

Parish News – January 2017

Editor this month: Geoffrey Fitch

If you have any news you would like included in the monthly newsletter please send your copy to geoffreyfitch@hotmail.co.uk
Also note that if your paper copy of the newsletter has disappeared you can always find it on the parish website www.wwl-pc.org.uk which is updated regularly by John Shepherd.

The most important item to include in this newsletter is a reminder that on January 8th in Hawkesbury Upton Church a service will be held at 5pm. to bid farewell to Alveen Thoresen and to thank her for her time as our priest over the past six years. It is hoped that many parishioners who would not consider themselves as 'regulars' might nonetheless come to join the core attendees to say a fond farewell to Alveen and thank her for many years of service. For those of you who have not yet contributed to Alveen's leaving present June Goatley and David Hewett are still accepting donations - don't delay as she departs soon to join the ancient and over excited Cerne Abbas Giant.

The Village Hall Fund is holding its AGM in the Westonbirt School Reading Room on January 17th at 6:30pm. Plans for the future of the Fund are still being discussed and any suggestions from parishioners as to the future of the Fund will be gratefully received and duly considered.

The carol service in the Westonbirt School Chapel this year was, as usual, a lovely event. Sadly the number who attended were considerably fewer than in previous years but looking on the bright side it ensured that all the attendees had a much more generous share of the minced pies and mulled wine. It should also be mentioned that Celia Carter led the service in her usual friendly and inclusive manner for which we are extremely grateful.

On Christmas Eve for one of Alveen's last Festive Services Lasborough Church was so full with 123 adults and 31 children that the pews had all been taken a full 20 minutes before the service began. Many of the faces were unfamiliar to the regulars but it was wonderful to partake in such an inclusive and welcoming event. Maybe the crowd was due to one or more of three options - the beauty of Lasborough, a desire to give Alveen a rousing send off or possibly the prospect of the perennial warm and generous welcome given by the Scotts in Lasborough Manor after the service. On Christmas Day, the usual conflicting priorities saw the figures drop again to a still respectable 24.

Thanks are due to Andy Clarke for stepping in to compile last month's newsletter. He clearly has a natural gift for journalism and hopefully will consider being an eventual replacement for your current scribe!