

# Village's nativity tradition as popular as ever

ASHBURY residents took to the streets for the village's annual nativity play.

The tradition, which dates back more than 30 years, sees the villagers gather at the crossroads with their lanterns glowing and singing carols before the story of the nativity is told by the vicar, the Reverend Richard Hancock.

The characters in the story are all played by villagers, with the last couple to be married in St Mary's Church being asked to play Mary and Joseph.

Lucy Clements Brown, who first attended the event 30 years ago when she was nine months old, said: "We have, as a family, grown



**ARE THEY FOR ME?**  
Scenes from Ashbury's nativity play

in number considerably and have all made the nativity play part of our Christmas Season by taking part every year, never missing a single one.

"Some of my family have had significant roles to play over the years, from my dad and my uncle playing unwelcoming innkeepers from the cottage front doors, to

my sister Lorna and her husband Mike playing Mary and Joseph three years ago. Even my dolly Daisy played the star role of the baby Jesus in the year of 1983."

The crowd follows Mary and Joseph – and the donkey – around the village as the story unfolds before tucking into mince pies at the end.

"Ashbury is a village with a wonderful heritage and at this and other village events I am always touched at how the children that sat with me and my sisters on the hay bales 30 plus years ago, have also kept it part of their growing family's Christmas tradition by joining in every year," she said.