

S^t NICOLAS



JANUARY, 1976

St. Nicolas CHURCH NEWS

Volume 1 - Number 1 + + + + + January, 1976

Priest-in-charge: Reverend ROLAND C. DESCH, The Vicarage, Chute
Telephone: Chute Standen 639

A NEW YEAR AND A NEW EVENT !

Having discontinued our support of the Deanery Magazine, the PCC has authorised our plunging out into a new venture of our own.

WE DO NOT want to become parochially minded but WE DO want to share in the news and interest of the Diocese and Church at large: but the old Deanery Magazine had little scope, was always late in coming out, and was increasingly expensive.

This first copy is being distributed free to every household for the month of January. After that we invite you to become a subscriber at 3p a copy. Your distributor of the Chute Chronicle will ask you if you would like St. Nicolas' Church News as well, or whether you wish only for the Chronicle.

Thirty-six pence a year is not much for the Church News. Why not give 50p and have both? Keep this first issue - who knows it may be a valuable first edition in years to come !

About our cover. We are greatly indebted for this to Mr. Roy Beddington. St. Nicolas is, of course, an historical figure. He was Bishop of Myra but after his death it is said that sailors came and stole his body and brought it back to the Italian seaport of Bari on the Adriatic coast where it rests in the Cathedral to this day.

Many legends are associated with this much beloved saint who became the patron saint of sailors, merchants, and above all, children. He is frequently shown with three money bags - remembered still in the three golden balls outside a pawn-

broker's shop - for the following reason - -

As a Bishop he used to like wandering about amongst his people after dark, unrecognised and unnoticed. One night when passing an open window he heard the sound of children crying. On making enquiries he found the house belonged to a widower who was bankrupt and in the clutches of an avaricious moneylender. The wretched man was so overwhelmed by his troubles that he was about to sell his three daughters as slaves. Nicolas, having heard the story, went back to his house, bundled up all his money in three bags and returned quietly to throw them through the open window at the feet of the girls. He became known to children on the continent as Santa Claus - such a much nicer name than Father Christmas - and a real person instead of the commercial figure of our shops at Christmas time !

All the objects round our cover design are of the home and the parish. See how many you can identify and work out their association.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY SERVICE

Third Sunday in month

I have long been uneasy about how little is provided in the way of Church worship for the children in Chute. Talking with one or two parishoners, I would like to introduce again a Family Service at 10.30 a.m. on the third Sunday in each month. I know this reduces Matins to twice a month (except when there is a fifth Sunday) but taking into account our small numbers I think we must try and cover as many needs as possible. Please study the list of services on the back page of this magazine.

CONFIRMATION

There is to be a Confirmation for the Deanery at Shalbourne next March. It is difficult to arrange an evening suitable for all so I propose to replace the sermon at Evensong from 18th Jan. with a talk suitable for Confirmation preparation for all, young and not so young, which perhaps will not come amiss even to those who have been confirmed some years. Please make use of this occasion and if you wish to go forward for confirmation let me know. I will arrange transport from Chute Forest or Conholt for anyone who requires it. Just ask me.

PLOUGH SUNDAY We shall again be observing Plough Sunday this year on 11th January. The plough will be brought into church for a service of blessing as before at 10.30 a.m. The preacher will be Bishop Kenneth Lamplugh, assistant Bishop of Winchester. I am very grateful to the Bishop for accepting my invitation to stay Saturday night with us, celebrate on Sunday morning at 8.30 and then preach at the Plough Sunday service.

Not all of you will know that Winchester is very specially linked with this parish. The right of presentation of an incumbent is shared by the Dean and Chapter of Winchester Cathedral alternately with the descendants of the Fowle Family. The Dean and Chapter are also responsible for structural repairs to the chancel of St. Nicolas' Church.

At the morning service the Bishop will also dedicate the hassocks the ladies have been making for use in the church. These really are beginning to mount in number now. My wife has certain ideas about the next batch but I will leave her to explain this to the working party first !!

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL Last year I was invited to act as one of the honorary Chaplains to the Cathedral during the summer months. The Chaplains take turns in acting as guides and being on duty to answer questions or help any visitor who may approach them. The duty generally works out about once every three or four weeks and I have always found it very well worthwhile. In the course of a day I have had as many as nine different nationalities amongst individual visitors whilst sometimes it is a party of school children or overseas students.

Some of you will know that groups of ladies also staff the canteen caravan, available for refreshments in the cloisters. A number from Chute helped in this way last year and, I believe, also found it very interesting and quite fun even if hard work ! My wife has been asked by the Dean's wife if she can bring groups again this summer. The duty is from 11 am. to 5 pm. and although four is sufficient if it were possible to raise six a time it would allow two to slip away to do some shopping in the town if they so wished. The dates are as follows:

MONDAYS -	3rd May	2nd August
	7th June	6th September
	5th July	

Would any lady in the parish who would like to help let either me or my wife know - please. Transport is, of course, provided as I am on duty those days myself.

"SO YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS ?" You may know of this programme on the radio. So often with problems it's a help to meet and talk them over. Sometimes it's just a help to meet and talk even if you've got no problems! This very often is so in a widely scattered parish like ours when it is easy to feel very cut off from other people.

Two members from Chute Forest have recently discussed this with me and asked whether it might be possible to start a little

CANDLEMAS

I HEARD THE CRY and looked, to see the old man standing
there,

The little group of pilgrims gathering round his
upraised hands.

Across the Temple courts the words came resonant, clear,
'To be a light!' again he cried, and startled the bands
Of kites, sombre sentinels, foreboding, grim and still
Upon the walls, so that they rose and soared into the sky.
All now was light, as if the dark shadows that had hung
upon mens lives until

The child came, lifted at Simeon's cry.
Light on the circling hills! Light and grace,
As she took the child, on the mother's face,
And in the old man's eyes, now so bright and keen,
And from the sacrificial flame a gleam
On the bronze vessel in the priest's hands.
And suddenly there was laughter in my heart, ringing:
singing! I knew not why;

Only that weariness had lifted
And light came flooding, bringing
Peace; and guilt and sin did fly.

house group meeting, perhaps once a month, on a week night and finishing with a very short informal service.

To see whether there is any need to be met in this way anyone in Chute Forest is invited to come along to 'Newlands' - where Mr. and Mrs. Stilwell live - on Tuesday, 13th January at 7.30 p.m. This would be for just an hour followed by a cup of coffee.

The Bishop writes —

As 1976 begins could I ask you a question ? Yes, you Sir in Dorset; and you, Madam, in Wiltshire and your son working in Salisbury.

What sort of person are you ? Well, your passport tells you. Here's mine. The name - George Reindorp; Occupation - Bishop of Salisbury; Country of residence - England; Height - 5' 10½"; Colour of eyes - brown; Colour of hair - grey; Special peculiarities - broken nose ! But that's not the real me. That doesn't tell you what sort of person I really am, what I'm really like. That's why I ask you this question. "What are you really like?"

Does it matter ?
Indeed it does. It matters to yourself, to your family and those you love. It matters to your workmates, to your country and above all it matters to God. He created you; He made you a unique and special person with gifts and opportunities which you alone have the ability to use or misuse. And Christ thinks the world of you, enough to die for you. He has done it.

That is why in Christ's name the Archbishops of Canterbury and York dared to ask you these questions. What sort of society do we want ? What sort of people do we need to be in order to achieve it ? Your answer is very important because you are the

A PRAYER FOR 1976

God bless our nation,
Guide our leaders.
Give us your power,
That we may live cheerfully,
Care for each other
And be just in all we do.

man in the street, the person who forms public opinion. You count.

I want to ask you another question. Do you mean what you say ? You do ? Well how often - how many thousands of times - have you said the Lord's Prayer ? How often have you said: "Thy Kingdom come". Did you mean it ? For Christ's Kingdom is one of right relationships. (From the Sarum Link) X

NEITHER A LICK NOR A PROMISE

Whom did the Bishop of Southwark think he was kidding when he suggested that a Communist Government would change the ugly features of permissiveness in England and what sort of ablutio had he in mind ? What profit for us to be rid of perverts and left with the putrefying sludge of clandestine KGB activities ? A system that thrives on human weaknesses to foster its sabotage in the West is not voluntarily going to deprive itself of its main source of recruitment. Removing the opportunity to sin does not make us more moral people.

Morality, according to Lenin, was defined as "whatever serves to advance communism". There is no evidence to show that Russia has abandoned this principle. We all know what it means in practice for Jews, intellectuals, scientists, artists, ethnic minorities and Christians who criticise the State. When Brezhnev left America on June 27, 1972 after talks on détente with President Nixon he remarked: "the Soviet Union remains determined to support all revolutionary forces in our time . . . we must be prepared for an intensification of the struggle". Does the Bishop support the activities of Department V ?

(The Editor, Sarum Link)

SEASONAL SINGING

A carol party toured the two parishes before Christmas. It was impossible to cover every household in the two evenings but we are very grateful for the support given and for the hospitality offered ! The collection was equally divided between the Church of England Childrens' Society and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. It amounted to £23.70 which was a really splendid total. Again very many thanks to all concerned.

CALENDAR OF SERVICES for JANUARY

- 1st The Circumcision of Christ. 7.30 am. Holy Communion
- 4th Second Sunday after Christmas
10.30 am Parish Communion 6 pm Evensong
- 6th Feast of the Epiphany 7.30 am Holy Communion
- 11th First Sunday after Epiphany Plough Sunday
8.30 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Service of the Blessing of the Plough
Preacher: The Right Revd. K.E. Lamplugh
Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Winchester
6 pm Evensong
- 18th Second Sunday after Epiphany
8.30 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Family Service 6 pm Evensong
- 25th Third Sunday after Epiphany
8.30 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Matins 6 pm Evensong

And for your information - Roman Catholic Services

PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Alexandra Road, Andover

MASS on Sundays - 8 am. 9.30 am. 10.30 am. 6.30 pm.

Weekdays - 7.30 am. and Friday 8 pm.

Confessions, Saturday - 3 pm. to 4 pm. 6 pm. - 7.30 pm.

+ + + + + + + + +

Another R.C. Church is on the Collingbourne Road out of
Ludgershall

MASS on Sundays - - - - 9.30 am.

Confessions before Mass

Tuesdays evenings at - - 6.45 pm.

Holidays of Obligation - - 6.45 pm.