



Halam News

December 2007

From the Editor: My good wishes go to you all for a joyful and peaceful Christmas time! This month's Halam News is sponsored by Sarah & William Hill - thank you! If you would like to sponsor Halam News (£10 per edition), advertise, make a donation, or have items included (deadline 25th - late submissions may be carried over) contact: Karin Davis: Tel: 815854 or email karinlindley@hotmail.com



REFLECTIONS AT CHRISTMAS

I am grateful to the Editor for giving me this opportunity to write a few words as we approach Christmas. A big thank you to all who have welcomed me as your new parish priest in these first few weeks. I look forward to getting to know many more of you in the weeks and months ahead and at our Christmas services.

I wonder where people are up to with Christmas this year. Planning, shopping, posting, wrapping, and partying in the busy weeks building up to Christmas will for many be as much part of life as usual, but perhaps in recent years there is something else around - something more fragile, something more uncertain.

At the heart of Christmas is a birth of a baby boy - a vulnerable new life born into an occupied country. Whatever Christmas means for us - light in the darkness, a hope for peace and goodwill for all humanity, catching up with family and friends, the joy of a belief in a God who is with us in the mess and muddle of life, presents and cards - most people respond warmly to the birth of Jesus.

Christmas is a time of celebration and hope but there are also those facing Christmas alone, perhaps for the first time, due to bereavement, separation or misunderstanding, and there are others with uncertainties about health or career. Most of us will do our share of celebrating, and having fun, but we still have our vulnerabilities.

What matters to most of us is that we matter to somebody else and that there are others who are special for us. The message at the heart of Christmas is that each of us matters. Each of us is special, unique and loved by God whatever is going on in our lives.

May we all have a Christmas filled with peace and hope.

David McCoulough

Church Cleaning

Thank you very much to our willing group of ladies for a job well done over the past year. I would welcome any new volunteers for the very important task - again many thanks.

Elsie Milner: Tel: 01636 814460

Church Study Group

The next meeting of the Church Study Group will be on Thursday, 6th December in The Scypen, Radley Road, Halam at 7.30pm. All are welcome. - **Tony Andrews**



IN MEMORY OF DENNIS FOX (1926-2007)

Many in the village were saddened by the death of Dennis who died on 15 November 2007 aged 81. He had lived in the village since 1951. He was born in Newark and worked at first with Ransome and Marle the engineering company before moving to Partners the printers in Newark. It was whilst he was at Ransomes that he met Kath Bass and he married her in January 1951. It was natural that they came to live in Halam - Kath's brother Bill lived here with his wife and children - their youngest child was Linda. Denis and Kath forged very close ties with Bill and his family and were next door neighbours - separated only by Gray Lane.

Dennis retired from work with the Printers in the late 1970's and thereafter would often be seen helping with farm work or in neighbour's gardens. His life entered a very quiet phase after Kath's death and he became notable for his constant presence and smile in the local village shop. No matter when one went into the shop Denis was always there- smiling and quietly listening; - he seemed part of the shop furnishing- no matter who owned it.

Always quietly unassuming he nevertheless contributed greatly to village life - polishing the church brass and copper, sometimes undertaking duties on the church cleaning rota and supporting those less fortunate than he in the village. Of particular note was the love, care and support he gave his niece Linda in her last illness.

He had a great love of life and was transformed when talking of his life in the Services He was a great supporter of the library van and always borrowed several books when they paid a fortnightly visit to Halam. The librarians would trawl through their stocks to look out a supply of Westerns especially for him. In summary Denis had a quiet dignity which affected all who met him. As John Betjeman wrote:

"A gentle guest, a willing host,

Affection deeply planted -

It's strange that those we miss the most

Are those we take for granted"

David Herbert

**SOUTHWELL
RENAISSANCE SINGERS**
will be joining together for the Service of
Lessons and Carols
ST MICHAELS CHURCH HALAM
16TH DECEMBER 6.30PM
Do come and join us!
Listen to some traditional and new carols
Join in with some old favourites
Enjoy a glass of wine!
Retiring Collection for the new Organ Fund

HALAM SCHOOL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

15 December: Carols for Everyone in the Minster 7pm

17 December: Reindeer Drive - Evening at School

18 December: Carols & Mince Pies for Senior Citizens

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 **St Michael the Archangel: December Services**

2 December Advent 1	8.00am: Holy Communion: Revd David McCoulough 9.30am: Family Communion: Rev R Perry 6.30pm: Advent Service in The Minster
9 December Advent 2	11am: Sung Eucharist: Revd R Perry 6pm: Advent Service in St Giles Edingley
16 December Advent 3	9.30am: Family communion: Revd David McCoulough 6.30pm: Carol Service
22 December	Wedding: Peter Cartwright/Lyndsey Booth
24 December Christmas Eve	5pm: Crib service: Revd D McCoulough 11.15pm: Midnight Mass: Revd R Perry
25 December Christmas Day	9.30: Family Communion: Revd David McCoulough 
30 December	Joint Service at St Giles Edingley

For information contact Churchwardens: Bev Perks (Tel: 812181) David Herbert (Tel: 812335) & Revd. David McCoulough (Tel: 07714614645)

HALAM & DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On the 4th December the W.I. will be holding the Over 60's Christmas Party with entertainment. For information contact Glenys Herbert Tel: 812335.

THE HALAM CALENDAR 2008

There are still a few Halam Calendars at £7 featuring Halam's Trees, – send me your orders, and if you can sell some to friends please let me know! Thank you for your support! **Contact: Karin Davis (815854)**
Or email karinlindley@hotmail.com

BURNS NIGHT

**Saturday 27 January
In Halam Village Hall at 7.30pm
Four course dinner
with a glass of wine included**

**Tickets: £15 from: Margaret McCracken (814917)
Karin Davis (815854) Ann Reid (816411)**

**Limited places – book early to avoid
disappointment!**

Present: A. Fraser (in the Chair) D. Herbert, G. Herbert; A. Paris; M. Thompson **Apologies:** S. Bust D. Parrish

Matters Arising: 1. Flooding – Mr Edwin Kite from Edingley wishes to contact Halam Parish Council to discuss sewage problems in the two villages – contact details to be passed on to Simon Bust. 2. 'Caution Ducks' signs for Halam – Clerk to contact County Council to request these. 3. Gray Lane overgrown – Highways Dept, County Council is sorting this out

Village Hall: Refurbishment – project discussions ongoing – held over for next meeting. **There are no plans to close the hall – the Parish Council is committed to keeping this Parish facility open.** Funding – Marina Thompson will fill in WREN application form. Andrew Paris reported conversations with Kneesall Parish Council. They had raised grants to create a Parish Space within the church, but lottery funding available was much larger 2-3 years ago

Design Statement: Examples of other design statements had been circulated. The Wymeswold example was agreed to be very good; discuss further at the next meeting.

PC email address: It was agreed that the P.C. should set up its own email address on a six month's trial basis so that parishioners can contact it via email if required.

Dessert Spoons: These are still missing from the village hall. If you have borrowed these, please can you return them as soon as possible.

Open Meeting: Matters discussed:- 1. Christmas tree – to be put up at the start of December. 2. Estimated costs of the village hall refurbishment. 3. Parking close to, or opposite road junctions on Radley Road. **The local police are now monitoring the situation and will take action if required.** 4. Speed of traffic through the village.

Correspondence: Pathfinder Consultation and Free School Transport – due to the large response to this, the County Council have decided not to charge for school transport. Many thanks to Councillors Andy Stewart and Bruce Loughton for their assistance with this.

Planning Decision: Bramley, Halam Hill: demolition and erection of new dwelling – refused by District Council (policies H13 & H21) due to impact on neighbours because of the proposed dwellings height and position.

Planning: Hallem House Farm, Radley Road: demolition of existing building and build 3 new dwellings & associated garages/access roads – rejected unanimously. Reasons: 1. new proposal does not have a mix of houses the previous one had, and does away with the agreed semi-detached, smaller properties; 2. Proposed new houses - too large and too tall; 3. Loss of the existing old wall; 4. Blue tiled roofs out of keeping with the rest of the village; 5. possible creation of drainage/flooding problems; 6. archaeological investigation of site required; 7. Protection from further development of the land further up the hill required.

Finance: The budget for the current year was reviewed. The precept for next year was agreed.

Date of Next Meeting: - Thursday December 13th at 7.30pm.