

December 2015 Newsletter

Church

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

06.12.15	4pm at Sandford St Martin	Benefice Christingle Service
13.12.15	5pm at Duns Tew	Service of Lessons & Carols
20.12.15	9.30 am at Duns Tew 5pm at Steeple Barton	Eucharist Benefice Service of Lessons & Carols with Choirs
24.12.15 (Thurs.)	4pm at Westcote Barton 11.30 pm at Duns Tew	Benefice Crib Service Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
25.12.15 (Fri.)	11am at Duns Tew	Christmas Day Eucharist
27.12.15	9.30am at Sandford St Martin	Eucharist
31.12.15 (Thurs.)	5.30pm at Westcote Barton	New Year's Eve Service with drinks at Rectory afterwards
03.01.16 (Sun)	5pm at Duns Tew	Evening Prayer for Epiphany

Chris Drake

The PCC is very pleased that Chris Drake has offered to be one of our churchwardens. We hope that he will be elected at a church meeting very soon because he is already undertaking a good deal of churchwarden work!

Church Christmas Tree

If you would like to decorate the Church Christmas Tree in readiness for the Carol Service on Sunday 13th December, please come to the church on Saturday 12th December at 10am. **All welcome.**
General decorating for Christmas will be on the following Saturday 19th December.

Carol Service Sunday 13th December, 5pm

Please join us for our Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.

If you are under eighteen and would like to read in the Carol Service on 13 December, please let Stephanie Lacey know (347350 or stephanielacey@btconnect.com). We are also hoping that smaller children will dress up and act out the Christmas story during the service. We already have several volunteers; please contact Stephanie Lacey or Beth Leach (bethan.leach2012@gmail.com) if you are interested. If you are taking part we will have a brief rehearsal after school on Monday 7th December, at about 4.15pm and another at 10.30am on Saturday 12 December, or at a time convenient to the actors!
At the service there will be additional accompaniment by the newly formed recorder group, 'fumb and forefinger', plus mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments afterwards!

Carol Singing in the Village

On Monday 21st December please come and sing some carols in aid of charity. Meet at far end of Dashwood Rise at 7pm. Please bring torches. Carol sheets provided.

Would like to help, but do not want to sing? We always need collectors to ask for donations door-to-door as we go round the village.

If you can't join us, please listen out for us and give generously. All money goes to the Children's Society which provides support to vulnerable children all over the UK. Homemade bread & soup, mince pies (and maybe some mulled wine...) in Village Hall afterwards.

For more information, please contact Clare Burgess 347382, clarebugress@gmail.com

Church Charitable Giving during December

The Charity Plate donations during December will, of course, 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, 13th December: Barnabas Fund supports projects which help Christians where they suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith

Midnight Mass, 24th December: Al Basma Special Rehabilitation Centre, East of 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 run by the Fairfax-Cholmeley family). The collection from the Advent Carol Service and the profits from the Advent supper held on Sunday 29th 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.

Remembrance Day Service: We would like to let people know that a donation was made to the British Legion and to the "Combat Stress" charity, following our Service on 8th November.

Charity of the Quarter

For November/December/January, the PCC has chosen Ripple Africa (www.rippleafrica.org) as our charity.

RIPPLE Africa is a charity working in Malawi. It was started by Geoff and Liz Furber in 2003 and now has over 150 Malawian staff. The charity works with local communities in the Nkhata Bay District which has a population of 250,000.

Providing a hand UP and not a hand out, Ripple Africa runs 8 pre-schools, supports 5 primary schools and has built a secondary school. It has also built, and runs a community library and offers adult literacy.

With the large population, there is tremendous pressure on the natural resources. They have a number of innovative and exciting environmental community projects. In forestry conservation they are conserving 150 km² of forest, and have helped communities plant 4 million trees. The charity's fish conservation project is already

showing positive results. They are working with 40,000 households to provide special fuel efficient cook stoves which together save 80,000 bundles of wood every week and are much safer for women and children.

The charity has built and supports a local dispensary and runs a local disabilities rehabilitation programme.

In addition they have many overseas volunteers who get involved.

Charlie Knight (Hill Farm Lane) has worked in Malawi for this charity and will be coming to tell us about it at a service in the new year.

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 post through Hilary Skaar's door (The New House, opposite the pub).