

## January 2016 Newsletter

### Church

All services at Duns Tew, unless stated otherwise

03.01.16	5pm	Evening Prayer
10.01.16	11am	Lay-Led matins
17.01.16	9.30 am	Eucharist
24.01.16	11am	Eucharist With talk on Ripple Africa
31.01.16	9.30am	Candlemas Eucharist at Westcote Barton

### **Thank you!**

Thank you to all the children who dressed up and brought the Christmas story to life and who read so beautifully for our Carol Service on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Special thanks to by John and Margaret Gordon for donating the Christmas tree and to Roger Stranks for organising for it to be put up in the Church. Thank you to Sebastian and Hebe Stapleton, Sarah Laing and Steph Lacey for decorating the Christmas tree and church in time for the carol service. All the readers deserve a special thank you, too. We are very grateful to the Wilson family for the loan of George, the donkey, and their three, very well behaved sheep!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the services in December.

Thank you to Sebastian Stapleton for installing the flood lighting for the Christmas period. We are also very grateful to the flower arrangers for dressing the windows with beautiful arrangements.

### **Churchyard tidy-up**

Thank you to all those who turned out despite the high winds to tidy up the churchyard and to litter-pick along the approach roads to the village on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Carol Singing in the Village**

Thank you to all who sang and collected door to door. We are also very grateful to Charlotte for playing the cornet, and to the McAlpine family and Ali McKay for providing very welcome refreshments.

We made £300 after receiving later donations and this has been sent off to the Children's Society to help their work fighting childhood poverty, supporting children and teenagers who experience neglect, as well as helping young carers.

### **Advent Supper on 29<sup>th</sup> November**

A huge thank you to all those who cooked for, helped at and attended the supper in aid of Romanian Foyer Trust. Amount raised will be given in February newsletter.

### **Charity of the Quarter**

For November/December/January, the PCC has chosen Ripple Africa ([www.rippleafrica.org](http://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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 the 11am service on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

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).