

NOVEMBER Sunday Church Services

November 1st	4 b4 Advent 9.00 a.m. Communion (BCP) 10.45 a.m. 'BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY' with children's groups aged 0-13	St Andrew's Kingham All Saints' Churchill
November 8th	3 b4 Advent 9.00 a.m. Communion (BCP) 10.00 a.m. Communion (BCP) 10.45 a.m. Morning Prayer with children's groups aged 0-13	All Saints' Churchill St Andrew's Kingham All Saints' Churchill
November 15th	2 b4 Advent 9.00 a.m. Communion (BCP) 10.45 a.m. Family Communion with children's groups aged 0-13	St Andrew's Kingham All Saints' Churchill
November 22nd	1 b4 Advent 9.00 a.m. Communion (BCP) 10.45 a.m. Morning Prayer	All Saints' Churchill St Andrew's Kingham
November 29th	ADVENT SUNDAY 9.00 a.m. Communion (BCP) 10.45 a.m. Family Communion with children's groups aged 0-13	St Andrew's Kingham All Saints' Churchill

Contact Numbers

Churchwardens (Kingham)	Mr Robbie Glendinning Mr Chris Roberts	659848 658770
Churchwardens (Churchill)	Mr Keith Gowing Mr John Armstrong	658579 659250
Ministry Team	Rev. Tony Cannon The Vicarage, 6, The Grange, Kingham <i>Email: vicar@kinghamchurches.org.uk</i>	658164
	Canon Geoffrey Shaw	658006
	Rev. Steve Hayes	658267
	Mike Hall	658252
	Stephen Blake	658545
	Youth Worker—Esther Bacon	645744
Home Groups	Geoffrey & Margaret Shaw	658006
	Tony & Lynn Cannon	658164
Churchill Methodist Church	Rev. Alan Swann	642631

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES for both parishes', once approved by the following meeting, are put at the back of the churches for information.

DECEMBER CHURCH NEWS Please send your contributions to LIZ HARDWICK at sarah.hardwick@btinternet.com, 658939 or post to West Lodge, Daylesford Estate, Daylesford, Moreton-In-Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 0YJ by the 20th of November.

Please visit our web site at www.kinghamchurches.org.uk

CHURCH NEWS

The Parish Churches of Kingham with Daylesford, and Churchill with Sarsden.

'Making wholehearted followers of Jesus, the Lamb of God'

NOVEMBER 2009



HYPOCRITES!

By Tony Cannon

Apparently, one of the 10 most common objections to Christianity is that 'The church is full of hypocrites!' I've encountered that view here on more than one occasion. Apparently, a good response is 'Well, there's always room for one more.' I've not tried that yet!!

The term 'hypocrite' came from the world of Greek drama. It was used to describe the masks that the players used when playing more than one role. Even today, the theatre is symbolised by the twin masks of comedy and tragedy. That's the origin of the concept of hypocrisy. Playing a role, not being yourself.

But is the church full of hypocrites? In my experience, people often mean that they know some people (or at least one!) who go to church and do not lead perfectly moral lives. Or perhaps the churchgoer(s) has been unkind or rude in the past. If that is the case, then it is bad news and bad advertising for Jesus and his gospel (a word that means 'good news'). But is it hypocrisy?

A hypocrite is someone who does things he claims he does not do or is something he claims not to be. So a Christian is a hypocrite (and so is anyone else for that matter) if they do that.

But what is a Christian? By far the

most common misunderstanding I come across concerning Christianity is that it means to be a good person. To try to live by Jesus' teachings. To love your neighbour. But that isn't what a Christian is. That is what a Christian *should be trying to be*.

A Christian is a person who recognises, in public at their baptism and confirmation, and at least weekly (in church services), that they *don't* live Jesus' way. That they *aren't* the good person they should be.

"... the church isn't 'full of hypocrites'. That's the wrong word ..."

A Christian is a person who believes that Jesus died on the cross and rose back to life (a simple fact of history), in order that he or she might be forgiven by God and live forever after their death. A Christian is a person who turns away from sin and turns to Jesus, asking him to forgive them and trusting Jesus' promise to do exactly that for anyone who asks him.

So a Christian is a hypocrite only in two situations. If he or she comes out of church and tells people he or she is perfect. I've only ever met one who claimed that (and worryingly, he was a retired clergyman!) The other situation is if a Christian is, and has always been, perfect and yet weekly in church claims to be a sinner in need of God's forgiveness and mercy. Can't think I've ever met one of those!

Now, of course, not everyone who goes to church is a Christian. But

then, not everyone who goes to a garage is a mechanic! Not everyone in church any given Sunday will have genuinely admitted their sins and need of forgiveness from God. Not everyone in church any given Sunday will have repented (changed direction to go God's way) and trusted in Jesus' death for them. In fact, I hope and pray that that will always be the case. Our churches should be teeming with people who are at various stages of finding out if Christianity is true and will indeed do what it says on the tin: 'God so loved the world that he

gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16). But such people aren't hypocrites. Not unless they act as if, or claim to be, Christians when they are not. They are non-Christians. Or perhaps *not-yet* Christians.

So my conclusion is that the church isn't 'full of hypocrites'. That's the wrong word. The church is full of *sinners*. Some worse than others, perhaps. Some nicer and a bit more like Jesus than others, certainly. But every single one a sinner coming before a holy, just and merciful God.

Diary Dates

Sunday 1st	Zion (age 14-18) Service at 7 p.m. at Chipping Norton
Tuesdays 3/10/17/24	Bible Study at the Vicarage on Romans 10.15 a.m. All welcome. Speak to Tony or Lynn if you'd like to find out more.
Tuesday 3rd	Tuesday Circle at Churchill Methodist Church 3 p.m.
Thursdays 5/12/19/26	Bible Study on Revelation at 15a West Street, 7:30 p.m. All welcome. Speak to Geoffrey or Margaret if you'd like to find out more.
Thursdays 5/12/19/26	'Main Course' Bible study on John's Gospel, 7:30 p.m. at the Vicarage. All welcome. Speak to Tony or Lynn if you'd like to find out more.
Friday 6th	"Cold Fish'n Chips" for school years 4-6 in Churchill Village Hall 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Sunday 8/15	Zion (age 14-18) at 7 p.m. at Esther's House.
Tuesday 10th	Craft/Fellowship afternoon at Churchill Methodist Church 2:30—4:30 p.m.
Thursday 12th	Langston Nursing Home Communion 11.00 a.m.
Friday 13/27	"Hot Chocolate" for school years 7-9 at All Saints' Churchill 6:30-8 p.m.
Saturday 14th	The M.O.B (Men Only Breakfast) at The Chequers 8:20-10 a.m. Tickets available from Rod Clyde (645979 clyde@kinghamchurches.org.uk). £7 per head. All men very welcome. Speaker is prison chaplain Robin Jenkin, returning by warm demand, speaking on ' <i>Retributive v Restorative Justice</i> '
Thursday 19th	Kingham Lunch Club at the Village Hall 12 noon
Every Sunday	The Churchill Methodist Church's services begin at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel. November 1st—Back to Church Sunday with Holy Communion at 10:45 with Rev. Michael Langley.

Dairy Dates Cont'd / ...

Sunday 22nd	Vertigo [youth event- worship/bible stuff] @ North Witney
Tuesday 24th	Churchill Lunch Club at All Saints' 12 noon.
Saturday 28th	TOAST (women's breakfast) at The Chequers 8:20-10 a.m. Tickets from Rachael Bell 659852 (churchillheath@mac.com). All women very welcome. ' <i>20 Years In Bed - Where was God?</i> ' Lynn Cannon talks about her ordeal with chronic ME and her extraordinary recovery.

CHURCH NOTICES

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS:-

FAREWELL TO

John Higginbottom of Hastings Hill, Churchill, at Banbury crematorium 26th October
Kerry Thompson's father, Peter Mills, at Kingham on 16th October

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BIRTH ...

... of Henry Jack, born to Chloe and Steve Kimp on 26th September.

CONGRATULATIONS ON HER THANKSGIVING ...

Grace Hardwick at Kingham on 25th October.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year our Remembrance services are at Kingham at 10:00 and All Saints' Churchill at 10:45 on Sunday 8th November. The Guides and the Kingham Hill School Combined Cadet Force will join the British Legion at Churchill this year.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards with a beautiful picture of All Saints' church are on sale at the back of church at 35p each or 10 for £3. They will also be available at the next MOB & Toast breakfasts, the Churchill Lunch Club and the Chequers' Thursday coffee mornings.

THE MESSIAH!

Advanced notice that The Oxford Singers will be performing Handel's Messiah at All Saints' Churchill on Saturday, 12th December! Wow, this is seriously good stuff! Not to be missed. Watch this space!

METHODIST CHURCH

The Harvest Service on October 11th, along with the sale on the Monday, was a huge success. £206.05 was raised for relief aid in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Many thanks to all who contributed.