

## THE FIVE CANDLES SERVICE IN MINSTEAD

For over fifty years the Five Candles Service has marked the beginning of Advent in Minstead. The service was brought to Minstead from his previous parish by Rev. Clifford Rham, who was Rector of All Saints' from 1963 – 1970.

Originally the service was arranged in five parts to commemorate the five great festivals of the Christian year: Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Day, Ascension Day and Pentecost. Each part follows a pattern which includes a hymn, part of the creed, a New Testament passage and a collect. During each hymn a coloured and decorated candle is lit and brought to the front of the church to be placed in the candle stand, which was made especially for the purpose by Maurice Cavill, a local craftsman. Symbols were created from leather by Jeanie Mellersh.



Gill Gibbons now leads the service. She has been involved since 1967 and makes it “as near to the original as we can get it”.

Given Rev. Rham's well remembered affinity with young people it is not surprising that the “Five Candles” has an important role for children and young people. If you look near the vestry door you'll find a plaque to his memory.