

Services & events this week

Sunday 16th Nativity & Christingle 10 am Hatherden

Christingle service 10.30 Weyhill, 3.00 pm Charlton

Carol Service 4 pm Penton, 6 pm Smannell & Tangley

Monday 17th

Messy church Hatherden 3 – 5 pm

Carols around the Tree 7.30 pm Charlton

Wednesday 19th Holy Communion 10 am Tangley

Services & events next week

Friday 21st Stable Concert 12.30 the Fairground
6.30 Carols around the village in Hatherden & 8.30
The Old Bell & Crown

Sunday 23rd Christmas Songs of Praise 10.30
Weyhill, normal 4th Sunday services in all other
churches

Monday 24th see the website or separate sheet in
your church.

Readings This Week

Zeph 3 14 – end Phil 4 4 – 7 Luke 3 7 - 18
Canticle Isa 12 2 – 6 or Ps 146 4 - end

Next Week

Mic 5 2 – 5a Canticle Magnificat or Ps 80 1- 8
Heb 10 5 – 10 Luke 1 39 – 45 [46 – 55]

In your Prayers please pray for.....

Our clergy and their families as we enter this special time of year.

Those less fortunate than ourselves may they find peace in God's love

Our leaders in government may they settle into an agreement that is suitable for all.

Pastrow & Community Diary Dates



All Christmas services are on the website
<http://www.pastrowbenefice.org.uk>

If you don't have access you are welcome to give
Jude a call on 07999 352585 to find out
information. Remember you are most welcome
to attend services across the benefice a warm
welcome will await you.

Notes from Pastrow Admin

All quite at the moment but look out at the
Christmas services for exciting events for the new
year.

Words of Encouragement

By James Cuniffe

The First Christmas Robin.

When Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, there was nowhere for them to stay, so Jesus was born in a stable.

Stables are cold and draughty, so Joseph carefully lit a small fire to keep Mary and her baby warm. Jesus slept safely in the manger warmed by the fire, but, as the night grew darker, the stable became colder and the flames flickered lower. Soon all that was left of the fire was a dull glow.

Perhaps the little brown bird was cold or maybe it understood what was happening and wanted to help. Mary heard it flutter down onto the floor. Settling close to the ashes, the little brown bird flapped its wings to fan the embers.

Suddenly the fire burst back into life. Mary smiled, but then to her sorrow she saw that the flames had singed the brown feathers on the little bird's chest and they had turned bright red. 'Thank you, little bird, she said. 'May God bless you forever!'

As a reward for its kindness, the robin has kept its beautiful red feathers and still brings warmth and cheerfulness to many people at Christmas time!

This legend reminds me of my father who brought warmth and cheerfulness to us all, especially at Christmas, by singing the song: 'When the red red robin comes bob bob bobbing along'

In this Advent period remember... Warmth and kindness can brighten the season-just like the robin. Be thankful for someone who has helped you this week. How might you cheer someone up, especially someone in need?

Thank God for the bright winter robins bringing warmth and cheerfulness to us all.