

# A Celebration of British Livestock at Christmas

In support of the  
Addington Fund

**3rd December 2015**

Service to be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street,  
London, commencing at 11:00am, followed by a  
Champagne reception and lunch at Stationers' Hall.



For further information please contact either:  
Shepherd Publishing on 01684 565533  
[info@shepherdpublishing.co.uk](mailto:info@shepherdpublishing.co.uk)  
or, The Addington Fund on 01926 620135  
[events@addingtonfund.org.uk](mailto:events@addingtonfund.org.uk).



An event organised by Shepherd Publishing

# A Celebration of British Livestock at Christmas

Organised by Shepherd Publishing in support of The Addington Fund



*Howard Venters,  
Shepherd Publishing Ltd*

**We are delighted to advise you of a very exciting initiative and I invite you to put Thursday 3rd December 2015 in your diary.**

We are holding a Christmas service, to be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, in celebration of the British livestock industry, organised by Shepherd Publishing and in support of the Addington Fund which we believe to be a very worthwhile and credible farming charity. The service at St Bride's will comprise a full choir of twelve with Christmas carols and once again a little lateral thinking in terms of the musical content. Readings will be made by leaders of industry and the address by Ian Bell, Director of the Addington Fund. Geoff Dodgson, known to many within the industry, will take the prayers within the service.

Following the service we will host a Champagne reception followed by an industry lunch at Stationers Hall, close to St Paul's and a five minute walk from the church.

The seating plan will have limited capacity and we encourage you to secure your place, alternatively group places are still available should you wish to bring guests.

The cost of the church and hall will be covered by sponsorship, hopefully with a significant surplus to be made available to Addington and we will have an exciting auction of promises on the day together with a prize draw.

What is also interesting is that we plan to have livestock – lambs, calves, heifers and poultry – penned just outside the church. We are in discussion with the authorities and one of our proposals is to have a press call with national media and a prize Shorthorn heifer, to be supplied courtesy of the Shorthorn Cattle Society, outside the Royal Courts of Justice and to be halter led along Fleet Street prior to the service and into the churchyard. No doubt this will attract a lot of media and public interest which is our intention.

The purpose of organising this exciting event is three fold. Firstly to have a wonderful Christmas service and enjoyable occasion in the company of many friends and colleagues from the livestock industry, to promote the importance of the British livestock industry to a wider audience and at the same time contributing to a worthy farming charitable cause. It is our intention to extend invitations strategically across as many interested parties as we can think of. That will of course include the political organisations, breed societies, trade suppliers of which several of our clients have already confirmed attendance, farmers and breeders, auctioneers, veterinary associations, land agents, the wool trade – the list goes on – but basically all those involved in the British



*Ian Bell,  
The Addington Fund*

livestock industry. We also hope to have representation from the livery companies, including the Farmers, Woolmen and Poulterers.

Such an occasion requires first class British produce to be served for lunch and all produce supplied will be sourced from British farms. Catering will be provided by Life's Kitchen, well respected within the City of London, and the Jersey Cattle Society has kindly offered to provide all of the dairy products for the occasion.

The church and hall are committed as are the caterers and we have already received much interest with a number of places already booked. Publicity for the event will increase as from May and throughout the agricultural show season.

From early indications it is clear that this will prove to be a hugely popular and successful event and I do hope we can encourage you to become involved, either by individual attendance, group bookings for your colleagues and guests, and of course sponsorship is invited which can be tailored to your individual requirements.

Should you have any queries or wish to receive more details, please do not hesitate to contact either myself, my office or the Addington Fund, contact details as below.

**Howard Venters**  
**Publisher**  
**Shepherd Publishing Ltd**



*St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London*

- Individual places available at £85.00 including VAT
- Groups of 10 available at £850.00 including VAT
- Sponsorship available which can be tailored to your specific requirements

Please contact us for details

<https://twitter.com/shepherdpubs>  
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# Some of Addington's activities

*Addington housing in Worcestershire built on donated land*



*Straw destined for Gloucestershire, after 2007 floods*



*Promoting the industry through our Cornwall and Devon Farm Business Awards*



*Providing a modern, rural workspace*

The Addington Fund is very proud to be associated with the exciting new concept of "A celebration of British Livestock at Christmas"

The Addington Fund was originally set up in 2000 to support the East Anglian pig farming community dealing with the outbreak of Classical Swine Fever. The Fund was the inspiration of Canon Richard Addington, which continues to carry his name and uphold his principles.

Following the completion of Richard's initial work his charity went into abeyance until 2001 when the then Archbishop of Canterbury wanted the church to respond to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. Since then the Fund has responded to several animal disease and weather related situations, the latest being the serious flooding on the Somerset Levels.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the farming community, across the United Kingdom, for the support they have given Addington to assist the flood affected farmers in Somerset. It is at times like this that the farming industry excels itself; it has been very humbling for us to receive so much generosity in offers of feeding stuffs and straw, loan of machinery, free haulage and an enormous amount of fund-raising. The return to 'normal' in situations like the Levels can be painstakingly slow; deliveries of fodder have continued up until the first week of March and we will continue to support a few vulnerable families, who were badly affected by the flooding, but have other problems to deal with too.

Through the work of our Strategic Rural Housing Scheme we continue to meet farmers, mainly in the tenanted sector who have done nothing wrong. They have worked hard, led a very modest lifestyle and done incredibly well to have saved a significant amount of capital towards their retirement. What they could never have envisaged was the current high level of prices of rural properties. 56 per cent of our tenants have a share of equity in their homes, which we think adds to the dignity of their retirement. We are very aware that leaving a farm is like a bereavement and it can take quite some time to come to terms with the change; but with a degree of choice of where to live there is a 'new season' and an enjoyable future.

A pleasing aspect of our housing work is that through helping the older generation to retire we are creating opportunities for young people to enter the industry. We have possibly the best educated and most able next generation of farmers searching for opportunities to get into the industry. I have long held the belief that the biggest barrier to movement within the industry is the cost of housing and we must do more to increase the availability of housing at both ends of the age spectrum.

All the proceeds received from 'A Celebration of British Livestock at Christmas' will reach the livestock farmers we support. Addington aims to generate sufficient income from our own resources to cover all our day-to-day running costs, allowing donations to directly reach our farming families.

**Ian Bell OBE FRAGS**  
*Chief Executive*

[www.addingtonfund.org.uk](http://www.addingtonfund.org.uk)  
<https://twitter.com/AddingtonFund>

**Addington Fund**  
*a farming charity that means business*