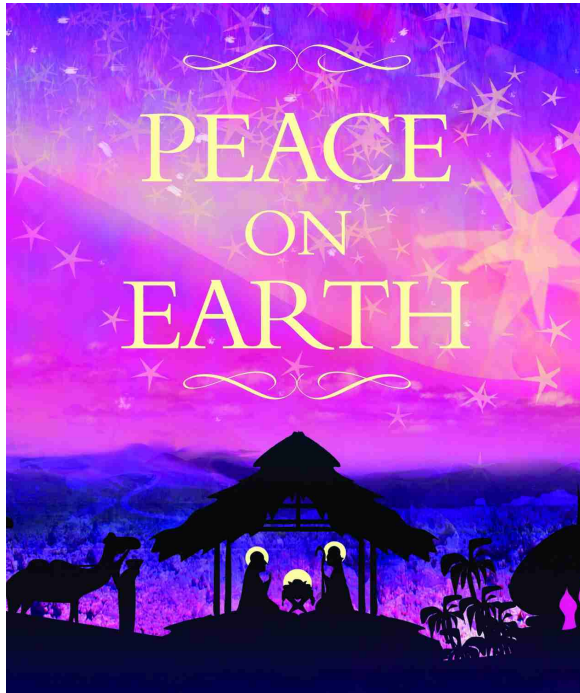


New Leaves

**December 2018/January
2019**



**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 editorial team thanks you for all articles submitted throughout the last year and wish all readers “A Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful, Prosperous New Year

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

December 2018

From the Vicar December 2018

Christmas Services and Events

It's very easy amongst the busyness of the season to forget the miracle of love which we celebrate at Christmas. 'God is with us' is the transforming message of Christmas. We are assured that, whatever life throws at us, we can be secure in the knowledge of God's love for us. This is because God did not remain aloof but came to meet us in his Son. He took the initiative in being born among us and still blesses us with his presence each day.

And those of us who call ourselves Christians not only have the knowledge of God's love for us shown in Jesus, but also the responsibility to live out that love in our families and communities. It's a big ask! But I have been moved and encouraged by the many people working in our parish with vulnerable people and the commitment which so many local Christians bring to helping those who are struggling in life. Those who work and volunteer at the YMCA and Esther Community, our soup evening volunteers, those who support local schools and charities and those who visit or help out their neighbours; they are all making Christmas a reality in this world by the love they share.

In preparing for Christmas we will be having an Advent Quiet time at St David's led by the Revd Alison Whiting on 6.15 – 7pm on Tuesday 4 December. And, also at St David's, a little closer to Christmas, the Revd Christopher Durrant will be leading a Service of Darkness and Silence after choir practice on the evening of Friday 21 December. We will also be holding our traditional carols services: an Advent Procession at St Michael's on Sunday 9 December at 6pm and a Carol Service at St David's on Sunday 16 December at 6pm. Then on Christmas Eve we will hold our Christingle and nativity at 4pm at St David's. Our other Christmas services will be listed elsewhere in the magazine and I hope to see you all at one or more of them to celebrate 'That God was man in Palestine and lives today in bread and wine'.

Work in progress

Works continue at back of St David's towards the completion of the kitchen and meeting room. The quality of the woodwork is outstanding and as it nears completion I will be contacting our new Bishop of Crediton to arrange an opportunity to dedicate the work in a few months time. Thank you to John Wakley and Roger Beer, and to Dave Allin for his work in finishing and equipping the kitchen. You may already have seen the compact new dishwasher which can wash a load in 90 seconds, I believe!

Thank you for your support

I would also like to thank all members of our church communities for their support during the past year as I have got settled in my ministry here. There are too many people to mention but to all those who have given practical and administrative support to our churches, thank you. To those who have been faithful in worship and prayer and have encouraged others, thank you. And to those who have supported our churches with regular financial gifts, thank you. And last but not least to our great magazine team who remind me so kindly about the deadline - and produce such a wonderful and interesting magazine – thank you!

Nurturing Vocations

I have recently been asked to join the Diocesan Vocations Team as an Assistant Director of Ordinands (ADDO). One of the good news stories in Exeter Diocese is that there are quite a number of people exploring a vocation to ordained ministry. The team of ADDOs is being expanded so that people can be accompanied and supervised on their journey of discernment. This has the great advantage that those who are exploring a vocation do not have to travel as far around the Devon as in the past for meetings as there are ADDOs in several corners of the county. Fr. Henry Pryse, our neighbour of St James' Church, Exeter has recently stood down after ten years in the role and our Director of Ordinands, the Revd Becky Totterdell, is also standing down this month having done the job brilliantly for many years.

The work of an ADDO involves meeting candidates once a month and supervising their reading and some written work. Then, when the time for a selection conference draws near there are papers to prepare for the selectors.

I have negotiated to do work equivalent to half a day a week as an ADDO and this means that the PCC will attract a small payment to offer administrative support to myself and to the parish. We are currently considering what form that support might take.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year – may you know that God is with you and those you love and care for.

Nigel Guthrie



Death and Dying

Christmas is a sorrowful time for the bereaved. At Christmas, the cavernous absence of those whom we love and see no more is keenly felt. And the joyful tidings of Christ's birth gladly announced by the Church may make you feel isolated from your community of belonging.

But this is not an article specifically to comfort the bereaved.

All priests are tasked to teach people how to pray, and teach people how to die. It is my shared and sacred privilege to bear witness, guide, and offer intercession for the dying, dead, and the recently bereaved. Over the past few months, this humbling aspect of my parish ministry has been to the fore. I now take this opportunity to thank our wardens, choir members, servers, Pastoral Visitors, cleaners, flower arrangers, refreshment providers, and everyone who has remembered in prayer the recently deceased named on our parish intercession sheet.

During every funeral this prayer, or one with a similar meaning, is used:

*"Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright
the time that is left to us here on earth,
to turn to Christ and follow in his steps
in the way that leads to everlasting life"*

This prayer is said for you and for me; for everyone who is now living, and who will die. It asks God to help each of us consider our own death that we might both live well and die well. I was inspired to write this short article to help us with this universal task.

How can I die well?

Dying is not a failure of life, but the (possibility of) fulfilment or perfection of everything that has come before. Dying is something we can prepare for, but it is not something we *do*. Dying is non-productive - establishing meaning through achievement or measurement in death is impossible. The meaning of death is relational; meaning experienced in the loss of existing relationships, the regret of relationships that will never be, and beginning

new or refreshed relationships with the One who offers lasting hope. Loss and hope are both perfectly expressed by personal surrender to the sovereignty of God, and fulfilled by freely accepting His painful reconciliation to the world and corresponding forgiveness.

Yes, but how does that work? How can I start to prepare to die well?

Pray daily, alone and with others, in what ever way you are gifted. Do not be alarmed by pondering your own death in prayer – it's not bad luck! Expect your prayer life to change as you die. The physical appearance of your human body will change as you die, and these disquieting changes affect your spiritual appearance too. Your ability to work, make art, play sport, speak, or wash yourself may change, and thus ways of praying through these shed role identities may die before you. But prayer is always possible, because prayer is God's gracious and daily gift. We never lose the power to pray.

Consider writing letters to your loved ones to be read after your death. Meet with a priest or trusted friend to plan your funeral. Get your will and financial affairs in order. Ask questions to health-care professionals about your fears of final pain or treatments. Permit your friends and family to ask honest questions to you about how you've lived. Voice your regrets. Forgive the unrepentant. Give any personal gifts as you wish.

Human death proves human beings are bound into the created world, sharing seasonality alongside all living creatures. But uniquely, human Baptism assures us that Christ has claimed us as His own, for He has called you by name, and goes before you in death as in life, for the sake of all creation.

Even with a sure belief in Christ, considering our own death in prayer and with preparation is a daunting and lonely task. But how much sweeter will be our death day if we do. And how we shall laugh when we see each other again in the heavenly city Jerusalem.

Fr/Revd Christopher

November 2018

Placement News

As I write this, we are not quite into Advent...but time can pass so quickly!

Nigel has invited me to share a little about my placement, which is due to start in early January.

For 6 weeks, from 8th January, I shall be spending Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings, on a Hospital Chaplaincy placement at the R D & E, both to gain experience, and to continue to test out a sense of being drawn to this kind of work. I am really grateful, as this should fit perfectly around my day job!

As part of my ordination training, I had an inspiring and enjoyable placement in the Chaplaincy at St Ann's, a large acute psychiatric hospital in Poole. This placement will build on and broaden the experience I gained at St Ann's.

On the Tuesday evenings, I will accompany Revd Sheila Swarbrick on her visits to The Cedars and Russell Clinic (mental health units) and on Sunday mornings, I will visit and possibly take communion to any patients on the wards who are unable to attend the Chapel service. Sheila has also kindly offered to show me round the parts of the hospital that generate the most on-call requests, with a view to me possibly putting in some on-call hours later in the year.

I am looking forward to the placement very much, though I know that parts will be challenging, and I am sure there will be times in which I feel out of my comfort zone; but it seems that it's often through these times, that we grow. So I would value any prayers, please!

In the meantime, I offer you my prayers for a truly blessed Advent and Christmas – and for whatever joys and challenges 2019 holds for us all.

Revd Alison Whiting

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

AT ST DAVID'S & ST MICHAEL'S

Sunday 9 December
6pm Advent Procession at St Michael's

Sunday 16 December
6pm Carol Service at St David's

CHRISTMAS EVE Monday 24 December
4pm – Christingle Service at St David's
11.30pm - Midnight Mass at St David's
11.30pm – Midnight Mass at St Michael's

CHRISTMAS DAY Tuesday 25 December
9.30am – Christmas Communion with carols at St David's
10.30am – Christmas Mass at St Michael's



December 2018 and January 2019 from St Michael and all Angels

Yesterday I read that the village of Wool in Dorset is to be asked to consider changing its name by the local vegan group to something that is less offensive to sheep. A while back some vegans called for people to avoid wearing anything containing wool because they claimed sheep were harmed in the gathering of the wool. We could do with some sensible editing and comment alongside such reports. A passing glance through my newspaper the other day showed an illustration of an illuminated Biblical text in the style of the Book of Kells, but with the information that the new translation is to be 'safe-spaced', as it were, with trigger warnings that some language may be anti-Semitic or gender-biased or even pro-aggression. Does everyone take such a superficial view of literature, especially Biblical or sacred literature? It is true, some passages, read without understanding, could be thought to have any or all of the above pitfalls. Today's Gospel, from John, apparently castigates the Jews in Pilate's words of questioning. Without knowing why Pilate was there and what his relationship was with the the local people, it may look to be anti-Semitic, so we need some careful background study to prepare us for the reading of the Bible, not just the New Testament. There is a curious juxtaposition in the order of reponses for Morning Prayer : the Priest asks 'Give peace in our time, O Lord' and the congregation responds with 'For there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.'

We are at the end of a year and facing the start of another. No wonder the Romans had Janus looking forwards and backwards; we are reminded that doorways and thresholds are there to be entered and crossed over, sometimes with trepidation, at others with excitement: the old custom of the bridegroom carrying his bride over the threshold into a new life may well have lost some of its meaning nowadays.

Recently I went to see the film 'A Star is Born'. This is the fourth version of the story with Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper. I had little idea of how emotionally draining it would be. For there to be ascendancy of the star, there must be the destruction of another. I'm not even sure that the way the star, Ally, reaches her zenith, is entirely justified. There was evidence

of a grubby, sleazy way of life on the climb to stardom and she does find it hard to deal with. I was reminded in a way of the T.S. Eliot poem, 'Journey of the Magi.' Towards the end of the poem, the narrator questions the reason for their journey:

'...Were we led all that way for

Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,

*We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen
birth and death,*

But thought they were different;...'



We celebrated the festival of *Christ the King* today. It is relatively recent in the Liturgical Calendar, but allows us to consider Our Lord in a different aspect, as a suffering king, both crowned and crucified. Some artists portray Him as a strong figure springing out from the cross as 'Christus Victor', not a weak victim suffering a ghastly death, but as a power overcoming the torture of the cross.

Advent is upon us, and our preparations to celebrate the birth of Christ will give us the opportunity to review our faith. A new year, a new beginning, a fresh start: we are offered these every time we participate in the Eucharist, thank God.

'Grace to you and peace from God who is and who was and who is to come.' (Rev 1:4)



Stephanie Aplin.



St David's Eucharist December

Sunday 2nd December Advent Sunday

Reading 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Sarah Remington
Reading 2	1 Thessalonians 3:9-end	Cathy Knowles
Gospel	Luke 21:25-36	
Time of prayer		Alison Whiting
Junior Church:		

Sunday 9th December Advent 2

Reading 1	Malachi 3:1-4	Philip Walker
Reading 2	Philippians 1:3-11	Maggie Draper
Gospel	Luke 3:1-6	
Time of prayer		Ian Cartwright
Junior Church:		

Sunday 16th December Advent 3

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

Sunday 23rd December Advent 4

Reading 1	Micah 5: 2-5a	Debbie McNeile
Reading 2	Hebrews 10:5-10	Alan Baker
Gospel	Luke 1:39-55	
Time of prayer		Carol Gerry
Junior Church:		

Monday 24th December Christmas Eve 11:30pm

Reading 1	Isaiah 9:2-7	Lawrence Sail
Reading 2	Titus 2: 11-14	Jenny Baker
Gospel	Luke 2:1-20	
Time of prayer		Bill Pattinson
Junior Church		

25th December Christmas Day 9:30am

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

Sunday 30th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

Reading 1	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26	Hilary Todd
Reading 2	Colossians 3:12-17	Avril Pattinson
Gospel	Luke 2: 41-end	
Time of prayer		Ann Watts
Junior Church:		

St David's Eucharist January

Sunday 6th January Epiphany

Reading 1	Isaiah 60:1-6	Gina Redman
Reading 2	Ephesians 3:1-12	Philip Dale
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12	
Time of prayer		Helen Friend
Junior church		

Sunday 13th January Baptism of Christ

Reading 1	Isaiah 43:1-7	Helen Friend
Reading 2	Acts 8:14-17	Mary Kirkland
Gospel	Luke 3:15-17,21-22	
Time of prayer		David James
Junior church		

Sunday 20th January Epiphany 3

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		

Family service - No Junior Church

Sunday 27th January Epiphany 4

Reading 1	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10	Cathy Knowles
Reading 2	1Corinthians 12:12-31a	Dilys Thorp
Gospel	Luke 4:14-21	
Time of prayer		Hilary Francis
Junior church		



Inclusivity – some thoughts

Thank you, Fr Nigel, for your interesting words on 'Inclusivity' in our November Magazine. I haven't read Vicky Beeching's book "Undivided", but have seen various reviews and responses (sometimes rather nasty) on social media. She is a courageous, honest and intelligent Christian.

A few thoughts after reading your piece...

1. It is good that our 2 churches are recognised and known as open and inclusive spaces where all, including LGBT+ people, are welcome; likewise our neighbours at Central Parish (St Stephen's) and St James'. Indeed we know from a Facebook comment earlier in the year that St Michael's has been welcoming gay Christians since at least the 1950s.

2. 'Evangelicals are not the only Christians,' as Jeanette Winterson might have said. But, we in the Catholic or Liberal traditions of the Church of England are unlikely to see a great influx of gay Evangelicals looking for new spiritual homes - Evangelicals love, and need, their Rituals too.

They value their smart casual clergy; the lengthy V-shaped Sermon (anecdote – judgement – salvation); the worship groups' emotional songs; above all the strong sense of fellowship and belonging to a chosen tribe.

As Vicky Beeching says, gay Christians want to be accepted as they are by their own strand of Christianity. While Liberals and many Anglo-Catholics are more accepting, the thought of changing to a different flavour of worship is hard. The powerful Evangelical churches are being challenged to rethink their theology a little.

3. So I was rather sad to see Bishop Nick McKinnel of Plymouth among 11 conservative Bishops who recently sent a pre-emptive letter to the working group tasked with producing a CofE Teaching Document on marriage & sexuality, due out in 2020. They insist that the Church must maintain its traditional position, or there will be trouble ahead.

Thus Evangelical Anglicans are just as divided, or varied, in their views on sexuality as Catholic Anglicans have been on women's priestly ministry. Will they be able to live with 'good disagreement' and 'mutual flourishing', as Catholics are starting to realise they must, and can?

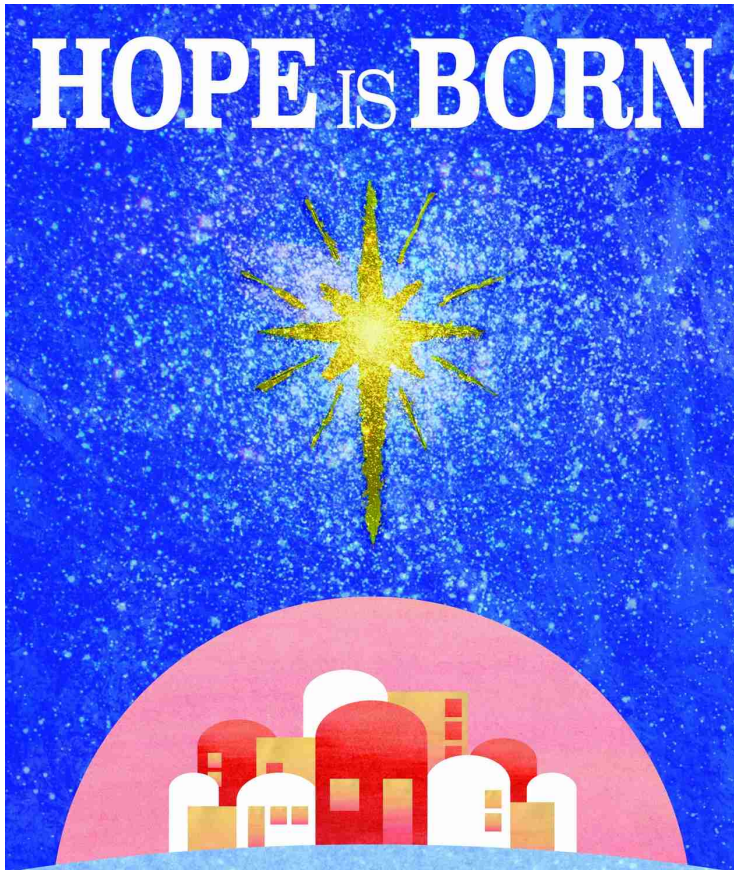
We should pray for Vicky Beeching and Bishop Nick, and for those they represent. It's not easy being a Leader at the moment - or being a role model. I heard this recently (bonus points if you can identify the speaker) and admired its humility and realism.

"If I'm gonna be a role model, the last thing I should be is perfect, because that's not realistic; that's not a realistic goal for anybody to have. If one is honest & genuine, and shares their truest self, that's the best one can do."

Or as Mark 10:18 puts it - Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone."



Richard Barnes – 22/11/18



Eulogy for Mr Tony Gough

+May he rest in peace.

Written by his close family, and first read by Barbara his beloved wife at the sung requiem for his eternal soul held at St. Michael and All Angel's Church on Monday November 12th.

Tony and I had a wonderful 22 years, what started with an offer of baked beans or a lunch out became secret rendezvous, well at least that's what we thought they were. Apparently we forgot that our friends have eyes and were fully aware of our goings on.

I suppose it didn't help when we were not very subtle holding hands walking along the Thames with church friends around us.

We so loved trips out, especially to Dartmoor for walks or eating out at Dawlish. It was on one of our trips that I was surprised with an engagement ring and so I will always remember Buckfast Abbey as another important chapter of our life together.

Another shared passion was Rugby and watching our precious Wessex play. Tony was never really a drinker but he always tried to keep up with the lads at Rugby do's but apparently his legs were just not as hollow.

We loved to try and help out at the church as much as we could, arranging raffles and helping with the spring clean. I would bake for the cake stall and Tony would always help, he was the best cake taster you could ask for.

He loved to talk and could talk the back legs off a donkey, simple calls would turn into full conversations, every new person met would become a future friend as he shared his stories with all.

He was a strong man, even when poorly, never complaining, not once. When the news came from the consultant, he just looked at me, put a finger towards heaven and told me he knew where he was going.

Thankyou Tony for being by my side, precious moments together will be ever remembered and cherished in my heart forever.

The family would like thank everyone for their kind thoughts, prayers, cards, letters and donations.

The Journey

A poem written by Lynsey, Tony's granddaughter, remembering her beloved 'Gramps'.

*You start at the beginning,
You are nurtured, fed coals and given water to begin your journey,
When the time is right you start out, slowly and carefully, gathering speed
through the journey of life,
You grow, the soft clacking of the wheels on the track, through the highest
of mountains and the lowest of valleys through the journey of life,
But alone it is hard and so you couple up and together everything becomes
easier and swifter, 2 becoming 1 through the journey of life,
Within your carriages you hold precious passengers, your family and friends
and help them to be safe and nurtured through the journey of life,
Along the way are stops, some small and almost not noticed but picturesque
all the same and others are towns and cities making landmarks and
achievements and sharing this while coupled and with your special
passengers are so important through the journey of life.
Slowly, ever slowly, you reach your final destination. Steam puffing and a
whistle of triumph as you know that your journey is nearly complete. With
the coupling of a kindred spirit and your friends and family safe with you,
you know, you have almost completed your most special journey through
life.
And now the journey has ended, its time to sadly let your passengers go and
uncouple but knowing that it is not the end, it is simply time to start anew
and be nurtured, fed and watered for the next important stage, a more
beautiful journey, it is the journey of your soul.*



December & January, mainly at St Michael's

There's much to fit in as the Winter months cover the Christian seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany through to Candlemas, and we have Services and Events great and small to celebrate together. Please join us at St Michael's as much as you can. All welcome, all loved by God.

Regular times:- Sunday Sung Mass 11am. Choir Practice 7-8.30pm Tuesdays – new singers always welcome. Vespers is sung Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6pm. Matins & Low Mass take place Wednesdays at 9.30/10am.

Sat 1 December, 7pm. Christmas Concert by University of Exeter Contemporary Choir. Entry £2. Refreshments & Raffle.

Sun 2 Dec, 11am. Advent Sunday. Sung Mass. Litany in Procession. Missa Brevis, *Lotti*. Matin Responsory, *Palestrina*.

N.B. No Evensong Sun 2 Dec.

Sun 9 Dec, Advent II. 11am Sung Mass, Dorian Mode, *Tallis*. People Look East, *Trad*.

Sun 9 Dec, 6pm Advent Procession & Carol Service. From Darkness to Light. Great O Antiphons. O Come Emmanuel.

Thurs 13 Dec, 7.30pm. Exeter Swedish Choir Santa Lucia Celebrations – All welcome.

Sun 16 Dec, Advent III, Gaudete Sunday. 11am Sung Mass. Phrygian Mode, *Wood*. Rejoice in the Lord always, *Anon*.

Sun 16 Dec, 6pm at St David's Church. Carol Service.

Sat 22 Dec, 9am. Men's Breakfast at The Imperial.

Sun 23 Dec, Advent IV. 11am Sung Mass. Missa Brevissima, *Cascolini*. Ave Maria, *Arcadelt*.

Mon 24 Dec. Christmas Eve. 11.30pm. Midnight Mass of the Nativity & Blessing of the Crib. Sumsion in F. O magnum mysterium, *Keitch*. At 11pm, the Choir will sing Carols from the Gallery or on Mt Dinham.

Tues 25 Dec. Christmas Day. N.B. 10.30am (Turkey

time!). Sung Mass of the Nativity & Prayers at the Crib. Merbecke/Shaw. In dulci júbilo, *Praetorius*.

There will be no weekday Masses for St Stephen, St John or Holy Innocents at St Michael's – you might like to try the Cathedral.

Sun 30 Dec, Christmas I. 11am Sung Mass.

Sun 6 January 2019, Epiphany of the Lord. 11am Sung Mass. Wood in F. Whence is that goodly fragrance, *Willcocks*.

Sun 6 Jan, 6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction. Smith. Psalm 98 & 100. Stanford in C. Anthem: from Christus, Mendelssohn. O salutaris & Tantum Ergo, plainsong.

Sun 13 Jan, Baptism of the Lord. 11am Sung Mass. Missa l'Hora passa, *Viadana*. O Lord, give Thy Holy Spirit, *Tallis*.

Sun 20 Jan, Epiphany II. 11am Sung Mass. Rheinberger in F. New Year Carol, *Britten*.

Sat 26 Jan, 9am. Men's Breakfast at The Imperial.

Sun 27 Jan, Epiphany III. 11am Sung Mass. Missa Sancti Nicolai, *Nicholson*. O sing joyfully, *Batten*.

Weds 30 Jan, 7.30pm. St Michael's Lecture. Dr Darren Schreiber (Univ of Exeter) on "The Neuroscience of Political and Religious Beliefs". All welcome, free entry, voluntary donations, refreshments & discussion.

Sun 3 February, Candlemas (transferred from 2 Feb). 11am Sung Mass. Stanford in C&F. Nunc Dimittis in B flat.

Sun 3 Feb, 6pm Choral Evensong & Benediction. Reading. Psalm 122 & 132. Stanford in B flat. Anthem: Hodie beata virgo, Byrd. O salutaris & Tantum Ergo.

Advance notice:- Weds 20 Feb, 7.30pm. St Michael's Lecture. Prof Emma Loosley (Univ of Exeter) The Syrian Conflict: What is it Really about?

We are delighted to welcome Harry Sullivan, Organ Scholar at the University Chapel, to play for us on alternate Sundays.

Wishing you a peaceful & joyful Christmastide from all at St Michael's Mount Dinham.

Richard Barnes – 24/11/18.

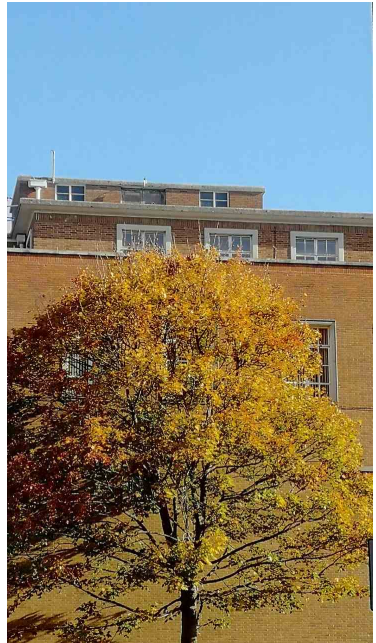


Orationibus IX – Autumn Colours

On my weekday walk to the Bus, the tree at the foot of Castle Street is a good marker of the turning seasons. Its golden leaves now fallen, silver lights shine in its branches as I return.

When I was a student I bought an Athena poster (no, not that one!); mine had a New England scene with trees in the splendour of the Fall around a still lake – and the message “Colors speak all languages”.

The hippy days of the 60s had faded but the scent of hope still hung in the air. The 70s were a time of mindfulness seagulls, refugee rabbits and religious musicals. Little did I know that the 'cool' mid-Atlantic motto on my poster originated in the 1700s with Joseph Addison, the English essayist & playwright who founded the “The Spectator” magazine and penned the hymn “The spacious firmament on high” (NEH 267).



“Fall” has many meanings beyond the obvious. One might fall for, fall in love, fall out with someone, fall under a spell, fall victim to, fall behind with, fall from favour.

On Twitter, I learned from the ever-interesting medievalist, @ClerkofOxford, that the verb 'to fallow' meant to turn yellow or gold, as the leaves do with such beauty, giving another facet to the use of 'Fall' for Autumn.

Theologically, “The Fall” has a particular meaning associated with the myth of Adam & Eve, tempted to go against God's command not to seek the knowledge of good & evil in the Garden of Eden – fallen angels, fallen creation, fallen humanity. If Genesis tells us about the human condition, the Gospels that tell us about God's loving purpose in Jesus.

This year the trees saved their best colours for Bonfire Night, Diwali and Remembrance. Our Churches, Cathedrals and War Memorials have been adorned with arrays of poppies & floral displays in thankful Remembrance of the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice which ended World War One.

Across High Street and Cathedral Green, Christmas Lights and Markets now lighten the darkness. In choir stalls around the world, the 'Green Book' is seen in our hands – Carols for Choirs 1, from 1961 with the Willcocks descants we know and love.

The Christian Faith is both story and sacraments, actions real and symbolic, beautiful and messy. Sacred and secular mixed up as they usually have been.

It's a colourful time in Church too. Gold or White for All Saints, sombre Black for All Souls, Red of the martyrs for Remembrance, a glimpse of Green for the last Sundays of Trinity, Gold or Red for Christ the King. Then Advent's Purple comes out, penitential or imperial. At St Michael's we will use the Rose Red vestments, half as old as time, on Gaudete Sunday, Advent 3.

The colours of Christmas will be the Green of the Tree, the Red of Santa Claus, the White of the Angels' wings, and the sparkling Gold of Midnight Mass as we welcome the Incarnate Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to our hearts & homes.

Our Advent calendars and candle wreaths are colourful countdowns to the Incarnation – Jesus coming among us as a human, born of Mary, in the Stable, behind the Pub, amidst political unrest – God in Man made manifest – to show us how to turn again to God.



**Richard Barnes –
22/11/18**



Reminiscences

John Wakley, our skilled and creative craftsman, who has been instrumental in building our new kitchen and meeting room at the West End of the Church, has agreed to share with us some of his memories, often humorous, working in his specialised area. His first reminiscence happened probably, he believes, in the 1950s.

If any of you have seen or can find the Punch cartoon, John would be delighted to hear from you.

A JANUARY DAY SOME 60 YEARS AGO

On a lovely sunny afternoon two of us arrived at the West front of Exeter Cathedral. Our job was to fit an octagonal seat around a tree on the Cathedral Green. The seat was made of Burmese teak and terrible to cut and plane. The Cathedral stone masons had already put down the base and we only had to fit the seat.

This was in three sections. Two sections made up of three quadrangles and the third of two quadrangles to bring the three sections together when pinned. The level of the surround was checked to see if we needed to adjust the legs of the seat. When we tried to slot the third section in it did not fit. Assuming we had incorrectly fitted the quadrangles, we moved them around the trunk of the tree, but with the same result. A slight lean in the tree trunk had thrown the fitting out. After a short discussion and phone consultation with the boss who arrived with the drawing plans, it was decided that we should take the seat back to our workshop.

What we did not know was that our arrival and struggles with the seat had been observed by someone staying at the Royal Clarence - a Punch Magazine cartoonist. A month later one of our work colleagues produced a copy of the Punch magazine. He gave it to the foreman telling us to look at a certain page. Does it ring a bell?

The cartoonist had captured every detail of what had occurred. The cartoon was in four sections; the first our arrival; the second the fitting of the sections; the third the scratching of heads and the fourth two men walking away from the tree carrying a big crosscut saw, the tree lying on the grass and the seat made up and placed around the stump!



John Wakley

Christmas Cards

Recently I read that Christmas cards are going out of fashion, although there are still millions posted. It is expensive - the cost of cards and postage, as well as the chore of choosing, writing them and finding a postbox. It is easier to send a text or email. However you can't enjoy the sight of multi-coloured cards decorating your home with reminders of family and friends, by looking at a little screen. Even if your only communication is an annual card, it lifts the spirit and brings back memories. It was a Christmas card which changed my life. I was twenty-one and had had an on-off relationship with Alan for about five years. It was December 1947 and we hadn't seen each other for about a year. The card pictured the drum horse of the Life Guards and was a regimental one. It just had the name "Alan" on it. This brought back memories of our shared past. My mother said not to read too much into it, but I contacted him and when we met on his next leave, we realised we wanted to be married....and so we were. Years later he revealed that he had bought a pack of cards and had one over which, on a whim, he sent to me. I wonder what would have happened if he hadn't? So look in your address book and cheer up someone who may have few family members or friends left, and make their Christmas a happier one.

Happy Christmas everyone and may all your shelves be covered in festive joy!



Eileen Jarman

November 2018



Church bell ringing in Exeter

On Saturday 17th November, St David's church hosted the AGM for the Exeter branch of church bell ringers. We rang the church's eight bells beforehand and many of us rang at Exeter Cathedral afterwards. We reported on ringing outings and social events, which had taken place this year including our annual BBQ, skittles evening and visits to several towers in and around Exeter. Happily the turnout for these events was excellent!

One big event that took place throughout the UK this year was the "Ringing Remembers" Campaign, marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. The aim of this was to recruit 1,400 new bell ringers, remembering the 1,400 ringers that had died during the war. This was a big success, with a total number of 2,792 people being recruited during the course of this year! Our branch played its part in this with nine new ringers from Exeter being elected to join the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. On Armistice Day itself bells were heard all over the country, including those of Exeter St David's. All the ringers we had recruited rang bells in various towers around Exeter to mark this event, both for morning service



and at 7:00 in the evening. As is customary, the bells were rung with a leather cover around one half of the clapper before midday. This is known as half muffling and is a sign of respect for those who fought in the war.

Bell ringing is an activity with mathematical, musical and physical aspects attracting all kinds of people to take part. It's a nice hobby because it can keep you busy with the various practice nights and Sunday service ringing each week. There's also a social aspect with several events in the year giving the opportunity to meet lots of new people. If you felt you might want to give church bell ringing a go, all you would need to do is contact your local church (provided they have bells!) and they will let you know when their practice night is so you can start learning to ring.

Oliver Bates



Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine.

Reflections on a month of Requiems.

At the end of October, it was a privilege and joy for St Michael's Servers & Choirmen to take part in the Memorial Requiem for David Dunham held in St David's Church. The moving tributes by Robert, his partner of more than 50 years, and other friends spoke of generous hospitality, deep caring and good times – qualities that should be apparent in our churches too.

Where there is grief and loss, the words, music and ritual actions of the Requiem Mass are one way in which we as a church can start to bring comfort and consolation.

On All Souls' Day I went to the Cathedral's Requiem Eucharist and enjoyed the St Peter's Singers liturgical performance of the Duruflé Requiem. The lively organ accompaniment to the voices singing the plainsong of the Introit & Kyrie somehow makes me think of medieval monks & nuns transported to a Parisian Jazz Club (in a good way).

The Offertoire has 'Sed signifer sanctus Michael repraesentet eas in lucem'/'But the holy standard-bearer Michael brings them into light' - words special for us here at St Michael's.

In both Duruflé and Fauré (whose Requiem St Michael's Choir sang on the Sunday following) the 'Sanctus' is like a bottle of champagne; the organ bubbles away and the voices have a gradual crescendo towards the cork-popping climax of the 'Hosanna in excelsis'.

'Pie Jesu Domine' 'Sweet Lord Jesus' is the emotional heart, given to a Soprano solo. At St Mike's, it was beautifully sung by Tasha Goldsworth with Matt Clark playing the organ.

We Tenors get the lovely opening tune in the 'Agnus Dei'. The 'Libera me' 'Deliver me' was stirringly sung for us by Julian Hofmann. The final 'In Paradisum' 'Into Paradise' is ethereal in both works, opening with Star Trek-like chords in the Duruflé.

A week later Exeter Philharmonic Choir gave an assured performance of John Rutter's Requiem. I was surprised by the dissonant opening, perhaps depicting the grief of mourners. Rutter replaces 2 movements with Psalms

- 'Out of the deep' Ps 130 with a plaintive Cello solo, and 'The Lord is my Shepherd' Ps 23 with a mellifluous Oboe solo. As ever Rutter's music is well-crafted, a joy to listen to, and deeply felt.

Sadly, straight after Remembrance Sunday, we had the Requiem Mass for our dear friend Tony James-Gough. There are loving tributes to Tony printed elsewhere in this Magazine, and we continue to extend our love, sympathy and prayers to Barbara and all the family. We sang 'Jesu, joy of man's desiring' and Crimond, music sung at their Wedding 22 years earlier.

I write after singing another brace of Requiems with Exeter Chorale - a chance to compare and contrast pieces 4 centuries apart. Portuguese composer Manuel Cardoso's *Missa pro Defunctis*; published in 1625, was conducted by Simon Dunbavand with Nigel Browne providing organ continuo. The plainsong opening of each movement blossoms into glorious 6-part polyphony, an intense choral meditation on the text.

Dorset composer Matthew Coleridge's seven movement Requiem had its first performance in 2015. We were delighted to be conducted by Matthew himself, with Simon at the Organ and the important Cello part played by Isabelle Woollcott. A joy to sing, the austere background is lightened by tuneful motifs which build into glorious soundscapes and subside into quiet hope. Instead of a 'Sanctus' there is a 'Rex tremendae majestatis' which builds to a stunning 'Salva me'.

The work ends not with 'Lux aeterna' or 'In Paradisum', but with 'Lacrimosa' (tears or weeping). I asked why. In part to end more with a question than an answer – a Requiem for our time. I suggested Bainton's 'And I saw a new heaven' (Rev 21:1-4) would provide a fitting final movement. It turns out Matthew is composing a new setting of these words for Soprano, Cello & Organ.

A few keywords in a search engine will find on-line recordings of all the pieces I have mentioned – holy listening.



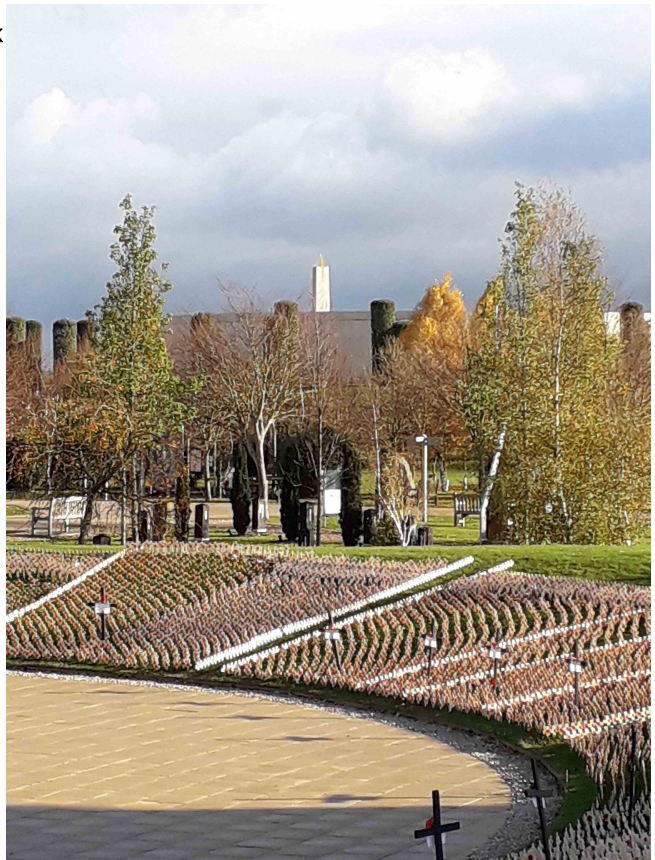
Richard Barnes – 25/11/18

The National Memorial Arboretum

On a chilly wind-swept day, Roger and I visited the National Memorial Arboretum, something we have been meaning to do for some time. We thought it was a particularly appropriate time to go as it was just over a week after the commemoration of the Armistice 100 years ago, and we were proved right. Not only were there newly laid wreaths at many of the memorials but also a garden of remembrance filled with small wooden crosses decorated with poppies.

We arrived in time to attend the act of remembrance which takes place daily at 11 am in the chapel, and then took a land-train tour of the main memorials. The statistics are impressive – the site covers 150 acres, already has 30,000 trees and more than 350 monuments. 250,000 people visit each year and 12,000 were there on 11 November for the service of Remembrance.

The Arboretum was started in 1997, the brainchild of Commander David



Childs CBE who felt there should be somewhere permanent as a focus for Remembrance. While there are many military memorials, there are also those to civilian services such as the RNLI, the Fire and Ambulance services, a number of the nursing services and many others. The trees make it a living tribute, a peaceful and beautiful place. The main central monument, the Armed Forces Memorial, which you may well have seen on TV, commemorates all those who have died on active service or in acts of terrorism since 1946, that is some 16,000 people. The names carved on the stone walls cover column after column, a truly sobering reminder of the lack of peace in our world since the end of WW2 and our part in many of those conflicts.

It is well worth a visit. Just north of Lichfield on the A38, it is easy to find. We bought a guidebook so do let us know if you would like to have a look.



Hilary and Roger

24.11.18



...and if you scan it, you can download my
Christmas sermon!

St Michael's Lectures - Autumn 2018

The regulars at the St Michael's Lecture were treated to a set of exceptionally expert talks in memory of Reverend John Hughes and Canon John Thurmer that reinforced the lecture series' status as the home of informed public debate in Exeter. And the audiences, particularly those who braved a storm of monsoon proportions to attend the Canon Thurmer lecture, responded enthusiastically to the guest speakers.

To begin the first evening lecture, Naomi Drake, a local school teacher and lifelong school friend of our much-missed John Hughes shared her moving personal memories of John before introducing Dr Alison Milbank, an ordained priest and lecturer attached to the department of theology at Nottingham University. Dr Milbank offered her personal view on the existential questions facing the Church of England by looking at the future of its most enduring emblem - the humble parish. The subject was carefully chosen as the parish as the building block of the Church had a robust and eloquent defender in John Hughes.

Dr Milbank positioned herself as a defender of the parish by stating that the enduring idea that the fortunes of the Church have always been rosy is a misconception. She noted that the current decline in parish congregations mirrored that which was seen during the Georgian era – the Georgians seemed to be more interested in empire-building and mercantilism, she said. She argued that the energy of the Evangelical wing of the church showed a basic trust in what they are doing – a self-confidence that seems to be lacking in the mainstream. However, she also found that a number of Anglo-Catholic churches in London were experiencing rapid growth in their congregations through a combination of doing the traditional things well and engaging deeply with the local community.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome Seona Ford, President of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society, who gave an engaging introduction to the complex life of a highly intelligent, and flawed, individual of whose work Canon Thurmer was a great fan. The creator of aristocratic sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey, and a highly regarded translator of Dante, Sayers led a peripatetic life that encompassed a series of pleasant vicarages in the home counties. She went up to Oxford in 1913 and became the second woman ever to be awarded a degree from the university after its ban on

female graduation was lifted in 1920. Ms Ford highlighted Sayers' deeply held Christian convictions; she wrote a notable work of theology *The Mind of the Maker* in 1941; as well as her somewhat chaotic early private life that led to the birth of an illegitimate son who was put up for adoption. All in all, the lecture was an interesting insight into a multi-faceted and immensely gifted writer.

The St Michael's Lectures are an important part of the Church's outreach to the local community. It seems appropriate now to thank David Beadle, formerly of this parish but now living and working in London, for all his hard work in arranging and curating the lectures for the past 7 years. A new team consisting of Oliver Nicholson, Sabrina Groeschel and myself have taken over the running of the lectures and we are in the process of booking some exciting and thought-provoking speakers for next year. Your ongoing support is much appreciated and will ensure that vigorous and informed public debate is an ongoing feature of life in our parish and our city.



Julian Hofmann – 24/11/18

The full text of Dr Milbank's Lecture may be read on the St Michael's website here:-

www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/John_Hughes_Mem_Lecture_Milbank.pdf



Dr Alison Milbank, Naomi Drake, Janet & Hywel Hughes

Introducing myself

Until May this year, I attended All Saints Parish Church in Crewe, Cheshire. I marked my departure with an article in the church magazine there. So having come to live at Montpelier Court on St David's Hill, and joined the congregation at St David's church, perhaps I can introduce myself with another article.

Like many others, I came to Crewe as a recruit to British Rail. I joined as a mainframe computer programmer, an occupation that arose and has virtually disappeared in my lifetime! Computing was one of the first parts of British Rail to be privatised. Ahead of this I was offered voluntary redundancy, which for me became very early retirement. I had been elected to Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council the year before, so I had plenty to occupy my time.

Moving home several times in Crewe, involved me in three different Anglican parishes. I also made friends in churches of other denominations, thanks to early involvement with Crewe Christian Aid Committee. A Rail House colleague recruited me to help organise Christian Aid sponsored events. I stayed on after he left Crewe, and not long afterwards was asked to take over the organisation of the Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection. I continued to be involved in this right up until this year! (I also remain Treasurer of Churches Together in Crewe, though I hope a successor will be found before too long.)

Although I lived and worked in Crewe for the greater part of my life, I was born in Tiverton, and spent most of my childhood years in Bideford. Free rail travel (which I have carried into retirement) enabled frequent return visits. But I recognised some years back that the time would come when I no longer wanted to commute between Cheshire and Devon. When the music stopped, it was in Devon that I wanted to be.

I sought a home in Exeter because links to the rest of the country are so much easier here than from North Devon. But the city was already familiar to me. My parents were brought up here, and met as members of Exeter Rambling Club in the 1940's. They were married at Heavitree Parish Church, where a few years later my sister and I were christened. I even

attended school here briefly. In the process of moving home from Tiverton to Bideford in 1957, my father went on ahead to lodge, while the rest of us stayed with my grandmother who kept a boarding house. If anyone reading this was a member of Miss Holden's class at Ladysmith Road Junior School in the autumn of 1957, I was there too!



David Cannon

24 Montpelier Court
cannon380@btinternet.com



Orationibus X – Windows on the Nativity.

The great East Window, full of biblical angels, and the Rose Window are splendid treasures of St Michael's Church. But our lesser stained-glass windows are interesting too.

The central 3 lancet lights in the South Aisle form a sequence, though given the dates of the commemorations and the styles I doubt they were installed together – can anyone fill in their history?

The first is the Annunciation, given in memory of Helen Yates d. 1882 (I have found no information about her). It is beautiful and full of symbolism.

Mary is kneeling at a prayer desk, with the written word. The archangel Gabriel (God is my strength) addresses her with right hand raised blessing and a Cross in his other hand. His words 'Ave Maria gratia plena Dominus tecum' are at their feet.



in

A lily stands between them and there's lily of the valley at the top of the window. The Holy Spirit as a dove overshadows Mary, so that in her the Word will become Flesh. Top left is the oil lamp of wisdom, I assume.

Incidentally, we celebrate Christ's birth on 25th December because the date of his conception and death (the beginning and end of his perfect earthly life) was set as 25th March by some of the earliest Christians; nothing to do with Saturnalia or Solstice.

The second is the Nativity, commemorating Rev Cyril Valpy French, Vicar of the Parish from 1894 to 1914. This is my favourite. Faithful Joseph stands by Mary and Jesus with love and protection, lamp and staff in hand, while the Ox and Ass look on. It reminds me of Thomas Hardy's poem "The Oxen", much loved by my father.

*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.*

*So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
'Come; see the oxen kneel,*

*'In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,'
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.*



The poem is based on Dorset folklore that farm animals kneel at Christmas midnight as they did at Jesus' birth. Significantly it was published on Christmas Eve 1915, expressing the longing and loss of innocence many

were feeling during the Great War.

The third is the Adoration of the Magi, in memory of Sister Patricia of the Community of St Margaret East Grinstead and Sophia Minnie Boaden (no date given).

Humble Joseph steps back as the 3 Magi present their meaningful gifts to the infant Christ after their arduous journey following the star.

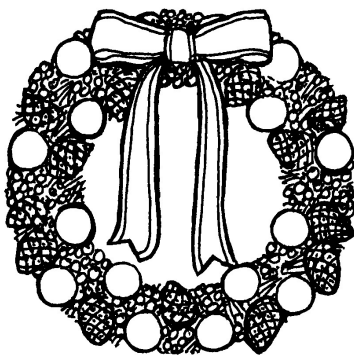
This window uses a rainbow of colours. Mary is in her traditional blue, the first wise man presents the gold of costly kingship. The Magi behind him wear green for incense & priesthood, and mauve for myrrh & sacrifice. Above Joseph in red, the yellow straw of the thatch is torn to reveal crossed timbers. Let's call the sky indigo with its lesser stars, while the guiding Star of Bethlehem sheds light on all.



The Church of England's hashtag this Christmas is #FollowTheStar, and we hope many of you will follow the lights across the Iron Bridge to St Michael's this Advent & Christmas.



Richard Barnes – 24/11/18



What does it for you?

What makes you smile or cheers your spirits?

For me -

The glory of a sunset

The bright fingers of dawn spreading across the sky

The brilliance of a rainbow (God's promise) against a dark sky

The sun sparkling a path across the sea at Budleigh or Exmouth

Or through the autumn beech leaves on the trees at Woodbury Castle

The rustle of a breeze through the trailing branches of a silver birch tree

The wind on my face on a cold, bright day –

All these bring a smile to my face and lift my spirits as nothing else can.

So, what does it for you? Answers on a postcard, or, maybe these days, in an email ...



Hilary Todd

24.11.18

Of course you can always reply to newleavesnews@gmail.com It would be good to create a stream of articles on "What does it for you?" Thank you Hilary!



St Michael's Remembered

The Clergy (3) - In Between Times

Before he died in 1967, Fr Papworth had been ill for some time and forced to retire to Torquay. During the interregnum again, some interesting clergy helped us out.

One such was the Rev Sir Patrick Ferguson Davie bart, one of the bishop's chaplains. He lived at Creedy Park at Sandford near Crediton, a Jacobean-style manor house rebuilt in the early 20th century after a fire. Irreverently known as 'Fergie-Davie', he was more politely known to the nuns of Posbury St Francis as 'Father Pat'.

On one occasion he was due to take Evensong at St Michael's, but failed to turn up. In those days, rapid communication was difficult, even landlines were quite scarce. He phoned my father, who had already left for church, and my mother had no means of passing the message on. Eventually Dad went to one of the houses on Mount Dinham to phone him, and was told he was unable to come as he had been out shooting on his estate that afternoon, and had shot himself in the foot. Literally. So Dad took Evensong.

Then in late 1968 there was a Church Union outing to Sandford, and Father Pat had invited us back to Creedy Park for refreshments after the service. Unfortunately he had neglected to tell Lady Iris, his wife. So fifty-odd people turned up to find nothing had been laid on. The ladies of the party managed to find an urn and sufficient cups in the butler's pantry, so made tea while Father Pat phoned the chippie in Crediton and ordered sufficient portions of fish and chips, which he brought back in the boot of his Armstrong Siddeley. He was worried about the smell getting into the family portraits in the Great Hall, so he asked if we'd mind eating our supper on the terrace. Picture the scene, all these very respectable people, including several priests, some of them with an air of wishing they were elsewhere, eating fish and chips out of newspaper on the terrace of a mansion.

Father Pat sold Creedy Park in 1975 and went to live in Cyprus. He died in 1988. The house is now divided up into several residences.

Another priest who both helped out and worshipped at St Michael's was Fr Edward Pizey, a native of South Australia, who had been a choirboy in Adelaide Cathedral. He travelled to church on a powerful motor bike, wrapped in black leathers. He had an extraordinary life. He was a personal friend of Pope John XXIII and was involved with the Una Sancta Movement (for Christian unity). He

also seemed to belong to some esoteric clerical/Masonic group in Rome – my father said that at Low Mass he prayed for some eminent people in the Roman and Orthodox Churches, seeming to have an extraordinary knowledge of their personal circumstances. He was also a high-ranking Freemason and Knight Templar – one choir member who was a Mason said he had visited his Lodge and had so many ‘jewels’ he could be heard ‘clanking down the corridor’ as he put it.

At various stages in its recent history, St Michael’s has been under threat of closure, something has always come up to save it. One ardent campaigner for its survival, and great friend of St Michael’s, was the Rt Rev Wilfrid Westall, Bishop of Crediton. A former vicar of Shaldon and Archdeacon of Exeter, he was consecrated bishop and appointed to Crediton in 1954. A great raconteur, he was often to be heard on *Any Questions* on BBC Home Service/Radio 4, and after a visit to St Michael’s would often go to the Crown & Sceptre (now the City Gate) where he would effectively hold court. I remember one such occasion when the group surrounding him was in stitches at his stories while the rest of the clientèle of the pub looked on in blank amazement.

He had a habit of referring to the august Bishop of Exeter, Dr Robert Mortimer, as ‘Bob’ and one of his stories concerned a fishing trip. ‘Bob’ had gone on in Brixham with two of his chaplains. The three men, dressed appropriately for their day’s outing, had gone to the early Sunday morning Mass at St Peter’s (now closed) where the verger had taken exception to their appearance, and ordered them out as ‘we don’t want no tramps in ‘ere’. Dr Mortimer, who was every inch a bishop and normally quite unmistakable, was both dismayed at anyone being turned away from a church, and amused by being mistaken for a tramp.

I heard a story, I don’t know if it was true or embellished, that in the 1970s there was a plan afoot to close and demolish St Michael’s, but this was thwarted by the nature of its site. It was decided that as it would be crippling expensive to take the building down, it would have to be blown up, but the proximity of the cottages and the risk of creating a fault in the rock which would send Mount Dinham crashing down into the river frustrated this plan as well. Whatever the actual story, Bishop Wilfrid got wind of the closure plan, and managed to gain a stay of execution, so that St Michael’s lived on.



Angela Marks – August 2018

PILGRIMAGE TO SICILY
Led by Bishop Martin Shaw
Tuesday 10th to Saturday 21st September 2019

- The pilgrimage will be travelling to and from Bristol airport.
- The cost is £1699.
- Extra single room supplement of £434.

Sicily is the largest and most populated island in the Mediterranean. Lying close to the mainland of Italy and just 90 miles from the African coastline, it retains Arab as well as Greek and Roman influences in its architecture and culture. Sicily is dominated by the dramatic landscapes around Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano.

Our pilgrimage will include tastes of the birth of Christianity in the Western World, beginning with St Paul and the architectural story of Christianity's artistic relationship with the Arab world.

The pilgrimage will include visits to Catania, Syracuse, Palermo, Cefalu, Monreale. There will be plenty of free time and opportunities to enjoy the local cuisine.

For further detail please contact Martin and Elspeth Shaw either by email:

amartinshaw@gmail.com

or telephone

07980 191251

or

01392 663511

**To book, contact Pax
Travel:**

Pax Travel

2ND FLOOR ,102 BLUNDELL ST
LONDON
N7 9BL

TELEPHONE: 020 7485 3003

E-mail: info@paxtravel.co.uk

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
MOUNT DINHAM · EXETER

Advent PROCESSION

ALMIGHTY GOD

Give us mercy that we may
escape from the works of darkness,
and put upon us the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which thy Son Jesus Christ came
to visit us in great humility;
that in the last day, when he shall
come again in his glorious Majesty,
to judge both the quick and the dead,
we may rise to the life everlasting,
through him who liveth and reigneth
with thee and the Holy Ghost,
now and ever.

Amen

6PM SUNDAY
9TH DECEMBER 2018

St Michael & All Angels church
stands on Mount Dinham,
near the Iron Bridge,
Exeter EX4 4EB

www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
MOUNT DINHAM · EXETER



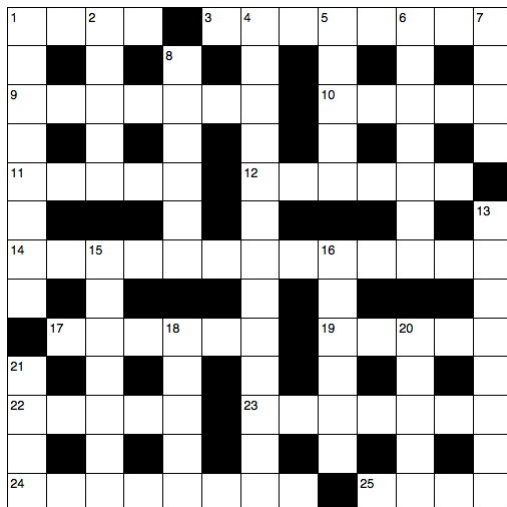
Midnight MASS

11.30PM
MONDAY 24TH
DECEMBER 2018

The church of
St Michael & All Angels
stands on Mount Dinham
near the Iron Bridge
Exeter EX4 4EB

www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

December crossword



Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — '
(Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"'
(Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly'
(Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"'
(John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5)
(5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

December Sudoku - Medium

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

Days of Note - December

4 December

Osmond – an immigrant before Brexit

Osmond is the saint for you if you regret Brexit, and believe that immigrants can bring good to Britain. Osmond came to England from France back in the days before EU regulations. It was shortly after 1066, and he was a Norman, following William the Conqueror.

Osmond himself was no soldier, but a gifted and godly man, with a great gift of administration. He became royal chaplain, and then chancellor in 1072, producing numerous royal letters and charters for the king. In 1078 he was made bishop of Salisbury. As such, he completed and consecrated the cathedral, and formed such an outstanding chapter and constitution that it later became a model for other English cathedrals.

Osmond took part in the preparation of the Domesday Book, and was present when it was presented to William in April 1086. He died in 1099, well respected for his purity and learning, and his lack of avarice and ambition.

25 December Moravians

Christingle: a generous present from the

It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle. Especially one Moravian clergyman: John de Watteville.

On 20th December, 1747, John de Watteville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Then he explained to the children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Watteville, "has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness".

John de Watteville then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon. He ended his service with a little prayer: *"Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become"*.

The visual aid was a great success with the children; for the Marienborn Diary for that day concludes: "hereupon the children went full of joy with their lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed".

The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that.... The years came and went, and as the Moravians began to travel beyond Germany, so they took the custom with them: to Labrador, to Pennsylvania, to Tibet and Suriname, to the Caribbean and South Africa. In each country the Christians adapted it for their own use.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word 'Christingle' comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today the Moravians in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: "We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."

25 December We three kings of Orient are... what?

"A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The way's deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in *solstitio brumali*, the very dead of winter."

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Launcelot Andrews, was preaching a magnificent sermon to King James I. Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Launcelot Andrews' words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem 'The Journey of the Magi'. What a vivid picture – we can see it all! The camels' breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold, and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were 'wise', or learned men of

some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthassar, Melchior, and Caspar (or Gaspar). But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing – anticipating His death.

There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed... straight to Jesus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 December Look out for Wenceslas

Most of us probably know that on December 26th (the Feast of Stephen) 'Good king Wenceslas' looked out, *writes David Winter*. We probably also know that the snow lay round about, 'deep and crisp and even'. Beyond that, he's just someone in a carol that's not often sung nowadays.

However, Wenceslas was a real person, a duke, and effectively king of Bohemia in the 10th century. In modern terms, he was Czechoslovakian. He was known as a generous and kind monarch, deeply Christian and given to good works. So the story in the carol by the Victorian hymn-writer J.M. Neale, while possibly fictitious, is at least in line with his recognised character. 'Page and monarch' braved the 'bitter weather' and the 'cruel wind's wild lament' to take food and fuel to a poor man living rough.

Neale's carol was enormously popular in the 19th century, because it perfectly expressed Victorian Christian ideals of benevolence and alms-giving. Christian men of 'wealth and rank' are urged to help the poor, and so 'find blessing'. Ignoring the 'wealth and rank and men' bit, it's still good advice, at Christmas or any other time.

28 December Holy Innocents

The death of a very young child is perhaps the hardest grief of all to bear. So the 28th December is a very poignant day in the church calendar. It is when the worldwide Church joins with bereaved parents to grieve the loss of babies and young children. For Holy Innocents day recalls the massacre of the young male children of Bethlehem by Herod the Great.

Herod had been told by the magi, or wise men, that a great king had been born in Bethlehem, and he felt shaken. How could a child in unimportant little Bethlehem be so powerful that the stars in the night sky honoured His birth?! Herod took the magi so seriously that he decided to try and kill this new young rival. He decreed that every male baby of two years and

under should be killed. (Matthew 2:1-18).

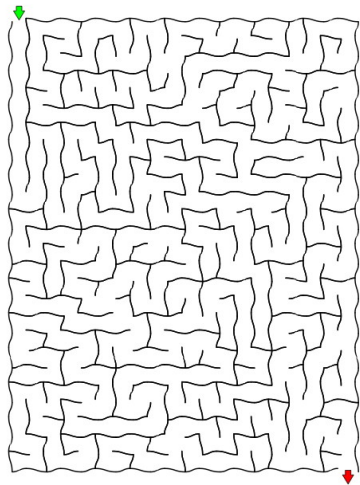
Bethlehem was not a large place, and Bible commentators estimate that between six and 25 infants were slaughtered by Roman soldiers. Their mothers were inconsolable at the death of their babies, as indeed mothers have always been.

The death of these innocent baby boys of Bethlehem became a feast-day in the western Church by the 4th century. This was because the Church considered them to be martyrs because they not only died *for* Christ, *but instead of Christ*.

Down the centuries, the tragic loss of the Holy Innocents has touched the imagination and hearts of poets, preachers and artists. Though heart-broken parents still grieve today, the Church can offer them one firm assurance: that young children who die to this world will undoubtedly “this day be with Me in Paradise.” The One who eagerly said “Suffer the little children to *come unto Me*” will be the last person to turn them away.

Word search

Maze



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

baby	everyone	born
living	home	David
Nazareth	visitors	room
Quirinius	Augustus	Jesus
family	space	manger
bed	Joseph	Syria
Mary	Empire	taxes
Bethlehem	guest	stable

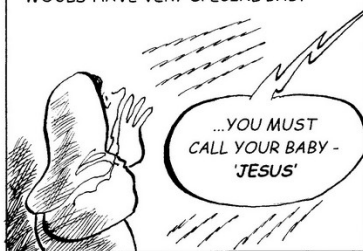
The First Christmas



JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE VERY SPECIAL BABY



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE BY THE CENSUS.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL... THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...



...WHICH IS WHERE THE BABY JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY. AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAS BEEN BORN.



Colour-in



Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

Puzzle solutions

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

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

**The deadline for inclusion of articles
for the February issue of New Leaves
is**

Sunday 19th January

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.