

# Amberley Parish Magazine



February 2005

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## Services for February

Wednesday 2nd Feb	8 am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 6th Feb</b>	<b>8 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
Wednesday 9th Feb	8 am	Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday	7.30 pm	Deanery Eucharist at St Mary's, Woodchester celebrated by Bishop Michael and supported by the Amberley Choir
<b>Sunday 13th Feb</b>	<b>8 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Methodist led)
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
Wednesday 16th Feb	8 am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 20th Feb</b>	<b>8 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Family Service</b>
Wednesday 23rd Feb	8 am	Holy Communion ( <i>Polycarp</i> )
<b>Sunday 27th Feb</b>	<b>8 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (1662)</b>
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>5.30 pm</b>	<b>Taizé Service</b>
Wednesday 2nd Mar	8 am	Holy Communion

*Julian Group (Silent Prayer) from Friday, 9.30 am - 10 am  
in the Littleworth New Room – Everyone welcome*

*'Common Worship' Morning Prayer every weekday at 8 am.  
'Common Worship' Evening Prayer every Thursday 5.30 pm.  
Both in Holy Trinity Church – Everyone welcome*

# The Rector's Letter

Everyone's been asking the same question: "Why did God (if there is a God) allow the destruction of the Tsunami waves to happen?" Many Christians go on the defensive, saying: "He must have a reason, but it has to remain for us part of the mystery of God." At the other extreme, many non-believers go on the attack, saying: "A loving God would never let such suffering happen – therefore there is no such being."

It may surprise you to learn that, if anything, I am more in sympathy with the second of these attitudes than with the first. I find the idea of a God who chose that the disaster should happen, and could have stopped it had he wanted to, totally unacceptable. The explanation that he must have chosen it as a punishment for the poor people whose lives were so devastated, I find verging on the obscene. I can't get out of my mind a poor little 11 year-old girl, whose entire family had been wiped out, saying plaintively, "We must have been wicked for this to have happened to us."

If I can't accept that a *loving* God would have allowed the earthquake to happen – and the one thing certain is that it did happen – then I am faced with only two possibilities, either that God doesn't exist or that he does exist but that it wasn't in his power to stop the events that led to the disaster. As I firmly believe that God exists, then my God has to be powerless to stop natural disasters such as Asian earthquakes.

This view lands me in serious trouble with the traditional ideas that God "made the earth" – and could therefore have designed it to be earthquake-free - and that he is "omnipotent" – and therefore even if he has designed the earth with moving tectonic plates on its surface he is sufficiently 'all-powerful' to stop them interacting. To me the earth, and the whole universe, is controlled solely by physical processes. If I am to believe in a God who acts, then his actions must be in *relation* to that natural world and not directly interfering with it by arbitrarily tinkering with the laws of physics.

So, how does this God of mine act in relation to creation? As a Christian I believe that God acted through Jesus, a human being to whom he related so completely that effectively we can see God in and through the words and works of the man from Galilee. In theological language Jesus is the Son through whom we can see and know the Father. Therefore, what can we see and know of God through looking at the accounts of Jesus in the gospels?

Basically in Jesus I see the ultimate risk-taker. He is the one who risked proclaiming the truth when doing so provoked others to want to destroy him. He is the one who sided with the rejected and so risked rejection himself. He is the one who risked ridicule in trying to help those with hopeless afflictions. He is the one who confronted the evil in his world, risking it overtaking him and even leading to his own death.

As human beings, and Jesus was himself one of these, we have an in-built sense of

self-preservation that inclines us to shy away from risks. We mask from ourselves the need to proclaim the truth through ignoring it, or through rationalising why we needn't heed it. We hide from siding with the rejected by forgetting their plight, or by being too attentive to our own needs to have time for theirs. We avoid looking foolish by acting only when we know we can succeed in the eyes of others, or by convincing ourselves that the challenges are beyond human capability. And we avoid confronting evil by compromise, or by seeing it only in others and condemning them.

Jesus lived without recourse to any of these protective devices. For each device he rejected he placed his life at greater risk, he moved towards death. And why did he do this? He did it entirely for those around him, enabling them too to throw away their own protective devices, devices that had stopped them living as God intended. So the Pharisee Nicodemus came secretly to Jesus to find out where he had been mistaken. So the despised tax collector Zacchaeus paid back those he had defrauded after Jesus had come to his house. So the many entrapped by their ailments were able to live fully once again through their encounter with Jesus. So the executioner centurion watching the death of Jesus was brought to exclaim, "Surely this was God's Son!"

This openness to risk, this movement towards death so that others may have life is what totally characterised Jesus' life. It is the characteristic we call 'love', and, if what we have already argued is right, it is the defining characteristic of God. So when God acts in relation to creation, he acts through this love, yearning to free all of creation from what stops it realising its full potential.

There is however one overriding problem. As this 'love of God' works in us, enabling us to rely less and less on protection and to take more and more risks, we move closer and closer to 'death', to the loss of the security of life as we know it. But it is here that the meaning and mystery of the resurrection lies. Behind the resurrection stories lies the assurance that loss is the necessary road to gain, that in Jesus' words, "Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it."

So how is God acting, through us, in relation to the Tsunami? Certainly through the unprecedented generosity of the giving of money, materials and time. Certainly through the work of prayer, painfully holding on our hearts before God the orphans in their loneliness and the parents in despair seeking their missing children or cradling their dead ones. But as we watch our television screens we must beware of those protective devices tending to counteract the working of God's love through us. There is the intrigue of the sensational magnitude of the disaster whereby deaths become statistics rather than individual personal tragedies. There is our feeling that once we have sent in our donation we have done our bit. There is the irresistible temptation to apportion blame when results are not instant. There is the inclination to forget the suffering once it falls from the headlines. And there is the blindness to the fact that, while the deaths due to the tsunami affected us deeply, as many lives are lost each month in Africa due to illness and poverty as have been lost in the Asian earthquake.

## Young People's Diary

**Quest dates:** 20th February, 13th March  
6.45pm in the Rectory

### **Youth Group dates:**

**Junior:** 7th February, 28th February, 14th March  
6.30pm - 8.30pm in the Parish Rooms

**Senior:** 21st February, 7th March, 21st March  
7pm - 8.30pm in the Parish Rooms

### **Sunday Club**

January 30th - Sue Partridge and Betty Lane  
February 6th - John and Alice Gilbert  
February 13th - Claire Wilkins and Vanessa Owen  
February 27th - John and Alice Gilbert

## 2005 Lent Course – 'Attitudes'

This Lent we are running a course entitled 'Attitudes', written by Robert Warren, whom many of us met during the 'Springboard' initiative two years ago, and Sue Mayfield. About the course they write: "Jesus lived out the Beatitudes in his earthly life and called his followers to do the same. This five-session course encourages Christians to examine their lifestyle in the light of Jesus' radical teaching and to live out these kingdom values – now."

The sessions take place, with one exception, on Wednesday evenings, and each evening begins with a short Communion service in the Littleworth New Room at 7.30pm. Then we gather in the Littleworth Hall, from 8pm till 9.30pm.

The evenings on which the sessions will take place are Wednesdays 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesdays 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March. We hope very much to see you at as many of these meetings as you can make, occasions which we are sure you will find both fruitful and enjoyable.

The Education & Spirituality Group

## Lent Lunches

On each Wednesday during Lent we are holding Lent Lunches in the Littleworth Hall from 12.30pm onwards. The lunches comprise soup and bread and cheese, with soft drinks and ending with coffee.

The money raised will be given to The Door project in Stroud. The suggested donation for each lunch is £5, though donations smaller and larger will be very acceptable.

The lunches this year are on **9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> March**. In order to assist us in estimating catering requirements, please indicate on the list at the back of the church if you will be joining us on either or both of these weeks. However, if your name is not on the list, please come anyway - we will make sure that there is enough food and drink for you!

We look forward to seeing you.

The Social Committee



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## Giving over Christmas and Beyond

As a result of our collections over the Christmas period, the following amounts have been sent from Holy Trinity Church to charities:

Giving in lieu of sending Christmas cards to other church members:  
£547.58 to *Winston's Wish*

Collections at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve:  
£648.39 to *The Children's Society*

Collections at Christmas Day services:  
£378.29 to the *Save the Children Fund*

Retiring Collection in response to the Tsunami disaster:  
£6,378.41 to the *Disasters Emergency Committee*

Our thanks to all who contributed so generously.

Harry Davie  
ACC Treasurer

# A Floor for All Seasons

## The project to raise funds for a new hardwood floor for Amberley Parish Room

### Fundraising update

We are still receiving cheques from around the village from the appeal letter sent out in October and to date have had responses from 149 residents resulting in donations of £8,267 (including gift aid tax reclaim) which we are really thrilled about. It also represents a good response rate, being approximately 35% of those who were sent letters. It is of course never too late so if you haven't yet got round to sending a donation, do please think again!

We have also received donations from user groups - £200 from the Scouts, £250 from Scottish Dancers and £103 from Playgroup who raised the funds at their nativity play in December. Further grants have been obtained, £2,000 from the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Preservation Trust, and £500 from Langtree Trust, and so the total raised has now reached

£26,823

Thank you all for your support!

We hope you will also support the forthcoming fundraising events:

25 February	'A Walk in the Wilderness', a talk by Viv and Jan Howard on the Cotswold Care expedition to Sinai
12 March	Wyld Evening, a gourmet meal interspersed with musical entertainment
19 March	The Antique Six Jazz Band, an event presented by the group Amberley Village Events
23 April	Book Fair
30 April, 1 & 2 May	Amberley Spring Festival

Further details on these events can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

Publicity produced by the Fundraising Splinter Group,  
Amberley Parish Room and Playground Management Committee

## Confirmation – 21st May 2005

Have you thought about being confirmed?

The next confirmation service for churches in our Deanery is to be held on Saturday evening, 21st May at St Mary's Church, Frampton-on-Severn from 7.30pm.

If you would like to be a candidate for being confirmed at this service, please let me know (878515) as soon as possible, and by the end of March at the latest. For children, to be a candidate you need to be at least aged 10 by 21st May. If you have not already been baptised I will arrange for this to take place on the day of the confirmation service. (As Amberley Church is run jointly as an Anglican and Methodist partnership, unless you specifically request otherwise you will also be made a member of the Methodist Church at the same time.)

Candidates still at school are required to attend each of ten classes which will be held from 5pm till 6pm on Friday evenings at the Rectory from Friday, 8th April. Four of these classes will be held after you have been confirmed. Candidates from previous years seem to regard these sessions as fun, especially as we try to make them as varied in approach as possible. Each session ends with refreshments so that any choir members can go straight on to choir practice at 6pm. A second requirement of all candidates is that they attend church regularly on Sundays at 10am for the duration of the course.

For adult candidates there will be four classes on the four Mondays immediately prior to the confirmation service from 8.30pm to 9.30pm.

If you haven't yet been confirmed and therefore can't yet receive Holy Communion, please think seriously about joining the course. I look forward very much to hearing from you if you wish to go ahead.

Mike Tucker

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## Diocese of Gloucester

Diocesan Registry Clerk required (4 days a week) to work in a small friendly office.

Applicants will need secretarial word processing and administrative skills, and knowledge of the structure and functioning of the Church. Training will be provided regarding Ecclesiastical Law and Practice. This post would suit a mature person wanting a challenge. Further details as required.

Applications with CV please to Diocesan Registrar, Madge Lloyd and Gibson, Solicitors of 34, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JW.

# Sharing Lent with Bishop Michael

**Bishop Michael writes :**

**To all on the Electoral Rolls of the parishes of the Stonehouse Deanery**

Dear Brothers and Sisters

This letter is dated New Year's Day and I want to invite you to make a particular New Year resolution. It is to mark out in your diary four dates in Holy Week 2005, which falls this year quite early, in the middle of March.

The reason for doing so is in order that we may share together in the principal services of that week. I am spending the Sundays of Lent in churches of the Stonehouse Deanery and then inviting the churches of the Deanery to come together to celebrate with me the key events of the Lord's passion and resurrection in what I believe could be some quite wonderful services.

These will be Palm Sunday, 20 March at 10.00 am  
Meet at Ebley Mill for the Blessing of Palms - moving to St Matthew's Cainscross for the Eucharist at 10.30

Maundy Thursday, 24 March at 7.30 pm  
The Eucharist of the Last Supper at Holy Trinity Minchinhampton

Good Friday, 25 March at 10.00 am  
The Liturgy of the Cross at St Swithun's, Leonard Stanley

Easter Eve, 26 March at 8.00 pm  
The Easter Liturgy at St George's, Nailsworth.

I believe that sharing together in these four occasions as a deanery family will prove to be a huge spiritual boost for us all. If you have taken part in the past in a very full Holy Week, you will know what a blessing it can be. If you haven't, then come and try and find it can deepen your Christian faith and experience very significantly. Walking with Christ through the events of Holy Week is a wonderful privilege and changes lives.

However it does need you to book the dates in the diary now, lest other things get in the way. There will be lots more information nearer the time. But I wanted you to have this invitation now. I am looking forward to leading Holy Week in the Stonehouse Deanery and am very committed to it. It would be good if you would become a fellow pilgrim with me through those days.

If you were able to manage a fifth and earlier date, it would be very good if you were able to join me and others from the deanery on **Ash Wednesday, 9 February at 7.30pm** at Woodchester Church where we are going to begin the Lent journey together.

With Every Blessing:

+*Michael Gloucester*

### **The Rector writes:**

On the five occasions listed in the Bishop's letter we shall not be holding our usual services in Amberley, and hope that members of our congregation will travel to attend the Bishop's services instead. There is a list at the back of the church for the names of those wishing or willing to share transport to the other churches.

On four of the other Sundays during Lent Bishop Michael is presiding at two Eucharistic services within the Deanery. These are as follows:

Lent 1 – February 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am Stonehouse	6.30pm Elmore
Lent 2 – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	10am King's Stanley	6pm Rodborough
Lent 3 – 27 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am Arlingham	6pm Haresfield
Lent 5 – 13 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>10am Amberley</b>	6pm Horsley

These will not interrupt our usual services in Amberley (except obviously on 13th March), but anyone wishing to attend any of the above are very welcome to do so.

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## **Praying During Lent**

Bishop Michael has requested that all churches are prayed in each day during Lent. He is providing a prayer leaflet for this purpose.

On every day of the year except Saturdays and bank holidays Holy Trinity Church is prayed in as a matter of course, at 8am. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays this takes the form of Morning Prayer using the Common Worship liturgy. On Wednesdays the 8am service is Holy Communion. On Sundays of course we have services at both 8am and 10am.

We have decided that we shall continue in the same pattern during Lent, though we shall incorporate prayers from the leaflet provided. In this way, except for Saturdays, we feel we will be just about fulfilling Bishop's request. However, he has also suggested that those attending the sessions of prayer should not just be the regulars. So can I suggest that you might join us, occasionally or regularly, at our weekday 8am services during Lent? It would enhance the observance of Lent, both yours and ours!

The Rector

# Stonehouse Deanery

## A way forward

The Deanery Pastoral Committee, which is made up of a member from each benefice in the Deanery, clergy or lay, has been meeting regularly on our behalf to discuss a strategy for managing the reduction in the number of full time paid clergy to the Diocesan target of 7.5 by 2015.

Having examined the demographics, the proposed building developments, and the current groupings, they recommended to the Synod, who in turn recommended their report to each PCC, and then discussed their responses, and in the light of these, proposed a further refinement of their recommended plan of action.

In essence the proposal is that the whole Deanery become a Group Ministry with a gentle and slow move towards four benefices within it, each with two full time, paid clergy (8 not the 7.5 target set by the Diocese). This proposal was agreed at Synod and has been accepted by the Diocese.

The next step will be a formal announcement by the Bishop that the Deanery becomes a Group which will be reviewed after five years. This means that to begin with, nothing will change. Each parish will continue to have its own PCC. The Synod will become the Group Council, again with representatives from every PCC – so make sure you are represented—to continue to develop the way forward.

The purpose is not just to cope with a shortage of clergy, but to encourage each deanery to plan missionary action which can more easily take place across parish and group boundaries.

It is up to each Christian to begin to think “outside the box” of what we have done as a Parish, and ask for help from your neighbours with an idea that you want to develop. The Deanery Youth Committee – again made up of representatives of the parishes, even where there is no active Church Youth work going on – is an example of this co-operation. The Parish Treasurers get help from our Deanery Treasurer. For Deanery events we often have a combined choir. Be bold and imaginative – for now it will work.

Please ask your clergy or Deanery Synod representative if you do not understand what we are journeying towards.

Please include the Deanery in your prayers

David Sutch

Rural Dean of Stonehouse

## From the School

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year from everyone at Amberley Parochial School.

January is always a time of new beginnings and we welcomed a new teacher into the school this term. Peter Godfrey has started his appointment as a full time teacher for Class 3. He replaces Mrs Dyson who retired after her long illness last year. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Jan Withers who covered the teaching during Mrs Dyson's illness. She was with us for a year but has taken up an appointment at Wycliffe Prep School. Mr Godfrey has come to us from Swell Primary School where he was the Key Stage 2 teacher. He has previously taught in schools in Gloucester and Hampshire and has strengths in ICT, Science and PE.

Mrs Riordan, our Reception teacher and Senior Teacher, continues to go from strength to strength. We congratulate her on successfully completing her Masters Degree in Education last term. Karen's dissertation was on teaching and learning environments for a mixed reception/key stage 1 class. Not only has Karen gained her Masters but she has also been appointed a Leading Maths Teacher in the County and achieved the Foundation Stage Quality Assurance Award for the school. We are very proud of her.

The children in Class 4 are studying the Victorians in history this term. If any members of the community have any Victorian artefacts of special interest that you think might enhance the children's studies, I would be very grateful if we could borrow them. Please let me know.

Jo Woolley - Headteacher

**Gloucester Choral Society**

**Benjamin Britten**

**War Requiem**

Saturday 12th March at 7.30 pm  
in Gloucester Cathedral

Contact Liz Robertson on 872527  
for details and tickets

# Amberley Spring Festival

## Some advance notes (and requests) concerning the Amberley Spring Festival 30 April, 1 & 2 May

The Spring Festival is to be the focal point of fundraising in aid of the 'Floor for all Seasons' appeal. Events have been planned in outline throughout the weekend but we would love to give everyone an opportunity to participate, and in particular we are looking for help in the following three areas:

**In the Parish Room** the Amberley Archive Group, with the help of many of our village organisations, is putting on an Exhibition covering the Church, local schools, war time evacuees, buildings, village life, work in the village, people and their activities, life on the Common, etc. etc. The Blackwell Victorian photograph albums will be on show, the 1986 photograph collection of all the houses in Amberley and their occupants, some old church documents, some deeds and lots more.

Can you help? May we ask you all to look in your cupboards, your attics and cellars, to see if you have any old artefacts, photographs, documents, posters, information, etc. concerning Amberley which would interest the rest of us.

The greatest care will be taken of all the things we borrow, although you will be lending them at your own risk. There will be a record kept of everything borrowed; a numbered receipt will be given for each item and the number will be put on to the item concerned. By this means every effort will be made to return precious things to their owners quickly. Please contact Anne Seymour (873272) for more details.

**In the Church**, specially decorated for the occasion, there will be an opening concert by the renowned Exultate Singers on Friday 29th April. In addition, we are arranging musical interludes throughout the weekend. We already have some performers but if you play an instrument or perhaps are part of a choir and would like to perform, contact Steve Goodwin (873381) or Sandra Tucker (878515) for details.

**In the Church Forecourt** there will be stalls throughout the weekend. If you would like a stall, (no bric a brac) or know someone who might, please get in touch with Pat Woods (872652) for more information.

Most importantly, please put the dates in your diaries and invite all your friends to come and stay for the weekend!

# Enjoy a Wyld night out!

You are invited to an evening of  
**musical entertainment**



at Littleworth House, Amberley  
(by kind permission of the Wyld family)

PLUS

**a 3-course gourmet dinner**

**with wines**

on

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup>  
March 2005**

**at 7.00 pm**

Tickets: £40 per head from Pat Woods (872652)  
or Sandra Tucker (878515)



(Maximum number: 36 people)

**All proceeds will go to the new oak floor for the Parish Rooms**

## 150 Club

The following were winners in an extended December draw

- £100 Mrs M Tysoe
- £ 50 Mrs J Howard
- £ 25 Mrs J Simpson
- £ 25 Mrs G Millwood
- £ 25 Mrs H Stillwell

The Littleworth Hall is open every  
Friday morning

for a

### Friday Cuppa

from 10.30 am till 12 noon

Why not drop in for elevenses and a  
chat? Tea, coffee and biscuits avail-  
able

If you need transport or would like to  
help in any way please contact  
Ann Haslam (873632)

## Churchyard

We shall be working at the following times:-

- Feb 7            2 pm to 4 pm
- Feb 21          2 pm to 4 pm
- Mar 7            2 pm to 4 pm



Notices regarding artificial flowers in the Churchyard, attached to both gates, have been removed by someone, please could everyone be aware that we do not wish there to be artificial flowers in the Churchyard.

# FEBRUARY

Items in *italics* are covered more fully in other sections of the magazine

7 Feb	Churchyard - 2 pm - 4 pm <i>Youth Group</i> - 6.30 pm - Parish Room
9 Feb	<i>Lent Lunch</i> - 12.30 - Littleworth Hall <i>Gardening Club</i> - 8pm - Parish Room
16 Feb	<i>Lent Lunch</i> - 12.30 - Littleworth Hall <i>Lent Course</i> - 7.30 pm - Littleworth New Room
20 Feb	<i>Quest</i> - 6.45pm - Rectory
21 Feb	Churchyard - 2 pm - 4 pm <i>Youth Group</i> - 7 pm - Parish Room
23 Feb	<i>Lent Lunch</i> - 12.30 - Littleworth Hall <i>Lent Course</i> - 7.30 pm - Littleworth New Room
25 Feb	<i>'A Walk in the Wilderness'</i> -7.30pm - Parish Rooms
28 Feb	<i>Youth Group</i> - 6.30 pm - Parish Room

**Don't Forget** - as explained in an earlier magazine, **YOU** can add items to the events list on the Amberley web site.  
Contact Steve Goodwin if you can't remember how!

## Woodchester Priory Services

Vigil Mass    Saturday, 6 pm  
Mass            Sunday, 10.30 a.m.

# Explorer Scouts arrive in Amberley.

January 7th saw the start of a new type of Scouting in Amberley. Explorer Scouts! Catering for the 14-18 yrs age range an Explorer unit has opened at The Drake Scout H.Q. on Culver Hill, the unit will meet on Monday evenings. Recent changes in the organisation of Scouting at a National level mean that Scouting for this age range is now arranged on a District rather than a Group basis.

Until now there were only three Explorer units in the Stroud and Tetbury Scout District which meant a fair bit of travel for some members. Now the fourth has opened in Amberley making Explorer Scouting more accessible for young people in the area.

Explorer Scouting is open to male and female members and aims to provide exciting and challenging opportunities for young people in the 14-18 age range. If you know anyone who would be interested seeing how much fun Explorer Scouting is contact Amberley Explorer Scout Leader Rob Wooldrige on 01453 860614 or Group Scout Leader Bob Lawson on 01453 833221

Did you know there are 28 million Scouts worldwide?

## **Carol Singing**

Thanks to everyone who so generously supported the Carol Singing before Christmas. The weather was kind and a joint party of Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies raised £92.68 for Guide Dogs for the Blind, a further £29.00 was raised from the sale of items made by the Cubs at the reception following the Carol Singing.

Bob Lawson

Group Scout Leader

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## **Royal British Legion**

The Poppy Appeal results for Gloucestershire have just been received from the County office. They are listed by size of community and in the under 3,000 population, Amberley's £4,210.71 is easily the best by about £500. In the medium category of over 3,000 population Amberley's collection exceeds those of Minchinhampton, Nailsworth and Forest Green, Painswick, Dursley and many others. Everyone who contributed is very warmly thanked, and the community as a whole can be proud of its generosity.

## News from Operation Restoration in Santa Cruz, Bolivia

*'Operation Restoration' in Bolivia is one of three overseas missions we particularly support at Holy Trinity Church, the other two being in Madagascar and Ethiopia. This report is from Roger Hulford who runs the Bolivian project with his wife Isha, but who are four months into their one year furlough!*

### **First Contact Project**

The First Contact work has been growing in the time we have been away. There has been a concerted effort to reach out to some of the younger boys on the streets and regular contact has been established with a group of about 10 boys.

On Thursday afternoons there is a new macrame class which is attended mostly by the older girls and some progress is being made in making contact with the young street girls involved in prostitution around the old bus terminal area.

### **El Camino**

There have been between 25 and 30 boys in the home over the last few months. The majority of whom are stable within the home and a few are still coming and going. It has been good to hear that several of the boys came top of their class in the education year which finished last month, but there are still a couple of the older boys who are struggling to keep up. We are still thinking of buying the property next door to El Camino and it seems that the owners are hoping to sell and the price has come down now to about U\$15,000 (about £7,900 on today's exchange rate)

### **El Alfarero**

Things in El Alfarero are going fairly well. We are still seeing girls coming and going, but we have had as many as 5 girls in the home. At present there are 3 with one baby and one of the three is pregnant expecting her child within the next 2 or 3 weeks.

## Letter received by Harry Davie (ACC Treasurer)

"Would you pass on the thanks of all of us at Money for Madagascar for the wonderful total of £730.50 that was raised by members of Amberley Parish Church at a recent sale in aid of Akany Avoko Children's Home.

I have known Akany Avoko for over 35 years, through good times and bad, and it is a great joy to see the development and expansion of the excellent work that has happened in recent years. Many of the children and young people arrive with a great burden of poverty, ill-health and abuse but the positive attitude and the belief that change is possible that pervades the Centre means that the majority of young people are able to turn their lives around and face the future with confidence.

Until fairly recently the Malagasy government contributed a small annual sum for each child placed in the care of Akany Avoke, but that has been stopped so the home is entirely dependent on their own income generating efforts, plus donations from individuals and organisations such as yourselves, to meet the day-to-day running costs.

Once more, a very big thank you.

Theresa Haine (co-ordinator)

---

## ACC Open Meeting - 5th January, 2005

As part of our Parish Plan, it has been agreed that, over the next few years, we should try to gain a greater understanding of other religious faiths. In November, members of our congregation visited the Ryecroft Mosque in Gloucester and, as a result of that visit, we were pleased to welcome Mr. Ahmed Bham from the Mosque to an Open Meeting of the ACC. A large audience gathered in the Littleworth Hall to hear him speak about Islam and the life of Moslems in this country and, more particularly, in Gloucestershire. We heard how important their faith is to them and how the teachings of the Koran influence their daily lives. Although not a cleric, he spoke with great authority and conviction and stressed that the Koran advocates peace and tolerance. To this end, he is involved in interdenominational work in Gloucester in the hope that friendship and respect will grow between the various religious faiths.

After Mr. Bham had answered questions from the audience, Mike Tucker thanked him for a most enjoyable and interesting evening and wished him well in all that he is doing to further understanding between different faiths at a time when the quest for world peace sorely needs such steps to be taken.

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**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Supporting the Parish Room floor project

We were very sad to lose our beloved "Bill" Evelyn Theobald on the 10th January, but are happy that she slipped away easily and peacefully at the great age of one hundred.

We thank our many friends for their kind sympathy.

Elise and David.

## **In Aid of “A Floor for All Seasons”**

- the project to renew the floor of Amberley Parish Room

# **A WALK IN THE WILDERNESS**

An Illustrated Talk on the Cotswold Care Expedition to South Sinai

by

**Viv and Jan Howard**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Amberley Parish Room**  
**7.30pm**

Tickets £7.50 each (to include finger buffet and a glass of wine)

Available from Sandra Tucker (878515) or Amberley Post Office

## **Amberley Gardening Club**

Just in case the festivities of Christmas and the New Year - and the dismal weather - have driven all thoughts of gardening away, this is to remind you that our next meeting is on Wednesday February 9 in the Parish Room at the usual time of 8pm. The talk will be by J. Austen Perkins on Rock Gardens.

All guests are most welcome on payment of £1.

Anne Shepherd - 872237

# The Highlands Cottage Charity

## Flat to Let

The HCC will have a large flat to let from the beginning of July 2005. The flat, on the ground and first floor, has four bedrooms, one with en suite bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen, family bathroom, cloakroom, cellar with central heating boiler, garden.

The Trustees will be offering this flat at a reasonable commercial rent; people with Amberley connections, particularly with the Church or School, will take precedence over any applicant from elsewhere.

It may be that there is little call for such a large flat for rent in Amberley. Should that turn out to be the case then the Trustees will convert this flat into smaller ones. They are therefore anxious to receive applications for the flat as it stands as soon as possible to enable them to make decisions for the future.

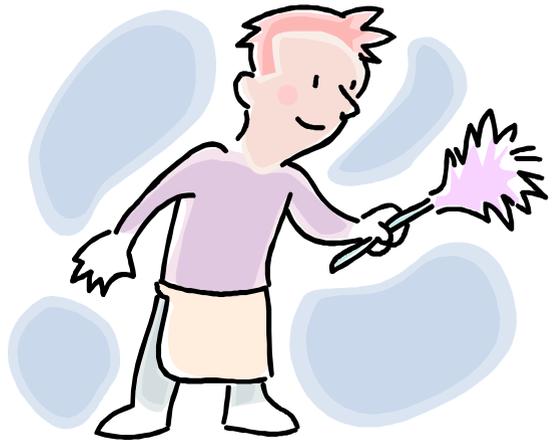
To apply telephone 01453 873272 for an application form.

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## Holy Dusters

Having watched a wonderful T.V programme on Salisbury Cathedral, I was delighted to hear that the ladies who lovingly clean the Cathedral are called the "HOLY DUSTERS". It has inspired me to write and suggest that our wonderful team of church cleaners might in future be called "The Amberley Church Holy Dusters". We have been undertaking this work for about 35 years and are still going strong!

Diana Nixon



Editors comment - I do remember when we started the six teams of women cleaning the Church, the Verger, Frank Elliott, was not happy with women taking over the job - he didn't trust us to do a good job!!.

Also those of you who will remember Erica Pare, who cleaned the Church many years ago, will know that she had already named us "Holy Dusters".

For people who find themselves  
IN DEBT (or heading that way)

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# THE AMBERLEY INN

## CULVER HILL, AMBERLEY



### News Update!

- \* The AA have awarded us our first Rosette
- \* Michelin have put us in their Red Guide
- \* New Bar Menu
- \* The ladies loos have been refurbished!
- \* Don't forget happy hour is between 12:00 - 1:00 pm and 5:00 - 6:00 pm

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## **MINCHINHAMPTON CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY**

Horsfall House provides residential care in a modern purpose built environment. All rooms have en-suite facilities and nurse call bell system.

Alternatively, our Home Care service provides help and support in people's homes and Meals-on-Wheels can be delivered to your door.

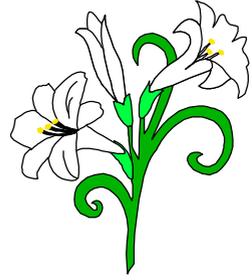
The purpose built Day Centre offers a warm, friendly atmosphere in which to socialise and offers a wide range of facilities including an extensive activities programme, hairdressing, bathing, aromatherapy and chiropody.

If you require further information, please contact Sue Stannard at Horsfall House. Telephone 01453 731227

## Flower Rota

Feb 5          Di Rowe

No flowers during Lent



## Coffee Rota

Feb 6          Ron and Ivy Corry  
Feb 13        Betty Lane and Ruth Westover  
Feb 20        MU  
Feb 27        Joyce Newton and Jill Murray-Smith  
Mar 6         Helen Stillwell and Alice Adams



## Church Cleaning Teams

Feb 7          Sue Pugh  
Feb 14        Anne Shepherd  
Feb 21        Alison Bell  
Feb 28        Ann Haslam  
Mar 7         Margaret Gardner



### **MAGAZINE**

All copy and articles for the magazine should be left at the back of the Church by the 16th of the month or emailed to [margaret@msgardner.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:margaret@msgardner.fsnet.co.uk)  
Magazine produced this month by Sara Mason, Jean and Laurie Needham and Margaret Gardner

If you would like to help with any duties, please contact Margaret Gardner for magazine (872230) , Ann Haslam for church services (873632) , Ruth Westover for flowers (872218) , Mary Meadows for church cleaning (872347) , and Peggy Bailey for after-service coffee (873709) .

# The Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, Amberley

## Amberley Churches Together

Rector	Revd Canon Dr Mike Tucker	878515
Methodist Minister	Revd Roger Bayliss	752296
Curate	Revd Ann Morris	872587
Churchwardens	Mrs Sarah Goodwin	873381
	Mr Tim Adkin	762491
Readers	Mrs Anne Seymour	873272
	Mrs Pam Sanders	
Verger	Mrs Cynthia Cooke	872602
Director of Music	Mr Steve Goodwin	873381
Head Server	Mrs Jan Howard	872689
Stewards	Mrs Di Rowe	873497
	Mrs Betty Lane	872416
ACC: Secretary	Mrs Pat Woods	872652
Treasurer	Mr Harry Davie	872787
Chairman	Mr John Gilbert	836275
Vice Chairman	Mrs Sue Pugh	872551
	Mr Brian Preston	833360
	Mrs Margaret Gardner	872230
	Dr Alistair Smith	762513
	Mrs Elizabeth Haughton	872496
Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs Sandra Tucker	878515
	Mrs Anne Seymour	873272
	Mr Michael Bullock	01452 771282
Planned Giving Secretary	Mrs Sarah Goodwin	873381
Social Committee Secretary	Mrs Jane Peters	762591
Church Grounds Comm Chmn	Mrs Margaret Gardner	872230
Sunday Club	Mrs Clare Wilkins	835864
Youth Group	Mrs Sue Partridge	873141
Quest	Mrs Sue Pugh	872551
Parish Magazine Editor	Mrs Margaret Gardner	872230
Advert Secretary	Mrs Betty Lane	872416
Church Flower Rota	Mrs Ruth Westover	872218
Friday Cuppa	Mrs Ann Haslam	873632
MU Secretary	Mrs Pat Woods	872652

## Village Organisations

<b>Amberley Parochial School</b>	873349
Head Teacher - Jo Woolley	
<b>Amberley Playgroup</b> - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9.30-12.15	
Play Leader - Fiona Ellen	832379
<b>Toddlers Group</b> - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.45-11.45 am	
Leader - Fiona Ellen	832379
<b>Royal British Legion</b> - Joint Men & Women's Branch	
Second Tuesday of even months at 7.30 pm at the Old Lodge	
Chairman - Colin McCleery	873562
<b>Women's Institute</b>	
Third Tuesday in each month at 2.30 pm in the Parish Rooms	
Mrs Joyce Newton	885324
<b>Littleworth Hall</b>	
Booking Secretary - Mrs Mary Markall	873459
<b>Parish Room Management Committee</b>	
Letting Secretary - Mrs Cynthia Cooke	872602
<b>Highlands Cottage Charity</b>	
Secretary	873272
<b>The Drake Scout HQ - Culver Hill</b>	
Group Scout Leader - Mr Bob Lawson	835079
<b>Scouts</b> - Fridays 7-9 pm	
Leader - Mr. Dave Middlemiss	840003
<b>Cub Scouts</b> - Thursdays 6.30-8 pm	
Leader - Mrs Coral Rice	872124
<b>Beaver Scouts</b> - Saturday 5-6 pm	
Leader - Sarah Martin	872573
<b>Venture Scouts</b>	
Leader - Mr Chris Rowley	882166
<b>Guides</b> - Wednesdays 7.30-9 pm	
Mrs Heather Pearson	885477
<b>Brownies</b> - Wednesdays 6.00-7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms	
Miss Joy Hopkins	834767
<b>Baby Sitting Circle</b>	
Mrs Lisa Haymon-Collins	873796
<b>Amberley Gardening Club</b> - 2nd Wed of each month - Parish Rooms	
Mrs Jo Keyte	873419

Website - [www.amberley.org.uk](http://www.amberley.org.uk)

## Photographs 121

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