at the Rectory
07.01.18	11am Steeple Barton Church	Farewell Service for Graeme and Nynka Arthur

Church Christmas Tree

Please come to the church on Saturday 9th December at 10am, if you would like to decorate the Church Christmas Tree in readiness for the Carol Service on Sunday 10th December. **All welcome.**

General decorating for Christmas will be on the following Saturday 16th December.

Carol Service Sunday 10th December at 5pm

We hope to have a donkey, some sheep and a live baby joining us for this service again this year, as well as children acting out the Christmas story. If you are under 18 and would like to take part please contact Stephanie Lacey (stephanielacey@btconnect.com or 01869 347350). The actors just have to dress up and walk about, and we also need some children to read some short passages from the Bible.

There will be a short walk through rehearsal on Thursday 7th December at 5pm in the church for children who would like to take part in the nativity story at the Carol Service. No acting skills needed!!!

At the service there will be additional accompaniment by the recorder group, 'Fumb and Forefinger', plus mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments afterwards.

Carol Singing – Monday 18th December, 6.00pm start, meet by lay-by in Dashwood Rise

...or join us at any time – just listen out for us. Bring torches and dress for the weather! We will provide carol sheets.

We would also be grateful if anyone could volunteer to collect door to door.

Collection tins provided!

If you can't join us, please listen out for us and give generously. All proceeds goes to the Children's Society which will help some of the most disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.

For more information, please contact Clare Burgess 347382, clarebugress@gmail.com (my email address really is BUGR.. not BURG... !!!!)

Collections for Polly's homeless people As always food donations (within date) welcome in the basket in church. The Charity Plate for the last quarter raised £227.57 for Polly.

Remembrance Sunday: following the service, donations of £176.50 have been sent to Combat Stress and the Royal British Legion.

Church Charitable Giving during December

The Charity Plate donations during December will be given to Ripple Africa (see below).

The Collection Plate cash collection taken during the December services will be donated to the following charities:

Carol Service, 10th December: Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide.

Midnight Mass, 24th December: Al Basma Special Rehabilitation Centre, Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, is a place where young adults with learning disabilities can go during the day for training in valuable life and work skills

Christmas Day, 25th December: The Children's Society which fights child poverty and neglect, and helps all children have a better chance in life.

Advent Carols Collection: Thank you for supporting the work of the Romanian Foyer Trust (a charity started by the Fairfax-Cholmeley family). The collection from the Advent Carol Service and the profits from the Advent supper held on Sunday 26th November will be donated to the Romanian Foyer Trust to support vulnerable young adults as they set out in the world after a life spent in institutions.

Save the Date: Graeme Arthur's farewell service will be held at 11am on Sunday 7th January at Steeple Barton Church. This will be followed by a light lunch at the Sports & Social Club, Middle Barton. If you would like to come to the lunch, please RSVP to Stephanie Lacey stephanielacey@btconnect.com (347350).

Charity of the Quarter

For November/December/January, we will again be supporting Ripple Africa (www.rippleafrica.org), a charity working in Malawi.

- RIPPLE Africa is very different in its approach to the local community. Local people are empowered to manage the projects which affect their own community, and the charity only employs Malawian nationals in Malawi (no paid Westerners who could take a local job).

- Today, the charity has over 2,000 people working on RIPPLE Africa projects on the ground and has a tremendous impact on the local communities. However, despite the charity's significant achievements and ambitious scope, RIPPLE Africa is still small enough that the charity remains home-grown and grassroots based, and it is our intention to keep it that way.

Please give generously – the charity plate is available for donations at the end of each service. If you wish to donate at any other time, please place money in an envelope marked for RIPPLE Africa, and give to Carol Rigby (Nonesuch, Hill Farm Lane).

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Full details on the website:

<http://dunstew.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Card-ad-2017.pdf>