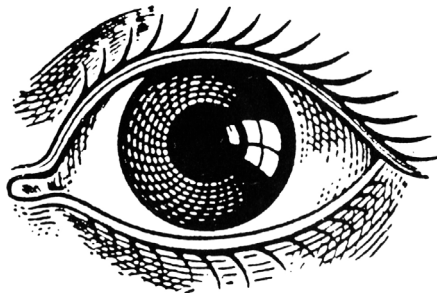


# NEW LEAVES December 2013 & January 2014

**from the vicar**

## **PARISH VISION DAY**

A couple of months ago, I wrote in the magazine about the problems with St David's church building. On November 3rd the whole congregation of St David's gathered after church and considered our response to this crisis. It was a very helpful day, facilitated with great skill by Andrew Mottram, who works as an advisor on the restoration of church buildings for the diocese of Worcester. His knowledge and enthusiasm were very helpful as we faced the daunting prospect of rescuing St David's. At the end of the day, almost everyone agreed that we should work towards a restored and renewed building. In order to ensure a sustainable future, we need to repair the west end and provide facilities which will encourage a range of other groups and organisations to use the building. The church is open every day but only used for about four hours a week. There is a potential source of income here, which we badly need.



## **NEXT STEPS**

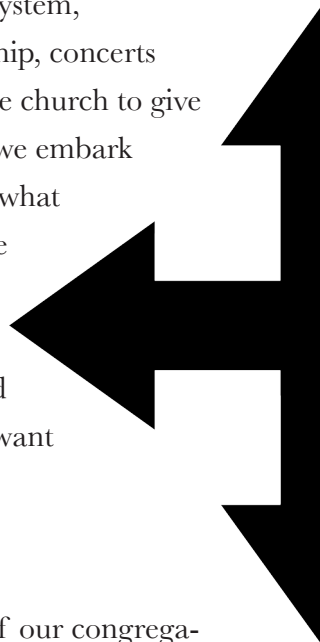
The repair will involve underpinning the west end and securing the areas where cracks have been appearing. But for most of us, the exciting part of this project is planning for new facilities to enhance the existing beauty and space of St David's. We have had lots of ideas: a new improved and larger kitchen, a more effective heating system, removing pews to create a more flexible space for worship, concerts and other activities, even opening up the east end of the church to give a more welcoming face to the many passers by. Before we embark on any work, however, we must have a realistic idea of what is needed in this part of Exeter. We don't want to create something and then find that nobody wants to use it. So the next few months will see us undertaking a wide ranging survey of local people and organisations to find out if there would be potential users of our space. We want to talk to them and begin to make partnerships.

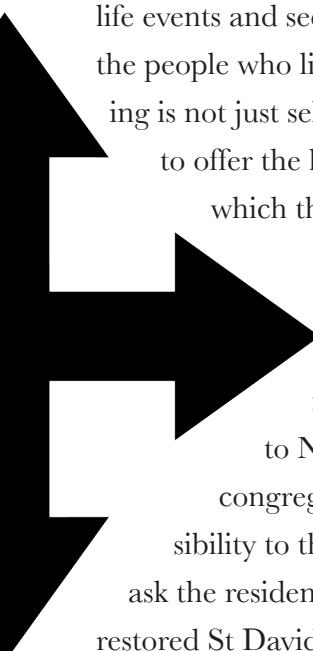
## **OPEN COMMUNITY**

St. David's church has a dual identity. It is the home of our congregation, a relatively small but vibrant community. We value our church building, partly because its openness and spaciousness reflects a breadth of spirit and a hospitality, which we offer to all, irrespective of their background, lifestyle and beliefs. Although many of us live locally, we also draw people from across the city, who are attracted to us because of our special way of being. This is what brought me to St David's.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD**

The second part of our identity is that the church is set in a context;





a part of the city of Exeter, with two railway stations, a college and a university, two schools, a prison, pubs, shops and businesses, a community centre, a residential area, some social projects working with disadvantaged groups and a significant number of homeless or poorly housed people. The particular character of the Church of England is that a church serves a geographical area, offering a holy space for important life events and seeking to share God's love for the neighbourhood and the people who live around us. So any work we do on the church building is not just self preservation for a group of insiders, but reaching out to offer the local community and the city, our neighbours, a space which they could use.

### **PARISH**

St David's also has a wider parish. Our boundaries stretch from the river to the top of Pennsylvania, to Northernhay Street in the middle of the city. Half our congregation live within these boundaries. We have a responsibility to them, so we are hoping to conduct a survey which will ask the residents of the parish what they would like to see in a newly restored St David's. Many of them will not even know that they live in our parish. We could combine this with a Christmas card giving details of services over Christmas. This is where you come in. Distribution of cards and surveys will take time and a lot of volunteers. We will be asking for them in church over the next few weeks, or you could phone me on 01392 686000.

### **HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND**

We are hoping to put in a bid for funding to the HLF in the first half of next year. To do this we will need to have a good working knowl-

edge of our neighbourhood and parish (see above). We will also need to consider the range of possible options for repair and improvements to the church building. We will recruit a small project group to coordinate the work required to make the bid; but this group will need support from every member of the congregation and other friends. If you would like to help in any way please let me know.

### **ANDY ATKINS**

Andy has been on placement in the Netherexe group of parishes for the last three months but he is back with us at St David's and St Michael's on 1st December. It will be really good to welcome Andy back. In June next year Andy will have completed three years with us and he will be thinking about the next stage of his ministry.

### **Tom**

# December from St Michael's



The last couple of months have been eventful. Our great Michaelmass festival, the Supper Dance, Harvest and Remembrance seem to have gone by in a race of wonderful music, celebrations of the Eucharist, heavy rain, concerts and scaffolding to enable the new organ to be installed. Each of these events on its own has involved thorough planning, practising and preparation for the event (apart from the rain!) to take place successfully. In amongst all these congregational events, there have been personal joys and sorrows.

Chris and I made a train journey to Cochem, in the Moselle Valley, to celebrate our fortieth wedding anniversary in October. We had kind weather and interesting things to do, including a walking tour of the town of Cochem with a local guide. This took in a visit to the parish church, which had recently had new stained glass windows installed. The strong colours of the glass had a startling beauty, and it was a not too difficult step to imagine earlier parishioners of the town looking around the medieval windows in wonder at the great stories they told as the Bible was brought to pictorial life. Nowadays, the stories have to be told again, because they are unfamiliar to a modern generation, our guide told us. The stained glass windows go in circles: originally, the windows educated the illiterate, now they are to educate the ignorant. Another feature of the town was the huge illuminated cross atop the hill where the ski-lift terminated. At night, the light blazed from the high

point, reminding everyone of the Christian legacy and faith in the area. Imagine one of those on Exwick Hill! Recently, a local school was asked to make its cross a little less obvious because it might offend the neighbours who belonged to other religions. Members of other faiths are not usually offended by the signs of the Christian faith; it seems to me it is those who profess no religion who take offence more readily.

A visit to Trier was included in our journey. We toured the ancient Roman gate, where the wind rasped through the gaps and local guides drilled school children as if they were Roman soldiers. We had lunch in the hotel where my late in-laws used to visit with their young son some years ago. It felt a bit like a tribute to John and Berta that we were able to go there. We went to the Domkirche, huge and airy, in bit of a hurry because of train times. I picked up a small leaflet of prayers which offered some interesting reading. It explains the Sign of the Cross, when it began, why to make it and how. Among other prayers, there is the Our Father, Ave Maria, Apostles' Creed, the Sanctus, confessions, morning and evening prayers, graces before and after meals, the Angelus and Regina caeli. Such a booklet would be a valuable statement at St Michael's. We often assume that visitors know that which is familiar to us. It is like a complete statement of the Christian faith in a folded A6 leaflet. Rich reading indeed- and a great exercise for my limited German, helped by familiarity with some of the material. On my very first visit to Germany, now well over forty years ago, it struck me during a visit to morning prayer that there were millions of Christians completing a wonderful chain of prayer and worship round the world throughout the day, each in his or her own language and tradition, and that God's glory is never left unacknowledged.

Our return was touched by sadness: my mother, suffering from severe

dementia, became very ill and died a few days after her 93rd birthday in October. My father found it all too much to manage and left the business and funeral arrangements to me. For my mother it was blessing to be free of the distress that had bothered her in the last years of her life; it was a blessing for us too, as her distress was so upsetting.

Now we look forward to the great promises of Advent: the arrival of the presence of God to share with us our human condition and to offer us the promise of salvation. The familiar Advent carols are sounding in my mind, and the much-loved readings from the prophets and the Gospels call us to remember God's love. Come and join us for our Advent Procession on the second Sunday evening and move from darkness to light with us in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. We are assured of God's provision of love in our moments of deepest darkness by the presence of the illuminating advent of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, God of God and Light of Light.

From all of us at St Michael's, we wish you a happy Christmas and many blessings in the New Year.

**Stephanie Aplin**



<b>St David's Eucharist      December</b>		
<b>December 01 : Advent Sunday</b>		
Reading 1	Isaiah 2: 1-5	Clive Wilson
Reading 2	Romans 13: 11-end	Cathy Knowles
Gospel	Matthew 24: 36-44	
Time of prayer		Sarah Black
Junior Church: Susan Mitchell		
<b>December 08 : Advent 02 <i>Family Service - Something different</i></b>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
<b>December 15 : Advent 03</b>		
Reading 1	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Pam Smith
Reading 2	James 5: 7-10	Emma White
Gospel	Matthew 11: 2-11	
Time of prayer		Jeanie Honey
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		
<b>December 22 : Advent 04</b>		
Reading 1	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Gabrielle Kirby
Reading 2	Romans 1: 1-7	Jenny Baker
Gospel	Matthew 1: 18-end	
Time of prayer		Margaret Grimsey
Junior Church: Helen Sail		
<b>December 24 : Midnight Mass</b>		
Reading 1	Isaiah 9: 2,3a,6,7	Dilys Thorp
Reading 2	Titus 3: 4-7	Suzi Leather
Gospel	Luke 2: 1-20	
Time of prayer		Glynis Harflett
<i>No Junior Church</i>		



St David's Eucharist      December		
December 25 : CHRISTMAS DAY		
Reading 1	Isaiah 11: 1-9	Hilary Todd
Reading 2	Luke 2: 1-14	
Gospel		
Time of prayer		Geoff Crockett
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
December 29 : 1st Sunday of Christmas		
Reading 1	Isaiah 63: 7-9	Helen Hopwood
Reading 2	Hebrews 2: 10-end	Geoff Crockett
Gospel	Matthew 2: 13-end	
Time of prayer		Helena Walker
<i>No Junior Church</i>		



<b>St David's Eucharist      January</b>		
<b>January 05 The Epiphany</b>		
Reading 1	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Julia Spruntulis
Reading 2	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Keith Postlethwaite
Gospel	Matthew 2: 1-12	
Time of prayer		Chris Gill
Junior Church: Susan Mitchell		
<b>January 12 : The BAPTISM of JESUS</b>		
Reading 1	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Ann Watts
Reading 2	Acts 10: 34-43	Mike Butler
Gospel	Matthew 3: 13-end	
Time of prayer		Mollie Curry
Junior Church:		
<b>January 19 : 2nd SUNDAY of EPIPHANY</b>		
<i>Family Service - Something different</i>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
<b>January 26 : 3rd SUNDAY of EPIPHANY</b>		
Reading 1	Isaiah 9: 1-4	Roslyn Mitchell
Reading 2	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	Philip Walker
Gospel	Matthew 4: 12-23	
Time of prayer		Robert Mitchell
Junior Church:		

# **Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme at St David's Church**

## **What it's about.**

This scheme allows us to claim top up payments on individual donations of loose cash (notes and coins only) made on the plate at services. If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration then please do not put loose cash on the plate, use one of the white envelopes.

## **The benefit.**

The scheme will allow us to claim top up payments on up to a maximum of £5,000 of un-Gift Aided cash donations. That is potentially an extra £1,250.

## **The small print.**

GASDS does not replace the Gift Aid scheme. The scheme is in addition to Gift Aid.

It provides for top-up payments to charities on small cash donations (up to £20) where it is difficult to obtain a Gift Aid declaration, such as at religious services. The payments are not a tax relief and there is no audit trail back to the original donor's tax record.

In order to be eligible to claim GASDS payments we need to continue to make regular Gift Aid claims. We currently claim Gift Aid on some £50,000 of donations annually.

You can still use the white Gift Aid envelopes in the pews. (If you use an envelope please make sure you complete it fully.)

## **Gift Aided Planned Giving**

If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and give through the Planned Giving Scheme you should continue to donate using Standing Orders and/or your numbered Gift Aid Envelopes.

In fact if you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration then you should NOT put loose cash on the plate because of the perceived danger of “double counting”. (Any donation treated as GASDS **must not** be Gift Aided.) There is no reason why a spouse or partner cannot put their own money on the plate if they have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration.

If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and want to give an extra donation then use the white envelopes in the pews and sign and date it or use the wall boxes as we will not claim top up payments under GASDS on the contents of these.

## **When?**

We plan to claim payments under the GASDS on donations collected on the plate as from the beginning of October.

If you have any queries please contact me via:

[stewardship@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](mailto:stewardship@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

Geoff Crockett  
Stewardship Officer



St. Michael and All Angels,  
Mount Dinham  
Parish of St. David  
Exeter

ST. MICHAEL'S LECTURES 2013



**Wednesday 04th December 7:30pm**  
**Genetically Modified Crops**  
**and World Hunger:**  
**Good and Bad Reasons to be**  
**Worried**

**Dr David Reece**

*Followed by discussion and light refreshments*

The lectures are open to all and admission is FREE (there is a voluntary retiring collection). St. Michael's Church is the church with the tall spire by the Iron Bridge on North St./St. David's Hill.

For further information contact David Beadle at [dnb201@ex.ac.uk](mailto:dnb201@ex.ac.uk) or  
[www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk)



St. Michael and All Angels,  
Mount Dinham  
Parish of St. David  
Exeter  
ST. MICHAEL'S LECTURES 2014



Wednesday 22nd January 7:30pm  
**Medieval Misericords and  
Benches in Devon Churches**  
**Dr Todd Gray**

*Followed by discussion and light refreshments*

**Todd Gray** is a Research Fellow at Exeter University and is currently engaged on a year's project, funded by the Pilgrim Trust, on medieval bench ends in the South West. He is the author of *Devon's Ancient Bench Ends*.

Devon has one of England's great collection of medieval carvings in its ancient bench ends. These survive across the county in rural churches and yet are largely unappreciated and unknown. Exeter also has one of the great series of misericords and these also provide a visual feast which informs and also entertains us with unsuspecting glimpses of medieval life.

The lectures are open to all and admission is FREE (there is a voluntary retiring collection). St. Michael's Church is the church with the tall spire by the Iron Bridge on North St./St. David's Hill.

For further information contact David Beadle at [dnb201@ex.ac.uk](mailto:dnb201@ex.ac.uk) or  
[www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk)

# Exeter Central Library

Exeter Central Library run several groups on a variety of topics.

Please use this link for more information

**[www.devon.gov.uk/index/cultureheritage/libraries/yourlocal-library/exeter\\_libraries/exeter\\_central\\_library/events\\_at\\_exeter\\_central.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/cultureheritage/libraries/yourlocal-library/exeter_libraries/exeter_central_library/events_at_exeter_central.htm)**

Here are a few examples of what's on offer.

## **Woolly Wonders Knitting Group**

Date: Every month - Tuesdays

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Description: Knitting is being touted as “The new Yoga”. It can help to relieve stress and take your mind off your aches and pains, as well as keeping your mind active and reducing the risk of memory loss. All this and the added bonus of enjoying the company of other knitters.

Audience: Everyone welcome

Cost: Free

Bookings: Drop in - no need to book

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## **Exeter Audio Book Group**

Date: Once a month meeting

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

Description: A new reading group for blind and visually impaired people being launched at Exeter Central Library, The Hoskins Room Castle Street. This is a chance to get together and discuss and recommend books in large print or audio format.

Audience: Blind and Visually Impaired people with or without helpers including guide dogs.

Cost: Free

Bookings: Just turn up  
Organiser: Ask for Liz Cordin 01392 384 209

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## **IT Drop -in Sessions**

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Description: We can help you with: how to set up an email account and how to open and send attachments. How to use a scanner. How to upload photos to your computer. How to find what you want on the web. How to use social housing sites. How to use Ebay. How to book things online. How to use ereaders and ebooks.

Audience: Anyone who would like help sorting out their basic computer needs.

Cost: Free

Bookings: Just drop in

Organiser: Mike Mills & James Knight 01392 384 209



# Music at St Michael's December 2013 & January 2014



Please come and join us at St Michael's, Mount Dinham, for any of our services over the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Sunday 1st December, Advent I, 10.45am Mass.**

The Litany (adapted from 1549 BCP). Setting: Mass for Four Voices, Byrd. Motet: Vigilante, Byrd.

*Watch ye, therefore, for you know not when the Lord of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, at the cock crowing, or in the morning: Watch therefore, lest, coming on a sudden, he find you sleeping And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch.*

**Sun 1st Dec, 6pm, Evensong and Benediction.**

Responses: Radcliffe, Canticles: Brewer in D, Anthem: O Thou the Central Orb, Wood. O salutaris, Tantum Ergo.

**Wed 4th December, 7.30pm, St Michael's Lecture.**

Dr David Reece – Genetically Modified Crops and World Hunger: Good and Bad Reasons to be Worried.

**Sunday 8th December, Advent II, 10.45am Mass.**

Setting: Missa Brevis, Lotti. Motet: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, West.

We have two beautiful carol services this year. Firstly:-

**Sun 8 Dec at 6pm.** St Michael's candlelit Advent Procession, from Darkness into Light, with Readings, Hymns and Carols, followed by Refreshments.

As well as 5 rousing Advent congregational hymns, our music will include Palestrina's well-known Matin Responsory and his lively double choir Magnificat. Also motets by Ramsey - O Sapientia (O Wisdom) and Guerrero - Canite tuba (Sound the Trumpet), and Handel's chorus - And the Glory of the Lord (from Messiah).

And in more reflective mood, by 20th century composers, Paul Manz - E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and Günter Raphael's setting of a 17th century German folksong - Maria durch ein'n Dornwald ging (As Mary walks amid the thorns, which seven years no leaf have borne, a little child doth Mary bear, and, as the two are passing near, Lo! Roses on the thorns appear).

**Wed 11th December, 7.30pm, Recital.**

Exeter Chorale – Semper Fidelis – A concert of the remarkably diverse music produced by Exeter composers across 4 centuries.

**Sunday 15th December, Advent III, 10.45am Mass.**

Rose vestments for Gaudete Sunday – Rejoice in the Lord. Setting: Mass in F, Sumsion. Motet: E'en so, Lord Jesus, Manz.

**Thursday 19th December, 7.30pm at St Michael's.**

A traditional Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.

Again, plenty of Carols for All, plus choir items:- Adam Lay Y-Bounden, For unto us a child is born (Handel), Hymn to the Virgin (Britten) and In Dulci Jubilo (Pearsall).

This service of Hymns, Carols, Bidding Prayer and Readings tells the great story from Adam & Eve to Mary, Joseph and Jesus, the Shepherds and the Magi. It has been made famous by the broadcasts from King's College Cambridge since 1928, but it was first drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which served as his cathedral in Truro, on Christmas Eve 1880.

**Sunday 22nd December, Advent IV, 10.45am Mass.**

Setting: Missa de Angelis, Plainsong. Motet: A Spotless Rose, Howells.

**Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve, 11.30pm 'Midnight Mass'**

Preceded by Carols from the West Gallery at 11pm. Setting: Mass in F, Rheinberger. Motet: Infant Holy, arr. Willcocks.

**Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day, N.B. 10.30am Mass.**

Setting: Mass in F, Wood. Motet: Lullay my Liking, Holst.



**Sunday 29th December, Christmas I, 10.45am Mass.**

Setting: Mass in F, Darke. Motet: In the Bleak Midwinter, Darke.

**Sunday 5th January 2014, Christmas II, 10.45am Mass.**

Music t.b.c.

**Sun 5th Jan, 6pm, Choral Evensong & Benediction.**

Music for 1st Evensong of Epiphany will be unwrapped as a pleasant surprise and fragrant offering.

**Monday 6th January, Epiphany, 7.30pm Sung Mass.**

Setting: Mass in C&F, Stanford.

**Wednesday 15th January, 7.30pm,**

Recital. Harpe Noire: Emma Graham & Liz Grier - Music for two harps.

**Wednesday 22nd January, 7.30 pm,**

St Michael's Heritage Lecture. Medieval Misericords and Benches in Devon Churches, Dr Todd Gray (Department of History, University of Exeter)

Other service times will be as normal during January with music from our repertoire. The next major Feast will be Candlemas which conveniently falls on Sunday 2nd February in 2014.

In HLF Project News, the old electronic organ console has been moved

from the organ chamber to the crossing to make room for the pipe organ console, and scaffolding erected for installing all the pipes within the completed superstructure. On a sadder note, we had news that our male juvenile Peregrine, Favio, was found early in November, north of Exeter, with a badly damaged wing, probably from a flying accident, and has died.

The new website is being assembled and the Recital Series building up its audience. Plans are afoot for several music and heritage events in June 2014 to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of John Dinham, whose vision created the Mount Dinham community.

We have now spent the first 50% tranche of Heritage Lottery Fund money on items detailed in the HLF agreed budget and have prepared accounts and reports, as required, so that the next 40% can be released to us to work towards completion of the project activities.

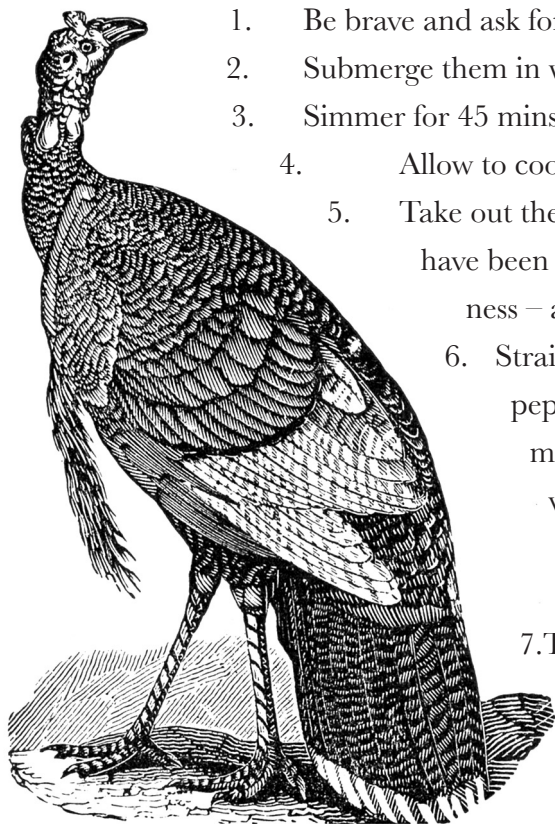
**Richard Barnes**



# Favourite recipes



## Christmas Gravy for meat eaters - *Don't be squeamish!*



1. Be brave and ask for the giblets with your turkey.
2. Submerge them in water and bring to boil.
3. Simmer for 45 mins or more.
4. Allow to cool.
5. Take out the giblets – pets will think they have been rewarded for their faithfulness – and chop for their meals.
6. Strain the liquid, season with pepper and a little salt, add a few mixed herbs, dash of balsamic vinegar, a little red wine and the juices from the turkey baking tray.
7. Thicken with cornflour and serve.

This takes me back to my childhood and the end result is truly scrumptious!

# Pasta with Creamy Smoked Salmon Sauce

350g pasta shapes

400g tin chopped tomatoes

70g smoked salmon, cut into strips (but I usually use 120-140g!)

50g butter

1 clove garlic

150ml double cream

Pinch cinnamon

Pepper



Start cooking pasta.

Saute garlic clove in butter for 1 minute and then remove.

Add tomatoes. Cook on high heat for a few minutes.

Add salmon and cinnamon.

When pasta is ready, add double cream to sauce and heat gently.

Pour onto drained pasta and add pepper.

Really quick and easy but tastes special. Useful for when you have visitors at a busy time like Christmas or Easter.

**Sue Wilson**



# Read any good books lately?

We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

It can be on any subject, not necessarily religious although we would especially welcome those.

It's just a way of sharing and enjoying things together and fostering our feelings of community.

Go on -be brave! All you need to do is to include the author, composer or performer and a short piece about it and why you enjoyed it.

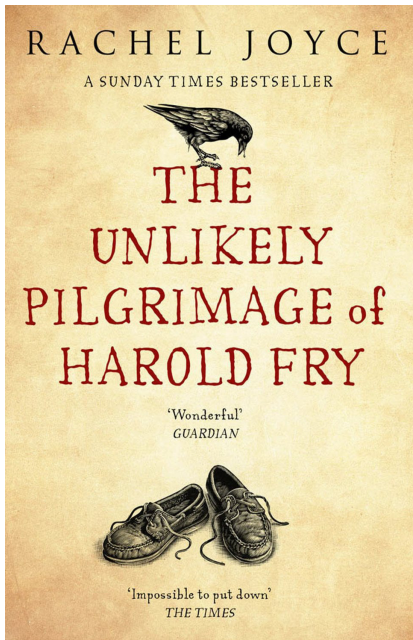
Books, CDs DVDs Films.



# The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

by Rachel Joyce

Unlikely is the right word to describe this tale but it is an extraordinary and uplifting read. Harold Fry is sitting at the breakfast table while his wife Maureen is hoovering in the next room. The post arrives and she brings a pink envelope addressed to Harold into the kitchen and slides it coldly across the table towards him. It is from Queenie Hennessy, a former colleague of his and she is writing from a hospice in Berwick on Tweed to tell him she has terminal cancer. With some difficulty he writes a reply and leaves the house to post it, telling his wife that he's only going to the end of the road and won't be long. He reaches the post box but decides to walk on to the next box.



And so begins his unlikely pilgrimage. He has never walked any distance before. He has no special walking gear, no map, no compass but all he knows is that he must walk to Berwick on Tweed to save a life. On the way he meets all sorts of people and at one point becomes a sort of cult hero but it would spoil it if I wrote any more about his extraordinary journey.

At home, Maureen too is on a sort of pilgrimage. What had been a happy and loving relationship



has become cold and distant and while waiting to hear where Harold is, she too looks back on their life and the events that have caused so much grief. It is a redemptive book, written with a light touch which leaves you moved, cheered and inspired.

A bonus for people living in Devon is that the book starts in Kingsbridge where Harold and Maureen live. Rachel Joyce writes so vividly that it is easy to picture exactly where he is as we follow his progress along country roads through Buckfast, Ashburton and to Exeter where he stays to recover for a few nights. His feet are blistered and his face is sunburnt but on he goes, a modern day Pilgrim on his progress.

**Paula Lawford**

Devon Home Library Service -  
bringing books and more to people in their homes

The Devon Home Library Service works in partnership with the WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service). It aims to provide library books, (including audio books on CD, and large print books) to those people in the community who through ill health or disability can no longer visit the library.

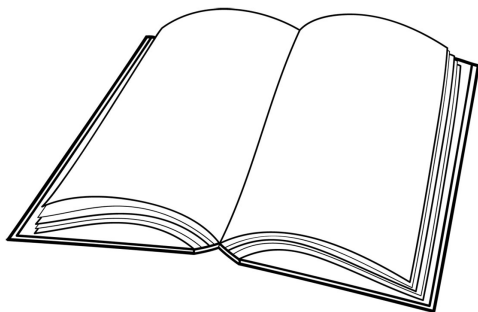
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient time. There is **no charge** for the service and there are **no fines** on books!! Clients may keep the books for as long as needed and may order books they particularly want to read.

Large print books, cassette tapes and audio CDs as well as ordinary print books are available. Some clients prefer non fiction such as biography and travel books, other prefer romantic novels or murder mysteries!

*For those people who love reading or just browsing through books, but are confined to their home, this service offers a chance to have access to the library as well as a visit from a friendly face on a regular basis. Often clients and volunteers make lasting friends so there is satisfaction on both sides.*

We really want to promote and extend the service to reach as many people as possible!

If you would like to use the service, or know of someone who would, please contact Julia on 01392 757725 or email [crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk)



# *The invitation 2*

**Beelzebub:** “Is that you Screwtape? I think we have a problem”!  
“You know that cyclist fellow, David Lycra? The one with all the posh gear !

Well, I think he’s beginning to get too close to *you know what*’.

You know he’s been cycling all over the place, going wherever takes his fancy, whizzing here and whizzing there.

Well the other day, he stopped at the small wicket gate, looking around.

You know the one I mean, the one with the sign outside it which says, “The Way, The Truth and The Life “.

He actually parked his bike against the hedge nearby and tried to look into the wood beyond the gate.

He’s gone all these years doing what he wants to and where we’ve led him, now he’s started poking around. Why can’t he be content riding around on that two thousand pound bike of his with all the bits on it . You’ve done a marvelous job so far keeping him engrossed in ‘things’ – blinding him to what else may be around.

**Screwtape:** “What’s the problem? He’s got his bike and that’s all he’s interested in”.

**Beelzebub:** “Well it’s like this: On the other side of the gate there’s a chap (you know who – I can’t mention his name). He has got another bike, it’s a bit unique. You have guessed it, *a tandem*!

Well think about it, this chap whose name I can’t mention, invites people to get on it and ride with him. Not on the front seat, but on the back.

Fixed handlebars for them you see, the person on the back cannot steer where he wants to go. Has to go with the flow, if you get my drift.

Can’t see over the rider in front either, has no idea where he is being taken. That would put anyone off.

Also do you know what? He has to contribute to moving the bike, you

see the pedals on the back are connected to the front ones by the same chain – some call that the Holy Spirit - the power running between the two. Bah .

The last bit of the equation if you can believe it, there's no luggage rack or panniers - you cannot take anything with you. There is a request that you leave it all behind.

Can you imagine us doing that for anyone?

No way! Keep them confused. Of course we don't exist do we?

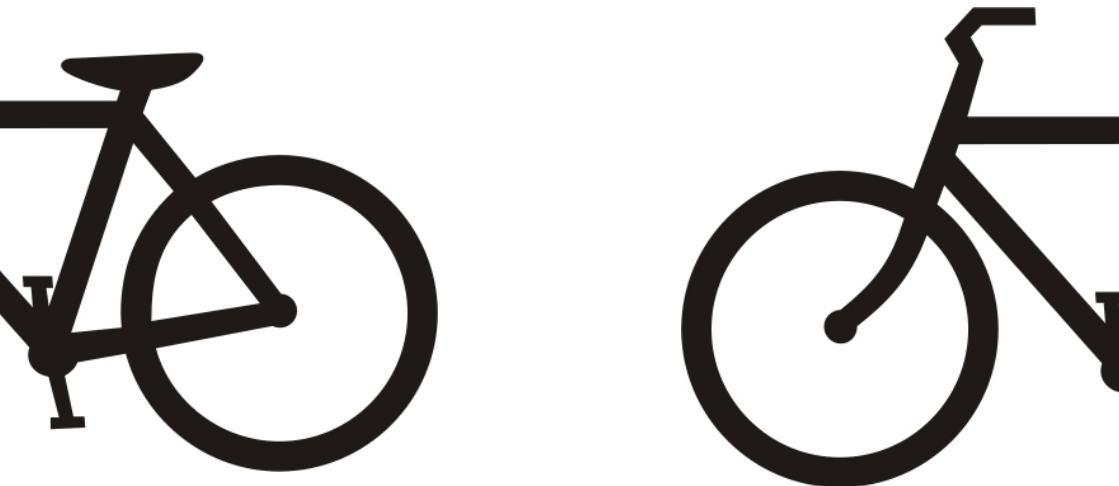
Oh dear we've got something called Christmas coming up. What can we do about that?" Oh Blast! I've mentioned the name.

After C S Lewis. ( The Screwtape Letters – a dialogue between the senior devil and his underling concerning the devices used to distract us from Christ).

And John Bunyan – (Pilgrims progress).

Both a very good read, and an insight into what is at the heart of human beings.

**Michael Butler**



# The Soup Kitchen at St. David's

As many of you will know, Thursday evening is the time we receive a number of homeless folk at St. David's and provide soup and refreshments to sustain them through the cold nights.

They need warm clothing and shoes, so if you have fleeces, sweaters, coats, jeans, or trousers you would like to pass on, they will be gratefully received.

We also like to have paperbacks they can take to read, so if you are parting with books please think of leaving them with us.

Thank you.

Contact Mary on:- 07872626168 if you need to leave donated goods





every Wednesday  
Exeter Community Centre  
17 St Davids Hill  
Exeter

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## **St. Sidwell's Church of England Primary School and Nursery**

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**Headteacher: Mrs. Anne Hood**

**Tel: 01392 255551 Website: [www.st-sidwells-ce.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-sidwells-ce.devon.sch.uk)**



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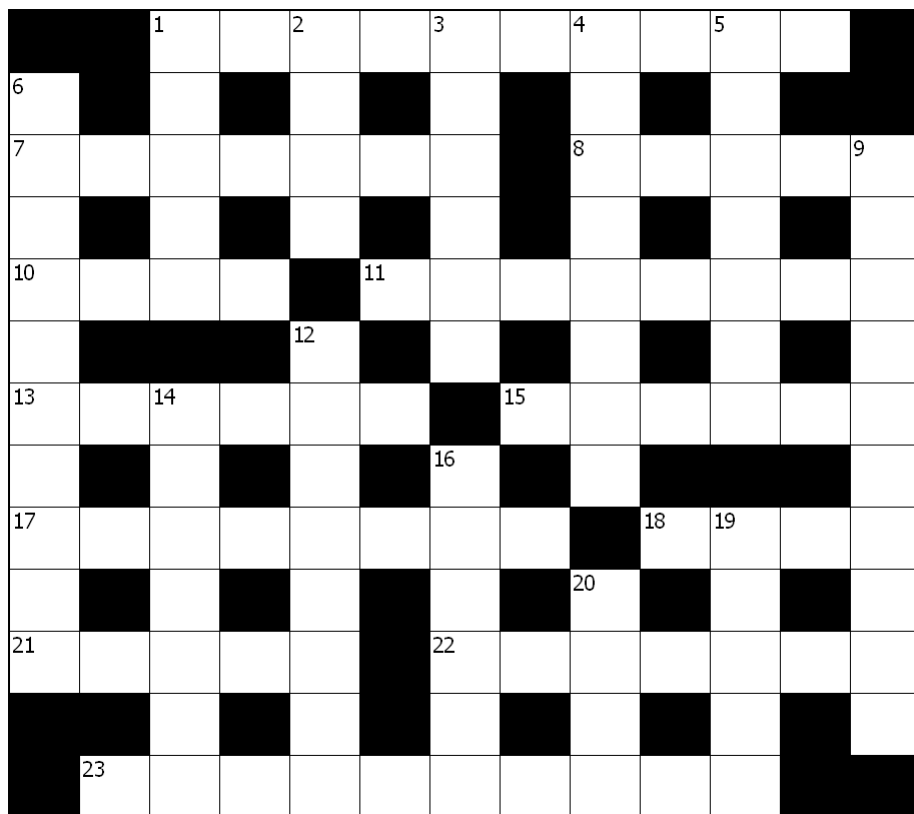
"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"An outstanding feature of the school is the care, guidance and support it gives pupils."

"The personal development of pupils is also outstanding."

"Spiritual development is excellent." "Behaviour is exemplary."

# December crossword



## Across:

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14ñ15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels,

Nurse Edith (6)

17 Stormy (8)

18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread,  
was the Passover menu for anyone *ëuncleaní* (Numbers 9:11) (4)

21 Arson (anag.) (5)

22 How John Newton described Godís grace in his well-known hymn (7)

23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

## **Down:**

1 “ \_ and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8) (5)

2 “The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous  
are as \_ as a lion” (Proverbs 28:1) (4)

3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign  
woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)

4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and  
joined David (1 Samuel 22:19ñ20) (8)

5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)

6 “Offer your bodies as living \_ , holy and pleasing to God”  
(Romans 12:1) (10)

9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)

12 One who accepts government by God (8)

14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1)  
(7)

16 He asked Jesus, “What is truth?” (John 18:38) (6)

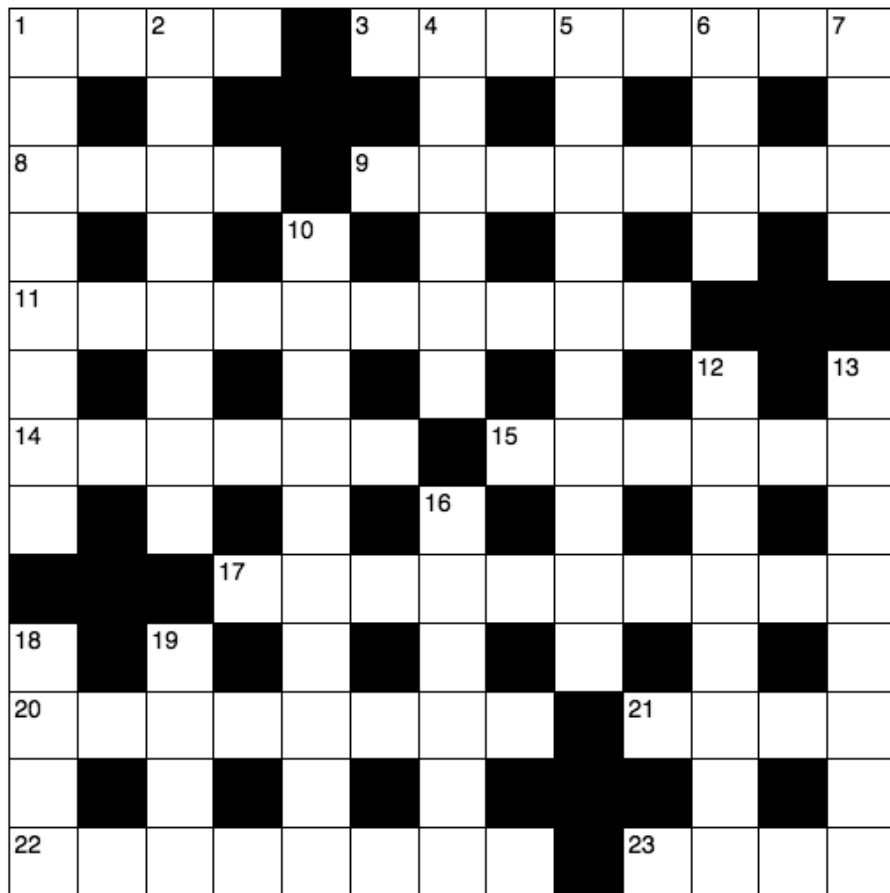
19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)

20 “You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will \_ his people  
from their sins” (Matthew 1:21) (4)

*Solutions on the following pages - No need to wait a month to see if  
you’re right!*



# January crossword



## Across:

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)

- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

**Down:**

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

# St. David's Parent and Toddler group

If you're walking past the Parish Room on a Thursday morning around midday you may well hear several voices singing out the Okey Cokey and wonder what's going on. In fact this song has become the informal signature tune of the Toddler Group thanks to the enthusiasm of the children and their parents/carers.

The weekly session is 10:00am to midday, all year (except August and Christmas).

We charge £1 per child plus 50p for a sibling and this funds the cost of our art and craft resources, snacks, milk and Christmas party. We usually have ten to twelve children in the age range from new born up to four. There is a rota of helpers; Barbara, Freya, Julia and myself, who are all CRB checked.

As soon as they come in the children get stuck in to playing with the many toys which have been donated to us over the years. By far the most popular is the sandpit, but the children also love the mini-slide, the ride-on toys, painting on the easel and shopping for plastic fruit in the tent. There is usually a simple activity on the table such as play-dough, puzzles, drawing or glueing. We have even managed cooking on occasions.

The adults have a tea or coffee and then at about 11:00am it's snack time and the children sit down to fruit, milk and rice cakes. The fact we offer a healthy snack is an important issue for many parents.

When it's tidy up time, we wind down the play and get the children involved in clearing up. They love to join in putting the toys away in the cupboards and getting the musical instruments out ready for our nursery rhyme singing and the grand finale of the Okey Cokey.

Our thanks go to the Church for letting us use the Parish Room for the last seven years, thereby supporting what is a very necessary resource for parents of young children. Over the years we have had several parents who have made lasting friendships through the group and given each other a lot of practical and moral support in child-rearing. This can be a really good way of combatting the sense of isolation that some parents of toddlers may experience, especially, for example when people are new to the area, if they don't have family living nearby or their partners have come to work/study at the university for short periods of time. Toddler groups are also a great way of introducing young children to some of the activities that they will encounter in pre-school.

Toddlers is great fun for children and a nice break for adults. The St. David's group is (so we are told by current parents) one of the friendliest in Exeter. If you know anyone with pre-school children or grandchildren, then please do recommend us.

They are welcome to pop in any Thursday.

Contact:

toddlers@stdavidschurhexeter.or  
or ring Julia on 07729 068 567

**Sam Wellbelove**



# Dates of Note

## **3 December Francis Xavier - the seasick missionary who struggled with languages**

Ignatius Loyala sent his friend and follower Francis Xavier (born 1506) to the Orient as a missionary. What a missionary! Imagine David Livingstone, Billy Graham and the Alpha Courses rolled into one. His mass conversions became legendary – he baptised 10,000 people in one month and in just ten years of work was credited with 700,000 conversions.

Xavier became the most famous Jesuit missionary of all time, working so hard that he had only a few hours' sleep each night. He was known as 'the Apostle of the Indies' and 'the apostle of Japan'. He began by reforming Goa, which contained numerous Portuguese Catholics, notorious for cruelty to their slaves, open concubinage, and neglect of the poor. For three years, by example, preaching and writing verses on Christian truths set to popular tunes, Francis did much to offset this betrayal of Christ by bad Christians.

For the next seven years he worked among the Paravas in southern India, in Ceylon, Malacca, the Molucca islands, and the Malay peninsula. He met with immense success among the low-caste but with almost none among the Brahmins.

In 1549 he ventured on to Japan, translated an abridged statement of Christian belief, and made a hundred converts in one year at Kagoshima alone. When he left Japan, the total number of Japanese Christians was about 2,000; within 60 years they were resisting fierce persecution, even to death.

Wherever Xavier sailed, he left after him numerous organised Chris-

tian communities. Not bad for a man who suffered seasickness and had trouble in learning foreign languages!

Xavier died in 1551, on his way to China. His body was preserved and enshrined for many years. His right arm was detached in 1615 and is still preserved in the church of the Gesu at Rome. He was canonised by Gregory XV in 1622, and declared Patron of the Foreign Missions by Pius XI in 1927.

## **6 December St Nicholas – patron saint of children**

Father Christmas seems to be as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children, and was given 6 December as his day.

Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution.

According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)

Over the centuries many, including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron.

Perhaps it was on account of S Nicholas' generosity that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6 December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then

left on the windowsill at night - or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival.... and after awhile his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the windowsill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind - Krish-kinkle as they knew him - and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded good ones with presents.

## **6 December - How Father Christmas got where he is today**

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time, and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today.

He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For



all those of us who are exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

## 21 December Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.



• Winter Solstice.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. “Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green....” But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: “Against the feast of Christmas, every man’s house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene.”

## **26 December St Stephen – the first martyr (died c 35 AD)**

Have you ever stopped to consider that the very first martyr of the Christian Church was a deacon? (But no, he wasn't worked to death by his church.) It was Stephen, one of the first seven deacons of the Christian Church. He'd been appointed by the apostles to look after the distribution of alms to the faithful poor, and to help in the ministry of preaching.

Acts 6 and 7 tells us all that we know of his life, and the passages seem to suggest that he was an educated Hellenistic Jew. Certainly Stephen's famous challenge to the Jews reveals him to have been learned in the Scriptures and the history of Judaism, besides being eloquent and forceful.

Stephen's proclamation on the day of his martyrdom pulled no punches. He told the Jews that God did not depend on the Temple. The Temple was but a temporary institution destined to be fulfilled and superseded by Christ, who was the prophet foreseen by Moses as the Messiah for whom the Jewish race had so long awaited.

Stephen then challenged his hearers for resisting the Spirit and for killing the Christ, as their fathers before them had killed the prophets. The Jews were so outraged by this that they stoned Stephen on the spot for blasphemy.

As he died, Stephen saw a vision of Christ on God's right hand. The men who were witness to the stoning placed their clothes at the feet of Saul (afterwards Paul), who (to his deep regret later) consented to Stephen's death.

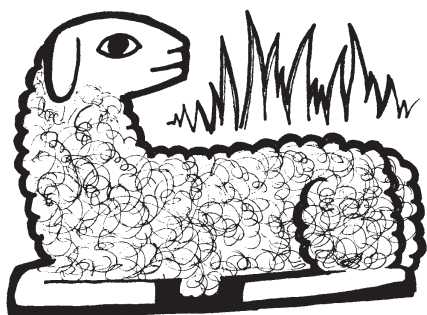
By the fourth century Stephen had his own feast day in both East and West Churches. When his supposed tomb was discovered in 415, his

popularity soared. His (supposed) relics were taken to Constantinople and then Rome, along with some stones (allegedly) used at his martyrdom.

Early on the Church made Stephen the patron saint of deacons. In the late Middle Ages he was also invoked against headaches (!).

In England, 46 ancient churches are dedicated to him, most of them built after the Norman Conquest. In art Stephen is usually given a book of the Gospels and a stone, and sometimes the palm of martyrdom.





## St NICHOLAS

### **Feast Day 6 December**

St Nicholas was the bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor, in the fourth century. Lots of stories are told of his kindness and generosity. He is the patron saint of Russia, children, scholars, merchants and sailors.

One legend tells of his secret gifts to three daughters from a poor family. It is said that he threw 3 purses of gold down the chimney where they landed in the girls' stockings which they had hung up to dry in front of the fire. This is supposed to be the origin of hanging up Christmas stockings.

Over time the name of St Nicholas changed to Sinterklass and thus to Santa Claus in the Christmas celebrations.



## STOCKING DECORATIONS

You will need some Christmas-coloured felt, a needle and thread, fabric glue, ribbon and sequins or buttons for decoration.

Fold the felt in half and cut out two simple stocking shapes. Sew these together with a simple running stitch, leaving the top edge open. Sew a loop of ribbon to the top of the stocking.

Now you can decorate the stocking with scraps of felt, lace, buttons or sequins. Glue them on carefully and leave to dry. You could even try writing a name in glue and sprinkling on glitter to cover it. This would be nice to give as a present with a little present or sweet inside or to hang on the Christmas tree as a decoration. You can make them any size you like.



# Barbara's Edible Stall

Please keep bringing and buying.

We need you!

NEXT DATE:

**SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER**

**Jane Woodman**





# Pilgrimage to **ASSISI**

Led by *Bishop Martin Shaw*  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## DAY ONE – THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER

*Bristol - Assisi*

We fly from Bristol on a scheduled direct flight to Rome. On arrival in Rome, we transfer by coach to Assisi where we check into our guesthouse, the Casa S Brigida, situated just outside the town walls, for a 6-night stay. Dinner will be in the guesthouse on each evening of our stay.

## DAY TWO – FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER

*Assisi*

This morning, we walk through the streets of Assisi as Saints Francis and Clare would have known it. Visit the Cathedral of San Ruffino, the church of Santa Maria Maggiore and the Chiesa Nuova (New Church), built on the site of Francis' house. Afterwards we visit St Clare's Basilica, which now houses the Crucifix that called to Francis and the tomb of St Clare. This afternoon we travel the short distance into the valley below Assisi and visit the Porziuncola and the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. We are welcome to stay for the Solemn Commemoration of the death of St Francis (Transitus di San Francesco) in the Basilica. Afterwards return to our guesthouse.

## DAY THREE – SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

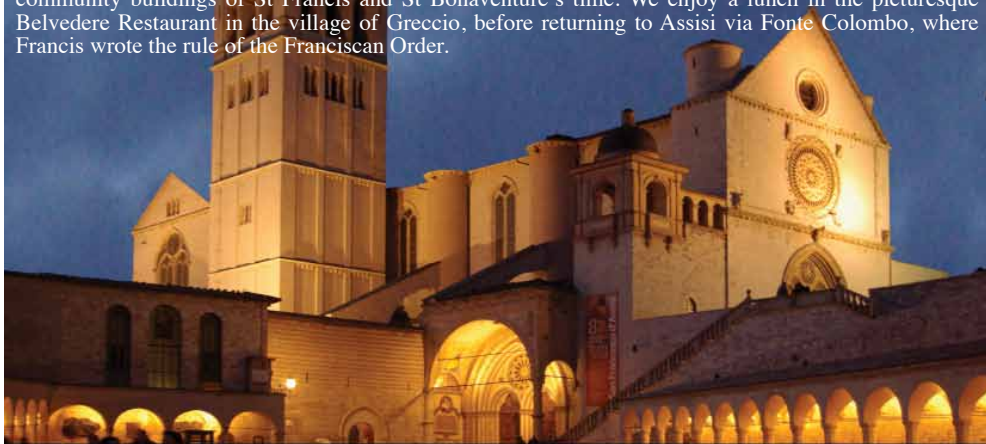
*The Feast of St Francis*

This morning will be free to attend services to celebrate the Feast of the Saint. There will be many festivities in Assisi to mark the Feast Day. This afternoon there will be the opportunity to attend Vespers in the Lower Basilica.

## DAY FOUR – SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

*Greccio and the Rieti Valley*

After breakfast we leave Assisi by coach and head south into the province of Rieti and the area called 'Holy Valley' because of the particular attention that St Francis paid to this particular region. We stop mid-morning at the sanctuary of Greccio, where Francis brought home the mystery of the Incarnation by portraying a live nativity scene in 1223 and we see the grotto where this occurred and the early community buildings of St Francis and St Bonaventure's time. We enjoy a lunch in the picturesque Belvedere Restaurant in the village of Greccio, before returning to Assisi via Fonte Colombo, where Francis wrote the rule of the Franciscan Order.



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# Crossword solutions

## December answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

**DOWN:** 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

## January answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

**DOWN:** 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

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originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)*



**The deadline for inclusion of articles for  
the February issue of the parish  
magazine is Sunday January 05th 2014**

Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to Ashley and Johanne via St David's Church or our email: [thedairy@btclick.com](mailto:thedairy@btclick.com)

**If you have images of any events of interest to the  
Parish community please send them to us.**

**Please send digital files via email if at all possible and please  
make the subject header fit the content of the email - thanks!**



**Thank you** to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine - his hard work is much appreciated.