

JANUARY

Monday 15th 3.30pm MESSY CHURCH at Curry Rivel School

21st Third Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Curry Rivel

9.30am Morning Prayer (CW) at Fivehead

10.00am All Age Family worship at Curry Rivel followed by

11.15am Short Holy Communion (CW)

28th Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9.15am Holy Communion(CW)+ Sunday Club at Curry Rivel

11.00am Holy Communion (CW) at Fivehead

UNITED BENEFICE OF CURRY RIVEL, FIVEHEAD AND SWELL

Rector: - Rev. Scott Patterson, Tel: 01458 251375

Reader: - Margaret Smith, Tel: 01460 281555

Churchwardens:-

Fivehead: - Meg Tyler, Tel: 01460 281574
Ellen Balmer, Tel: 01460 281578

Swell :- Anna Rees , Tel: 01458 253067



St. Martin's Church, Fivehead
and
St. Catherine's Church, Swell



Scott's Spot

For many Christmas is a time of mixed

emotions, meaning different things for different people. For some, in harmony with the Christmas message of joy and celebration, it will be a happy time.

There will be family gatherings, the giving and receiving of gifts, parties, good food, children's laughter and fun.

For others, though, this season will bring pain. There may be the memory of a bereavement around this time – be that recently or many years ago. It may be the thought of happy Christmas' long ago, before the children grew up and left home, that highlights the ever-passing years. It may be that illness, disability or loneliness makes celebration hard. Or it may be that as we look at the world around us with the suffering of so many through hunger, war, displacement, selfish leadership, homelessness, poverty and disease, we have heavy hearts. In worldly terms, the truth is that many will have little, or nothing, to celebrate. Christmas may be a time of joy, but not everyone will be rejoicing.

Yet as we face the reality that despite the decorations many around us will be struggling, it's precisely here that we can see the true wonder of the Christmas message. In traditional carol services the final bible reading comes from the beginning of John's Gospel and includes these words: ***'The Word became flesh and lived amongst us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.'***continued overleaf

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Here we find what *really* makes Christmas a time of wonder, that at its heart we find the staggering proclamation that God became flesh, taking on our humanity. The point is that because of this he understands what we are going through. He doesn't just sympathise with our pain. As someone who knows the taste of it, he empathises. He doesn't just gaze benevolently from a distance as we face the trials of life. He has shared in human life himself – experiencing the same temptations, ravaged by the same fears, suffering the same pain, and tasting the same joys and sorrows. He is involved in our human situation and offers his companionship and strength for the journey.

Christmas is certainly a time of joy, but it is not only for the joyful. It is certainly a time of celebration but again, not solely for those able to celebrate. It is a time of good news for all whether they laugh or cry, rejoice or despair. In Jesus, the baby born in Bethlehem, God has entered our world. He did this so that through that unique life, those who receive this Christmas gift may enter his kingdom where all, undoubtedly, shall rejoice.

**With every blessing to you and those you love this Christmas,
Revd. Scott Patterson.**

DIARY

THERE ARE CELEBRATIONS OF HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) AT 10.30 am EVERY THURSDAY IN THE OLD SCHOOLROOM BEHIND CURRY RIVEL CHURCH.

BCP = Book of Common Prayer, CW = Common Worship, UB = United Benefice,

URC = United Reformed Church

DECEMBER

Friday 1st 7.30pm Carols and Bangers & Mash at Curry Rivel village Hall

3rd ADVENT SUNDAY

**10.00am UB All Age Communion at Fivehead
4.00pm UB Christingle Service at Curry Rivel**

DECEMBER

10th Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Swell
11.00am Holy Communion (CW) at Curry Rivel + Sunday Club
6.00pm Carol Service with candlelight at Fivehead

Monday 11th 3.30pm MESSY CHURCH at Curry Rivel School

Wednesday 13th Carol Service by candlelight at Swell

17th Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am Morning Prayer (CW) at Fivehead
9.30am said Holy Communion(CW) at Curry Rivel
6.00pm Carol Service at Curry Rivel

Tuesday 19th 7.00pm Carols at Chatham Place, Curry Rivel

Wednesday 20th 7.00pm Carols in the Crown Inn, Fivehead

24th Christmas Eve

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) at Fivehead
4.00pm Crib Services at both Fivehead and Curry Rivel
11.15pm Midnight Communion at Curry Rivel

Monday 25th Christmas Day

**8.30am Christmas Communion (BCP) at Swell
10.30am All Age Christmas Communion at Fivehead**

31st First Sunday after Christmas

10.00am UB All Age Communion Service at Curry Rivel

JANUARY

7th Second Sunday after Christmas - Epiphany

10.00am All Age Family Service at Fivehead followed by
11.15am Short Holy Communion (CW)
6.00pm Evening Worship at Curry Rivel

14th Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Swell
11.00am Holy Communion (CW) at Curry Rivel + Sunday Club
6.00pm Evening Prayer (CW) at Fivehead

