

Burpham & Wepham News



The Monthly Newsletter of the village of Burpham & Wepham

Your Village Website:

<http://Burpham.arun.gov.uk/main.cfm>

Friends of Burpham Church:

fbc@fbcburpham.org.uk

From the Vicarage, December 2014

Dear Friends,

December sees the month when the Christian Church celebrates one of its most important festivals. Amusingly, this Festival carries a raft of elements from pagan times – the Christian church ‘adopting’ an existing festival and overlaying it with Christian symbolism. Northern Europe had a mid-winter festival called Yule – Teutonic countries called it Jol – and central to this celebration was the burning of a log. This was kept alight for 3 days and people remembered their lost loved ones and believed that these ‘departed’ shared the festival with them. Much drinking ensued, along with singing and tale telling of Odin and Thor. It is also said that the sky was observed to see if Odin could be glimpsed on his eight-legged horse Sleipnir. Now we know this to be merely legend, as everyone knows THAT’S Father Christmas!!

For many Christmas is ‘the children’s festival’, appealing as it does to the young – the story of the Baby, the magic of fairy lights, decorations and parties, and, of course, the visit from Santa Claus/Father Christmas. This figure is thought to be based on St Nicholas, (of Poling Church fame) and is particularly celebrated in Holland. In Sweden, December 13th, is St Lucia’s Day. Traditionally the oldest daughter of a family dresses in a long robe, and puts on her head a wreath of greenery in which there are 7 lighted candles. Quite what ‘Health and Safety’ would make of this we can only speculate!!

No Christmas would be complete without the singing of carols, some very old, which tell, to music, some aspect of the Christmas story. Amongst the celebrations that will be held in St Mary’s will be:



The Carol Service: Sunday 21st December 6.00pm. followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion: Wednesday 24th December 10.30 pm

Christmas Day Family Service. Thursday 25th December 10.30am

You are warmly invited to any or all of these services to celebrate with us, and to support the Christmas message, along with the Carol Singers and The Wassailers; those who diligently and selflessly collect money for charity whilst relating in song the love of God revealed to humankind at that first Christmas:-



Still the night, holy the night!
Son of God, O how bright
Love is shining from Thy face!
Strikes for us the hour of grace,
Saviour, since thou art born!

Maurice Slattery

From the Registers A Confirmation Service took place on Sunday 23rd November at St Nicholas Church in Arundel. It was a truly moving and delightful service taken by Bishop David of St. Nicholas. We congratulate those from our own church St Mary the Virgin Burpham who were Confirmed and who helped remind us all of our own Commitment made so many years ago:

Charles Anscombe
Bonnie Hamilton

Alfred Peck
Josephine Peck

From the Church Warden. Thank you to all those who worked so hard and successfully in cleaning the church on Saturday 22nd November. Thanks to your efforts the church is now really looking cared for and ready for the Christmas festivities. Barbara Williams joins me in thanking you all for your support over the past year and wishing you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. **Mike Mills, Church Warden**

Church Flowers for Christmas. We will be decorating the Church for all the Christmas activities on Saturday 20th December at 10.30am. All the flowers will be supplied; please come with your ideas, greenery, and secateurs. There will be festive refreshments to keep us going! If you can help, please call: **Gill 883667**



Children's Christmas Party - Saturday, 20th December 2014. Our popular annual Children's Christmas Party is getting even closer now -Saturday, the 20th December from 5 p.m. in the Village Hall, and Santa is now asking that you let Heather know, as soon as possible, if you will be there for this fun party as Santa has such a lot of children to visit at this time of year and he does not want to disappoint any of them. As well as Santa's visit, we will be having a shared

tea party, games and lots of fun (*for Mums and Dads as well*). So please let Heather know if you will be coming along on 01903 882839.

Village Fete. It is planned that the Village Fete will go ahead again next year on the last Bank Holiday Saturday in May. We are holding the first Fete meeting in the Village Hall on Monday, 19th January 2015 at 7 p.m. Please come along if you would like to be involved, even in a small way - we need as many helpers as possible. New ideas for events and stalls are most welcome, so if you are unable to attend the meeting but are willing to help in any way at all, please let **Heather Birch** know on **01903 882839**.

Village Companions. Last month we enjoyed a trip to The Chichester Planetarium which was most interesting with plenty of information on what to look for in the night skies at this time of the year especially here in our villages where the light pollution is minimal.

A week later a dozen of us also had a fun night of darts at The George where the girls team triumphed over the boys and it was good to see so many locals in the pub enjoying a traditional evening.

Our next function will be a night of Skittles at The Maypole Inn at Yapton. This has now been moved from January 12th to Wednesday January 14th at 7.30 p.m. The price is £7.50 per person which includes a cold buffet provided by the pub. It is always a great evening so if you want to go let me know. Car share will be available as usual. **Liz White 882654**.

Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal. On behalf of the RBL may I pass on their thanks to all of you for your generous support. The total raised by the village from the sale of poppies was £422.00, with a further £266.00 from the Church collection, making a grand total of £688.00. The money donated will support ex-Servicemen and/or their families who are suffering as a result of conflicts involving the UK. Thank you once again. **Bob Baynes**

An invitation from The George at Burpham to the Residents of Burpham, Wepham & Warningcamp As we come to the end of another year our thoughts turn to Christmas. To this end I would be delighted if you would join me & the board directors of The Burpham & Warningcamp Pub Company for complimentary mulled wine & mince pies on Tuesday 2nd December 2014 at 6.00pm

On the night we will be lighting our Christmas tree which will be erected shortly at the front of the pub. The turning on of the lights will take place at 6:30pm so please make every effort to be with us by then

Whilst our tree may not be as big as the famous Trafalgar Square tree, we will be holding a competition on the evening to guess the height of our tree. The draw for the 'Guess the Height on the Night' competition, will take place at 7.00pm so this should give everybody time to make their guess.



Thank you for your continued support throughout 2014 & I look forward to seeing you on the night. Kind regards, **Martin Bear, Manager**

Shuffleboard Evening Reminder that the Shuffleboard evening will take place on Saturday, 21st February 2015 from 7.30 p.m. in the village hall - the cost of ticket and details in the January Newsletter.

Easyfundraising. If anyone still has online shopping to do for Christmas, and hasn't yet signed up to the Easyfundraising scheme, the Village Committee would be most grateful if you could do so now, so that we receive a donation from them on any purchase you make, all without any extra cost to you. The money raised in this way, since we first brought this scheme to your attention, amounts to £286.97, which more than covers the cost of all the new cutlery we bought this year, for use at the Harvest and Halloween suppers etc. Your support will be most helpful and much appreciated. **Val Belton, Treasurer**

Forthcoming Events

Mon 1 Dec	7.30pm	Play at the CFT 'An Ideal Husband '	Chichester
Tue 2 Dec	6.00pm	The George Christmas Tree Lighting	The George
	7.00pm	PCC Meeting	The Vicarage
	7.30pm	Village Committee Meeting	Village Hall
Sun 7 Dec	10.30am	Family Service, Coffee & Produce	St Mary's
Sun 14 Dec	10.30am	Family Service	St Mary's
Sat 20 Dec	10.30am	Church Decoration	St Mary's
	5.00pm	Children's Christmas Party	Village Hall
Sun 21 Dec	10.30am	Family Service	St Mary's
	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service, followed by Mince Pies & Mulled Wine	St Mary's Village Hall
Wed 24 Dec	10.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion	St Mary's
Thu 25 Dec	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service	St Mary's
Sun 28 Dec	10.30am	Family Service	St Mary's

Please send your articles for the January 2015 Newsletter to **Bob Baynes at Court Leet Cottage, or preferably by e mail to baynes755@btinternet.com by the last week of December 2014.** All your articles of interest to the Village are welcome.

With very many thanks, and a Happy New Year to you all, **Bob Baynes**