

## What's on in December St Mary's Church Cogges, & St James, South Leigh

**28th November 6.30pm**  
**Advent Service** St. Mary's Church  
*Carols and readings for Advent*

**8th & 15th December 9pm**  
**Taize Service** St. Mary's Church  
*A quiet reflective service*

**12th December 4pm**  
**Christingle Service** St. Mary's Church  
*A service of light for all the family*

**18th December 4pm**  
**Christingle Service** St. James Church  
*A service of light for all the family*

**19th December 11am**  
**Nativity Tableau** St. Mary's Church  
*An event for the whole family*

**19th December**  
**Carol Service 6pm** St. James Church / **7.30pm** St. Mary's Church  
*The beauty of Christmas in a traditional village setting*

**24th December 4pm**  
**Crib Service** St. Mary's Church  
*Interactive service for families*

**24th December 11pm**  
**First Communion of Christmas** St. Mary's Church  
*A quiet service of Holy Communion to welcome in Christmas Day*

**25th December 8am**  
**Holy Communion** St. Mary's Church  
*BCP Traditional Service*

*Further details available from Parish Office 01993 779613*

**25th December 9.30am**  
**Family Holy Communion** St. James Church  
*Family Communion for Christmas Day*

**25th December 11am**  
**Family Worship** St. Mary's Church  
*A service to get together with family and friends to celebrate Christmas*

**26th December 10am**  
**Joint Benefice Eucharis** St. Mary's Church, North Leigh

### Create 4 Kids...



A really special morning for any children in school years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who want to have a go at making something for Christmas. There will be lots of activities to choose from including glass painting, table decorations, making chocolates or decorating a candle.

**Sat 4th Dec, 10am-12 noon in St Mary's Church, Cogges.** Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets, **£2** per child from Judith (779021) or Lynn (779060) (no charge for accompanying adults).

Payment will be required for materials used ranging from about 60p to £4

## Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2010...



For so many of you, the leaflet with this edition of Cross Talk will be a familiar sight. It is the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal giving each one of us the opportunity once more to make a difference this Christmas to the life of a child. Thousands of children who receive these boxes are orphans; others are homeless, refugees or victims of war and natural disasters. All have a story to tell, and whether a child or teenager, everyone is in huge need. - like the orphaned teenagers in Russia who shelter for warmth in the underground system of pipes for sewage and hot water.

The leaflet explains how Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal works and how to pack a shoebox for a child or teenager with suitable and simple gifts. What the leaflet does not have room to say is that by including notebooks and pens you may well provide the opportunity for a child to attend school and, therefore, provide greater hope for their future. For a child with nothing, receiving a filled shoe box shows them that someone somewhere does care, that they have not been forgotten, that they are loved. It really can make a world of difference.

Please would you consider bringing that love to a child this Christmas?

The Blake School, Madley Brook & Springfield Schools our local community drop-off points so you can take your boxes there any time from 1st November until **Friday 26th November** (The Blake School from 9.00am to 9.15am; Madley Brook & Springfield Schools 8.30am to 3.00pm). Alternatively, the boxes can be taken to St Mary's Cogges at 11.00am on **Sunday 28th November** when there will be a special Shoebox Family Service to which everyone is warmly invited. Finally, the boxes can also be taken to High Street Methodist Church (a Shoebox Sorting Centre) from now until 20th November.

Thank you so much for your support once again. As in the past 6 years, I pray that as a community we will be able to make a significant difference this year.

May God bless you this Christmas.

Ali Laithwaite (01993 773615 for further information).

# crosstalk

## Autumn 2010



St. Mary's Church Cogges  
& St. James the Great South Leigh  
*making Christ known by word and deed...*

Cogges Parish Office, Cogges Church Centre, Church Lane, Witney t: 01993 779613

e: office@coggesparish.com w: www.coggesparish.com

# The 'big society'...

Recent newspaper articles have published research suggesting which groupings in society are the happiest and most content.



It seems that 'happiness begins at 55' according to the study carried out by First Direct. It showed that 53% of those who have hit 55 describe themselves as 'happy' and 'content' rather than 'stressed' and 'self conscious'.

2000 people of a variety of ages were also surveyed by Relate and their findings suggested that the mid-life crisis is arriving earlier 'as loneliness, work and money issues take their toll on well-being'.

Many of this young age group admitted to not having enough time for family or friends because of work commitments. Constant emails on mobile phones were blamed for putting strain on relationships at home and a huge 40 per cent of this age group said they thought their partners had been unfaithful.

Mind you, when you google these subjects you also find that 7 year olds in Northern Ireland are the happiest in UK; Bruce Willis is the happiest he has ever been and women age gracefully!

Another article suggested men are happier than women because, 'everything on their face stays its original colour' and 'you don't have to stop and think

### The Clergy Team



**Vicar:**  
Revd  
Andrew Sweeney



**Curate:**  
Revd  
Andrew Pritchard



**Youth Pastor:**  
Ugo Anagor



**NSM:**  
Revd  
Tim Edge



**Associate Minister**  
- North Leigh:  
Revd Miriam Keen



## Parish News...

<b>Baptisms</b>	
<b>February</b>	Joshua Gasson
<b>March</b>	Lucy Honey
<b>April</b>	Jessica Sinclair-Eckett, Nancy Tustin, Amelia Palmer, Eva Radley, Steven Radley, Alex Lane, Lynn Lane, Harry Lane, Ashley Cox, Andrew Lane
<b>May</b>	Owen Morgan, Harriet Regan, Isabelle Lyon, Gemma Pryor, Libby Dunne
<b>June</b>	Sian Harbinson, Gillian Pagliuca
<b>July</b>	Alannah Clothier, Thomas Paul Clothier
<b>Weddings</b>	
<b>May</b>	Andrew Thiele & Katie Webb, Gregory Murphy & Rachel Mawle
<b>June</b>	Lee Cassidy & Melanie Jephcott
<b>July</b>	David Burkey & Julie Atkin, David Cadywould & Ruth Hockey, Mark Tunstill & Poppy McNeillie
<b>September</b>	Neil Mallon & Gemma Mason
<b>October</b>	Lee Bailey & Amanda Hummiball
<b>Funerals</b>	
<b>February</b>	Grace Gittins, Peggy Szucs
<b>March</b>	Janice Weatherill (ashes), Joyce Pickett (ashes)
<b>April</b>	Caroline Woodcock, Brian Bishop
<b>May</b>	John Sadler
<b>June</b>	Stephen Page, Charles Lilley-Hopkins
<b>August</b>	Harry Lang, Judith Holloway, Joan Phillimore, Margaret Enders
<b>October</b>	Christina White

## Weekly Services at Cogges & South Leigh

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday		
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Morning Prayer
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday		
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary's	11.00am	Holy Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday		
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Family Communion
St Mary's	11.00am	Family Baptism
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Service of the Word
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		
St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Morning Worship
St Mary's	11.00am	Morning Worship

which way to turn a bolt'.

Two of the most powerful experiences in life are achieving and connecting – both are directly related to our well-being. Achieving is not a bad thing if it's done in the right way but it is no substitute for connecting. The challenge is how to stay connected when we spend most of our life achieving. Disconnection and loneliness are two of modern society's greatest ills.

We are all waiting with baited breath to see what this 'big society' looks like, but while we wait, surely it has something to do with being re-connected to one another. I believe there are secret settings all over the place where this is already happening, where people are finding love, acceptance, new meaning and purpose. It's called the Church!

The 'big society' is no new idea because I believe it was always God's idea that each of us was created to live in community. It is the one indispensable condition for human flourishing. I know for a fact that church communities are by no means perfect and there are times when they demonstrate anything but inclusion and love yet, at their best, they become a community of loving people representing the very heart of God.

One Christian commentator describes community like this,

*'Christian community is made up of people with all their richness, but also all their weakness and poverty, of people who accept and forgive each other, who are vulnerable with each other. Humility and trust are more at the foundation of community than perfection'.*

As the church gathers round the life of Jesus Christ it begins to mirror something of this new community. That's my continued aspiration for St Mary's, Cogges and St. James, South Leigh. I hope you find something of this type of community when you come to church.

Andrew Sweeney



## Time Travellers Cogges...

This has been set up to provide a social network for the active retired over 55's who live in Cogges, whether or not they are members of any Church, all are welcome to join us. It is an opportunity to meet other active retired people and perhaps develop new friendships. We meet once a month and our programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

**18 November** – Oxford Playhouse, afternoon matinee to see the award winning Tennessee William's play 'A Streetcar named Desire'. Tickets £9.50.

**21 December** – a bring and share Christmas Lunch at the Cogges Church Centre.

If you're interested in joining us please contact me on 704554 or email me David Eaton:

david.eaton28@btopenworld.com

## Youth Pastor...

My name is Ugochukwu Anagor but friends call me Ugo. I am Nigerian by birth and was called by God to serve in the Rhondda Valleys of South Wales in March 2005.

"I am very excited about the possibilities that abound here"

I am married to a beautiful lady called Nancy and we have been married for four years now. We have a beautiful little girl called Zanna who is four months old. After serving in the Rhondda Valleys for almost 6 years I sensed God calling me from there but I wasn't sure to where until I tried the Biblical Gideon's principle of casting the fleece on the field. Then I realised God was calling me to Witney. Prior to coming here I had never heard of Witney except in connection with the election of the Prime Minister.

The move from South Wales to Witney was a very difficult one simply because we moved house right after our first baby was born. Thank God we are finally settled into our new home in Witney. Witney is a very beautiful small town, the people are very nice and warm and the closeness of businesses and the church to our house is a real blessing.

Cogges is a very warm parish. The members are very welcoming and friendly and the atmosphere is one of genuine love and desire for transformation. Rev'd Andrew Sweeney is a real visionary leader and working closely with him has allowed me to see God's hand upon his life and his wonderful family.

I am very glad that God led me here because I love it! The people are loving, caring and big hearted. I have started some work in Blake Primary School and Woodgreen School and they are both going great. I have started running the JAM Club in church since Ali Laithwaite handed it over to me and I have also started running a JAM Graduate's Home Group at my house with the help of my wife. Both meetings have been so much fun because the young people are so much fun.

I am very excited about the possibilities that abound here. With the vision that I have, the readiness of the young people and the reliable support of the church, I can't wait to see what God is about to do. I know something really significant spiritually is about to happen in St Mary's Cogges and in the Parish. Glory to God.

Please support us, however you can and keep us in your prayers for "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6: 12).

Ugo Anagor

