



# THE COLOUR SUPPLEMENT

*Newsletter from Bramley Parish Leadership Team  
St Peter's, St Margaret's and the Church in Rodley  
Advent and Christmas 2011*

## **'Something to Celebrate'**

Christmas gives us something to celebrate. We learn this from the angel's opening words to the shepherds of Bethlehem. God had wonderful news for us that would cause us all to rejoice, celebrate, and throw a party: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10 (NIV)

The good news of Christmas is worth celebrating for three reasons. It is personal: "**I bring YOU.**" It is positive: "**GOOD news of great joy.**" And it is universal: "**for ALL the people.**" It doesn't matter who we are, what we've done, where we've been, or where we're going — this news is meant for us.

The most famous statement in the Bible is Jesus' explanation of why God sent him to earth: "For 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 (NIV)

So Christmas is a time to celebrate that God loves us, God is with us and God is for us. The entire reason for Christmas is the love of God. God loves us so much that he came to earth as a human so that we could get to know him and learn to trust him and love him in response – and this is the underlying reality to all our Christmas services and events.

I hope and I pray that all who visit our churches during this season may encounter and experience God's love in such a way that they may know deep within themselves that they truly have something to celebrate.

*Ian Rodley, Team Rector*



## Lest we forget



There was an amazing turnout at the Remembrance Sunday Service on 13 November. The following day I received a number of appreciative emails; “It was a lovely service which captured a sense of community as well as occasion”.

The head of Bramley Primary wrote: “Everyone, staff, pupils and parents, felt it was a really good idea and the consensus was that we would like to be involved in future years. So thank you for inviting us”.

One of my impressions was of a great team effort showing what could be achieved when people united in a common purpose and how an act of worship could embrace our community. I would like to record our thanks to Patrick Simpson, Andy Hulme and Robert Stevenson for preparing the Field of Remembrance; Dave Bellwood for providing the sound system and Sally Clark for playing the Last Post and Reveille. The banners provided by local primary school children were moving reminders of the importance of remembrance, and our uniformed groups gave their support throughout. An unprecedented demand for food and hot drinks after the service was ably met by our Refreshment Team. Thank you too to the many local people who shared their memories of family members and friends who had died in the wars, and reminded us that behind every inscribed name there is a unique life and story.

A short 7 minute film “*Lest we forget*” showing highlights from the Service is available at: <http://vimeo.com/32276055>

or follow links from the Parish website: [www.bramleyparish.org.uk](http://www.bramleyparish.org.uk)

*Ian Rodley*

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## Christingle Service

This year’s Christingle Service, at St Peter’s on Sunday 11 December at 4.00 pm, features an imaginative retelling of the Christmas story in a short film made with children from St Peter’s Primary School. The film *Land of Shadows* explores the themes of light and dark and the experience of Jesus coming as “the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it”.

As in previous years, Christingles will be distributed to all children and a collection will be made for the Children’s Society. Please note there will be no nut products on the Christingles because of concerns about allergies.

## Christmas Services

|                       |          |   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Sunday 11 December    | 11.00 am | Nativity Service at Rodley Church                   |
|                       | 4.00 pm  | Parish Christingle Service at St Peter's            |
| Wednesday 14 December | 7.00 pm  | Carols by the Canal in Rodley                       |
| Thursday 15 December  | 11.00 am | Hollybush School Christmas Service                  |
|                       | 7.30 pm  | Community Carol Service at the Ven Bede Church      |
| Friday 16 December    | 2.00 pm  | St Peter's School Christmas Service                 |
| Saturday 17 December  | 11.00 am | Churches Together Carols at Bramley Shopping Centre |
| Sunday 18 December    | 9.30 am  | Communion Service at St Margaret's                  |
|                       | 10.45 am | Communion Service at St Peter's                     |
|                       | 4.00 pm  | <i>Faith &amp; Film</i> Service at St Peter's       |
| Saturday 24 December  | 4.00 pm  | Parish Crib Service at St Margaret's                |
|                       | 11.30 pm | Parish Midnight Communion at St Peter's             |
| Sunday 25 December    | 10.00 am | Parish Christmas Family Communion at St Peter's     |
|                       | 10.00 am | Christmas Service at Rodley                         |
| Sunday 1 January      | 10.00 am | Parish Communion at St Margaret's                   |
|                       | 4.00 pm  | Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter's               |

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## Children's Activity Day

Thursday 22 December at St Margaret's Church,  
with registration starting at 9.45 am, followed by fun activities until 12 noon.

At 12 noon parents and carers are welcome to come and join in  
with carol singing and mince pies.

The theme of the day is

**'Follow the star'**

Further details can be obtained from Mandy Coutts or the parish office.



# Bramley St Peter's C of E Primary School Christmas Update



## School News

Our children are busily preparing for their Christmas productions in school. Key stage one and Reception children are going to perform The Nativity and year 3 and 4 are going to perform a version of Cinderella – in true panto style.

You are very welcome to come to either or both of these performances – just let us know in the school office (2146078) so we can ensure that we are meeting our fire regulations etc.

The dates for performances are:

### Key Stage 1 Nativity

5th and 6th of December

### Key Stage 2 Christmas Production

7th and 8th December

We will confirm times closer to these dates (they will be afternoon performances)

Get into the festive spirit with us! Our Candle Service is on **Friday 16th December 2 pm in St Peter's Church**. Our children will be involved with the readings and singing during this service – please come and join us! (our year 5 and 6 children will also be playing violins).

Once again if you have a spare hour each week and would like to come to hear children read or support us in developing our school allotments let us know – we would cover the cost of the necessary CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks and our children/staff would really appreciate the help.

We, at Bramley St Peter's C of E Primary, wish you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Cath Harbrow  
Headteacher



## Bramley Parish Theatre Players

After the success of the Queen of Hearts in February 2011, we have a more traditional pantomime for 2012 - Snow White and the Seven Dwarves but they've been modernised and have up to date names which you'll only find out if you come. Again we are delighted to be joined by further new members to the group who are fitting in well and adding freshness to our productions. The script is again written by Linda Birch and the story is certainly relevant to life today – a queen who is no longer in the full flowering of youthfulness and finding it hard to accept the passage of time. There are plenty of adverts these days to encourage this attitude! We have the innocence of Snow White, prepared to accept and trust other people without ever thinking ill of them and even accepting people who are very different – the dwarves. The court has a motley collection of officials and helpers who try to keep things running smoothly despite the irascible nature of the wicked queen. All this overseen by the fairy who maintains a watchful eye to see that no-one comes to any harm. And.... there may or may not be a ghost haunting the castle, but what is certain... there will be a talking mirror!

Over the past few years, we have invested a lot in improving the sound and lighting for our productions and other stage users. Quite a few people have noticed and commented. We still have more to do but this year we will be keeping the ticket prices the same as for the past few years and using the raffle income ourselves to offset increased overheads and towards the cost of further improvements rather than giving it away to charities.

Do book early to avoid disappointment – it is worth coming to watch.

Pantomime dates will be from:

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. to Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>. February 2012 – school half-term.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Online booking at | <a href="http://www.bptp.co.uk">http://www.bptp.co.uk</a>  |
| Info              | <a href="mailto:tickets@bptp.co.uk">tickets@bptp.co.uk</a> |
| Telephone         | 07866499800  |

*Edward Turner, Chairman, BPTP*

## **The computer swallowed Grandma,**

Yes, honestly its true!  
She pressed 'control and 'enter'  
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,  
The thought just makes me squirm.  
She must have caught a virus  
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet,  
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves  
My searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative,  
Not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'  
My Grandma you should see,  
Please 'Copy, Scan' and 'Paste' her  
And send her back to me.

*This is a tribute to all the Grandmas and Grandpas who have been fearless and learned to use the Computer.... They are the greatest!!!*

**“We do not stop playing because we grow old; We grow old because we stop playing.”**

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## **Prayer**

Thank you Lord God for inspirational older people whom I have met and known.  
(Take a few moments to remember them, recall how they made a difference to you and others.)

Thank you Lord for their vision, for their enthusiasm to keep learning and that they could still enjoy life.

Thank you Lord for their inspirational wisdom and their drive to keep going through difficulties.

Thank you Lord that many were always alert for opportunities to help others and also to see and share the fun in life.

Lord please grant me a measure, in my own life, of these virtues of saintly Seniors.

Amen.

*Authors unknown*