

December 2016 Newsletter

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

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| 04.12.16 | 4pm at Sandford St Martin | Benefice Christingle Service |
| 11.12.16 | 5pm at Duns Tew | Service of Lessons & Carols |
| 18.12.16 | 9.30 am at Duns Tew 4 pm at Steeple Barton | Eucharist Benefice Service of Lessons & Carols with Choirs |
| 24.12.16 (Sat.) | 4pm at Westcote Barton 11.30 pm at Duns Tew | Benefice Crib Service Christmas Eve Midnight Mass |
| 25.12.16 (Sun.) | 11am at Duns Tew | Christmas Day Eucharist |
| 31.12.16 | 5.30pm at Westcote Barton | New Year's Eve service Followed by drinks at the Rectory |
| 01.01.17 (Sun) | 11am at Sandford St Martin | Only service in Benefice this Sunday (Eucharist) |

Tea, Coffee & Cake plus Christmas Sale: December 4th 2-4.30pm in the Village Hall. All welcome. Duns Tew Christmas Cards and Mugs available - see separate notices.

Church Christmas Tree

If you would like to decorate the Church Christmas Tree in readiness for the Carol Service on Sunday 11th December, please come to the church on Saturday 10th

December at 10am. **All welcome.**

General decorating for Christmas will be on the following Saturday 17th December.

Carol Service Sunday 11th December at 5pm

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

We hope to have a donkey and some sheep joining us for this service again this year, as well as children acting out the Christmas story. If you are under 13 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 rehearsal one day after school, and in addition the readers will meet in the church to practice at 4.30pm on Wednesday 7 December.

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 19th December, 6.30pm start, meet by lay-by in Dashwood Rise

Please come and join us at the following specific locations for some carol singing. Collectors will be going door-to-door, but if anyone would like join us at one of the places listed, to listen or sing with us, that would be really good. Bring torches and dress for the weather! We will provide carol sheets. We also need collectors!

Approximate timings – please join us:

6.30pm Lay-by in Dashwood Rise

6.45pm Top of Hill Farm Lane

7.00pm Area near Church Lych Gate

7.15pm Daisy Hill courtyard

7.30pm The Pub

7.45pm Outside The Nurseries, near Longfield

8.00 Village hall for bread & soup, mince pies (and maybe some mulled wine...)

If anyone has any further suggestions regarding locations, please let me know.

Also, if anyone plays a brass instrument, and would like to join Charlotte, who accompanies us on the cornet, we would love to hear from you.

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

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 £66.20 for Polly.

Concert for the Homeless (Polly) at home of Frances & John Maksinski

This concert was great fun, very well attended and we raised **£679** to provide 3 ½ months' worth of food for the homeless and vulnerable whom Polly helps.

Thank you everyone who helped, attended or donated, or all three! Special thanks to Frances and John for organising it.

Remembrance Sunday: following the service, donations of £92.60 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, 11th December: Barnabas Fund Christian Syrian project which supports Christians in Aleppo, particularly the elderly who cannot leave.

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 27th 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.

Charity of the Quarter

For November/December/January, we will again be supporting Ripple Africa (www.rippleafrica.org).

RIPPLE Africa's projects are based around the rural village of Mwaya in Malawi. The charity's overriding aim is to empower communities so they themselves can achieve a sustainable future – "Providing a hand UP and not a hand out." For more information, see church charity noticeboard.

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 PCC Treasurer, Carol Rigby (Nonesuch, Hill Farm Lane).