



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

BROADSHEET

DECEMBER 2009

A MONTHLY NEWS ROUND-UP FOR THE PARISH OF ALDBOROUGH HATCH

Services

Sunday 6th December

Second Sunday in Advent

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 13th December

Third Sunday in Advent

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



Sunday 20th December

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Nativity
6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St. John's Seven Kings

No evening service at St. Peter's

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Friday 25th December

Christmas Day

10.30am Family Holy Communion

Sunday 27th December

First Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd January

Second Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion

Weekdays

The church is open for private prayer on Monday (10am to 12noon) and Wednesday (10.30am to 12noon) except Bank Holidays and between Christmas and the New Year
Wednesday 10am: Holy Communion

Christmas

at St. Peter's



Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 13th December - 6.30pm

Family Nativity

Sunday 20th December - 10.30am



Carol Singing around the Parish

Monday 21st December

Meet at St. Peter's at 7pm

In aid of Haven House Children's Hospice



Christmas Eve

Christingle Service

Thursday 24th December - 4pm

Midnight Holy Communion

Thursday 24th December - 11.30pm



Christmas Day

Family Holy Communion

Friday 25th December - 10.30am

'Love came down at Christmas'

What *shall* I get him (or her!) for Christmas? I wonder if you find it difficult to think of Christmas presents for your friends and family? It's nice to give something they want – and doesn't cost more than you can afford. It's nice to give something that is worth the money you do spend – not just some gimmicky thing that won't last, just because it's *the* present this Christmas or because you can't afford to spend any more.

I like to show how much I care for my friends and family. I also like to show my gratitude to people who have helped me or been good friends to me. And I like to give something worthwhile.

So for some years now I have given 'virtual' gifts; not to everyone, of course, but to those who share my concerns for the world and for those less lucky than ourselves. Most charities have a 'virtual gift' scheme now. It works like this. You choose something from a catalogue in the usual way. The gifts, however, are not usual. One year I chose a goat, another a toilet! My friend doesn't need a goat – and has a toilet! But a family in a very poor part of Africa didn't. So the gift went to them. My friend got a card, with details of the gift.

I think it is a great scheme. Such gifts are increasingly varied. And are not all for overseas. But it means my money is used very productively by those who really need it – and my friend knows I am thinking of her, too. Why not make our Christmas gifts carry the true meaning of Christmas – the message of God's love for the whole world, instead of just filling the tills of the shops. I don't give everyone virtual gifts – and I usually give a small, personal gift as well. But as the Christmas Carol says, '*Love came down at Christmas*' bringing '*Peace, and goodwill*', to all people, everywhere.

Have love-filled, peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Revd Clare Nicholson, Vicar

Around the Hatch

Operation Christmas Child



Once again this year St. Peter's has been able – in the words of the Christmas Shoebox Appeal leaflet – to “bring hope and a smile to some of the world's poorest children”.

Some 55 shoeboxes decorated with festive paper are seen in our photograph piled high beside the font in church, waiting to be taken to the collection point in Woodford in early November – in time to be conveyed to Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia for distribution to children in time for Christmas. It was particularly heartening that – as last year – many residents from around the Hatch have joined with members of St. Peter's to fill shoeboxes with gifts for boys and girls overseas who would not otherwise receive any presents this Christmas. May we express the thanks of the children for the kindness of those who have taken part and their thoughtfulness in choosing the contents.

Sunday Club

The newly formed Sunday Club for children aged three and over will meet in the church halls at 10.30am on Sunday 6th and 13th in December. All children are very welcome.

On Sunday 20th December we will be in church for the Family Nativity.

Monday Club

7th December Cards
14th December Bingo
21st December Christmas Party
28th December No Club
4th January Open Afternoon

Find us at www.stpetersah.org.uk

St. Peter's presents Christmas Reflections In words and music



Seasonal music and readings – some light and humourous, some more reflective as befits the time of year

A family entertainment

**Bob Alder – Organ
Julie Edmonds
and Gerry Johnson**

Saturday 5th December

7pm for 7.30pm - in the Church

Seasonal refreshments and raffle

Tickets £7 from Yvonne Jeffries
(020 8599 7250)

Bring your own cushion for added comfort – the pews are notoriously hard!

In this second article looking back to the war years, Pauline Iles (now living in Hertfordshire, who reads the BROADSHEET each month on line on our website) recalls that her father – who had been a German prisoner of war – worked on Aldborough Hall Farm

From East Prussia to Aldborough Hatch

Paul Zuch was born on 14th July 1922 in the village of Krämersdorf, near Allenstein in East Prussia, which is now Kromerowo, near Olsztyn in Poland. In March 1940, aged 17, he joined the Luftwaffe becoming a pilot, first flying Fieseler Storch aeroplanes and then being transferred to Communications.

He served with the Luftwaffe in Scandinavia, Russia, Italy and finally France where, shortly after D-day, he and the remnants of his regiment surrendered to the Americans just outside Rouen. In September 1944 he was taken from Cherbourg to Southampton on the *Queen Mary*. The next stop was Liverpool and from there on a Canadian ship to New York. After 18 months at different PoW camps he was finally told in January 1946 that he was going home and was put on a ship



This photograph of farm workers on Aldborough Hall farm was taken in the early 1950s showing (from the left) Len Patient, Ron Seward. Paul Zuch and (with the spade) George Gansbühler. Len and Edna Patient had two sons, Alan and David. They moved to Abridge and retired in Loughton. Ron and Edith Seward lived in Painters Road with their son, John. They moved to Wall Hall College, Aldenham near Watford, where Ron worked with Paul Zuch as a gardener. Ron and John died, but Edith – now in her 90s – lives in a residential home in Wiltshire. George and Pat Gansbühler and their sons, George, Robert and Richard, moved to East Ham where they ran a corner shop. George had been a German PoW. They retired to Northampton.

bound for Germany, but it docked at Liverpool because of an engine problem. There they were taken off and a series of more camps followed – Manchester, Raynes Park, Dingwall in Scotland and High Garrett, Essex, by which time he had been demobbed. He knew that his homeland of East Prussia was gone and was now under Polish Communist control so he applied for and was granted permission to stay in England.

During this time he had met Florence and they married in 1948 in Hackney before moving to Aldborough Hall Farm where I was born in 1951. I was baptised by the Rev Lawrence Pickles in St. Peter's, where my Godparents were listed as John Chilver, Desmond Mills and Gladys Young – although I do not know anything about them. Sadly Florence died in 1954 at the age of 26 and is buried in St Peter's churchyard.

Paul married again in 1955. Two more children were born and the family moved from Aldborough Hall Farm to Watford in 1957. After retiring as head gardener at Wall Hall College, my father moved to Exeter where he died in 2004. His second wife died in 2005.

Pauline Iles

St. Peter's Organisations

Monday Club - Monday 2pm
Beaver Scouts - Monday 5.15pm
Cub Scouts - Monday 6.30pm
Scouts - Monday 7.45pm
Brownie Guides - Tuesday 7pm
Guides - Wednesday 7pm

Vicar: Revd. Clare Nicholson – 020 8599 0524 **Churchwardens:** Roger Goffee – 020 8590 1610, Martyn Stewart – 01277 821790

Reader: Brian Kerrison – 020 8599 4368 **Hall Bookings' Secretary:** Stella Fletcher – 020 8599 3115

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