

New Leaves

**December 2017 /
January 2018**



**Parish Magazine
of St David with
St Michael and
All Angels,
Exeter**

50p

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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

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

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Christmas Message from Revd. Christopher



O come, all ye faithful!

Christmas is an invitation. At Christmas time, church communities all over Britain dress their buildings with festive trees, open their doors on cold

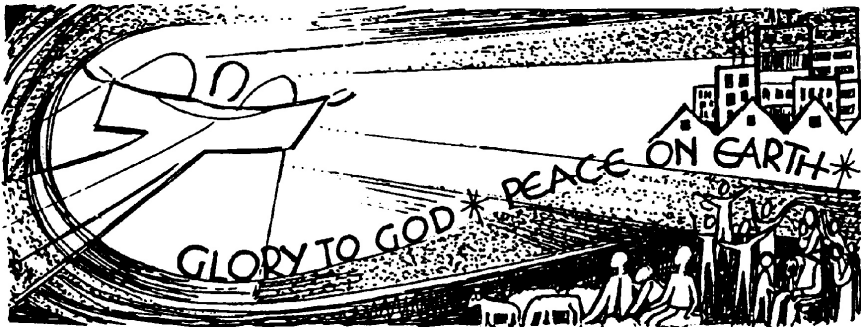
evenings, and offer deep-filled minced pies. And that is just what we do too! Come along to our famous St. David's Carol service on Dec 17th at 18:00, and our family Christingle/Nativity service on Dec 24th at 16:00. Come along to our beautiful St. Mike's Advent Procession on Dec 10th at 18:00. Come to Midnight Mass at 23:30 (carols from 23:00) at either of our warm churches. O come all ye faithful, come ye who are unsure about what you believe, come home to God at Christmas.

God of God, Light of Light

Christmas teaches us about God. When I lead school assemblies for St. David's Primary and St. Wilfrid's schools, we always light a candle together. I tell the children the flame's heat and light symbolise the transformative heat and light of our prayers before God, and of His burning love for us. Just as the match flame does not become less bright or less hot when the candle wick lights, so it is with God. God is all sharing and all giving, God holds nothing back; God gives of who God is. Each Christmas, when our



hearts are prepared, God gives Himself vulnerably to our care. God entrusts Himself to us, as a child to everyday parents. And from accepting this gift comes meaning for the whole world.



Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation

Christmas encourages a response. For many people, Christmas feels unbearably painful. Gathering as a family reminds us of loved ones whom we have lost to death, or that we have no family anymore. Visiting distant friends, finding enough money, sending cards and wrapping gifts can all become chores rather than rare pleasures. God can feel like just another thing to do. Just another reminder of how happy I should be, when I'm not. When choirs of angels sing glory to God we can choose to listen, to voice our story authentically with theirs, or we can choose to close our mouth and ears. Christmas reminds us that because of our common birth we always have within us the powerful hope of God.

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning

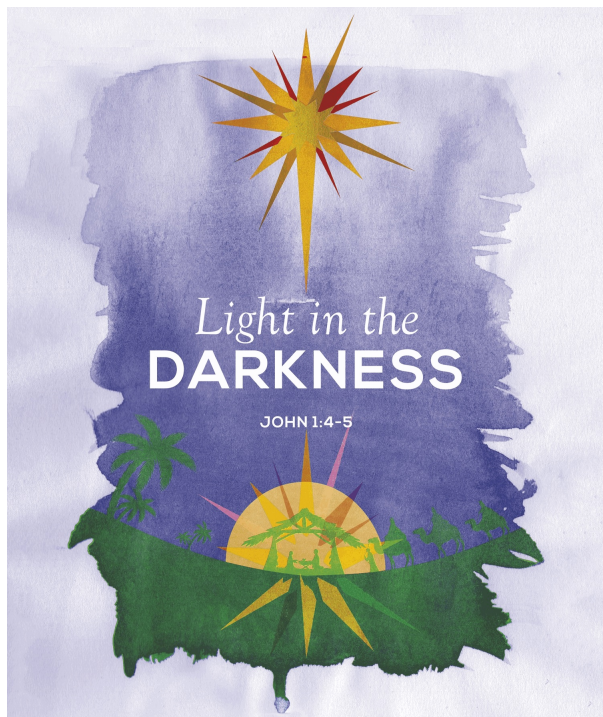
Christmas is living theology. It is often said how easy is the life of a priest because we only work Sundays... well, if that's true I'm doing it wrong! Being a Christian is not about doing the



minimum to get by: you are not defined by subscribing to an aloof set of doctrines. Being Christian is about living out those doctrines through rich liturgical worship and prayer, and abundant good works and study. Christmas is a lesson in being open to reproach and in receiving forgiveness. The incarnation of our living God as a living baby boy is earth-shatteringly scandalous, when you stop to reflect upon it. So, take a few minutes to do that now. “Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing...”

+ The joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas.

Amen.



Gifts at Christmas

I wonder if I am the only person who often finds themselves singing Christmas carols on 'auto-pilot', and not really paying attention to the words? We know them so well, possibly having rote-learnt them as a child. We tend to learn carols as a whole, complete entity, often missing the detail of the words and meaning.

I particularly appreciate the words of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' - especially the final verse. They were written by one of the most famous female writers of the 19th century, Christina Rossetti.

Born in London in 1830, Rossetti was part of a family of gifted artists, writers and scholars. Her brothers Dante Gabriel and William were founding members of the famous art movement, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

The female members of her family were keen High Church Anglicans. Rossetti lived out her faith volunteering for 10 years at St Mary Magdalene's penitentiary for prostitutes and unmarried mothers, in Highgate.



I think what I like best about the words of this carol, is their surface simplicity and vivid imagery. For example, in true poetic form, instead of saying that it was really cold and icy, we sing:

Earth stood hard as iron,

Water like a stone...

and are invited to conjure up images of the harshness and inhospitability of this world (and perhaps peoples' hearts?) to which Jesus was coming.

Also, I love the notion in verse two;

Our God, heaven cannot hold him

Nor earth sustain...

- the notion of heaven not being able to 'contain' Jesus – gives a sense that he was almost fighting to get out; he couldn't wait to come to earth to meet and get to know us, personally!

But from childhood and beyond, singing the carol in various school and church carol services, it has always been the final verse that struck me. Perhaps to our 21st century ears it may sound rather sentimental, to give Jesus 'my heart', but the principle is worth reflecting on.

What might it mean to 'Give my heart'? It will possibly mean different things to different people – and maybe different things at different stages in our own life. To some it may mean being committed to following the Christian way to the best of our ability; with our whole heart. This might involve a conscious, daily-repeated offering of our will and gifts to God – as fully as we can. This echoes a recent sermon preached by Bill at our Family Service; all about our God-given talents.

Whatever we may think about our abilities, God has given gifts to all, without exception. If we don't think we have any, they are there, waiting to be discovered! It may be that someone else can see our gifts more clearly and objectively than we. We can ultimately choose to nurture or neglect them, though to continue our musical theme with a musical analogy, of these gifts Lucy Winkett writes*; 'There will be times to rest, to be silent, to allow another voice to be heard. But if we don't sing or play the part we have uniquely been given, someone else will miss their cue'. There is an element of responsibility. We needn't be rich in material terms, but we can give generously of our gifts – of our time, friendship, our love. So, this Christmas, as we remember God's ultimate gift of himself to us, in the human form of Jesus, I wonder if we can think of ways in which we can share our gifts, giving our heart – as did Christina Rossetti. In doing so, God will richly bless the other person – and us.

May you experience God's peace,
joy and hope this Christmas.

*Winkett, L. (2010) *Our Sound is Our Wound*. Continuum; London

Alison Whiting

John Hughes Memorial Lecture – Wednesday 22 November

On a wet & windy evening, David Beadle, who had arranged this inaugural Memorial Lecture, welcomed John Hughes' parents, Janet & Hywel, friends from near and far, and many who had not had the joy of knowing John to St Michael's.

Dr Susannah Cornwall, University of Exeter theologian, reminded us of John's life; his time as Curate of the Parish from 2005-9, his work as Chaplain of Jesus College

Cambridge, his abundant hospitality and adventurous cooking. In John's tragic death in June 2014, aged 35, the Church lost one of its brightest theologians, and we gave back to God a priest, pastor and friend of Christlike generosity & love.

John saw all life as sacramental and was always optimistic about the Church & its mission to work for a more generous society; reflected in his interest in the Radical Orthodoxy movement and Catholic Social teaching. For John, there was no pure nature or neutral secular realm, but all things could be seen in the light of faith as graced and caught up in the redeeming love of God.

Dr Edward Skidelsky of Exeter's Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology entitled his Lecture "How can Believers talk to Unbelievers about God?". When one has a love for someone or something, there's a desire to share that with people, but in a way that doesn't bore or threaten.

Like John, he has found debate and argument a rather sterile activity for sharing love and faith. Atheists have a misconception of what



faith involves. Neither logical argument nor emotional blackmail are particularly effective methods of evangelism these days. Just as our Christian faith derives from the true story of Jesus, simply telling our stories of faith can be more effective.

Our diverse experiences of what we might call the spiritual or mystical moments in life are valid in building faith, even though unlike 'scientific' observations they are often one-off, non-repeatable events. Dr Skidelsky shared 3 personal steps in his journey of faith – which many will also identify with.

Beauty – in nature, sunset on water, or a mountaintop moment. Surprised by joy in C S Lewis's term. Overwhelming emotion as a validation of God's love in creation. But not a pantheistic worship of Nature, which also has a harsh and cruel face.

Regret – actually Edward used the word 'Sin'; the knowledge that we have hurt others, the feeling that we have not fulfilled, a need for someone truly good to forgive us.

Love – unconditional, unselfconscious, which he has recently found sharing the liturgy of the Orthodox Church. Though the Icons are copies, the singing a bit croaky, there is order without discipline, harmony without constraint. It's not perfect – no Church is – but an



authentic community of loved, forgiven people.

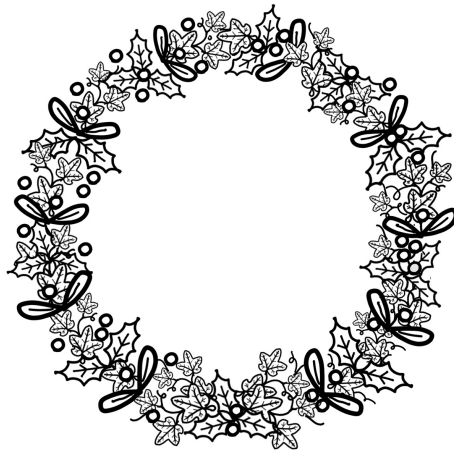
Thus, by a rather different route, Dr Skidelsky reached a similar conclusion to Rev Austin in his Deanery Synod Bible Study on Discipleship (Nov 'New Leaves'), that the gentle practice of our faith is more attractive to others than its doctrines.

Thanks to all who made this evening a fitting and moving remembrance of John Hughes, through hospitality, friendship and shared stories.

Many of John's writings have been gathered in Matthew Bullimore's book 'Graced Life', and some sermons included in 'Preaching Radical & Orthodox' ed. Alison Milbank et al. (SCM Press).



Richard Barnes – 25 November 2017.



St David's Eucharist December

December 3rd: 1st Sunday of Advent

Reading 1	Isaiah 64:1-9	Helen Hopwood
Reading 2	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Avril Pattinson
Gospel	Mark 13:24-end	
Time of prayer		Robert Mitchell
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		

December 10th : 2nd Sunday of Advent

Reading 1	Isaiah 40:1-11	Ann Watts
Reading 2	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Hilary Francis
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8	
Time of prayer		Charlotte Townsend
Junior Church: Helen Sail		

December 17th: (Family Service) 3rd Sunday of Advent

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		

Family service - No Junior Church

December 24th, 09:30 : 4th Sunday of Advent

Reading 1	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16	Emma White
Reading 2	Romans 16: 22-end	Gina Redman
Gospel	Luke 1:26-38	
Time of prayer		Bill Pattinson
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		

December 24th, 11:30pm Midnight Mass :

Reading 1	Isaiah 62:6-end	Catherine Matlock
Reading 2	Titus 3:4-7	Alan Baker
Gospel	Luke 2:8-20	
Time of prayer		Clergy

December 25th : Christmas Day

Reading 1	Isaiah 52:7-10	
Reading 2	Hebrews 1:1-4	
Gospel	John 1:1-14	
Time of prayer		Geoff Crockett

December 31st :

Reading 1	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Geoff Crockett
Reading 2	Galatians 4:4-7	Cathy Knowles
Gospel	Luke 2:15-21	
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson

St David's Eucharist January

January 7th: Epiphany

Reading 1	Isaiah 60:1-6	Philip Walker
Reading 2	Ephesians 3:1-12	Debbie McNeill
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12	
Time of prayer		Sarah Black
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		

January 14th : 2nd. Sunday of Epiphany

Reading 1	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Lawrence Sail
Reading 2	Revelation 5:1-10	Helena Walker
Gospel	John 1:43-end	
Time of prayer		Chris Gill
Junior Church: Helen Sail		

January 21st: (Family Service) 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		
Family service - No Junior Church		

January 28th :Candlemas or Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Reading 1	Malachi 3:1-5	Katy Tyler
Reading 2	Hebrews 2:14-end	Charlotte Townsend
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40	
Time of prayer		Nigel Walsh
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		

December 2017 and January 2018 from St Michael's

It was fortunate for me that career choices for girls were starting to move as I was growing up. With the right entry qualifications, I could be *whatever* I wanted to be. Almost. Speech therapy was denied because of a shortage in my mathematics area, as was space research and veterinary science.

Realism takes over after a while, along with recognition of personal limitations. Being *whoever* I wanted to be was slightly different. In my early years I wanted to be a cowboy (had we been to see 'Annie Get Your Gun'?) so I tied a length of washing line to my tricycle handles and rode round the garden terrorising the rose bushes as I attempted to jump the trike over them. One of my friends wanted to be a horse, I became the friendly pony, and we spent many hours trotting, cantering and shaking our pony tails as we ranged the locality after school. Fortunately, these earnest wishes did not come to fruition and we grew to, I hope, rational adulthood.

Within that growth was a sense of who we are in God, and is this identity that Fr Christopher reminded us of on 19th November, following the reading of the Parable of the Talents in St Matthew's Gospel. Although the Master praised the slaves who were good and faithful, it was clear that these qualities were expected in the Master as well, as he recognised them as virtuous. 'Faithful' is sometimes translated as 'trustworthy', so it is that we find God both faithful and trustworthy, especially if we put on 'faith and love' and the 'hope of salvation', as recommended in the parallel reading in the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. Here these qualities are seen as clothing, without which we would be naked and vulnerable, unable to demonstrate the faithfulness and trustworthiness of God who calls each one of us to be His own and to find ourselves there. In the painting of the Creation of Adam on the ceiling in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, Eve hides gently behind the figure of the Creator; her identity is established before she fully appears, whilst God holds out His hand to Adam to give him life. One of the four themes in Advent is Hope. Sometimes we are more aware of the need of hope than at others: during illness, during uncertain times, when there are threats to personal safety, and so on. At other times, we go on in our lives seemingly without activating the strand of hope, but it is always there, underpinning what we do, because God is our hope at all times. Whatever else has happened to me during the week, the greatest

strength comes to me in the words during the Eucharist ‘...and my soul shall be healed...’. They embody our hope in Christ, giving power for the rest of the day. They stay with me and come to mind frequently. If my soul is healed, then I can settle for the rest of the day, in the knowledge of a good and faithful God.

It is with hope in mind that we approach our Advent preparation for Christmas and the New Year, which offers such great adventures with our new priest, Fr Nigel Guthrie. Join us for services and celebrations throughout the next couple of months. The first Sunday in Advent, then our Advent Procession of lessons and carols at 6 p.m. followed by mulled wine and mince-pies on the second Sunday, a closer look at the commercially-named ‘count-down to Christmas’ (though I think that began in September for some), Christmas Eve Choral Mass and Christmas Day itself. Details of times are given elsewhere in the magazine. Don’t then forget to write 2018 on letters and cheques (if you still use them) in the New Year. Here at St Michael’s, we wish you all health and peace in the love of God and joy in Christ the Redeemer.



**Stephanie
Aplin**



December & January Events @ St Michael's

Sun 3rd Dec, Advent Sunday. 10.45am Sung Mass & 6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction.

Wed 6th Dec, St Nicolas of Myra, 9.30am BCP Matins, 10am Low Mass.

Thu 7th Dec, 6pm CBS Plainsong Mass. St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith (397)

Fri 8th Dec, 6.30pm at St David's Church. Community Christmas Concert. £5.

Sat 9th Dec, 4.30pm. Exeter Chorale Concert. Veni Sponsa Christi (£10/£6 students)

Sun 10th Dec, Advent II. 10.45am Mass, **6pm, Advent Procession.**

Sun 17th Dec, Gaudete, Advent III. 10.45am Mass (Rose Vestments).

Sun 24th Dec, Advent IV! 10.45am Mass.

Sun 24th Dec, Christmas Eve. 11pm Gallery Carols, 11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity.

Mon 25th Dec, Christmas Day. N.B. 10.30am Sung Mass of the Nativity.

Tue 26th Dec, St Stephen Please check website/twitter for details of any Services this week.

Sun 31st Dec, Christmas I, Holy Family. 10.45am Sung Mass.

Sun 7th Jan, Epiphany. 10.45am Mass & 6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction.

Sun 14th Jan, Epiphany II. 10.45am Mass.

Tue 16th Jan, 7.30pm at St David's Church. Induction & Installation of Preb Nigel Guthrie as Vicar of the Parish.

Sun 21st Jan, Epiphany III. Sung Mass.

Sun 28th Jan, Epiphany IV. Sung Mass.

Wed 31st Jan, 7.30pm. St Michael's Lecture – topic & speaker to be

confirmed.

Fri 2nd Feb, Candlemas. 7.30pm Sung Mass.

Regular Events:-

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6pm Plainsong Vespers & Meditation.

Tuesdays, 7-8.30pm Choir Practice.

Wednesdays, 9.30am BCP Morning Prayer, 10am Low Mass.

See our Website www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

& Twitter https://twitter.com/StMikes_Exeter for details and updates.

Concerts. Please support the Community Christmas Concert at St David's Church on Friday 8 December at 6.30pm with a wealth of local talent performing. Tickets £5.

On Saturday 9 December at 4.30pm there's a Tea-time Concert at St Michael's Church as Exeter Chorale present glorious Renaissance Masses & Motets by Palestrina, Lassus & Guerrero, with tea & cakes, all for £10.

Choir Music. Thanks to Tim Hampshire and organist Nigel Atkinson for leading the Fauré Requiem for our All Soul's Day Mass, and to Graham Keitch for his setting of 'For the Fallen'.

Sunday 10 December at 6pm we have the beautiful Advent Procession guiding us from darkness to light through music, prayer and readings, with seasonal refreshments afterwards.

Our Music List & Organist Rota for Advent to Epiphany are online, and we thank all who are pulling together to carry on providing St Michael's with music fitting for the church's liturgy.

I hope we will sing "O magnum mysterium" as the words 'ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praeseptio', 'that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger' bring the Incarnation of Jesus truly down to Earth, and also remind me of Thomas Hardy's poem "The Oxen".

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.

"Now they are all on their knees,"

An elder said as we sat in a flock

By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

Lent Reading Group. Advance notice. Following last year's successful meetings exploring the 'Confessions' of St Augustine, Oliver Nicholson will lead a series of Wednesday evening gatherings for Lent 2018 looking at the founder of Desert Monasticism, St Antony of Egypt (c.251-356), whose Life was influential in the Conversion of Augustine. The likely dates are Wed 21 Feb to Wed 21 Mar, but you don't have to commit to all 5 Wednesdays.

Wishing you all a Holy Advent & Merry Christmas.



Richard Barnes, Nov 2017.



Funeral of Peggy Todd (26.3.1919-10.9.2017) on Monday 25 September 2017

This is by way of a huge thank you from Roger and me to everyone at St David's who came, sang, supported and helped to make my Mum's funeral so special, and for all the cards and messages we have received. Particular thanks go to Rev David James who took the service so beautifully and really captured her in his address; to Ian Smith, always splendid on the organ; and to Mary Quest and Mollie Curry for the wonderful spread they provided for the tea afterwards.

A quietly, extraordinary and very private person, Mum never spoke about her faith but her choice of hymns (Let all the world in every corner sing, Ye holy angels bright, and For all the Saints) and readings made it clear that it was very important to her, quite apart from the fact that she was a member of the congregation of All Saints, Banstead, Surrey for 60 years. I paid the tribute, then my brother Anthony read the first lesson, Wisdom 3, 1-9. We said Psalm 121 antiphonally and then my sister-in-law, Jacqueline, read the more familiar passage from John 14, 1-6 and 27. All three readings speak of a faith and trust in God and the last one provides a hint of what heaven will be like and clearly Mum drew comfort from all of them during her long life.



All Saints, Banstead

We were grateful that the committal was spoken in church at the West

door which meant that all of us could be with the cousins and friends who had come. Mum was the last of her generation, and outlived even her sister by a month so cousins came who we'd not seen in years, one not since 1982! We made full use of the wonderful space at the back of the church, with the tea laid out on one side, and photograph albums and Mum's Millennium tapestry on the other. My brother had also had some photographs done which were velcroed to the display stands and they too provided food for conversation.

With many having come some distance to be with us, we all went out for dinner at Cote and spent a most enjoyable evening swapping stories and photographs. It seemed a fitting end to a tremendous send-off for Mum. I think she would have been both surprised and delighted.

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to share £355.40 between Mum's charities, the Gurkha Welfare Trust and Leatherhead Night Stop. So a very big thank you to all at St David's for a very special occasion.



Hilary Todd (09.11.17)



A personal trek along the Langtang valley, Nepal

This was a truly amazing experience, trekking with a group of 6 other women and the best way of helping the locals rebuilding their lives after the 2015 earthquake.



After a night in the capital Kathmandu we travelled in two 4x4 vehicles to Shyphrubesi. Recent landslides and ongoing reconstruction to the infrastructure made for a very hairy journey, at times, feeling as though we were on a bucking bronco ride. Image may contain: 4 people, people smiling, people standing and outdoor

With us were a guide, deputy guide and 3 porters. We were blessed with this lovely supportive team.

Day one – we crossed a metal suspension bridge and followed the path through the forest and began our ascent to Lama Hotel 2410m.

We stayed in local accommodation - tea houses, which varied from ground floor buildings to 3 storey buildings. Rooms were basic with a bed, dodgy wiring and occasionally an ensuite, mostly with squat toilet facilities – not many knee problems amongst the elderly Nepalese people!! If we were lucky a shower – evening showers were best as the water was heated via solar panels. We ate a filling vegetarian diet; porridge and omelettes for breakfast, noodles, soups and flat breads for lunch and similar for supper, drinking lots of hot lemon, ginger and honey tea.



Day two - Lama Hotel to Langtang Village 3430m

A very long day, we climbed up and up and up. Scenery around us was beautiful as the mountains appeared in the distance and the Langtang Khola River flowed near us and quieter as we ascended. As we approached

Langtang Village the barren landscape of the landslide caused by the

earthquake appeared in front of us -



“When a **7.8-magnitude earthquake** shook **Nepal** that morning, a **vast landslide** fell off **Langtang Lirung**. It was as though an entire section of mountainside came off, bringing with it giant boulders, much of the glacier, and the entire frozen lake. An estimated 40 million tons of rock and ice was funnelled down the couloir, straight onto the village.

It produced a **gust of wind so powerful** that the air pressure flattened every tree on the opposite side of the valley for many kilometres downstream.

Around 9,000 people died during the Nepal earthquake of 25 April 2015. This **tiny village in the Langtang Valley accounted for 243 of them**: 175 villagers, 27 local tourism staff (guides and porters), and 41 foreign trekkers. All of their names are now recorded on a memorial mani wall that has been built among the wreckage.” Mark Horrell
<http://www.markhorrell.com/blog/2017/the-fate-of-langtang-village-two-years-after-the-nepal-earthquake/>

We followed a precarious pathway through the rubble, staying the night in a tea house built on the site of the new village.

Day three – a shorter day to Kanjing Gomba 3830m. Here we stayed for two nights. By now I was struggling with a respiratory infection, not great when at altitude, getting air into my lungs was hard work, first time I’d used an inhaler to help with breathing, especially as we climbed higher. I had also almost lost my voice.

Day four – the rest of the group climbed to Kanjing Ri 4773m, I had a rest day. I wandered around Kanjing Gomba with Pasan, our deputy guide. I can’t thank him enough for his support during my illness.



Day five - seven So now we started our descent, following our footsteps across the devastation and Langtang village, and then a slightly different route via Sherpa Goan (2563m) through the pine forests back to Shyphrubes. By day 6, I was on the mend and able to enjoy the last couple of days of the trek. Image may contain: 8 people, people smiling, people sitting, table and indoor

This trek offered the opportunity to support the locals by bringing much needed tourist trade to the area. Jeanie and Lizzie offered life coaching sessions, as the group in the evenings and individually as we walked. Within the group we explored our lives, where we are, where we would like to be. We evolved from a group of strangers into one who shared a journey. We laughed, cried and became lifelong friends.



Sue Holden

14

/11/2017



Pychester Christmas Services

an affectionately humorous guide compiled by Richard Barnes



Wherever you are, I hope you have great joy celebrating the birth of Jesus, Child in the Manger, Son of Mary, #GodWithUs.

Here in the ancient city of Pychester, founded as a Roman fort & situated on seven hills overlooking the River Pyke, there are many places of worship, some of which are its Churches. Here's a flavour of the broad variety of Services this Christmastide.

Pychester Cathedral, with its all-new clergy team managed by Bishop Rick, has a daily diet of Carol Services & Concerts, from the timeless youth of the Mediaeval Baebes to the packed-out Grandisson Service on Christmas Eve.

St Pythagoras & All Angles features liturgy matured by 150 years of incense. The choir you love is up in the Gallery for Carols at 11pm. Midnight Mass will feature Missa 'Non Sumus Laetabilis' by Victoria *, and the motet 'Domine lux tui amoris lucet' by Giovanni di Kendrica. Christmas Day Mass is 15mins early at 10.30am, locally known as Turkey time.

Little St Pythag's, one of Bishop Rick's '50 Sheds of Prayer', our church plant on the River Pyke Allotments, will have Earthy Churchy on Xmas Day

with the Shepherds Pie Carol.

St Simon Says, firmly Evangelical, where people are judged by biblical standards, has a Service of 9 Sermons & Carols expounding the unchanging Gospel of Incarnation & Atonement.

St David's has been a site of worship since 3rd century St Pythagoras' miracle of the golden Madonna. The ever-popular Christingle & dressing-up Nativity is at 4pm on Xmas Eve, while their Bells ding-dong merrily on high.

Our Lady of Perpetual Roadworks, the Roman Catholic church next to Pychester Council Offices, has Latin Mass for the Ablative Absolute Society and Christmas Day Family Mass.

St Peter's Avuncular is a member of Set In Stone, though their male priests don't speak Aramaic, walk on water or retire in their 30s; it has a modern but traditional Crib Service.

St Michael & All Angels holds what may be its final Midnight Mass before being rebranded as "Mick & Ange" by St Muscularius Training College ("Making fit disciples for leadership") to become a Resource Church cloning a new generation of inspirational alpha male leaders at home with video screens and purple uplighting.

New Wind, Charismatic Evangelical, will hopefully see its people raising both arms to worship the new-born King, rather than giving a one arm salute to the Lord of All.

The Methodists have a Festive Hymn Sandwich and are extra busy hosting the FoodBank.

At the United Reformed Church the Minister will add a Playmobil Martin Luther to the Nativity scene in honour of this Reformation 500 Jahr.

Only those predestined to know will know where to find the Calvinists, famous for their Puritan Punk Band, Total Depravity, but they don't celebrate Christmas anyway.

Unleashed, the #YouthChurch, meets for its Xmas Pizza Club, deep-pan, crisp & even, in medieval St Geoffrey Arches. Situated in the Nightclub district, this also serves as the prayer base for the Street Pastores Laudavere, picking up the pieces of all those Xmas Parties.

St Stephen's offers Glory to God in the High St from now until the Boxing

Day Sales, while the Orthodox at St Sidwella's Chapel, following the Julian Calendar, are still in Advent.

But it's All Saint's Pychester who are the most highly favoured laity this year, as their Christmas Eucharist is live broadcast by PyTV.

* Missa 'Non Sumus Laetabilis' = 'We are not amused' by Victoria is of course something I just made up, but the 16th century polyphonic motet from which 'Shine, Jesus shine' derives can really be found in the music library at St Mike's.



Richard Barnes – November 2017.



We've got to raise ten thousand

Some years ago now, I worshipped at St Michael's Church in Basingstoke. There was an appeal for funds (as always in the Cof E!) and I wrote this parody for the church magazine.

'St Michael's restoration

In nineteen seventy three

Will cost a lot of money

To come from you and me

Refrain: We've got to raise ten thou

So pass the bag around;

We hope that everybody

Will give at least a pound.

2. The tower crumbles daily,

The rafters are unsound,

The pews have all got woodworm;

God knows what's underground.

R.

3. The organ loft is draughty,

The vestry walls are damp;

When climbing to the pulpit

The Rector's knees get cramp.

R.

4. We'll hold a coffee morning,

A fete, a jumble sale,

A whist drive and a car-wash:

We dare not let it fail!


R.

The tower may have crumbled,

The rafters may have gone, the building may have vanished,

But the Church goes on and on.

R.

(To '*The Church's one foundation*')


Whether or not the funds were raised I do not know. I left to come and work in Exeter in September 1972.) Stephanie Aplin.

Stephanie Aplin.



The Domville Window

The window in the north transept of St David's is dedicated to the memory of Captain David William Edward Domville. He was the only son of Dr Edward James Domville, who was mayor of the city in 1893 and a churchwarden of St David's. Dr Domville's wife Lucy was the daughter of William and Frances Danby of Elmfield House – now The Imperial. The Domville family lived for a time at Northernhay House, which was demolished soon after they moved out in 1913, creating the space on which the Exeter War Memorial was raised ten years later.

The stained glass window is the work of Henry James Salisbury of St Albans, who was the elder brother of the artist, Frank. It shows the Ascension of our Lord, who stands in glory at the top of the window while his disciples gaze heavenwards in wonder below. There is a variety of colour which contrasts with the earlier windows by Charles Kempe in the nave, which obeyed Carøe's edict that the colours were to be predominantly browns and yellows.

David Domville was born in 1880. After education at Exeter School from 1889 to 1899, he served in South Africa during the Boer War. Sadly, he never recovered from an infection that he picked up during that time. He died on 25 August 1908.

An interesting feature of the window can be found in the lower left-hand corner, where the symbols of David's life are depicted. Right in the corner is the badge of the Devonshire Regiment, showing the triple towers of Rougemont Castle. Above that, and partly concealed by it, is the ancient seal of Exeter School, in which three scholars and an all-seeing eye are visible, together with part of the encircling legend "SIGILLUM SCHOLAE SCTI JOHANNIS INTRA CIVITATEM EXON". To the right, and somewhat lost to the vertical iron bar, is the crest of Queen's College Oxford (three red eagles) where David was studying for ordination until his final illness. Beside that is the Queen's South Africa Medal, showing the head of Queen Victoria facing left, with four bars. The lion's head above, ducally crowned, is the crest of the Domville family, and a version of the family motto "QUI STAT CAVEAT" is over all. Some branches of the family used a fuller version "QUI STAT CAVEAT NE CADAT" (Whoever stands, let him take care lest he

fall) echoing the wise advice of St Paul to the Corinthians (1:10:12).

Dr Edward Domville died in 1925, his wife Lucy in 1936. Together with their son David and daughter Stella, they are buried just to the right of the path which leads from the northwest corner of the church towards Hele Road.



Jeremy Lawford

19.11.2017



Coincidences

A few years ago my eldest son married an Exeter woman. After my first visit, they drove me back to Walsall via Chipping Camden, where Sylvia's mother-in-law, from her first marriage, lived. On meeting Mary I recognised her from somewhere. But where? I had always lived in the Midlands and Mary in the Cotswolds. Eventually it dawned on us that we used to see each other annually at the Whitby Folk Festival. Now we shared a daughter-in-law!

Shortly after I joined St David's Church, I began chatting with a woman after the service. She was not a regular visitor, but had come to see her son taking part in the service. During conversation it transpired that her sister-in-law had been my classroom assistant in Walsall many years ago.

These coincidences made me realise how closely related we all are. Are they part of a divine plan or my guardian angel, Winnie, looking out for me? Whatever! I realised that all the people in the world are one body, so we should love one another and live in peace. If only!



Eileen Jarman

17.10.2017



Book Review – The Roman Quests.

In our March 2017 'New Leaves', as well as introducing you to the Croquet-based Pychester Lent Course, I reviewed the first 2 of Caroline Lawrence's new children's historical fiction "Roman Quests" series.

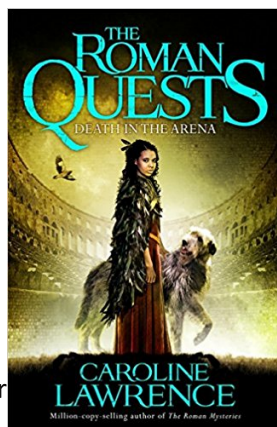
"Death in the Arena", the 3rd book set in AD95, sees the group of Roman & British children join a travelling circus with mime artists, beast acts and gladiators. In a link with her previous "Roman Mysteries" series set 15 years earlier around the eruption of Vesuvius, the boys Jonathan & Lupus, now young men, become key players in this story.

Each of the 50-odd short chapters has a relevant Latin word as its title (explained in a glossary at the back). The narrative is both adventure story and history lesson as they travel around the main towns of Roman Britain with their show, having their friendships, emotions and values tested to the limit.

The central character in this book, the Roman girl Ursula, also takes a spiritual journey from Druid initiate through circus performer to Christian disciple. Ms Lawrence takes a risk as a contemporary children's author in writing openly about religious belief, but I think she handles the tensions and dangers of being Jewish, Christian, or even Druid, in 1st century Roman Britain in a sensitive way. She also finds an interesting USP for Christianity for the animal-loving young girl. I wonder what unique selling point(s) we have today to interest young people in the Way of Jesus?

The fourth and final book in the series, 'Return Rome' is due to be published in mid-January 2018 by Orion Books, also at £7. Can the cruel Emperor Domitian be brought down by them?

In summary, an enjoyable and surprisingly contemporary historical series for the 9-12 year olds in us all.



to

old



Richard Barnes – 19 Nov 2017

The People and Parish of St David



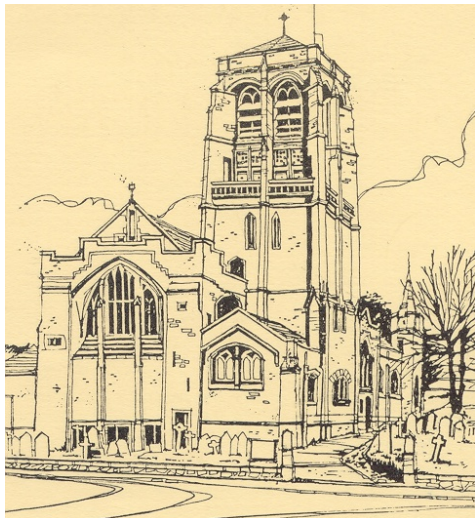
The Librarian of the Devon and Exeter Institution has discovered about 30 copies of Joyce Greenaway's book "Eight Hundred Years of the People and Parish of St David, Exeter" and has kindly offered them to me. They are all clean and as good as new.

First published in 1974, the book consists of 56 pages, stapled, with a card cover depicting the present St David's Church on the front and the "Pepper Box Church" on the back. Chapters are titled The Medieval Church, The Tudor Church, The Pepper Box Church and The Present St David's, and there is an interesting section about William Gibbs and St Michael's. Also included are parish maps dated 1750 and 1975.

Copies are available to anyone who would like one in return for a donation of £3 (or more) towards the costs of St David's Soup Evenings. I will have copies available at St David's on Sunday mornings, or will arrange delivery if you would like to contact me at jeremy@jlawford.co.uk or by phone on 01392 214025.



**Jeremy
Lawford**



Lost Voices of the Holocaust

"I don't think of all the misery
but of the beauty that remains"

- Anne Frank



Saturday 27th January 2018 7:00pm

Royal Academy of Music, Duke's Hall

A concert for Holocaust Memorial Day showcasing
music written by composers lost in the Holocaust

Tickets on sale from December online at the
Royal Academy Box Office

£7.50 / £5.50 concessions



RAM Box Office: 020 7873 7300

<http://www.ram.ac.uk>

 The Purcell School
for young musicians

"This Holocaust Memorial Day Concert at the Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road in London, is being organised by Estella Browne (daughter of Nigel & Lucy) who is studying there; and is inspired by a visit to Auschwitz."



St David's Church Christingle

4pm Christmas Eve

Join in with
the Nativity!



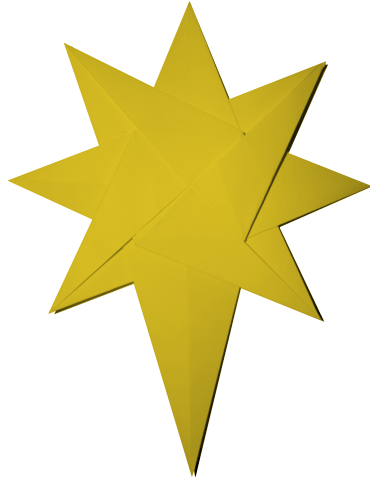
everyone welcome

ST. DAVID'S

Community Christmas Concert: Dec 8th @ 18:30 (£5 ticket charge)
 Carol Service: Dec 17th @ 18:00 (refreshments afterwards)
 Christmas Evening Sunday Eucharist: Dec 24th @ 09:30
 Christingle/Nativity: Dec 24th @ 16:00
 Midnight Mass: Dec 24th @ 23:30 Carols from 23:00
 Christmas Day Eucharist: Dec 25th @ 09:30

ST MICHAEL'S MOUNT DINHAM

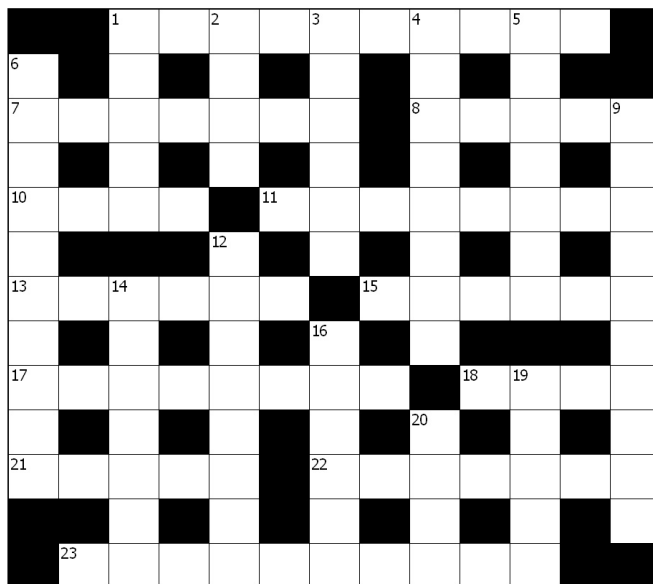
Exeter Chorale Concert: 4.30pm Sat 9th Dec (£10).
 Advent Procession: 6pm Sun 10th Dec.
 Sung Mass: 10.45am Sun 24th Dec.
 Midnight Mass: 11.30pm Sun 24th Dec, Carols from 11pm.
 Christmas Day Mass: 10.30am Mon 25th Dec.



Carol Service

St David's Church
Sunday 17th December
6pm

December crossword



Crossword Puzzle Clues for Dec17

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 18:14,15) (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 unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
21 Arson (anag.) (5)
22 How John Newton described God's 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 22:19,20) (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)

December Sudoku - Medium

	5					3	7	
			2	7	6			
7					1			
2		3		1				
		7				6		
				3		4		5
			1					9
			5	9	4			
	6	2					1	

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Days of Note -December

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 already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

24 December Christmas Eve

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most

popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year that is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The British are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is to exchange on Christmas Eve. But the British are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.

25 December Christmas: The story of the Christingle

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that.

But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added

some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Visit: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Christmas: The man who married Mary

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance. After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. Twelve years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, and find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55)

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord's teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as 'Father', knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of his father's responsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God's will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God's call to us and please Him in all that we do.

By Lester Amann

Christmas And there were shepherds

Luke's story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told – the angel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, the old priest in the Temple told by another angel that his wife would have a son to be called 'John', who would prepare the people of Israel for that event, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to

Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census. When they got there, no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child.

Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. 'And there were shepherds ...' – that's what he actually wrote, just like that. 'And there were shepherds', doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet another angelic message – a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to see the baby Messiah. They were given directions and a 'sign' to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough. Well, at least they would recognise that.

And why the shepherds, in this glorious story of our salvation? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God's purpose than that. This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shepherds.

By David Winter

Christmas: Was Jesus really born on 25th December?

Almost certainly not. But the story of how that date came to be chosen as his 'birthday' is one that stretches back long before his birth.

it seems to have started on the Greek island of Rhodes in 283 BC. That year the solstice fell on 25th December, and it was also the year that the Ancient World's largest Sun God stature – the 34 metre, 200 tonne Colossus of Rhodes, was consecrated.

By 46 BC, Julius Caesar had made 25th December the official winter solstice.

In AD 274, the Roman Emperor Aureilian chose the winter solstice to be the birthday of the Sun God. He also decreed that *Sol Invictus* (the unconquered sun) was 'Lord of the Roman Empire'.

Fifty years after that, and Constantine had become the first pro-Christian Roman Emperor. He wanted the Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on 25th December. Perhaps it was that to him, Jesus was more or less the same person as the mighty Sun God. Or perhaps he felt that the ancient sun god's association with goodness, light, warmth and life would help ease the people's transition from paganism to Christianity. Whatever the reason, the Church went along with it, and chose 25th December to be the date of Christmas. And in an ancient mosaic in the crypt of St Peter's Cathedral, Jesus is portrayed as adorned with sun rays and riding in a chariot – just like Sol Invictus.

As for the huge, bronze 200 tonne Sol Invictus? He fell over during an earthquake, and was sold off for scrap metal in 654AD by an enterprising Arab scrap merchant. Meanwhile, Jesus lives on...

Word search

e	f	a	m	i	y	o	u	n	g	i	p
l	f	r	z	s	z	d	e	v	b	q	g
i	y	j	y	r	i	s	z	y	l	u	f
z	e	b	m	a	r	r	i	a	g	e	x
a	a	p	r	e	g	n	a	n	t	c	u
b	r	f	b	l	s	a	v	e	s	h	k
e	a	t	y	j	o	s	e	p	h	i	e
t	n	c	o	m	p	l	e	t	e	l	m
h	g	s	w	e	d	d	i	n	g	d	a
c	e	q	n	o	t	h	i	n	g	r	r
e	l	m	g	h	p	e	o	p	l	e	y
m	f	h	l	j	d	r	e	a	m	n	r
c	m	z	k	b	w	i	e	s	h	a	m

impossible	young	Joseph
Elizabeth	Israel	afraid
people	pregnant	dream
baby	wedding	children
messenger	angel	Mary
complete	nothing	family
wrong	marriage	God
saves	shame	year



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write your Christmas cards again – what designs have you picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Traditional religious cards have usually included the nativity – Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? The Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were three; just that they were Wise Men, who travelled far to bring special gifts for the baby Jesus.

Do you know why there are so many robins on Christmas cards? The first postmen in Victorian times wore red and were called robins, so robins were shown as delivering cards.



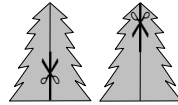
Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

CARD or DECORATION

Here is a simple 3-D Christmas tree that you can use as a decoration or a card. You will need green card, crayons, glitter or paint, scissors and sticky tape.

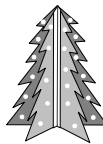
Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two pieces together and fold them in half again.

Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold. Cut along the line and you will have 2 identical trees. Fold the trees in half, very lightly, hardly creasing the centre line to mark the centre of the tree. Cut a slit along the bottom half of the centre of one tree and along the top half of the centre of the other tree.



Slip the two trees together along the slits. To help the tree to stand firmly, use sticky tape to fasten the parts together where they meet.

Decorate the tree. If you are using it as a card then leave an area free of decorations so that you can write on it.



What goes red white red white red white?

Santa rolling down a hill.



Puzzle solutions

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

1	5	6	9	4	8	3	7	2
3	9	4	2	7	6	1	5	8
7	2	8	3	5	1	9	4	6
2	4	3	6	1	5	8	9	7
5	8	7	4	2	9	6	3	1
6	1	9	8	3	7	4	2	5
4	3	5	1	6	2	7	8	9
8	7	1	5	9	4	2	6	3
9	6	2	7	8	3	5	1	4

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the February issue of New Leaves is Sunday 21st January 2018

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.