

My Dear People

A churchwarden writes from Iberia: "Chris and I went to the service at our village church this morning. It was a case of standing room only, and with 300 seats, that's a lot of people! It made me wonder what we are doing wrong and I am sorry to have to disagree with the experts, but if the Church at Monchique is anything to go by, I don't think we are wrong at all. The service was a sung mass almost identical to ours. The priests vestments were the same. There were several small children sitting on the alter steps and they were well behaved and took part in all the service. Not a guitar or drum kit or messy Church to be seen! In all, it was just a normal service like ours, minus teas afterwards or welcomers to greet us, yet so many people attending. I can't help thinking that no amount of gimmicks will cure our ills as it is no longer part of general English culture to attend Church."

Quite so. It is interesting to note that in immigrant-predominated areas of England - and the immigrants DO go to church - more English people go too, as it is seen as socially acceptable.

This is not an excuse for us to be complacent. There are always things we can improve. But not change: if what we do is in accordance with the

Gospel and the traditions of the Church.

What desperately needs changing - and has always been part of the Christian calling to change - is the society in which we live.

The main and most necessary way of changing our society for the better is by openly living a Christian life, something which *is* counter-cultural.

Part of which means coming to Church over Christmas - to Mass most importantly, but also to another service if you can - never-mind what else your family or friends have planned.

And inviting all your family and friends to join you at Church: for Christ is after all the reason we have Christmas!

Yours in Christ
Fr John

Local Cell of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

3rd Wednesday: 18th
December at **4:00 p.m.**

WEBSITE: www.godshillparish.org.uk

Contributions to this leaflet are welcome especially if they come electronically, or typed so they can be scanned in.

Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

John Luckas 13th November RIP

Please join our Reverse Advent Calendar

Step 1

Choose your Charity
(Leonard Cheshire Home, Food Bank, Baby Box, or the RSPCA)

Step 2

Find an envelope, box or bag

Step 3

Every day during Advent (or as often as you can) put an item in it for the Food Bank/ Baby Box/ RSPCA or money for the local Cheshire Home

Step 4

After Christmas give it to your chosen charity, or bring it to church for us to deliver for you.

Regular Services:

All Saints, Godshill:

Sung Eucharist

11:00 a.m. every Sunday

Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. every Thursday

St Alban's, Ventnor:

Sung Eucharist

9:30 a.m. every Sunday

Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. every Wednesday

St Margaret's Hall, Ventnor:

Holy Communion 11:00 a.m.

10th & 31st December

Special Services & Events:

Healing Service

Wednesday 4th December 6:00 p.m.
at St Alban's

Jig Saw Festival

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th
December at All Saints

Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December

9 Lessons and Carols:
6 p.m. All Saints

Tuesday 24th December

Crib Service:
5 p.m. All Saints
6:30 p.m. St Alban's

Midnight Mass

11:30 p.m. St Alban's

Wednesday 25th December

Family Service
of Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. St Alban's
11:00 a.m. All Saints

**Born of a virgin mother, Jesus is the
surprise of Creation!**

Mary's child does not come into existence because God removes sterility, as with her cousin Elizabeth. Rather, Mary is a virgin who has not known man—her child is totally God's work, a new creation.

The angel's appearance to Zechariah happens in the Jerusalem Temple, in

continuity with the Old Testament institutions. But the annunciation to Mary takes place in Nazareth, a sign of total newness on what God is doing.

Lastly, John the Baptist is the answer to his parents' yearning for a child. Mary does not yet yearn for a child, for she has not yet lived with her betrothed. Jesus is the surprise of Creation. His conception is totally God's initiative, beyond human imaginings.

Church Officers

Parish Priest ('The Vicar'):

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Churchwardens

All Saints Dennis Owen ☎ 840591

St Alban's Alan Philpott ☎ 852555

Deputy wardens

All Saints Edward Holden ☎ 842109

St Alban's Peter Pye ☎ 853690



**The Society of St Wilfred & St
Hilda** providing Episcopal
oversight and support to
traditionalist people and parishes

Parish of Godshill

All Saints Church

Godshill

'The Church on the Hill'

St Alban-the-Martyr

Ventnor

'The Church on the Steps'

Advent &

Christmas



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