

## Christmas is special

Christmas is one of the most important times of the year. Yes, certainly important for the church because we celebrate the birth of Christ and recognise that He came as the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. So for many it is a time to reflect on whatever their Christian faith means to them, while for others it is simply a good opportunity to relax with friends and family.

One of the great strengths of Britain is the way that our small country has welcomed people from many different cultures, while still maintaining our best traditions. These traditions based on the Christian faith come out for many in the singing of carols attending services and exchanging gifts because it is Christmas.

For everyone though, it is a time to reflect on the past, and to look to the future with confidence. A time of celebration and of compassion too as many of us will be thinking of close friends and family whom we may have lost during the year.

And I hope that this year in particular we will all remember those young men and women who serve their country at home and abroad, and respect their courage, even if we feel the war in Afghanistan is one we should not have entered into.



## MELKSHAM FAMILY OF CHURCHES

Wish You  
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND INVITE YOU TO JOIN US

**FAMILY OF CHURCHES IS A COVENANTED PARTNERSHIP OF THE CHURCHES IN MELKSHAM, WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER IN SERVICE AND WITNESS TO GOD AND TO THE COMMUNITY. JESUS PRAYED "THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE ... SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE". THE FAMILY OF CHURCHES ENDEAVOURS TO MAKE THESE WORDS A REALITY.**

The Melksham Family of Churches  
invite you to join them on  
Sunday 20th December from 4.30pm to 5.30pm  
for the singing of Carols in the Market Place.

Website: [www.mfoc.org.uk](http://www.mfoc.org.uk)  
Email: [contact.us@mfoc.org.uk](mailto:contact.us@mfoc.org.uk)



While I am fortunate enough to be spending this Christmas at home, I know that for others, that will not be possible. Either because they are alone or they are working, providing vital public or emergency services, or because their family is far away.

If, like me, you are fortunate enough to have a close bond of friendships and enjoy a close family around you at this time, I hope you can spare a thought for those who are not as fortunate.

Christmas is also a time for communities to come together, to give and to share and to be at peace, a time to build the kind of respect for each other that helps us to be stronger. My hope for 2010 is that the goodwill and respect that we all enjoy at Christmas will last all year round.

You can be sure that all the churches in Melksham will welcome you and make you feel at home with friends not just at Christmas but the whole year round.

Happy Christmas

Michael H. Jones (Rev)  
Chairman of  
Melksham Family of Churches

## Church Services

**ST ANTHONY'S RC CHURCH, WEST END**  
**FR. RICHARD NORTHEY**  
**TEL: (01225) 702128**

Thursday 24th December  
5.30pm - Vigil Mass  
11.00pm - Night Mass

Friday 25th December  
9.30am - Morning Mass

**ST ANDREWS CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, FOREST**  
**REV. NICK LOCK**  
**TEL: (01225) 335906**

Sunday 20th December  
10.00am - Family Service  
6.30pm - Carol Service

Thursday 24th December  
11.30pm - Midnight Communion

Friday 25th December  
10.00am - Family Communion

**ST MICHAELS AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH,**  
**CANON SQUARE**  
**REV. ANNIE WINTOUR**  
**TEL: (01380) 850880**

Sunday 20th December  
6.30pm - Carol Service

Thursday 24th December  
4.00pm - Crib Service  
11.30pm - Midnight Communion

Friday 25th December  
10.00am - Family Communion

Sunday 27th December  
10.00am - Family Communion

**MELKSHAM BAPTISM CHURCH,**  
**OLD BROUGHTON ROAD**  
**REV. MICHAEL JONES**  
**TEL: (01225) 791675**

Sunday 20th December  
10.30am - Morning Worship with  
Communion

Thursday 24th December  
11.30pm - Midnight Communion  
(30 minutes) service

Friday 25th December  
10.30am - Joint Service at the  
Melksham United  
Church

Sunday 27th December  
10.30am - Morning Worship

**QUEENSWAY CHAPEL, PEMBROKE ROAD,**  
**MELKSHAM, SN12 7NB**  
**JUNCTION OF QUEENSWAY WITH PEMBROKE ROAD**  
**ROBIN HENDERSON**  
**PHONE: 01225 702808**  
**EMAIL: ENQUIRIES@QUEENSWAYCHAPEL.ORG.UK**  
**WEBSITE: WWW.QUEENSWAYCHAPEL.ORG.UK**

Sunday 20th December  
10.00am - Nativity Service

Thursday 24th December  
11.30pm - Carols by Candlelight

Friday 25th December  
10.00am - Family Service



**MELKSHAM UNITED CHURCH**  
**REV. ALISON MORLEY**  
**TEL: (01225) 702232**  
**EMAIL: AMORLEY@WILTSUNITEDCHURCHES.ORG.UK**  
**WEBSITE: WWW.WILTSUNITEDCHURCHES.ORG.UK**

Friday 18th and Saturday 19th December  
Melksham United Church open for  
exhibition of Nativities and  
tea and coffee.

Sunday 20th December  
6.00pm - Candlelight Carol Service  
(All ages very welcome)

Thursday 24th December  
11.30pm - Midnight Communion

Friday 25th December  
10.30am - Christmas Day Service  
(All ages welcome)

Thursday 31st December  
3.00pm - New Year's Eve Social  
4.30pm - New Year's Eve Service

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH, BEANACRE**  
**BARRY SCARLETT**  
**TEL: (01225) 702053**

Sunday 20th December  
6.30pm - Carol Service

Thursday 24th December  
11.30pm - Midnight Communion

Friday 25th December  
10.00am - Family Communion

