

# crosstalk

Christmas...



St. Mary's Church Cogges  
*making Christ known by word and deed...*

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## The new Crosstalk

Welcome to the new Crosstalk newsletter. Much of our attention here in St Mary's over the past year has focussed on developing links into the Parish of Cogges.



The new Crosstalk magazine is one small further attempt at connecting with our community. We aim to review all the positive activities of the previous months in the Parish and look forward to the many events that we hope will interest you.

Our aim is to produce the magazine three times a year, before Christmas, at Easter and at the beginning of the Autumn term. I hope you like the picture gallery in this edition capturing such events as the retirement of Blake School's head teacher, Tim Massey; Infant Sports Day at Blake School and the Scouts first meeting in the Church Centre.

This year we really want to be part of your Christmas celebrations and have geared many of our church activities around what we hope will help you have the most meaningful and complete Christmas yet.

Let me leave you with a few words for reflection as we come close to the Christmas season.

I believe God comes as a companion this Christmas to join us on the road, to listen to our story and to help us realize that life can be more than walking in circles but moving towards the house of peace and love. In the great mystery

of Christmas, the one thing that God wants us to know is that in the birth of his son, Jesus Christ, there is no need to walk alone through life. The God of love who gave us life, sent his Son to be with us in all our struggles – in all the good things that life brings. Here is another Christmas that brings joyful stress or maybe just stress often accompanied by anxiety. Christmas is another opportunity to accept the renewed invitation not to be afraid, not to be anxious and to let Him – whose love is greater than our hearts and minds can comprehend – be our companion.

I want to invite you personally to come and celebrate the full meaning of Christmas with us in St. Mary's.

Andrew Sweeney

### The Clergy Team



**Vicar:**  
The Revd  
Andrew Sweeney



**Curate:**  
The Revd  
James Howson



**NSM:**  
The Revd  
Tim Edge



**Associate Minister:**  
The Revd  
Penny Joyce



Retirement presentation for Mr Tim Massey, Headteacher the Blake School, 1998 - 2003



First meeting of the Scout Group in Cogges Church Centre, Summer 2003

## 900th year celebrations



St Mary's Church, Cogges, was founded around nine hundred years ago which coincides with the completion of the restoration of the church roof – we have much to celebrate!

On the weekend of January 24th 2004 we want to mark these important events in a special way.

On Saturday 24th January at 8pm in St Mary's, Cogges, Dr John Blair, an expert in the medieval history of Cogges, will give an illustrated lecture on Medieval Cogges. The evening will include some light refreshments in the Parish Centre. Tickets will cost £2.50 (concessions will also be available) from the Parish Office

on 01993 779613.

On Sunday 25th January at 7.30pm in St Mary's, Cogges, Oxfordshire's West Gallery Choir, 'The Christminster Singers', will perform a concert of their robust and rhythmic music. I've heard them once before and can tell you that a real treat is in store. The evening will include some light refreshments in the church. Tickets cost £5 (concessions will be available) from the Parish Office on 01993 779613.

Andrew Sweeney

## NOT JUST 'BRICKS AND MORTAR' BUT 'BRICKS AND MORTALS'

As we see the renovation of the church roof of our beautiful church at St Mary's Cogges, it is worth a grateful reflection on the efforts of all those both in the church and community who have done so much to raise funds to enable this renovation to take place. It is therefore of great value to reflect with gratitude on the generous assistance provided by a number of local and national Trusts, one of which is the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (' HCPT' ).

Founded in 1953, the HCPT mission has remained the same: to assist local communities to keep their church or chapel open as a place of worship.

Despite receiving no money from church or state, the Trust distributes grants and loans to around 350 churches and chapels of many denominations in England and Wales.

In recent years, with the erosion of local amenities and closures of facilities such as the school, the shop, the pub, the post office and the bank - churches have remained of key importance within the local community and could be seen as part of the ' mortar' which can cement community life.

HCPT, through the generous support of individual and corporate donors, charitable trusts and legacies, awards grants and *interest free* loans for

essential fabric repairs. Indeed, since 1953, awards totalling over £23 million have been made by this Trust, which remains determined to continue its resolve of ' Keeping Churches Alive' . Hence, a value to bricks also aspires to bring a value to *mortals!*

### How can we help?

Anyone interested in becoming a friend of HCPT, sending a donation or making bequests please contact the HCPT on 020 7600 6090 or via [www.historicchurches.org.uk](http://www.historicchurches.org.uk)

D. E. Gittelson B.A.(HONS) PGCE

## gallery



The Blake School, Infant Sports Day, Summer 2003

# DISCOVERY DAYS



## 'Discovery Days' on Madley Park

Hi my name is Penny Joyce and I have been asked to write an article for the magazine to introduce myself to you.

I have come to Witney via East Oxford where I was working for St Clements Church, in what is the only Urban Priority area in the inner ring of Oxford. I enjoyed my student responsibility and got to be quite a dab hand at making the food I cooked for 25 expand to 30 when International students 'brought friends' around! I love being part of the local community and enjoyed being involved in starting up a drop in centre and alcohol free bar for 11-18 year olds in the St Clements area. So now I am part of a new community,

having moved onto Madley Park. It is a funny ever changing and expanding environment, and yes, sometimes it really does feel that I am living on a building site!! Funnily enough I have cabbages growing in the middle of my lovely turfed lawn, which is because prior to the estate being built, the site was a 'pick your own centre' and cabbages obviously featured, and are making a bid to get their land back!

What a great opportunity to model and create 'community' on the estate as new people move in. Indeed that is my new job, to build community on Madley Park. If we look historically at the position of churches in village life they are always at the centre of the community. My desire is to see community built on the estate here where I live, just across from Cogges.

How will that happen you ask? Well firstly The Bronze Barrow Schools (Madley Brook and Springfield Schools) have designated a room as a 'Community Room' and from it every Wednesday a group of us have set up assorted community activities. After dropping of children at school parents can come in for fresh coffee and croissants. Then at 10am there is a Mums and Toddlers group open to anyone on the estate. At 11 you can drop in for coffee and cake, and at 12

we have arranged a light lunch (soup and ploughman's style) with a guest speaker, for anyone who is around and wants to meet up. We have found that there are people working from home, and the newly retired who like to pop in. I have called these Wednesdays 'Discovery Days' ... discover your neighbour, discover the new community ...discover.... well who knows what!. Do come along and join us at any time. We also have plans to use houses for '...chill out and chat with Chardonnay..' events on a Wednesday night !

We are also planning community events such as Family Craft days, and also open meetings with the people such as the planning department, to find out what the developments are going to be for the residents. It is a very exciting project. I have really enjoyed meeting new people and look forward to meeting you. Do pop in and say hello at 7, Barleyfield Way, opposite the Wimpey Show houses, or ring 01993 772544 if you have comments or suggestions to make. You could also email me at penny@discoverydays.co.uk

See you then...Penny

NEW YEAR PARTY

Everyone in the parish who is retired, housebound or disabled is invited to a NEW YEAR PARTY on Saturday 10 January 2004 at 3pm in Cogges Church Centre.

If you would like to come please complete the form below and return it to Mrs Kathleen Townsend, 102 Newland or telephone her on 704035. Transport can be provided.

I/We should like to come to the NEW YEAR PARTY

Name .....

Address.....

Telephone Number .....

I shall/shall not need transport

In the October issue we mentioned 200 goats were bought for Burundi – so far money has been given to buy 1930 goats!!

**Cogges Senior Group** will meet at 2.30pm on Friday 12 December in Cogges Church Centre for a Christmas Programme including Carols and Tea – all over 50s welcome.

I would like to thank everybody who sponsored me for the bike ride I did in June for Kids2Care4 in Andalusia. In total I raised just under £1100, gift aid has increased that by at least £200. I was one of thirty riders who raised in excess of £38,000 in total. The monies raised will be used on projects to help disadvantaged children.

David Eaton

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR DECEMBER - cut out this sheet if you wish, to keep on your fridge or noticeboard.

All services are at St Mary's Cogges (except Cogges Senior Group and Carols in the Barn)

Mon	Tues	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sunday
1	2	3 9pm Taize	4	5	6	7 8am Holy Communion 11am Morning Worship and Baptism 6pm Evening Prayer
8	9	10 9pm Compline	11	12 2.30pm Cogges Senior Group Cogges Church Centre	13	14 8am Holy Communion 11am Holy Communion 6pm Christingle
15	16	17 7pm Carols in the Barn Manor Farm Museum 9pm Taize	18 7pm Carols in the Barn Manor Farm Museum	19	20	21 8am Holy Communion 11am Morning Worship
22	23	24 7pm Carol Service 11pm First Communion of Christmas	25 8am Holy Communion 11am Family Worship	26	27	28 8am Holy Communion 11am Morning Worship 6pm Evening Prayer