

Happy New Year.

We kick off with morning worship on *Sunday 1 January* at 10am with Holy Communion and the baptism of two children from families in the parish who live overseas: Eddie, from western Australia, the grandson of David and Claire Bolton and Damian, from New York, the grandson of Tony and Sue Read.

That will be our only service on New Year's Day but on *Sunday 8 January*, Epiphany, there will be Holy Communion at 8am (All Saints') and 10.30am (St. Luke's), All Age Worship to celebrate the coming of the Wise Men at 10am and Evening Prayer at 6pm.

Around them all our usual activities across the week come to life after their Christmas and New Year slumber; starting dates are:

- Tuesday 3rd 10am Toddlers
Saturday 7th
8.30am Men's Breakfast
(next: 4th February)
Wednesday 11th
12 noon Village Cafe
Friday 13th
4pm JAM Club
5.30pm Friday Club
Saturday 14th 10.30am Rainbows

Week of Prayer

Mid January is the time each year which is set aside for a Week of Prayer by churches for their own unity and for our nation. As well as daily themes for prayer which we will use at all our various activities there will be a service at All Saints' on Sunday 22 January at 4pm jointly sponsored with Marcham Baptist Church to which all churchgoers in the parish should be receiving personal invitations. All are welcome. Our speaker will be Canon David Winter, a well known author and regular broadcaster.

Local Skills

Reactions to the renovation of the porch at All Saints' Church and the provision of a ramp giving ease of access to wheel chairs and buggies have been overwhelmingly positive. The ramp rises just 3" because the large outside doors and doorsteps have been raised, by the same amount, and the footpath outside levelled. The (nearly) permanent puddle outside the doors has now gone. New inner, glazed, doors are being fitted. One pleasing aspect is that the work has been done by Martin Davis with Bill Pointer's skills employed in making the new inner door frame. Thank you to them both.

Needs elsewhere.

Our commitment as a church to support *Send-a-cow* continues and recent talks elsewhere have raised further funds, including £750 (for one cow) at a local school. Publicity about *Send-a-cow* is displayed at church and we look forward to further opportunities to raise funds in the new year.

Alongside *Send-a-cow* we hope to develop growing links with *Agape* a charity working with schools and the community in Chisinau, the capital city of Moldova. The founder and leader of *Agape*, Nicu Bocaneala, was at All Saints' in November and met the Church Council. Graeme Innes spent a gap year with *Agape* and told of his experiences on Sunday 18 December before a return visit over Christmas to Chisinau and the nearby town of Ialoveni; others plan to join him there for the new year. Moldova was part of the Soviet Union and its population is a mixture of people from Romanian and Russian backgrounds leading to ethnic and language divisions. It is described as the poorest country in eastern Europe.

The giving at All Saints' and St. Luke's Churches this Christmas is being divided equally between these two charities with their special ability to meet people's needs in Africa and in Europe.

Here and there.

One of our church members describes a recent trip overseas. *Pamela Shirras* writes: "It is wonderful to have a reason to go to Tenerife in the winter and get a blast of sunshine and warm sea air. The English speaking church, of which I am one of the trustees, is about three years old and growing fast. Most members are new Christians, some living there all year round, some 'swallows' (six months here, six months there). They are outgrowing their premises (three shop spaces) and looking for a building plot—as well as seeking to tell more people about Jesus Christ. Church members visit in hospital every week and can talk to any who speak English, hear about their needs and pray with them."

All Saints' Marcham with St. Luke's Garford

Sundays 10am and 6pm
Wednesdays 10am

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