

Cogges, Madley Park & South Leigh What’s on in December...

2nd December 2.30pm & 3.30pm
Nativity Tableau Cogges Manor Farm Museum
An event for the whole family

4th December & 11th December 9pm
Taize Service St Mary’s Church
Reflect on Christmas through words and music

9th December 4pm
Christingle Service St. Mary’s Church
A service of light for all the family

13th & 14th December 7pm
Carols in the Barn Cogges Manor Farm Museum
Celebrate the season in this unique setting

14th December 3.45pm
St. James South Leigh Toddler Group Christmas Story
Christmas story time for children aged 7 and under. Must be accompanied by an adult.

16th December 4pm
Jigsaw at Christmas Madley Brook & Springfield School Hall
Family fun for Christmas

16th December 6pm
Lessons & Carols for Christmas St James, South Leigh
The beauty of Christmas in a traditional village setting

22nd December 4pm
Christingle Service St James, South Leigh
A family service to bring Christmas alight

24th December 4pm
Crib Service St Mary’s Church
The Christmas story for children

24th December 7pm
Carol Service St Mary’s Church
Traditional carols and readings for Christmas

24th December 11pm
1st Communion of Christmas St Mary’s Church
A quiet service of Holy Communion to welcome Christmas Day

25th December 8am
Holy Communion St Mary’s Church
Christmas Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer

25th December 9.30am
Family Holy Communion St James, South Leigh
Join with us to celebrate Christmas Day

25th December 11am
Family Worship St Mary’s Church
A joyful celebration on Christmas Day

2 nd December		Advent
St Mary’s	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Morning Prayer
St Mary’s	11.00am	Morning Worship
Cogges Farm Museum	2.30 & 3.30pm	Nativity Tableau
St Mary’s	11.00am	Morning Worship
St Mary’s	6.30pm	Advent Service
4 th December		Tuesday
St Mary’s	2.00pm	Toddler Group Christingle
St Mary’s	9.00pm	Taize
9 th December		2 nd Sunday of Advent
St Mary’s	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Holy Communion
St Mary’s	11.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary’s	4.00pm	Christingle
11 th December		Tuesday
St Mary’s	9.00pm	Taize
13 th & 14 th December		Thursday & Friday
Cogges Farm Museum	7.00pm	Carols in the Barn
15 th December		Saturday
St James, South Leigh	4.00pm	Christingle

16 th December		3 rd Sunday of Advent
St Mary’s	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Family Service
St Mary’s	11.00am	Family Worship & Nativity
Madley Park	4.00pm	Jigsaw at Christmas
St James, South Leigh	6.00pm	Lessons & Carols
23 rd December		4 th Sunday of Advent
St Mary’s	8.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary’s	11.00am	Joint Benefice Service
24 th December		Christmas Eve
St Mary’s	4.00pm	Crib Service
St Mary’s	7.00pm	Carol Service
St Mary’s	11.00pm	First Communion
25 th December		Christmas Day
St Mary’s	8.00am	Holy Communion
St James, South Leigh	9.30am	Family Holy Communion
St Mary’s	11.00am	Family Worship
30 th December		1 st Sunday of Christmas
St Mary’s	8.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary’s	9.30am	Morning Prayer
St Mary’s	11.00am	Morning Worship



crosstalk

December 2007



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

Life is precious...

By the time the Sweeneys have finished watching ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ on a Sunday evening I know the weekend is almost over and I’m left thinking, where on earth did the time go?

I wonder how quickly the weekend passes for you? For that matter, I wonder how quickly life passes for you?

The trouble with life is that it simply doesn’t have a rewind button – every day, every second, carries with it its own finality. Time is our one indisputable non-renewable resource. My mother, who is seventy-nine, commented the

other week how she still feels fifty inside, that is until she catches a glimpse of herself in a shop window!

At the end of every day, one more box on the calendar has been shifted from the future column to the past column, from possibility to history, and all of its moments can be celebrated or regretted, but can never be retrieved.

Medical journalist Dr Timothy Johnson writes:

‘...life has an urgency so different to fiction; at the end, it cannot be changed! The meaning of life is that it stops.

We will never figure out how we should live our lives unless we fully understand the significance of the fact that it will end. And then what?’

The Clergy Team



Vicar:
Revd
Andrew Sweeney



Curate:
Revd
Miriam Keen



NSM:
Revd
Tim Edge



Associate Minister:
Revd
Penny Joyce

Of course our lives are full of commitments but, as so often happens, it is the unspoken commitments that rob us of our lives. What do you think they might be? In the UK, children between the ages of five and eleven watch on average forty hours of television each week; husbands and wives spend three to four times as much time watching television as they do talking to one another. You see, it is the unspoken commitments that drive our lives and rob us of the possibility of precious moments.

A young businessman always made it his business to ask older men their regrets. At the top of their list was “I was so busy trying to improve my family’s standard of living that, before I knew it, my children were

grown and gone, and I never got to know them. Now they are too busy for me”.

Life is too short and too precious to leave it full of regrets.

John Ortberg, in another one of his challenging and immensely readable books, suggests four regrets that people often mention when they get to the end of their lives:

I would have loved more deeply.

I would have laughed more often.

I would have given more generously.

I would have lived more boldly.

We always think that there will eventually be time to do all these things that we never have the time to do. My

father looked forward to retirement to spend more time with my mum – he died at the age of fifty three!

Leo Tolstoy commented, ‘*What if my life, my conscious life, has not been the right thing?*’

It seems a real shame, to me, if we wait for a crisis before we consider what really is essential about life – I see it often. Wouldn’t it be better to re-order our way of thinking and our way of operating to consider what it might be like to live life without regret?

This Christmas we consider, once more, the reasons why the birth of Jesus has significance for a world that so often believes it has the solutions to its own problems. There is one problem that we cannot



Andrew Sweeney

Cogges Farm Museum Closure...

You will be as shocked as I am to hear the news that the Executive of Oxfordshire County Council are recommending the closure of Cogges Manor Farm Museum.

Following the closure the Council are planning to sell the site. There are many reasons why this is bad news for our local community and West Oxfordshire:

It is an exceptional historic site.

It is a rich educational experience for over 5000 school children per year.

It is an important cultural asset for the local community.

It represents the rural history of Oxfordshire within a remarkably

complex range of historic buildings dating from 13th to 20th century.

It is the only community based site (apart from St. Mary’s Cogges) in a parish setting of nearly 10000 people.

If this site is sold we may lose the surrounding ‘green-field’ sight forever.

The Cogges complex most definitely promotes social well being for all who live in the area.

The most effective campaign will be a

combination of letters to the key elected members and the press, both local and national. Here is a list of the key elected members that I would encourage you to lobby:

Councillors Keith Mitchell (Leader), David Robertson (deputy leader), Jim Couchman (portfolio holder for Culture and Adult Learning), Charles Shouler, John Howell, Roger Belson, Louise Chapman, Mrs J Heathcoat, Michael Waine, Ian Hudspeth. John Jackson (Director of



Andrew Sweeney

Operation Christmas Child...

A huge thank you to everyone who made up shoe boxes, sorted and delivered leaflets and helped in any way towards making **Operation Christmas Child** happen in our parish. We collected an amazing **140** boxes at St. Mary’s Church on Sunday 18th November.

The total so far for the Blake, Madley Brook, Springfield, Woodgreen and Jigsaw combined is **385** with a few more to come which means our parish total is more than **525**; the best we’ve ever done! Most of our boxes are going to Romania this year. Each one will go to a child in real need and makes such a difference.

Thank you so much.

Ali Laithwaite



Parish News...

- Weddings**
- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| August 4 | Sean Hadfield & Rachel Parker |
| August 10 | Richard Oliver & Anna Shrives-Wrist |
| August 11 | Steven Lyon & Amanda Godfrey |
| September 8 | Sebastian Morris & Emma Green |
| September 29 | Stuart Curtis & Francesca Derham |
| October 10 | Darren Barley & Jennie West |
| October 12 | Peter Williamson & Tara Dobell |
- Funerals**
- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| June 27 | Margaret Slim |
| July 10 | Gladys Hall |
| July 27 | Marjorie Jefferey |
| August 1 | Nan Ralling |
| August 8 | Bert Townsend |
| August 16 | Betty Smith |
| September 14 | Patricia Woodward |
| September 26 | Norman Canning |
| October 12 | Jeremy Stapylton |
| October 17 | Lieselotte Woodley |
| November 8 | Hilda Turner |
| November 21 | Gladys Turner |
| November 26 | Christine Diacon |
- Baptisms**
- | | |
|--------------|--|
| August 19 | Keira James, Imogen Young |
| September 2 | Finn Crowther |
| September 8 | Callum Morris |
| September 9 | Hannah Zbilut, Maddie Dunn |
| September 16 | Molly Patmore, Georgia Walker (St.James) |
| September 23 | Jack Sheales |
| October 7 | Jacob Moxham |
| October 21 | Joseph Lane, Miles & Ella Hartley |
| November 18 | Holly Robinson, Jack Denton |
| | Orla & Sean Wood |

Cogges Seniors Care Group...

New Year Party to be held on **Saturday 12th January** at **3pm** in **Cogges Church Centre**.

For more information or if you wish to come along, please telephone: **704035** or **773096**

Debt? Need help now?

Free helpline run by the Consumer Credit Counselling Service.

Telephone: 0800 138 1111

Confirmations 14th October...



From left: Lisa Franklin, Bishop Colin, Janet Tierney, Suzanne Morgan, Valerie Clark, Madelaine Crossley, Michael Wise, Sharon Wise, (and their children Hollie & Henry), Timothy Spankie, Reverend Penny Joyce.