



Priest in Charge: The Rev. Derek Humphrey
Telephone Lodsworth (01798) 861741

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Clark
 Caplins, Hillgrove
 Lurgashall (01428) 707230

Mr Laurence Reed
 Hookhams, Hillgrove
 Lurgashall (01428) 707203

ST LAURENCE, LURGASHALL

Date	Service	Sidesmen	Altar Flowers
7th February Second Sunday before Lent	09.45 Sung Eucharist	Elizabeth Clark	Becca Cork
14th February Sunday next before Lent	09.45 Sung Eucharist	Michael Pavia	Kate Hammond
17th February Ash Wednesday	10.00 Holy Communion (said)	Laurence Reed	
21st February Lent 1	09.45 Sung Eucharist	Anthea Martin- Jenkins	
28th February Lent 2	8 am Holy Communion (said) 09.45 Matins	Charlie Allis Anthony Flint	

FINAL SERVICE AND LEAVING PARTY FOR FATHER DEREK HUMPHREY

Father Derek has been looking after the Parish for over two years, for which we are most grateful. Sunday 28th February at 9.45 a.m. will be his final Service and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend. A farewell party is being hosted by Laurence and Gina Reed at Hookhams, Hillgrove, later that morning starting at 12.00. Everyone who would like to have a chance to say goodbye to Father Derek is very welcome. If there is anybody who would like help with transport, please contact either Laurence Reed (707203) or Elizabeth Clark (707230).

ARRANGEMENTS FOR LICENSING OUR NEW 'PRIEST-IN-CHARGE'

As announced in the January Newsletter, the Bishop of Horsham has appointed the Reverend Malcolm Pudney as Priest-in-Charge of the parishes of Lurgashall, Northchapel and Ebernoe. A message from Father Malcolm is included below. Before he can take up his Ministry, Father Malcolm has to be Licensed by the Bishop, and this will take place in Lurgashall at St Laurence's on Tuesday 2nd March at 7.30 p.m. This will be a special Service presided over by the new Bishop of Horsham, The Right Reverend Mark Sowerby. It will be the first time in many years that a Bishop has visited Lurgashall. The Service will be run jointly with Northchapel and Ebernoe, and their choirs will join the St Laurence choir. Clergy from other neighbouring parishes have also been invited. Naturally all Lurgashall Parishioners are welcome to attend. There will be a reception for those attending the Service immediately afterwards in the Village Hall.

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Beloved in Christ, Heaven is our homeland – here we are merely strangers and pilgrims. We pass through this world as a child passes through school, preparing for the adult life ahead. So it is that our use of the time given us as we pass through this world is of very great importance. Jesus says to each one of us, “you are a small cog in a big machine, but you are vital to my work. Therefore give me your mind, to fill with my thoughts. Give me your heart, to fill with my love. Give me your will, that I may breathe my power into it. Give me your defects, and I will cure them. Give me your faults, and I will pardon them. Give me your talents, and I will develop them. Give me your worries, and I will disperse them. Give me your sorrows, and I will soothe them. Give me your crosses, and I will teach you how to carry them. Go forward in confidence, because of your Communion, I am in you, and you are in me.”

As we prepare for the new and exciting chapter that will begin in this parish on the second of next month, we need to remember yet again the words of the great Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, who so often reminded us that our faith begins not in the stable at Christmass but outside the tomb on Easter Day. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our beginning and our end, and its message is given by Jesus at every resurrection appearance – “fear not – peace be with you.” The message of the resurrection is that nothing that happens to us matters very much in the end, providing we have tried to love Jesus and love one another. Another way of putting the message of the resurrection is that it is faithfulness and not success that is required. The crucifixion shows us that in this world we do not know what in the eyes of God is success or what is failure. In eternity we may discover that our greatest failures were in fact our greatest successes – it depends only on the amount of love we put into each effort.

In this last letter of the interregnum, I would like to say thank you to everyone for the quite fantastic love and support I have been given during my two+ years here. It has been such a happy and fulfilling period for me that I cannot believe how short a time we've been together, but then all the memories of Christ-like love I have received here explain it – it's been a taste of the eternal.

And now you look forward to a new period of growth in Christ with Father Malcolm as your parish priest. I know he will experience the same Christ-like love here that I have received, and that together the work and expansion of the Kingdom of God will grow ever greater throughout the parish.

My love, deep gratitude and prayers to and for you all, **Father Derek.**

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER MALCOLM PUDNEY

Dear Parishioners of Lurgashall, Northchapel and Ebernoe,

Your churchwardens have asked me to write a short note to introduce myself. I am 61 years old and Linda my wife and I have been married for 38 years. We have three married children and four grandchildren all of whom live in West Sussex and our mothers live just over the border in Surrey, Linda's mum in Reigate and my mum in the village of Burstow. We also lived in Burstow before moving north of the river to the two Essex parishes of Woodham Walter and Woodham Mortimer in 2006. We have been very happy at the Woodhams and have made many friends. However, the deteriorating health of our mothers and the rapid growth of our grandchildren (together with the nightmare of the regular M25 journey) prompted us to seek a move to be closer to them. After much prayer and soul searching we are both pleased and excited to have been chosen to serve you in Lurgashall, Northchapel and Ebernoe.

If all goes to plan we will be moving into The Rectory at the beginning of February followed by a short settling in period before the licensing service at 7.30 on the evening of Tuesday 2nd March. I will begin work on Wednesday 3rd and lead my first services at your churches on Sunday 7th. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all and serving as Priest-in-charge of your parishes.

God Bless you all, **Rev. Malcolm Pudney**

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY The Monthly Working Party will take place on Thursday February 25th, 9 am – 1 pm. Help is very welcome, so please join us – even if it is only for an hour or so. Further details from John Clark (707230) or Nick Holroyde (01798 342314).

For one magical night only.....

Ian Keable

Magic Circle Comedy Award Winner 2009

LURGASHALL VILLAGE HALL Friday, 19 March

**Enjoy a hot supper in good company; then sit back and experience
an evening of magical entertainment.**

See enclosed flyer for details.

VILLAGE LUNCH and VILLAGE TEA The village lunch will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 8th February. Please book with Erica (707162) or The Shop in good time. The next Village Tea will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 24th February from 3.00 - 5.00p.m. All are welcome.

JEAN SEAGER AT 100



On 30 December Lurgashall had great cause for celebration. Jean Seager, who has lived in the parish for the past 30 years, celebrated her 100th birthday. She is the first Lurgashall resident in living memory to reach this important milestone and the occasion was marked by the traditional card from the Queen and by a stream of cards and flowers from other well wishers, including a bouquet from the Chairman and Members of the Parish Council. Jean, who has spent much of her life making lampshades of the highest quality, remains impressively active despite her great age. She is quick to point out, however, that her ability to stay independent had owed much to the dedicated

help and support she has received over a number of years from her Greengates friends, Wendy Moody and Ken Reed. Lurgashall sends Jean its congratulations and wishes her good health and many more years in the parish.

LURGASHALL LIVING HISTORY GROUP The Living History Group will meet at 7.00pm on Wednesday 24th February 2010 at Sods Cottage. For information about the group, contact Julia at: juliadoggart@gmail.com or 01428-707573.

LURGASHALL HORTICULTURAL CLUB Just a short entry to let you know that the committee are working on this year's calendar albeit it a bit later than usual. Quite a lot planned and with the different organisation outlined at the AGM it is taking a little more time to finalise. Watch this space. Here's hoping the recent awful weather will mean we will have a gardening year to enjoy when we can get started again! **Iola Christian.**

LURGASHALL FETE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING It is that time of year again and planning for the Fête is getting under way. The AGM will be held on Saturday February 27th in the Village Hall at 6.00 for 6.30pm. Please come along if you are interested in helping with the Fête - existing and new helpers are all welcome. If you would like to help but cannot come to the meeting or you need any further information please contact **Steve Vaughan** nuthatchgarden@hotmail.com / 01428 643142.

LURGASHALL VILLAGE HALL

It's a Hall for all seasons and a Hall for all reasons: children's parties; lunches & teas; meetings; family celebrations; exhibitions and classes – in fact, for all your entertaining needs in 2010, the Village Hall can definitely help:

VENUE: the Hall is fully licensed, centrally heated and equipped to cater for 70 people seated at tables or 100 seated "theatre" style

EQUIPMENT: banquet or round tables, indoor or outdoor chairs, china, cutlery, glassware and cookware can all be hired from the Hall at very reasonable rates

For Village Hall & Hire enquiries: Kate Fisher 01428 707138 or katefisher742@btinternet.com

Village Hall Website: www.lurgashall.org/vh

THANK YOU We owe a debt of gratitude to Pam and Martin for keeping the shop open and supplied with provisions during the severe snow conditions. Henry and Amy at the Noah's Ark remained open during the worst of the weather which was also much appreciated by the village.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH If you see anything suspicious please report it straight away. CONGRATULATIONS, the caller on your telephone says that you have won a luxury holiday in the Caribbean, a likely story! Hang up NOW. If you do as the caller asks and press whatever key they tell you to learn more, all that will happen is that there will be a big charge on your bill and nothing else! I have received this message twice recently, so I am sure that there must be others locally. Don't be taken in by this scam. **Paul Read**

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL Among the matters considered at the Council's meeting on 14 January were the following:

Budget and precept. The Council adopted its budget for 2010-11 and agreed that the precept for the coming financial year should be £11,000, an increase of £2,000 on last year justified in Members' view by the need to bring the Council's reserves back up to a reasonable level after the present year's unanticipated contributions towards repair of the Village Hall roof and kerbing the eastern end of the Village Green.

Allotments. It was decided that the 2010 fee for an allotment should remain at £15 for a full plot and £7.50 for a small plot.

Gritting during the severe weather. Many Members voiced concern about the complete absence of gritting on the parish's lanes during the long spell of severe weather in early January. By totally ignoring the needs of rural parishes like Lurgashall, the County Council left many residents snowbound for days. The Parish Council is backing our County Councillor, Chris Duncton's drive for fairer treatment for the parishes north of the Downs.

New houses for Greengates. The Chairman, Ray Cooper, met representatives of HydeMartlet on site in mid-December to discuss the latter's proposal to erect four houses at the south-eastern end of Greengates. He pointed out the serious additional parking and access problems that the development would create. HydeMartlet took note, said it would think its plan through further and come back to the Council in due course.

Planning. Among the applications the Council has considered in the past two months have been proposals (a) to demolish and rebuild Leigh Barton and (b) to carry out lopping and felling of various trees in St Laurence's churchyard. On the former, the Council registered opposition to the size and location of the replacement dwelling and the net loss of agricultural land to residential purposes implicit in the proposal; it also called for strict conditions on the size and route of contractors' vehicles during any construction. On the latter, it called on the District Council not to allow the 189 year old yew tree near the Church's south-west corner to be felled.

Greenfield Bungalow. Further unsuccessful attempts have been made by the Council to get the owner to tidy up his site and fence it off properly from the highway.

Village Green – damage from parking. Notwithstanding the improvements at the eastern end of the Green, damage continues to be caused by visitors to the Noah's Ark parking their cars on the Green and the triangle and by one or two residents parking on the grass in front of their houses. The Council is sensitive to the annoyance this causes and continues to strive for improvements.

Village Green callbox. The District Council has replied in robust terms to BT's proposal to remove the telephone equipment from the red call box on the Green. It has argued for the box to be retained and recommended a moratorium on the future of all such boxes till the new National Park Authority has been able to consider the matter.

Possible filming on the Green. Because the severe weather forced postponement of the Public Meeting organised to discuss the proposal to use the village as a film location next summer, the Council has had to postpone its own decision on the matter; it will now meet for this purpose on Wednesday, 10 February 2010 at 7.30 pm.

As ever, the full minutes of the meeting can be read on the Village Green notice board and the Council's website (www.lurgashall.org). **Patrick Széll, Clerk to the Parish Council**

Please send contributions for the March newsletter by 20th February 2010 to Annabel Grout at Sods Cottage, Lurgashall GU28 9EX (the letterbox is a clay pipe attached to the gatepost) (01798 861459) or email amgrout@hotmail.com