



WELCOME



To all Readers of “New Leaves”, the magazine for the Parish of St David’s with St. Michael and All Angels.

The Parish extends a warm welcome to all visiting clergy during the interregnum

This month we welcome Clive Wilson who has joined the editorial team as the magazine's new designer. Many thanks, Clive.

The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate articles which reflect Church, Parish or Community interest

**Please send as Word documents to:
newleavesnews@gmail.com**

Please note that all articles will be printed with the author’s name

Enjoy this month’s read.

We will welcome critical comments on the magazine

Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Richard Barnes supported by Sue Holden, Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

New Leaves

February 2017

Vacancy, Interregnum, Period of Transition, In- Between Times or what?

For the moment our Parish has no incumbent. Tom Honey has left for pastures new and we wait for the appointment of a new priest to lead our two churches forward. We are in the in-between times, which will probably last anything from six months to a whole year. The Church of England will take its time, because this appointment is very important. The last vacancy was from July 2009 to June 2010 (eleven months). I remember it well. Along with Sue Wilson I was the churchwarden. It was a very busy time for during an interregnum, the Church Wardens take on the responsibilities of the incumbent, providing the necessary leadership role of ensuring continuous worship, the upkeep of the buildings and property, the proper running of the PCC and the processes which will lead to the appointment of our new incumbent. (Please read the article by Raymond Ravenscroft, our very own retired Archdeacon, who gives a full picture of Church Warden responsibilities in this edition of New Leaves).

This is a period of transition when we wait, watch and pray, but where the energy required to run an active, lively Parish must be found to ensure an attractive, healthy take over for our new incumbent. Oh and by the way, St David's is also in a period of transformation with the buildings, which will hopefully lead to a re-ordering of the Church and St Michael's is looking to a re-decoration of the church's interior. Times are so busy, so interesting that even PCC meetings are stimulating.

So what can we call this period when we are between incumbents? Vacancy? Interregnum? Period of Transition? Sequestration? In-between Times? I have seen all these terms used and I'm sure there are

others. Let's look at each one and see if we can determine a preferred one.

Vacancy appears straightforward and perhaps the easiest to understand. Yet surely there is not a vacancy in this Parish. After all, there are the Church and Chapel Wardens; there is our curate Christopher; there are visiting priests; there are all the members of the PCC; indeed there are all the members of our church. We all have God-given gifts and now is the time to make full use of them. Consider what you are able to offer to our church and speak to one of our leaders. Vacancy suggests an absence, an emptiness. Not the case in our Parish!

Interregnum is a very regal term. The literal translation of the Latin is "between reign". Historically in England the most famous interregnum was from 1649-1660 - from the execution of Charles I until the restoration of Charles II. However the Oxford dictionary also defines interregnum as "an interval between the periods of office of two incumbents in a Parish" and more loosely as "any pause or gap in continuity." This appears a most appropriate term, although I'm rather reluctant to give any regal status to priests.

Period of Transition (not the Van Morrison album) has rather an American feel to it. Returning to the Oxford dictionary, the word "transition" is defined as "the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another." Certainly our Parish is in a period of change, but the main change will be not so much a condition as a person - from Tom to the new priest and leader whom we excitedly wait to see. The process of finding our new incumbent has only just begun. The Parish has to renew its Mission Action Plan before writing a profile which will include a person specification. The profile will hopefully attract many priests to apply and we will be seeking the best and most appropriate one for our Parish. Keep this process in your prayers. It will probably take up to nine months to complete.

A Sequestration is usually granted by the Bishop to the Church

Wardens in the case of a vacancy in the benefice. This traditionally meant that the Church Wardens, working with the Rural Dean and known collectively as the sequestrators, would manage all the profits and expenses of the benefice, plough and sow the glebe, receive tithes and provide for the necessary cure of souls. Go for it Dave and Avril. Perhaps this term is rather out of date and carries a financial burden no longer quite so applicable.

Whichever term you may personally prefer, we are certainly in-between the times of one incumbent, Tom, and another, as yet unknown. The most important aspect of the next few months is that we pray and we work collaboratively, in unity with ourselves and our God. Christopher has written a prayer for the Parish at this time of change:

Dear God,
your love for us is unchangeable.
You have welcomed each of us into the family of your Church;
in Jesus, you call us to be His Body in this place.
Send down your Holy Spirit upon us
at this time of uncertainty and change,
to fill us with vision and energy
and faithfulness in prayer,
that we may be true to our common Baptism,
and bring new life to our parish community.
Guide with your heavenly wisdom those appointed to discern the way ahead,
a new Incumbent for this parish,
that we may receive the priest you have prepared for your people:
ready to serve us with joy,
to build us up in faith,
and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your son, our Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

AMEN

William Pattinson

Reader

15.01.2017

INTERREGNUM 4

I first came to St David's Church in 1973 and this will be my fourth interregnum, there are a couple of people still attending who were here when I arrived. In that time there have been 4 vicars; Tom Pritchard [1963 to 1981], Michael Smith [1982 to 1991], John Henton [1991 to 2009] and Tom Honey [2010 to 2016].

The Interregnums lasted from 8 months to a year and in that time life went on pretty much as normal, which was thanks to the Church and Chapel wardens of the day, the Diocese, visiting clergy, members of the congregation and our assistant curates in training at the time. The interregnums certainly brought out the best in people. Sitting in the pews little seemed to change other than a greater variety of clergy – beneath the surface the ducks were paddling like mad!

I was Secretary to the PCC in 1981 and I don't remember our being much involved in the appointment; my recollection is that we were offered someone to accept or not – although we did have firm ideas as to the sort of person we would accept. The PCC was much more involved in the other two appointments, with a parish profile being produced and interviews being conducted much more like in the business world.

We have been very fortunate with our vicars, they each had their own particular talents to bring to the parish. Not everyone has agreed with the changes that they brought, or allowed, during their tenure. Some people would embrace the new – quite literally in the case of sharing The Peace; people were very stand offish to begin with [me included]. Others would demonstrate their disapproval and leave – for instance when the modern version of the Lord's Prayer was adopted at St David's.

Through it all the life of the parish has continued, our buildings remain standing! In fact people have been worshipping in what is

now St David's Parish since at least 1194 when the first chapel of ease was consecrated. There is an 813 year continuity of communion; only the participators have changed.



Geoff Crockett



THE ROLE OF THE CHURCHWARDEN.

Church rules make provision for the election of two churchwardens annually at the same time that the Annual Church Meeting is held to receive reports and the financial accounts for the past year, This provision does, however, allow for the wardens to remain in office for a set number of years and stagger their election so that only one warden has to be elected in a year.

The office is very ancient. Wardens were from the earliest time the executive officer of the bishop in the parish and were in medieval and even Elizabethan times responsible for the bridges and roads and the administration of the poor laws. The wardens staves or poles were originally the equivalent of the policeman's baton and were carried to

poke those who had fallen asleep or were misbehaving in church. They are, of course, still officers of the bishop, which is why they walk in front of the bishop when he comes to your parish.

Wardens wear three hats:

FIRST they are leading persons within the parish. They are expected as a result to give lay leadership. Leadership does not of course involve doing everything themselves: it involves co-ordinating and encouraging everyone to share in what has to be done.

SECONDLY, they, with the vicar, are custodians of the parish property and the Church. Again this involves knowing who to consult and where to get help rather than doing everything themselves.

THIRDLY they are officers of the bishop and it is to them that the bishop or his archdeacon comes if he wants to consult with the laity of the parish.

Their best quality is going to be impartiality.

They are above all else God's Officers and the affairs of the church are their concern. Indeed, anything that forwards the kingdom of God is their concern. The bishop looks to them to give him a true and fair picture of the parish and sometimes of the ministry within it.

Your priest expects the same impartiality but at the same time does not want them to be simply a "yes" man or woman, but to tell him or her fairly, and with understanding, what needs to be done or said.

The people of the parish want them to convey to the bishop or the priest, what they think or hope for, or to say, within the bounds of love and charity, but nevertheless boldly, what needs to be done or said.

Their role is not that of an umpire or referee, nevertheless the quality of their witness must be the same as that required by an umpire or

referee. This way they do their very best for God and his Church.

The incumbent of the parish has always a very special relationship with his or her Churchwardens. Everyone needs to have someone to talk to or with whom they can talk about the job. The wardens are elected by the people as their leaders and spokespersons. It is therefore inevitable that the priest of the parish should confide in the wardens about both plans for the parish and matters, which concern the priest's more personal life and that of the family

It is essential that the wardens should therefore treat what is said with confidentiality unless all agree that it should be disclosed.

There will also be occasions when wardens become the priest's confidant. As the Bishop's Officer they should encourage the priest to discuss these matters with his rural dean, the archdeacon or the bishop if they feel this appropriate. They may from time to time be obliged to tell the priest that they ought to raise matters with the same officers of the Church

During a vacancy, when the parish awaits the appointment of a new vicar, the role of the wardens becomes very significant for they lead the Parish and its PCC in the replacement process. A Person Specification document has to be prepared together with a Parish Profile. They also have added to their responsibilities the care of the empty vicarage and showing prospective candidates around the parish and the vicarage. They will also, more than likely, be involved in the interviewing process and have frequent meetings with the Rural Dean, the Archdeacon and the Area Bishop.

Raymond Ravenscroft



January 2017



St David's Eucharist February

February 5 : Candlemas

Reading 1	Malachi 3:1-5	Pam Smith
Reading 2	Hebrews 2:14-end	Cathy Knowles
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40	
Time of prayer		Charlotte Townsend

Junior Church: Helen Sail

February 12 : 3rd Sunday before Lent

Reading 1	Ecclesiasticus 15:15-end	Stephanie Hills
Reading 2	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Hilary Francis
Gospel	Matthew 5:21-37	
Time of prayer		Nigel Walsh

Junior Church: Sarah Harrison

February 19 : 2nd Sunday before Lent (Family Service) "Do Not Worry"

Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	Matthew 6:25-end	
Time of prayer		

Family service - No Junior Church

February 26 : Sunday next before Lent

Reading 1	Exodus 24:12-end	Karen Facey
Reading 2	2 Peter 1:16-end	Helen Hopwood
Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9	
Time of prayer		Geoff Crockett

Junior Church: Sarah Harrison

March 5th : Lent 1

Reading 1	Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7	Charles Prosser
Reading 2	Romans 5:12-19	Mary Kirkland
Gospel	Matthew 4:1-11	
Time of prayer		Ann Watts

Junior Church: Helen Sail

February from St Michael's

Having had a roof in various parts pointed out during a recent tour of a gin distillery in Plymouth, I began to think more closely about the nature of a roof. The one in the bar in Plymouth has a section that pre-dates the Pilgrim Fathers, and would have seen fascinating events in the history of the town. The structure of a great arched roof is very like that of an up-turned boat, hence (via Latin 'navis' for ship or boat) the use of the word 'nave' for the long body of church and cathedral buildings. Embodied in that word is a sense of protection, of being safe from the elements of sky and sea. The need of shelter is one of the five basic human rights. Images of war-torn areas in Syria show just how devastating the war has been; there is no safe shelter for people, so they must of necessity find elsewhere to be sheltered. Children who lived in safe buildings can no longer do so, and have to call tented areas 'home'.

When we welcome guests, we offer them the safety of our own homes. The prayer that we use in the Liturgy here reminds us that we invite Christ into our lives, 'to come under my roof', however unworthy we believe our lives to be: His presence transforms and heals us so that He is both Host and Guest at the feast we share. George Herbert wrote in his poem 'Love':

'Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,

Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack

From my first entrance in

Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning

If I lacked anything...'

The poem ends with the invitation to ‘... *sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:*

So I did sit and eat.’

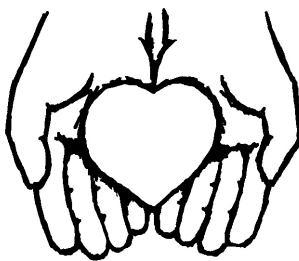
Fr David Gunn-Johnson reminded us that we are not watching a performance, but are active participants in the celebration, so we must be able to express to others the delight in and gratitude for what we have received in both the physical and spiritual body of the Church. It is more than a roof over our heads.

Thanks to a generous grant, the roof and the rain-goods at St Michael’s have been restored with the intention of making the building safe for some time to come, though there are still some repairs to be effected for it all to be secure. Some small sections of the wall have been cleaned of whitewash to reveal frescoes that had been hidden. If only we could complete the work; the building would be even more attractive and welcoming. It would an unusual interior in an Exeter church and other worshippers could be encouraged to ‘come under our roof’ to share the love of God.

Thank God for the roof over your head; ask how you can help those who do not have that basic necessity; rejoice in the glorious canopy of the sky.



Stephanie Aplin.





Music at St Michael's – February 2017

Thank you to all who helped make Advent & Christmas at St Michael's so special & joyful and a true celebration of Christ's Incarnation. On New Year's Day after Mass, St Mike's said a heartfelt "Farewell" to Fr Tom Honey as he left the Parish to become Chaplain at St Michael's Hospice Basingstoke.

In February we consider the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount from St Matthew's Gospel, before Lent starts on 1st March, St David's Day.

For the -gesima Sundays, 12th, 19th, 26th Feb, the choir sings all 3 of William Byrd's Masses, composed c.1592-4, in his 50s while a Roman Catholic but tolerated by Queen Elizabeth I. Byrd for 4 voices is probably best known, Byrd 3 more sparse & austere, and Byrd 5 the most complex & developed. We contrast these Mass settings with more modern Motets; Philip Stopford's 21st century take on "If ye love me", Edward Elgar's 1902 setting of "Ave verum corpus", and "O Lord thou art my God" by 19th century Exeter composer Kellow Pye.

Please check the website

<http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/> for details of Events. Currently we have...

Sun 29 Jan, Epiphany IV, 10.45am. Ven David Gunn-Johnson. Missa "L'Hora Passa" by Viadana. Motet: Ubi Caritas, by Duruflé.

Thurs 2 February at 7.30pm, 40 days after Christmas, the Nativity narrative concludes with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas. Mass in C by John Ireland, and the "Nunc Dimittis" by Gustav Holst. Fr Christopher Durrant.

Sun 5 Feb, Epiphany V, 10.45am Mass in F – Rheinberger. Motet: Our conversation is in Heaven – Gilbert. Fr Christopher.

Sun 5 Feb at 6pm, we mark the Eve of 65th Anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II. Choral Evensong & Benediction. Responses: Clucas. Psalms 1,3,4. Canticles: Purcell in G minor. Anthem: We wait for Thy loving kindness – McKie. Hymns 252, 269, 268. Fr C.

Fri 10 Feb at 7.30pm. Concert by Exeter College Choral Society. Poulenc – Gloria. Mozart – Solemn Vespers.

Sun 12 Feb, Septuagesima, Epiphany VI. 10.45am Mass for 4 voices – Byrd. If ye love me – Stopford. Fr C.

Sun 19 Feb, Sexagesima, Epiphany VII. 10.45am Mass. Byrd 3. Ave verum corpus – Elgar. Archdeacon Christopher Fletcher.

Thurs 23 Feb at 12noon – Lunch Club at Exeter College's @34 Restaurant; sign up lists in both our churches.

Thurs 23 Feb at 6pm. CBS Plainsong Mass. St Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr (c.155)

Sun 26 Feb, Quinquagesima, Transfiguration Sunday. 10.45am Mass. Byrd 5. O Lord Thou art my God – Pye. Preacher Bill Pattinson.

Shrove Tuesday, 28 Feb at 8.30pm. Pancakes after Choir Practice.

Wed 1 March, Ash Wednesday, with services both Morning & Evening.

9.30am Matins, 10am Said Low Mass with Ashes. Fr C.

7.30pm Solemn Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes. Mass in the Dorian Mode – Tallis; Remember not Lord our offences – Purcell. Preacher Ven David Gunn-Johnson.

Sun 5 Mar, Lent I. 10.45am Sung Mass. Cranmer's Litany of 1544 in Procession. Fr C.

Sun 5 Mar at 6pm, Choral Evensong & Benediction.

Times of change are unsettling but inevitable, even in a church as traditional as St Michael's. Please continue to pray for and support St Michael's during the Interregnum. Fr Christopher, supported by a rota of visiting priests, will be especially busy between now and when the Vacancy is filled, but we have much to look forward to together.

Finally, a topic guaranteed to make me unpopular. At Christmas we sang "What shall I give him, poor as I am?" Financial giving to St Michael's is still inadequate to cover our basic costs (heating, insurance, music, etc., not to mention the Common Fund to the Diocese to pay for Clergy). Please consider again where your Church ranks amongst the things you spend your money on.

<http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/about/giving/> has more details and a link to St Michael's anonymous online donation page. Many thanks.



Richard Barnes.

February in Pychester

(More personal & provocative views from fictional Pychester. General Synod does indeed meet in London for 3 days spanning Valentine's.)

You will recall how baby Carol was born in St Pythag's Choir Vestry at Midnight Mass. A few days later her family and friends gathered cooingly in the Cotswolds, and little Carol worked an early miracle, grandparental feelings bringing renewal and reform to relationships.

Joanna & Mary are like any doting parents, happy, exhausted, muddling through. Jo feels perhaps more excluded than most partners at not being able to breastfeed baby Carol, but otherwise all is fine.

Candlemas at St Pythag's; the Peregrine Falcons sacrifice a couple of feral pigeons, old Simeon and Anna are ready, the choir sings Nunc Dimittis, but Jo & Mary stay away from the temple. How can the Church of England baptise their baby, but refuse to bless their love?

Bishop Rick is surprised to be thinking this too. Co-opted to the Bishops' Reflection Group on Sexuality (Who thought up that name? Images of meeting in mirrored bedrooms!), their Shared Conversations, blessed embarrassing, reveal half the bishops have same-sex marriages already – same time, same place, ... Perhaps it's time to get over it. Be a Church for all, with only one label – Christlike. Welcoming people with all their diversity, brokenness, needs and longings.

The Church of St Pythagoras & All Angles is coping well with the Interregnum after Fr Sam retired at New Year. But in mid-February, Bishop Rick and Archdeacon Idris make an offer the Churchwardens can't refuse.

“No you can't just promote Clive the Curate, good as he is. Got his

potty (post-ordination) training to complete. And don't wear him out.”

“What’s your website say? Traditional Church for Today – time to show it. We’ve got a lovely clergy couple looking to relocate out of London. As you’ll’ve noticed, Bishop Rick has been building one of his '50 Sheds of Prayer' down by the River Pyke, between the Allotments and that new housing estate, Jurassic Park, where the diggersaurs tore up the grass and trees and deposited neatly spaced homes. Well, now it’s fini-Shed.”

“Quite, Idris. Of course, St Simon Says want to do a Church Plant, but it’s in your Parish; your opportunity to man up for Mission and French Expressionism, sorry, Fresh Expression. Don’t panic! Fr Helen knows the score; she’ll do Earthy Churchy at the Shed down by the riverside; got a smile to flutter a thousand sails; you will support her, I’m sure. And Fr Basil will look after all the priestly stuff you like up at St Pythag’s... unless you want... No, okay. Well, Thomas doubted at first, but he got over it – O taste and see, I always say. Wonderful! Must dash, train to London, General Synod, don’t you know. Might be some surprises. Ciao!”



Richard Barnes – Jan 2017

Reflect to be prepared

Reflecting on the expectations we had for 2016 is a good way to prepare for our commitment to looking ahead into 2017.

Any review has to take account of how some expectations were not met and therefore how some unanticipated realities are going to impact on us.

In our churches we are in a season of preparing annual reports for meetings that will soon be upon us.

So the repetitive cycle continues – reflect on the past to prepare for the future.

It is a sensible administrative model for organising our stewardship and use of resources.

It can help us find ways of responding to unanticipated realities.

In 2016 I was fortunate in enjoying a period of study leave.

It was largely spent walking my son's dog and reading about the Patriarch Jacob. He is a character who fascinates me. God had a plan for him. He interpreted that as supplanting his elder twin by taking his birth-right and his mother interpreted it by helping Jacob to trick his father Isaac into giving him the blessing intended for the first-born. This resulted not in dignity and status, but flight. Twice God interrupted his life dramatically, first in a dream, and later in a night of wrestling.

He was given the name Israel, a name which in much of the Bible is used interchangeably with Jacob.

I would like to be locked in a church with Jacob (if I were ever to be asked that, as happens each week on the back page of the Church Times!) and talk to him about expectations and unanticipated

realities. How would he reflect on his life?

At a conference I attended recently a participant talked about leading a group of young people on a pilgrimage. She spoke about the reflection the youngsters were asked to do each day. They were to put three questions to themselves:

- * What have you learnt from someone else?
- * What did you learn about yourself?
- * How have you encountered God or divine presence?

My intention is to use those questions as part of my daily pattern of prayerful reflection and as a way of preparing for tomorrow.

Already I wonder how often the answers will meet expectations and how often they will reveal unanticipated realities. The questions are already borrowed, so you could use them too! God bless you.

Ven Christopher Futch
The Archdeacon of Exeter



Trekking The Great Wall of China

My adventure in October was a very memorable experience! With your support I joined a group of almost strangers at Hospiscare on the Morning of the 8th October. From then friendships were built.

We had one night in Beijing before travelling by road to Gubeiku. That afternoon we trekked a gravelly path to the Wall. Through the mist we could see it snaking away into the distance as, Charles, our Chinese guide pointed out where we would be walking over the next 4 days.



We carried our day pack, everything else being transported between camps by our fantastic support team. Each day we arrived in our new camp to be welcomed by Chinese tea and snacks which included chips, a very much appreciated treat after a challenging but wonderful day's walking. We celebrated two birthdays, with cake. We chatted and took hundreds of photos. Nights were very cold and the days just right for trekking. Stories were shared, fun was had and a lot of Chinese food was consumed! On our last trekking day we climbed to the summit at Simatai.

We then travelled back to Beijing.

We spent a day visiting Tiananmen square and The Forbidden City before the long flight home – luckily it was not full and I slept well, over three seats!

Thank you for your support, for me during my journey to get fit, for the trek and for Hospiscare. An incredible almost £90,000 has been raised by this amazing group of people.... What will the next adventure be? ... watch this space!!



Sue Holden Jan 2017



Ring out, Ye bells – 50 years of the Exeter Colleges’ Guild of Ringers

In September 2004, I stepped inside St David’s Church for the very first time. I didn’t start as most do, entering the main body of the church but rather I headed upstairs into the bell tower. It was Freshers’ Week for the University and I was about to embark on my ringing career in Devon.

Since 2004, ringing with the ECG has taken me far afield – from Lanivet in Cornwall right up to York and many stops in between. The Exeter Colleges Guild, or ECG, was founded fifty years ago to bring together ringing students from across the city of Exeter. Successive generations of students have joined the ECG and have formed part of the ringing team at St David’s Church ever since the society was invited to ring here in the early 1990’s.

Bells hung for ‘full circle ringing’ (the style we ring at St David’s) are found in but a few locations across the globe. Of the 7,100 or so towers used for this approach to ringing, nearly 7,000 of them are in the British Isles and the other hundred are found in countries such as the USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Whilst I’m yet to ring outside of these shores, other St David’s ringers have got as far as Cape Town and beyond.

It may surprise you to know that there’s a style of ringing unique to Devon. Known as ‘Devon Call Change Ringing’, I’ve been lucky enough to learn this art under the guidance of our tower captain – who is born and bred in the county. Part of the Devon tradition is to have tower competitions and I’ve had the chance to ring for ‘Exeter St David’s’ in competitions across the county from Plympton to Ilfracombe. These are always great social occasions that bring

together the county's ringers and it fosters a real sense of community amongst us all. Some of the highlights of my ringing 'career' involve winning trophies in the Devon Novice Competition and the Devon Minor Final.

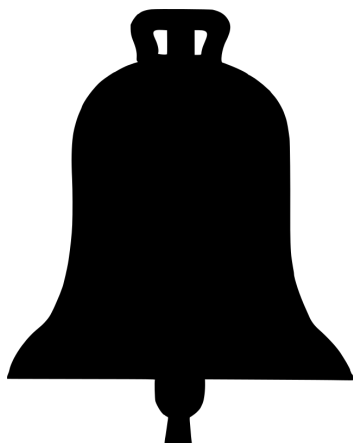
Winning these trophies has been particularly pleasing as these are competitions for learner ringers. As well as gathering ringers who have left home for University, we are also keen to teach new ringers and, through the last ten years in particular, we have introduced ringing to a whole new generation of students in Exeter. This helps to keep alive today, and into future, both bellringing in general and, within that, the traditions unique to Devon for the future.

Overall, I have much to thank the ECG and the St David's ringing team for. For the last 12 years, I have had the fortune to be part of a keen, enthusiastic and kind group of people who I couldn't imagine my life in Exeter without. Here's to the next 50 year of the ECG – long may it continue to bring together ringers, of all ages, brought to our city.



Richard Johnson

January 2017



Peregrine

*A cool spring day in Exeter
with air that's stretched and clear.
a falcon flies her territory;
the hunter all must fear.*

*This church upon Mount Dinham
is particularly blessed,
for how our spirits are lifted when
the bird rebuilds her nest.*

*When almost at the globe's bright rim,
with unsurpassèd skill
she flips, and folds and plummets down
to make a bloody kill.*

*Later, in St Michael's church
The faithful kneel to pray,
while up above, the peregrine
decapitates her prey.*

*By whatever means it takes
give us our daily bread
and the peregrine her meat
to keep the youngsters fed.*

*She sits amidst her crown of thorns
tearing wing from wing.
'All creatures of our God and King'
the congregation sing.*

Cathie Hartigan

Cathie Hartigan writes:- 'Back in 2006, I was involved in a project

entitled “Singing their Praises: A Celebration of Birds.” At concerts in Exmouth, at Paignton Zoo and RAMM, supported by the RSPB, our programme consisted of a selection of songs about birds from the 16th to the 20th centuries. It also included four poems that I had written, set to music by contemporary local composers, Gillian Webster, Diana and John Draisey.'

'The cry of the peregrines, once described to me as sounding like a rusty bicycle wheel, was very familiar and it was thrilling to see them on the wing above St Michael's. I was also aware, however, of the impact the birds' feeding habits had on the surrounding area. Pigeon heads frequently littered the playground of St David's School. My poem set out to reflect the mixed feelings we often have about wildlife, especially when it impacts on our daily lives.'



Church of England Server in the 21st Century - some observations from Emma White

The ministry of serving is a quiet one and often goes unnoticed. I have been a Server at St David's for the last 4 years and never considered the role until I was approached and cajoled into joining the server group. I have had to learn a lot 'on the job' of the role of a server and I can honestly say it is a part of ministry life that I have come to love. I am privileged enough to not only regularly serve at St David's but also at Exeter Cathedral.

But what is a server?

In the early centuries of the Church the men who performed the simpler duties of divine worship were called sub-deacons, or acolytes. The sub-deacon prepared the sacred vessels for the celebration of the Eucharist and washed the hands of the priest at the altar, but was not allowed to preach, baptise, or administer Holy Communion.

In later times his office was numbered among the major orders, like that of deacon, priest, or bishop. The acolyte then became first of the minor orders, the others being exorcist, reader, and doorkeeper. The word acolyte means "follower" and indicates that he followed the priest or deacon and ministered to him by manual acts. In practice this meant the lighting, carrying, and extinguishing of torches or candles, the swinging of a censer, the handling of cruets, bells, bowls, or towels.

With the general disappearance of the deacon and sub-deacon as

permanent ministers and of the minor orders, a layman has become the temporary acolyte who performs many of their functions under the modern title of “server”.

Serving at St David’s has changed little since the early centuries although the liturgy has been modified, some of the ‘manual acts’ omitted, for example, regular use of incense but one major change has been the admission of girls and women to serve. Since 1983 and a change in the Code of Canon Law, females have been allowed to serve at the altar.

At St David’s we have a lively and committed team of servers, headed by Christine Smith who is a stirring leader ensuring the Server Team are well trained, rehearsed and supported in their roles. There are a number of roles a server undertakes, perhaps you have noticed them during regular services? Maybe next time you are in Church, look out for the servers and observe the different functions they perform.

Many of the St David's servers are Companions of the Company of Servers, an organisation formed in 2009 to encourage, support and value lay ministry in the Anglican Church. Companions are members of the Company in the Exeter Diocese, known as the Chapter. The Chapter meets four times a year, each time in a different member church and Companions have the opportunity to worship together, share learning and experience and enjoy what is usually a very sociable afternoon tea.

If you think you have a calling to serve, and you think you can meet the key characteristics of a server namely:

- Don’t fumble and stumble
- Don’t daydream, yawn or fall asleep
- Anticipate what might happen next

or would like to learn more about the role, please speak to Christine Smith.

Augustine's Confessions: Lent Reading Group at St Michael's Mount Dinham

The Confessions of S. Augustine (354-429 AD) is one of the most honest autobiographies ever written. They recount the spiritual journey of a relentlessly clever young man. At the age of 19 he conceived a passion for Wisdom and promptly espoused the exotic (and illegal) practices of the Manichees. Abandoning them he entered a period of total Scepticism, before discovering at the age of 31 (in AD 386), pretty much simultaneously, an intelligent Christianity and the philosophy of the Neoplatonists, a serious cosmology married to a distinctive ethics.

Honest autobiography can be pretty tedious. Augustine's Confessions holds our attention partly because of the wealth of incidental detail it provides. Much of what historians of the Later Roman Empire like me know about Late Antique education, for instance, comes from Augustine.

Second, and more serious, the Confessions are something more than the journal of a soul. They are an exploration of God's relationship with His entire Creation - the closing two books (XII-XIII) are an exegesis of the opening verses of Genesis. In the autobiographical books (I-IX), which we shall read this Lent, Augustine traces an individual's relations with God, using the ups and downs of the one he knows most about - himself. This is autobiography which is not self-centred but God-centred.

The third reason to read the Confessions is that (like Kipling's Elephant's Child) Augustine was full of 'satiabile curiosity'. It shows in little things - why pay good money to go to the theatre to be made to cry? It shows too in the fundamental question which underlies the

Confessions. Book One begins by asking God which comes first, to know Him (scire), to praise Him (laudare) or to call upon Him (invocare). The newly-converted Augustine of 386 would have had no hesitation in saying 'to know God'. Writing ten years later he was not so sure, Augustine was constantly moving forward - it is one of the things which makes him a good companion.

You can make his acquaintance in company with others in a reading group this Lent:

Where: St Michael's Church, Mount Dinham, EX4 4EB

**When: 7 pm to 8.15 pm on five Wednesdays in Lent,
viz. March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th**

Arrangements are being made to have the translation of Henry Chadwick: (Oxford World's Classics, 1991) for sale - or you can download a pdf of the translation of A.C. Outler by clicking on Texts and Translations at <http://faculty.georgetown.edu/jod/augustine/>

All are welcome for as few or as many sessions as you wish to attend. See you there.

Oliver Nicholson – 15 Jan 2017



Chance encounter in pub sparks unusually good event at St Michael's

Successful community events depend on a number of factors, including sometimes a little serendipity. The 'Unusually Good Book Sale' fund-raiser at St Michael's on November 26th last year seemed set on a favourable course from the start by a chance meeting at just the right moment.

Two months earlier, when the event was just an idea and my husband and I were wondering about approaching St Michael's as a possible venue, I happened to walk into a pub in Cheriton Fitzpaine to which I'd never been before to see our neighbours' artwork on display and was surprised when who should walk in a minute later but Richard Parker of St Michael's, who was meeting Devon Buildings Group colleagues that evening on business. (Honest.) At the time I knew him only by sight as someone associated with the church, as we had been to a few services and concerts there over the years. When I introduced myself and proposed our idea, Richard was immediately positive and welcoming, thus providing one of the key requisites for success – a co-operative venue.

As the idea developed, St Michael's became not only venue but also partner and co-host, with many people from the church, as well as from St David's Church, contributing help in a variety of ways, increasing the likelihood of a good outcome. Without their support, we could not have organised the event as we envisioned it. Allowing repeated access to the church, helping us advertise, taking charge of refreshments, providing extra tables, donating items to sell – so many people were helpful, generous, enthusiastic.

Not to mention that St Michael's provided the entire musical element of the event – Matthew Wright's piano accompaniment and Nigel

Browne's organ demonstration – and the excellent tour given by Richard. With those attractions on the bill, plus stalls by Oxfam Books and Records, Hospiscare Books, Creative Writing Matters, Exeter Writers, Shane Wolfand (Poetry Pop-up), and local artist Ruth Yendell, all of whom devoted much time and effort to the event, the sale truly was unusually good and we knew many people would want to come, not only to buy books, etc., but to see St Michael's and enjoy some of what it has to offer: a fascinating building and history, a beautiful interior, a welcoming community space as well as a welcoming community, good music, excellent refreshments, and peregrines in the tower to boot.

And on the day they did come, in very good numbers. No one had time to count, but we were told that rarely, if ever, has the church had so many people in it on one day. We were very pleased when St Michael's declared the event a 'triumph'. Our goals were to create a good book sale and socialising opportunity for the community and to draw people over the Iron Bridge to St David's and one of its landmark buildings. St Michael's goal was to bring the community in to see and to use the church. Our shared goal was to raise money toward the church's upkeep and further community events in St David's. The other participants wanted to raise awareness of their activities and causes. With the input already mentioned, plus the other key requirement – a lot of hard work (leafleting, posters, emails, web ads, setup, cleanup, etc.) – it all came together rewardingly well and £350 was raised for the two funds, with the excellent refreshments bringing in another £200 for St Michael's.

Thank you to all at St Michael's and St David's and to all who took part and attended. Hard work but good fun! Next time we meet Richard Parker in a pub, the drinks are on us.



Gail and Paul Prosser

St David's Creates
January 2017



HOSPISCARE SWIMATHON 2017

Last year three teams from our two churches took part in the first Swimathon in aid of local charity Hospiscare and were generously sponsored by our congregations. The amazing total raised by all the teams who took part was £10,000. As well as raising a large amount the event was much enjoyed by the teams who swam and so there is to be a second Swimathon. The object is for a team to have one person at a time swimming in one lane for a period of 50 minutes and for the team to be sponsored. It is not a race. You can swim stately breast stroke, frantic dog paddle or elegant crawl. Team members may swim as many or as few lengths as they are able. As long as someone from the team is swimming throughout the 50 minutes, that's all that is needed. At the end there is a glow of pride, a sense of achievement, sponsorship raised as well as homemade cake and a certificate to take home.

It would be marvellous if St David's and St Michael's could produce teams again. The Swimathon is on Saturday 1st April at the Police Headquarters Middlemoor pool. A team may choose a starting time between 9am and 1pm and the cost to enter a team is £20 payable to Hospiscare. If you would like more information or an entry form please contact Paula Lawford on 01392 214025 or email paula@jlawford.co.uk . Please think about taking part and supporting this worthwhile local charity. Thank you.



St David's Church

Three Choir **Concert**

Saturday 25th March 2017, 7pm

St David's Church, Queens Terrace, Exeter EX4 4HR.

Wyndham Singers

A well known local choir with an excellent reputation and wide repertoire

Rhythm of Life

Funky, fun and full of life!

Based at the RD&E Wonford Hospital.

Four Strops

A Barber Shop quartet

Tickets £10 or £15 for two. (Includes a glass of wine or a soft drink during the interval.) Raffle

Proceeds for the St David's Church Transformation Project and Hospiscare.

Tickets in advance from Exeter Visitor Information & Tickets.
Dix's Field. Exeter. EX1 1GF.
01392 665885

Or on sale after 9.30am Sunday service during March at St David's or on the door on the night.

web@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk

Bible Study Group – Spring 2017

Q) What is it? A) An ongoing opportunity for us to gather as a small comfortable group to read scripture, share our reflections and receive some teaching.

Q) Will it be like a school class? A) No, thankfully! I believe everyone present will have something important share. (Be assured though, the clergy will have prepared a little something to start things off)

Q) What sort of things will come up? A) We're not sure, but each evening will have a theme – e.g. Birth, Sermon on the Mount, Parables of Kingdom, Passion, Resurrection...

Q) I'm still not sure... A) Come along! I pray this will be an encouraging and affirming group as we explore some of the richness of The Gospel of Matthew together.

We shall meet on THURSDAY evenings, 20:00 – 21:15
January 12 th & 19th; February 2nd & 16 th at Ann's House
March 2nd, 16th & 30th; April 6 th at Iris' House

(If not sure where Ann or Iris live – we'll provide directions: please leave your telephone number on the sign-up sheet!)

Rev. Christopher

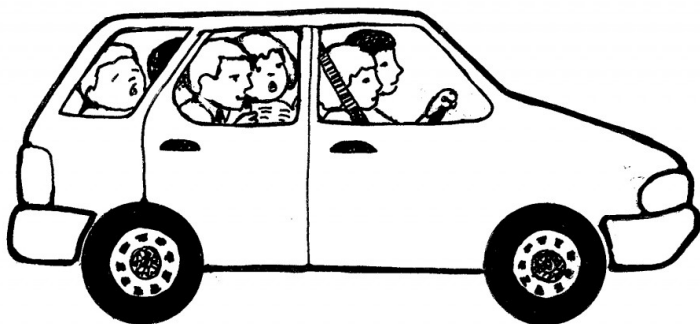
A Motorist's Prayer



Paul Adams was travelling to see friends just before Christmas.

On Thursday 22 December at our 10.30 Eucharist he prayed:

Help me, O God, as I drive today
To love my neighbour as myself
That I may do nothing to endanger any of Thy children.
Give to my eyes clear vision
And skill to my hands and feet.
Make me tranquil in mind and in body relaxed.
From the spirit of rivalry deliver me
And from all resentment at the action of others.
Thus bringing me and others safely to our journey's end
AMEN





Sundays @St David's Church, Exeter, 2017

January 15th. Family Service and Edibles Stall

January 22nd. Charitable Giving (YMCA) – Homelessness Sunday

January 29th. Traidcraft Stall

February 19th. Family Service and Edibles Stall

March 5th. Charitable Giving (St. D's Soup Evening)

March 19th. Family Service and Traidcraft Stall

March 26th. Edibles Stall – Mothering Sunday

April 9th. Edibles Stall including Hot Cross Buns – Palm Sunday

April 16th. Family Service with Eucharist – Easter Day

May 14th. Charitable Giving (Christian Aid)

May 21st. Family Service and Edibles Stall

May 28th. Traidcraft Stall

June 18th. Family Service and Edibles Stall – Fathers' Day

June 25th. Charitable Giving (Exeter Refugees)

July 9th. Traidcraft Stall

July 16th. Family Service and Edibles Stall

August 20th. Family Service and Edibles Stall

September 17th. Family Service – Harvest Festival (no edibles stall)

October 1st. Charitable Giving (Goodwill Village)

October 8th Traidcraft Stall

October 15th Family Service and Edibles Stall

November 12th. Traidcraft Stall – Remembrance Sunday

November 19th. Family Service and Edibles Stall

November 26th. Charitable Giving (Angel Tree)

December 3rd. Traidcraft Stall

December 17th. Family Service (no edibles stall)

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.

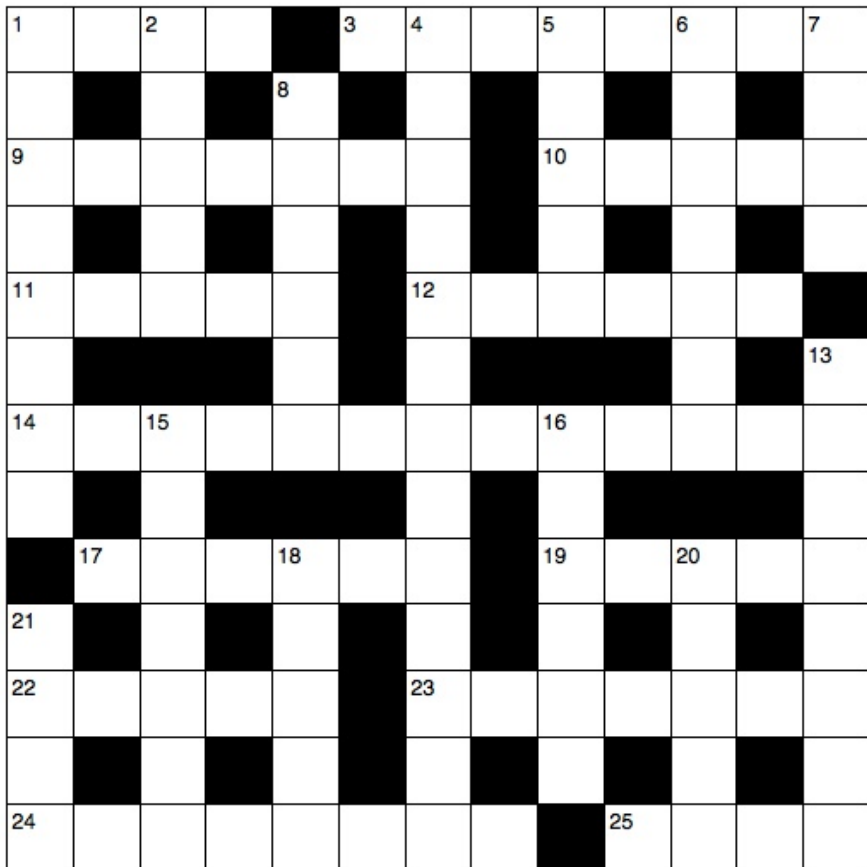
We also like to have paperbacks they can take to read, so if you are parting with books please think of leaving them with us.

Thank you.

Contact Mary on:- 07872 626 168 if you need to leave donated goods



February crossword



Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)

- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
- 14 Not born again (13)
- 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
- 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
- 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
- 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
- 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
- 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
- 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
- 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
- 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
- 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
- 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
- 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
- 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
- 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
- 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
- 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
- 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

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Days of Note - February

2 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.



In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

3 Blaise – the cure for sore throats

St Blaise is the saint for you if you have a sore throat, or a pet who is ill. He was born in Sebastea, ancient Armenia, (now Sivas, in Turkey) sometime during the late 3rd century, and became a physician. But his compassion did not stop there: he went on to become bishop of Sebastea, and thus a physician of souls. Known for his dedication to prayer, Blaise taught by his own example of virtue and sanctity, as much as by his words. His ministry was accompanied by many miracles of healing, and people (and animals) came flocking to him from near and far.

When in 316 the governor of Cappadocia and Lesser Armenia began a persecution of Christians, Blaise was arrested. As he was being led to prison, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking to death on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and begged for help. Blaise prayed, and immediately the child was cured. Regardless, the governor had him beaten and beheaded. But the miracle was not forgotten by the people who loved him, and Blaise became the patron saint of illnesses of the throat, and of wild beasts.

Blaise was one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages. There are several churches named after him in England, from Cornwall to Oxfordshire, also the Bishop Blaise pub here in Exeter.

14 Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

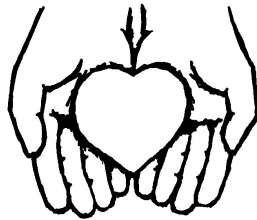
The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement

of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.*

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

*The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.*



24 Matthias the Apostle - the chosen one

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed – and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make PERFECT sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task....

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role.

The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. How to choose?

Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias – and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you?

Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things - because you never know what the future might hold!



"To think we grumbled when the Church used unintelligible archaic language!"



COUGHS & SNEEZES

February seems to be the coldest time of the year – and most of us get a cold, complete with runny nose and sore throat.

Well, 3rd February is the right day to have a sore throat because it is St Blaise's Day. Legend says that St Blaise was on his way to be martyred when he saw a young child choking with a fishbone stuck in his throat. The saint touched the child and the bone was dislodged. This led to a custom of Blessing the Throats on St Blaise's Day which continues today in one London church.

Another way to celebrate the day was with big bonfires (before the Bonfire Night we keep in November was thought of) and that is probably why we say that bonfires blaze.

So you can sit in front of a blazing fire, sniffing into a tissue and think about the patron saint of sore throats.

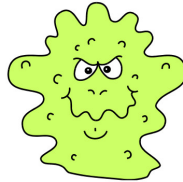


A COLD PUZZLE

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with winter sniffles. Can you find them all?

S	N	I	F	F	L	E	S	T	E
L	H	W	L	E	F	F	T	I	L
I	A	I	U	L	V	K	A	S	A
N	N	C	V	E	I	E	O	S	Z
C	K	O	O	E	R	P	R	U	N
T	I	E	O	L	R	U	H	E	E
U	E	S	L	D	D	S	T	S	U
S	W	O	T	E	L	B	A	T	F
W	I	N	T	E	R	H	G	I	N
A	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	I

cold fever flu hankie influenza
linctus medicine nose pill
shivers sniffles tablet throat
tissues winter



What happen if your nose runs and your feet smell?

You're built upside down!

What sort of transport gives people colds?

A-choo-choo-trains.

ANNUAL REVISION OF THE PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

Revision of the Parish Electoral Roll will begin on Sunday 26th March and end on Sunday 9th April 2017.

In order to be entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 26th April, and to take part in its proceedings, your name must be on the electoral roll. Similarly, if you wish to stand for any office (other than Churchwarden) your name must be on the Roll.

If you would like to have your name entered on the Roll, please contact Sue Wilson at St David's, or Philippa Keitch at St Michael's, who will be happy to give you an application form and/or more details.

AS THIS IS A REVISION ANYONE WHOSE NAME IS ON THE CURRENT ELECTORAL ROLL NEED NOT APPLY- BUT PLEASE INFORM PHILIPPA OR SUE OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Sue Wilson

Electoral Roll Officer

Parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels

electoralrollofficer@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

Crossword solutions

February answers

ACROSS: 1, Wage. 3, Cleansed. 9, Plateau. 10, Ready. 11, Did so. 12, Hollow. 14, Unregenerated. 17, Offers. 19, Islam. 22, Is not. 23, Overran. 24, Barracks. 25, Legs.

DOWN: 1, Wiped out. 2, Guard. 4, Laughing-stock. 5, April. 6, Seaport. 7, Days. 8, Belong. 13, Oddments. 15, Refiner. 16, Raided. 18, Extra. 20, Large. 21, Limb.

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the March issue of New Leaves is Sunday February 19th 2017

If you have images of any events of interest to the Parish community please send them to us. Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to the new editorial team at:

newleavesnews@gmail.com

Please send digital files via email 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.