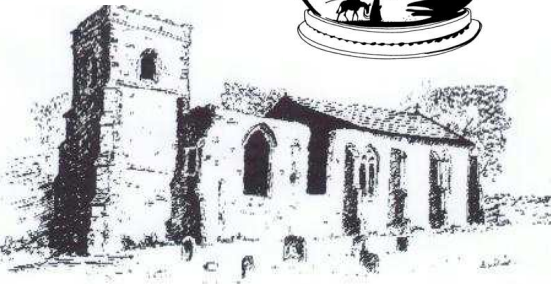


St. Simon &
St. Jude
Earl Shilton



St. Mary



Elmesthorpe

Parish Church Magazine

DECEMBER 2009

EARL SHILTON & ELMESTHORPE CHURCH

Vicar & Rector: Revd. Graham Gittings (01455-843961):mobile: 07711 460636

Churchwardens: ES: **ELMS:** Mrs. J.Jacques(846210)

Mr. Peter Baker (01455- 847934) Mr. D. Loxley (842094)

Secretaries: E.S.: Mrs. D. Lawton (845026) **ELMS:** Mrs .J. Birch (239296)

Treasurers: E.S.: Mrs. L.Dimmer (847934) **ELMS:** Mr. H.Rusch (851783)

Licensed Reader Emeritus : Mr.. E. Hooker (01455-843255)

Licensed Reader: Mrs. Kaye Wingham 96 Stanley Road Hinckley LE10 0HJ
01455 633898 email: Kayewingham@aol.com

Web Site:www.esparish.com

e-mail: GGvicar@aol.com

The Vicarage, Maughan Street, Earl Shilton. ☎ 01455-843961

☎ 07711 46 0636

My dear friends,

If I were to ask you for one word that sums up what Christmas means to you it may have different answers from different people. Generally when the question is asked of children they would reply presents. When I get that reply I tell the children that the presents are really for **Jesus** for his birthday in memory of the wisemen's gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Adults may have different replies – some would say loneliness. A surprising answer but when most people are enjoying themselves with family and friends there are people who live alone and they can be very isolated at Christmas. But to such I can say if **Jesus**, is with us as his name **Emmanuel** (God with us) suggests then how can we be really alone if we have faith in him. Others may say carols, and then I can say but the carols are all about **Jesus**. Others may say lights on the tree or lights in our town and city streets and they can be pointed to the true light of the world, **Jesus**, who comes into our dark world to bring the light of God. Others may reply, “love” and such an insight points to John3:16. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son”, **Jesus**. I am sure you have understood my message. It is all about **Jesus**. He is the reason for the season. Let us work, pray, witness and communicate with others to put **Christ** back into **Christmas**, and not leave him outside as at

Vicar's Letter continued from page 1

his birth when he was born in the stable because there was no room in the inn.

Happy Christmas to you all.
Your friend, Vicar and Rector,

Graham Gittinge.



**Christmas
(John 1:1-14)**

Fumbling around in a frenzy,
From September stress levels rise,
Dates collide,
Imagination falters
As presents and experiences fail to satisfy
The expectations of a world that walks
In the darkness of denial and Dawkins.

Yet all the time
The light shines in that darkness,
All the time
The greatest gift shines on,
All the time
There is hope and life has purpose,

And with each turning to the light
Love switches on.
Christ comes.

by Daphne Kitching

The Christmas Text of the month



“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today .. A Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord” said the angel.

Luke 2:10-11

SAINT OF THE MONTH

Christmas and St Luke's Gospel

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimmittis. Imagine an Anglican evensong without the Nunc Dimmittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So – imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke!

What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile! He was a doctor of medicine who accompanied St. Paul on some of his journeys and who also

wrote Acts of the Apostles as well as his gospel.



EARL SHILTON CALENDAR DECEMBER 2009

CW = Common Worship :BCP = Book of Common Prayer.

Tuesday 1st: 7pm. Bible Study at Bethel/Bethesda.

Wednesday 2nd: **8.30am. Morning Prayer** (church).

Saturday 5th: 10am to Noon Coffee Morning at Bethesda.

Sunday 6th: **10.30am. Bible Buddies**
(Exponential, Wood Street, Ear Shilton).
10.45am. Holy Communion (CW).
4pm. Memorial Service.
There is no service at 6pm.

Monday 7th: 7.30pm. Deanery Synod
(St. Mary's Church Hall Hinckley).

Friday 11th: 2pm to 5pm. Borough Council Public Consultation
over sustainable urban extensions
& settlement centre improvement schemes
in Earl Shilton & Barwell
Earl Shilton Methodist Church Hall

Saturday 12th: 10am to 2pm Repeat of above Public Consultation.
4pm. Christmas Party (Breakfast Club)
at Earl Shilton Methodist Church Hall.

Sunday 13th: **10.45am. Christingle and Toy Service**
6pm. Evensong (BCP).

Monday 14th: Magazine material needed by Vicar.

Tuesday 15th: 2pm. Weavers Close School Nativity Service.

Wednesday 16th: 10am. Townlands School Nativity Service .

Friday 18th: 9am St Peters RC School Nativity Service .

Sunday 20th: **10.45am Holy Communion (BCP).**
6pm. Nine Lessons & Carols.

Monday 21st: 6.30pm for 7pm. Radio Leicester Sing Christmas
Constitutional Club, Station Road, Earl Shilton.

- Tuesday 22nd** : 10.30am. Bethel/Bethesda Residential Home
Ecumenical Christmas Service with carols.
All welcome to come to the Home.
3.30pm. Rehearsal for Crib Service (church).
- Thursday 24th**: **Christmas Eve. 3pm. Crib Service .**
11.30pm. Midnight Eucharist (CW)
- Friday 25th**: **Christmas Day 8am. Holy Communion (CW).**
- Sunday 27th**: **10.45am. Holy Communion (CW).**
There is no evening service.
- Sunday 3rd January: 10.45am. Holy Communion (CW).**
6pm Evensong. (BCP).
- Wednesday 6th January:** 7pm Twelfth Night Concert. (see page 12).

ELMESTHORPE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2009

CW = Common Worship :BCP = Book of Common Prayer.

- Saturday 5th**: 10am to Noon Coffee Morning at Bethesda.
- Sunday 6th**: **9.15am. Holy Communion (CW).**
- Monday 7th**: 7.30pm. Deanery Synod
(St. Mary's Church Hall Hinckley).
- Friday 11th**: 7.30pm. PCC..
- Sunday 13th**: **3pm. Advent Carol Service.**
- Monday 14th**: Magazine material needed by Rector.
- Wednesday 16th**: 7.30pm Elmesthorpe Choir& Friends
Christmas Carol Concert. Tickets £5 including wine & mincepies.
- Thursday 17th**: 7.30pm. Elmesthorpe WI Carol Service.
- Friday 18th**: Magazine Collation Elmesthorpe volunteers.
- Sunday 20th**: **9.15am All Age Family Communion.**
10.30am Crib Service Rehearsal
- Monday 21st**: 6.30pm for 7pm. Radio Leicester Sing Christmas
Constitutional Club, Station Road, Earl Shilton.
(Elmesthorpe Parish Church Calendar continued on page 6)

(Elmesthorpe Parish Church Calendar continued)

Thursday 24th 5pm. Christmas Eve Crib Service.

Friday 25th: 9.15am Christmas Day Holy Communion. (CW).

Sunday 27th: 9.15am. Holy Communion (BCP).

Sunday 3rd January: There is no Morning Service.

3pm. Nine Lessons & Carols followed by wine & mincepies.

For Bible Studies please see Earl Shilton calendar.



Climate change – what individuals do DOES matter

From the 7th to the 18th December, the world's governments will be meeting in Copenhagen to try to agree a 'climate deal' that will shape our future. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by this subject (the news is full of it) but it doesn't have

to be this way. As the writer Leo Hickman has pointed out, most of us appreciate that sawing away at the branch we are sitting on can't be a good idea, but actually doing something about it requires us to make a leap of imagination and to stretch our ideas of self-interest and moral responsibility. The penny that has not yet dropped with most of us is that we have arrived at a make-or-break moment. Giving a recent lecture in London, Archbishop Rowan Williams said that our relationship with the rest of creation is intimately bound up with our relationship with God. "To act so as to protect the future of the non-human world, is both to accept a God-given responsibility and to honour the special dignity given to humanity itself." Drawing parallels with the financial crisis, Dr Williams argues that we urgently need to revise some of our assumptions, including those that are incompatible with our duty of care for the whole of life. The significance of small changes is obvious, but unless the spiritual roots of the challenge are grasped, our best efforts will amount to no more than what the psychologists call 'displacement activity'. Rowan Williams went on to point out how old rhythms in work and leisure have eroded and how we have lost patience with the passing of time so that speed of communication has become a good in itself. "We have been losing the ability to accept that living as a material body in a material world is risky," he said. See the web site (www.1010uk.org) or www.stopclimatechaos.org (you can also contact the latter by phone on 0207 324 4622).