

Dear Friends,

*A church is not just for Christmas*

Christmas was especially joyful and so firstly thank you to all who came and joined in and supported our services including being there for the turning on of the lights, the school Christingle service, the candlelit carols (we will make much more light next year!) the midnight Communion and all the services on Christmas morning. A big thank you too to the church wardens, and musicians and everyone who helps prepare the churches for these events - the churches need to be decorated, the cribs found in the attics, the sheep knitted, flowers found at the right time, candles placed, holly and evergreens chopped and arranged, the choirs rehearsed and many other details carefully attended to. It is always lovely to see that the Christmas story retains its power to inspire us, draw us closer together, illuminate our community and fuel our generosity.

The church calendar is out of step with the secular one for after the Christmas and New Year celebrations when the weight watchers clubs and gymnasium memberships climb we are in a period of Christmastide celebrating in sequence Epiphany, The Baptism of Jesus, and Candlemas (on the 2nd February). We are still feasting.

But then the church as I say, paraphrasing, from the Dog's Trust, is not just for Christmas we are here all the year round offering three services each Sunday and more on the special occasions. There are always those life events too - a wedding, a wedding blessing or a baptism when the church will be there to celebrate with you or in different times to draw alongside in time of trouble. Please do look at our website [www.burnhamsbenefice.org.uk](http://www.burnhamsbenefice.org.uk) for information about these special moments in your lives as well as for the details of our weekly services which are also on Facebook at *The Burnhams Benefice Norfolk*. By the way I have *finally* remembered to link our Facebook posts to my twitter account *@vicarsteve*. (thank you to those who reminded me!) so you can follow us there too.

All five of the Burnham churches are open during the hours of daylight for visitors to use for prayer or simply to enjoy their peace and beauty and if you ever want to talk - about anything at all please simply call.

With very best wishes

Steve