

# THE LADYGROVE CHURCH

Issue 130



## MAGAZINE

### December 2017

The Ladygrove Church meets at the  
Ladygrove Community Centre, Tamar Way  
every Sunday at 10am

*Blessed by God to Be a Blessing to Others*

[www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk](http://www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk)

Minister: The Revd Hugh Boorman Tel: 819036

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## Thank you to all our contributors this month:

Hugh Boorman, Bungokho Rural Development Centre,  
Didcot Foodbank

It would be great to see your name here next time!

The **January magazine** will be available on Sunday 7th January and the deadline for articles to go in it is **Sunday 31st December**

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

# Thought for the Month

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## Coming to My Senses

What would you say is your favourite food? I imagine not many of us would say lettuce.

On the recent mindfulness course that I attended in Dorset, the community didn't say grace before we started a meal. Instead we were invited to pause and reflect mid-meal. On the first day, to build on the session that we had just done, we were asked to be silent for a couple of minutes and to eat our food mindfully, ie slowly, savouring the smell, the texture and the taste.

At that stage of the meal all I had on my plate was a bit of lettuce. So I dutifully picked a bit up with my fork and proceeded to practise some mindfulness on it. Now, I don't know if I just happened to be lucky but as I slowly bit into that piece of pale green, water-filled vegetation, I was blown away by the



flavour that hit my taste buds. It really did taste very good. In the end I spent far more than two minutes, thinking and enjoying that lettuce leaf – something that normally would disappear down my gullet as quickly as possible while my fork searched out something more exciting.



Taking the time to appreciate my food more, rather than eating as quickly as I can, was just one of the lessons I learnt from my four days away.

I guess that Christmas can create a bit of a paradox for us. We fill our homes and shops, and even our streets, with tantalizing sights and smells and sounds and tastes to excite our senses. But in so doing, we risk being so busy, or perhaps even stressed, that we fail to take in all that the festive environment we've created promises to offer us.

Taking time to allow our eyes to take in the colours and patterns of the Christmas lights or our mouths to experience the textures and flavours of a particular dish might slow us down and stop us

doing other things. But it does allow us to really enjoy more of the beauty and creativity that we surround ourselves with. As is often said, less is more.

And while we take time, savouring so much, perhaps we can pause in all the business to focus on Emmanuel – God with us, present in the here and now of every moment. As the Psalm says, "Taste and see that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8).

**Hugh Boorman**  
**Minister of the Ladygrove Church**



# **The Word**

**a Christmas Poem by Godfrey Rust**

**Sometimes  
words are not enough  
for everything we have to say.  
Words can't beat like a heart.  
A verb won't sweat or bleed.  
A noun doesn't get thirsty.  
An adjective cannot feel pain.  
Something gets lost  
in translation into words.  
So when God  
needed to express  
a love deeper than words  
he used body language  
of a kind not known on earth before.**

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## Did You Notice?

When you woke up on Friday, 1st December, did you notice anything different? No, neither did I! But I dare say that on that first Christmas most of the world was oblivious to the fact that the Messiah had been born.

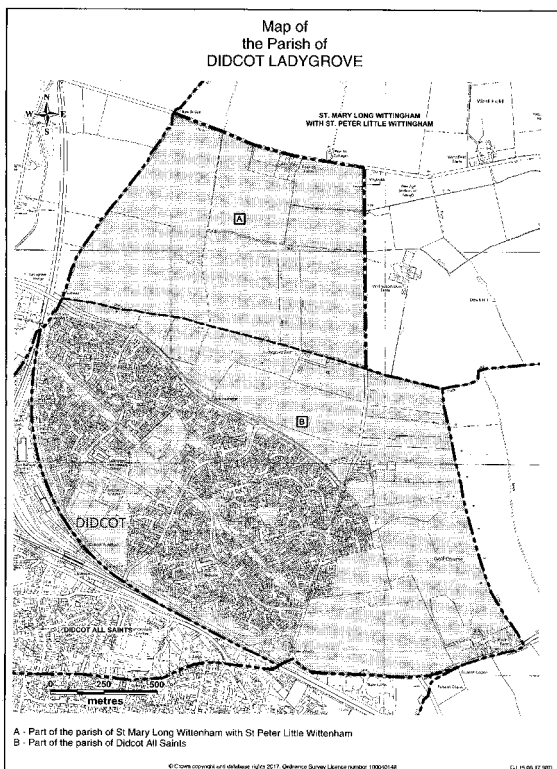
However, something did happen on 1st December – granted, not so life-changing or earth shattering as the birth of the Son of God but, hopefully, a little exciting for us, all the same. The Church of England officially declared that we are the Parish of Didcot Ladygrove and have the cure of souls (responsibility and care) for everyone living on, working on or passing through the Ladygrove Estate, the North East Didcot Development and the housing development which will eventually happen on the land between Abingdon Road and the Hadden Hill Golf Club. That calls for a celebration!

However, with all the preparations for Christmas, it feels sensible to leave it until we start the New Year. So our morning service on **Sunday, 7th January 2018** will be especially celebratory. The Venerable Judy French, Archdeacon of Dorchester, will be coming to pray for God's blessing upon us (the Bishop is on sabbatical) and Southern Counties Baptist Association will hopefully be sending a representative from their team to join us.

We will also have our **shared lunch** on that day, rather than on the third Sunday - a good opportunity to get rid of those final Christmas left-overs, maybe!

Sunday, 7th January is also the first Sunday after Epiphany and the day when churches often reflect on Jesus' baptism before he was led by the Holy Spirit into the Wilderness to consider his vocation. Hopefully, the Spirit is not going to lead us into the Wilderness but becoming a parish and getting ever closer to the commencement of building of the Didcot Development does seem an appropriate time to ask ourselves again about what church God wants us to be. So we're proposing to have a **church meeting** as we enjoy our shared lunch together looking to the future.

Please do try to make it if you can.



A yellow scroll is the central focus, with a green pine branch and a red bauble in the top right corner. The scroll is unrolled, showing text on its surface.

# Christmas Services

Saturday 9th December - 3pm  
Christmas Messy Church

Sunday 17th December - 10am  
Christingle Service All Together

Sunday 17th December - 7pm  
Carol Service by Glow-Stick

Sunday 24th December - 4pm  
Crib Service

Sunday 24th December - 11:30pm  
Midnight Anglican Communion Service

Monday 25th December - 10am  
Christmas Day Baptist Communion Service All Together  
(Bring your pressies to show Hugh!)



# December Prayer Diary

Feel free to make suggestions of topics that we can add and, in the future, if you would like prayer for something particular on a specific date, whatever it might be, please let one of the editors know and we can add it to this prayer diary.

## Friday, 1st December

- Please pray for those working in retail.
- People who live in Thurne View.

## Saturday, 2nd December

- Please pray for our community as so many people feel the pressure to spend more than they can afford.
- People who live in Derwent Avenue.

## Sunday, 3rd December

- As we move into Advent, let's pray for God's blessing on all the preparations that we will be making for the Christmas holidays and that we won't lose sight of the true meaning of this season.
- People who live in Orwell Drive.

## Monday, 4th December

- Please pray for those troubled by past events.
- People living in Humber Close.

## Tuesday, 5th December

- Please pray for God's blessing on All Saints' School Year One's Christingle Service taking place at All Saints' Church this evening.
- People living in your road.

## Wednesday, 6th December

- Please pray for those working in the education system.
- People living in Loddon Drive.

## Thursday, 7th December

- Please pray for Kitchen Table, our 20's-30's group, meeting at Sarah and Vaughn's this evening.
- People living in Yare Close.

## Friday, 8th December

- Please pray for our mission partner, Sharon Jones, as she prepares to return to Lima, Peru after Christmas to continue her work with Buena Tierra.
- People living in Calder Way.

Saturday, 9th December

- Please pray for our Messy Church meeting this afternoon.
- People living in Nene Grove.

Sunday, 10th December

- Please pray for the Holy Land, that has known so little peace throughout its history.
- People living in Welland Avenue.

Monday, 11th December

- Please pray for those for whom life feels hopeless.
- People living in Bure Lane.

Tuesday, 12th December

- Please pray for the Didcot Foodbank - the volunteers who run it and the families who needs its support.
- People living in Wensum Drive.

Wednesday, 13th December

- Please pray for our Wednesday and Thursday Parent/Carer and Toddler Groups as they have their Christmas parties today and tomorrow.
- People living in Arndale Beck.

Thursday, 14th December

- Please pray for David and Dorothy McMillan, our BMS Mission partners in Amsterdam. See [www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com](http://www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com) for their latest news.
- People living in Trent Road.

Friday, 15th December

- Please pray for God's blessing upon our music group at this busy time.
- People living in Washford Glen.

Saturday, 16th December

- Please pray for those troubled by sleeping disorders.
- People living in Verlam Grove.

Sunday, 17th December

- Please pray for God's blessing on all who come to our Christingle and Carol Services today.
- People living in Darcey Lode.

Monday, 18th December

- Please pray for the county, district and town councils trying to meet the varied needs of our communities with limited resources.
- People living in Gelt Burn.

### Tuesday, 19th December

- Please pray for all those training for ministry within the church and for all those who assist them in the vocational process.
- People living in Churnet Close.

### Wednesday, 20th December

- Please pray for the Bungokho Rural Development Centre, our mission partners in Mbale, Uganda. See [www.bungokhoruraldevelopment.com](http://www.bungokhoruraldevelopment.com) for more information.
- People living in Westwater Way.

### Thursday, 21st December

- Please pray for those working in the various utility industries over the Christmas period.
- People living in Torridge Drive.

### Friday, 22nd December

- Please pray for safety on the roads during this busy season.
- People living in Roding Way.

### Saturday, 23rd December

- At this time of increased pressures and expectations, please pray for protection on relationships,
- People living in Dearne Place.

### Sunday, 24th December

- Please pray for all the families who come to our Crib Service this afternoon and those who come to our Midnight Communion Service.
- People living in Synderford Close.

### Monday, 25th December

- Please pray for those who feel so alone today.
- People living in Halse Water.

### Tuesday, 26th December

- Please pray for Pastor Gay and the church in Laguna, our mission partners in the Philippines.
- People living in Exe Close.

### Wednesday, 27th December

- Please pray for those working in the emergency services.
- People living in Cam Close.

### Thursday, 28th December

- Please pray for those battling long-term or terminal illnesses.
- People living in Evenlode Drive.

### Friday, 29th December

- Please pray for those who are separated from their loved ones over this holiday.
- People living in Tyburn Glen.

### Saturday, 30th December

- Please pray for those of our church family who have moved to other communities of faith.
- People living in Darent Place.

### Sunday, 31st December

- Please pray for those who are afraid of what the new year will bring.
- People living in Ottery Way.

### January

#### Monday, 1st January

- Please pray for those who start this year affected by financial worries.
- People living in Ockley Brook.

#### Tuesday, 2nd January

- Please pray for those affected by memory loss.
- People living in Kew Win.

#### Wednesday, 3rd January

- Please pray for those involved in the publication of our local magazines and newspapers that they might be proclaimers of good news.
- People living in Penpont Water.

### Thursday, 4th January

- Please pray for those working in financial institutions.
- People living in Ray Court.

### Friday, 5th January

- Please pray for Didcot TRAIN Youth Project, our local mission partner.
- People living in Jordan Close.

### Saturday, 6th January

- Today is Epiphany. As we think about God revealing himself to the world in Christ, let's pray for a deepening understanding of how we might follow his example.
- People living in Plym Drive.

### Sunday, 7th January

- Please pray for our church fellowship and the mission God calls us to.
- People living in Foudry Close.

# ***Bungokho Rural Development Centre***

*Church Army Africa*  
*“Helping people help themselves”*  
*P.O. Box 385, Mbale, Uganda*  
*Tel: 0771430259 [www.bungokhordc.com](http://www.bungokhordc.com)*  
*Email: [bungokhordc@gmail.com](mailto:bungokhordc@gmail.com)*

*November 18, 2017*

## ***Bungokho Rural Development Centre (BRDC)***

- » **Children’s education:** The nursery and primary schools have a combined number of over 150 children. The nursery section is doing very well unlike the primary which is still struggling with low numbers.
  
- » **Vocational training:**  
This year we had a lower number enrolled in the vocational school. Previously the parishes served as our major catchment area. Last year we did not have the opportunity of hosting the clergy chapter which normally serves as our sensitisation and awareness forum.  
However, we were boosted by the skills students from the diocesan youth department and other NGOs such as Compassion, ACET and Mbale diocese. There were many students sponsored on short intensive courses.  
Many students still struggle with paying school fees. This year we were only able to identify 5 students who were completely unable to pay tuition fees. These are the ones we would like to seek to support with Bursaries. (These are now being supported by The Friends of BRDC.)  
10 days ago we hosted a total of over 50 students for the external examination, (DIT and UBTEB). This week we started the end of year internal exams.

- » **Tree Planting:** This project has taken a lot of Davis's time over the last four months. This follows the discovery of high level conspiracy, fraud and deceit within the host Mbale CAP. They were responsible for distribution of the funds and the central accounts. As a result, we had numerous strategic meetings leading to the relocation of the offices, a change of brand name and the recruitment of new office bearers. (Bob Arnold now has a role in this as he has just been appointed as a director of the new management structure.)
  
- » **Community training:**

The community based training is finally on course after a funding gap. (Friends of Bungokho helped to fund this project during this funding gap.)

There are currently 105 women groups and 7 cluster groups in the new project area. The programme is run by three staff, Jimmy, Beatrice and Immaculate.

The skills training for the youth is underway with 41 youths training in hair dressing, carpentry, poultry vaccination and tailoring.

In addition we had a new concept of child sponsorship where the children are seen as a point of contact in order to reach out to the community. This has proved very successful.
  
- » **Demonstration Farm:**

Over the last two years we have had very poor rains and this has adversely affected our farming activities. Fortunately this second half of 2017 has seen a lot of rain. Our paddy fields are looking great and we are almost starting to lament over the excess down pour. We expect a good yield. The vegetable garden has also done very well being able to provide green veg for student lunches throughout the year.
  
- » **Recruitment 2018:**

In the months of November/December/January we plan to have a massive recruitment drive in order to attract more students. School leavers are being invited to open days when they can come and see what the Centre can offer in the form of skills training.

## Prayer Requests from the Centre

Please pray that under Davis's leadership the Centre may continue to provide quality training in an establishment where Christ is at the centre of all that is done. Prayer and an assembly starts the day for all the students and staff. A Christian Union is very active within the trade school. Jimmy and his team always start their meetings with Prayer, many of the members are Muslims. They are happy to join in this time of sharing that is so central to the staff and the Centre.

Davis and Mary's son Emmanuel (aged 16) continues to improve health wise following a kidney transplant in June 2015, is now back at school and doing well. He does have to see the consultant every few months. The reports are very encouraging in that the medication is keeping him very stable. This is not cheap. However with gifts and regular donations there has, wonderfully, always been enough money in the fund. Davis has said this week that they, as a family, are planning to have Christmas at their home at the Centre. The first time Emmanuel has been back for over 3 years. He is very very excited at the prospect. Please pray that he is able to travel with his family, that his health remains stable and that he remains free from malaria as the family celebrate Christmas together.



# DIDCOT EMERGENCY FOODBANK

providing help to local people when it is needed



Dear Friends,

## **Didcot Emergency Foodbank**

Firstly, a big thank you to the children at the following schools and congregations of local churches who donated items so generously from their Harvest Festivals last month:

Harwell Primary School, Blewbury School, Stephen Freeman School, Long Wittenham School, St Amand's Catholic School, GEMS Didcot Primary, Manor School, All Saints' CE School, Hagbourne Preschool and Primary, Fleet Meadow Baptist, St Michael's Aston Tirrold and the villagers, St Mary the Virgin Upton, Didcot Baptist and its Toddler Group, The Ladgrove Church, St Matthew's Harwell, Didcot Methodist, All Saints Didcot, and St Peter's Didcot.

I suspect that there are others that have slipped through during the very busy sessions we have seen - I sincerely hope I haven't missed out anyone, and my apologies if that is so. Thank you too to the volunteers who have helped with all the checking and storing.



Until the beginning of October we were scraping the proverbial barrel, but thanks to your fantastic help we have good stocks to take us through the winter. Of course, within this some categories aren't so high, and **we will always welcome tinned meat, fish and vegetables and pasta, UHT milk and fruit juice.** We do also thank those who contribute regularly, month in month out.

So what has been happening in the last few months? As you may have heard or read in the media we have continued to see an increase in clients: food for 1150 in 2015, 1546 in 2016, and we passed that figure by the end of September. It looks like our total by the end of the year will be 1900-2000.

What is driving this? Whilst we respect people's privacy and don't require them to tell us why they are there, listening to what they tell us and looking at the agencies that refer them to us, the main reasons are benefit problems, illness, low incomes, addiction, family breakdown and mental health issues, not necessarily in that order.

Having said that, the figures for September and October are lower than during the same time last year; can we hope that a corner has been turned? It may be a little too early to say yet, as Universal Credit has just been rolled out here; where it has been operating for several months the Trussell Trust says that there has been a 30% increase in clients - we'll see.

Thank you again for your help, however large or small.

Best wishes from the Didcot Emergency Foodbank Team.

The Foodbank is situated in the Lower Broadway and is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11am to 1pm.

Contact the Foodbank via Didcot Baptist Church office:  
01235 813187

## December Diary

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 3rd	10am	Advent Sunday Worship All Together Luke 1:26-56 God Comes to His People: God Comes to Mary
Monday, 4th	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road – all welcome
Tuesday, 5th	5.30pm	All Saints' School Year 2's Christingle Service at All Saints' Church – all welcome
	8.00pm	Ladies Christmas Meal at the Wildwood Kitchen
Wednesday, 6th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 7th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Saturday, 9th	3.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday, 10th	10.00am	Anglican Communion with Children's Groups Luke 2:1-7 God Comes to His People: God Comes to Bethlehem
Monday, 11th	8.00pm	Messy Church Debrief and Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Wednesday, 13th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group Christmas Party
	7.45pm	Ladygrove Church Committee Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Thursday, 14th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group Christmas Party
	7.30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Sunday, 17th	10.00am	Worship All Together Christingle Service Luke 2:8-21 God Comes to His People: God Comes to the Shepherds
	7.00pm	Carol Service by Glow-stick

## December Diary

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, 20th	TBA	Men's Christmas Meal at the Sun Koshi
Thursday, 21st	7.30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Sunday, 24th	10.00am	Worship All Together Service Matthew 2:1-23 God Comes to His People: God Comes to the Wise Men
	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Anglican Communion Service John 1:1-14 God Comes to His People
Monday, 25th	10.00am	Christmas Day Worship All Together Baptist Communion Service John 1:1-14 God Comes to His People
Sunday, 31st	10.00am	Worship All Together Unplugged Matthew 6:9-15, Colossians 3:13 Blessed by God to Be a Blessing to Others: The Blessing of Forgiveness

## January 2018 Diary

Thursday, 4th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Sunday, 7th	10.00am	Worship All Together Service including a celebration of our new status as a Parish Mark 1:4-11 The Baptism of Christ – a New Chapter
	12:30pm	Shared Celebratory Lunch
Monday, 8th	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road – all welcome

## Homegroups

There are a number of homegroups meeting throughout the week at various times and venues - some with a specific focus; others more generic.

For more details, speak to Hugh.

Tuesdays	7-8:30pm	RGB youth group for secondary school and sixth formers at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 211868
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the first Tuesday of the month for Bible study Contact Jamie 07881 710171
Thursdays	7:30pm	Kitchen Table for 20's and 30's at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 211868
	8:00pm	Refresh Ladies' Group at Ruth Busby's home Contact Ruth 511622
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the third Thursday of the month for a social gathering Contact Jamie 07881 710171
	8:00pm	Home Group at Ian and Kathryn Sykes' home Contact Ian and Kathryn 850085

## Christmas Messy Church

**Saturday 9th December - 3-5pm**  
Ladygrove Community Centre



Crafts, games, activities and worship for families, followed by tea.  
Offers of help and donations of finger food and cake will be welcome!

Please speak to Hugh for more information.