

**Minister: Rev. Glen Graham 01884 34077    Church Secretary: Marilyn Bidmead 07749 086976**

## Old Christmas Day

Until the time of Julius Caesar the Roman year was organized round the phases of the moon. For many reasons this was hopelessly inaccurate so, on the advice of his astronomers, Julius instituted a calendar centred round the sun. It was decreed that one year was to consist of three hundred and sixty-five and a quarter days, divided into twelve months; the month of Quirinus was renamed 'July' to commemorate the Julian reform.

Unfortunately, despite the introduction of leap years, the Julian calendar overestimated the length of the year by eleven minutes fifteen seconds, which comes to one day every one hundred and twenty-eight years. By the sixteenth century the calendar was ten days out. In 1582 reforms instituted by Pope Gregory XIII lopped the eleven minutes fifteen seconds off the length of a year and deleted the spare ten days. This new Gregorian calendar was adopted throughout Catholic Europe.

Protestant Europe was not going to be told what day it was by the Pope, so it kept to the old Julian calendar. This meant that London was a full ten days ahead of Paris. By the time England came round to adopting the Gregorian calendar, the middle of the eighteenth century, England was eleven days ahead of the Continent.

A Calendar Act was passed in 1751 which stated that in order to bring England into line, the day following the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1752 was to be called the 14<sup>th</sup>, rather than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. Unfortunately, many people were not able to understand this simple manoeuvre and thought that the government had stolen eleven days of their lives. In some parts there were riots and shouts of 'give us back our eleven days!'

Before the calendar was reformed, England celebrated Christmas on the equivalent of the 6<sup>th</sup> of January by our modern, Gregorian reckoning. That is why in some parts of Great Britain people still call the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, Old Christmas Day.

# Church Diary *Welcome!*



You are welcome to join in any of our activities. Newcomers to the town and holiday visitors are particularly welcome.

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Services are at 10.30 on a Sunday morning. We have a regular Morning Sunday School. Children take part in the 10.30 service before going to their own activity. Please join us after the service for coffee in the Hall.

### January

1 <sup>st</sup>	am	<b>10.00</b> <i>Mince Pie Cafe Service</i> in Schoolroom
8 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham <i>—annual covenant service</i>
15 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham
22 <sup>nd</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham— <i>Communion</i>
29 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham

### February

5 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham
12 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham
19 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham— <i>Communion</i>
26 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev. Glen Graham

## **House Group**

Mondays start 9<sup>th</sup> Jan., 10.30  
Tuesday start 10<sup>th</sup> Jan., 19.30  
venues to be given on Sunday previous.

## **Prayer Meeting**

Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. and 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
9.30 am in vestry.

## **Coffee Morning**

There will be no more coffee mornings on Friday  
Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. and 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. at  
Angie and Laurie's, 10.00  
Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. and 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
with Fairtrade, a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Sat  
of month

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat  
of month

## **Lunch Club**

First lunch club will be  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 12.30.

## **Fairtrade**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. and 11<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. a.m., in schoolroom.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat  
of month

## **Afternoon tea**

with Freda in schoolroom, Sat.  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 15.30.