

My Dear People

As most of you will know by now I am retiring next month, so this will be my last monthly newsletter. We have been very touched by the comments you have made in response to this announcement. Thank you all so very much.

We are extremely sad to be leaving you, and here. Perhaps fortuitously I was sent a link to some islanders' sad reaction to the news that the Island trains are soon to be replaced. This lightened my mood somewhat as I felt somewhat akin to the old carriages.

The time between priests inevitably has its stressful moments, but it is also an opportunity to blow out the cobwebs and look afresh at things. You will get support from the Area Dean and Archdeacon, Deacon Corinne and our very helpful and capable Patrons The Guild of All Souls.

And we will be praying for you at the feet of Our Lady of Ipswich.

Yours in Christ
Fr John



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

Christmas Poem

Grim was the world and grey last night:
The moon and stars were fled,
The hall was dark without song or light,
The fires were fallen dead. ...

The world was blind, the boughs were bent,
All ways and paths were wild:
Then the veil of cloud apart was rent,
And here was born a Child. ...

In the dale of dark in that hour of birth
One voice on a sudden sang:
Then all the bells in Heaven and Earth
Together at midnight rang.

Mary sang in this world below:
They heard her song arise
O'er mist and over mountain snow
To the walls of Paradise,
And the tongue of many bells was stirred
in Heaven's towers to ring
When the voice of mortal maid was heard,
That was mother of Heaven's King.

Glad is the world and fair this night
With stars about its head,
And the hall is filled with laughter and light,
And fires are burning red.

The bells of Paradise now ring
With bells of Christendom,
And Gloria, Gloria we will sing
That God on earth is come.

J. R. R. Tolkien



Local Cell of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

3rd Wednesday: 15th January
at **4:00 p.m.**

WEBSITE: www.godshillparish.org.uk

Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

Betty Creed & Norman Beasley, RIP

Reverse Advent Calendar

If you still have any goods or money for these charities which you want us to hand over please hand it in. (Leonard Cheshire Home, Food Bank, Baby Box, or the RSPCA)

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.

21st January & 18th February

Special Services & Events:

The Epiphany 5th January

Candlemass 2nd February

Farewell Mass (Joint)

23rd February

Medjugorje 2010

and the miracles continue

Holy Week 2010. I was 39 years old at the time. I had been raised in a practicing Catholic family who taught me the faith. But at 15 I turned away, preferring to go out with friends. We drank alcohol and took drugs. I had no self-confidence or self-esteem and I fought depression.

In 2003 I gave birth to a little boy. His father had left me when I was 3 months pregnant. I was deeply depressed and tried to commit suicide several times. I drank a lot, a whole bottle of whiskey some nights. My son suffered the full impact of all this.

I had stopped believing in God in 2003. Why would God allow me to suffer like that? I lost my jobs many times. In March 2009, seeing that I was sinking, my cousin and my aunts insisted that I go to Medjugorje. My mother babysat my son and I went with my father.

I was terrified to see all those pilgrims praying the Rosary in the bus and I said to myself: "What am I doing here with this crazy bunch of religious lunatics?"

But to my complete surprise, Mary spoke to me on the hill of apparitions, and told me that she and Jesus loved me just as I was, and that I was dear to them.

I collapsed in tears, overwhelmed by Love, by a feeling of being between Heaven and Earth. After that, I started praying. I relearned my prayers, especially how to put my heart in my prayer. I was happier than I had been in a long time.

Going to Medjugorje was the best gift I have ever received and I can't thank my aunts, cousin, parents, and sister enough for "making" me go!

Since that pilgrimage, I love myself and I know that I am loved. My life has changed dramatically. I live every day like a grace, I pray a lot, I say my Rosary, and I go to Mass. I really feel like I am reborn.

Church Officers

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Churchwardens

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St Alban's Alan Philpott ☎852555

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All Saints Edward Holden ☎842109

St Alban's Peter Pye ☎853690

Parish of Godshill

All Saints Church

Godshill

'The Church on the Hill'

St Alban-the-Martyr

Ventnor

'The Church on the Steps'

Epiphany Tide

2020

