



Faith
Inspiration
Exploration
Little Dewchurch &
Dinedor w Holme Lacy

DEC
2016

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from everyone at

St David's Church

Little Dewchurch with Ballingham

&

St Andrew's Church

Dinedor with Holme Lacy



OH HOLY NIGHT!

The hideous tie so kindly meant

I guess we've all had Christmas presents like that! Some of you might know the poem about Christmas written by John Betjeman which contains this phrase; the relevant verses are given below.

These days the poem is a bit dated, since not so many people wear ties or use bath salts, but we all know what it's like to open a present, only to have to struggle between telling the truth about how we feel and not hurting the feelings of the person who has given it to us. With some discretion it might eventually find its way into a raffle or charity shop, although its not unknown for such items to find their way back to you like the proverbial bad penny!

I must confess that, unless its really hideous, I'm usually able to make appreciative and grateful noises because I respect and value the love and appreciation of the person giving me the present and want to honour them for that. As the old saying goes 'It's the thought that counts'.

With all the celebrations and fun (and stress!) of Christmas it's easy to lose sight of what God was thinking when He gave us Himself as Jesus that first Christmas. Unlike many of the presents we will buy, it was a real sacrifice; something we easily forget even when we remember the heart of the Christmas story and the way it is often romanticised. It was probably much closer to a refugee Syrian woman giving birth in a camp or stuck in a wet cold

field somewhere in Europe. Probably these days the baby Jesus would have been taken away pretty quickly by Social Services because of the unsuitable conditions of where Mary gave birth!

God became a human being and came to live with us, with all the mess, and the horror, and the injustice, and the cruelty because he wanted to, because it was the only way that eventually we could get out of the mess, and the horror, and the injustice, and the cruelty.

Let's pray that this Christmas we don't have to put on an act to thank Him from the bottom of our hearts.

Peter Houghton

And is it true?

*And is it true? and is it true?
The most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?*

*And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant.*

*No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.*

John Betjeman



Carol Services

Little Dewchurch

Family Carols on Sunday Dec 11th

- followed by activities in the Village Hall **3pm**

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday Dec 18th 3pm

Dinedor

Sunday 18th December 6pm

Ballingham

Carols in St Dubricius Church on Friday Dec 16th 6.30pm

Holme Lacy

Carols in Village Hall on Wed 14th Dec 7pm

Plough Inn, Little Dewchurch

Carols in the pub - Wed 21st Dec

7.30 for 8pm

Christmas Day

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Eve at St David's

&

10am Family Services

on Christmas morning

at both of our churches

- St Andrew's Dinedor

& St David's

Little Dewchurch



What's On

Mulled Wine Coffee Morning



Saturday
10th Dec
10.30-12

Little Dewchurch Village Hall

Other services in addition to Carols & Christmas Day

Sunday 11th Dec

9.30am St Andrew's Dinedor

Holy Communion (Peter Houghton)

11am St David's LD

BCP Communion (Rev John Wilson)

No services on January 1st

- but all welcome at St Martin's for:

9.30am Holy Communion or

11am **Blue Christmas** service

- a special service for those who
find Christmas a difficult time

*Our usual pattern of services at
each of our churches will then resume*



**FLICKS IN
THE STICKS**
LITTLE
DEWCHURCH

Fridays at 7 for 7:30pm

Jan 27th Wild Target 12A

Bill Nighy stars as Victor Maynard, a meticulous, lethally efficient, middle aged and unmarried assassin, following in the family business and still under the thumb of his domineering mother (played brilliantly by Eileen Atkins). In contrast Emily Blunt is the reckless, flamboyant and free-spirited thief Rose, aiming to pull off the ultimate art con, who finds herself on Victor's hit list, but.....

Feb 17th The BFG PG

March 17th Eye in The Sky

April 7th The Dressmaker

Do you want to know more about what it means to be a Christian?

The Bishop of Hereford has been invited to come to take a confirmation service in June in Little Dewchurch. If you have been baptised and would like to be confirmed this is an ideal opportunity. Rev Peter will be setting up a group for such people, but anyone interested in knowing more about what being a Christian means will be welcome, without any expectation that you will have to be confirmed. Contact Peter on 840443 or peter.houghton@kcl.ac.uk

Reverend Peter Houghton 01432 840443 (NB he works part-time)

The Team Office is contactable on 01432 353717

or by email at southwyeteam.ministry@btopenworld.com

The Office will be closed between Christmas & the New Year - re-opens Jan 3rd