

New Leaves

December 2020/January
2021



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

50p

Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory (September 2020)

Vicar	Nigel Guthrie	01392 660226
Assistant Curates	Ash Leighton Plom	aescleal@gmail.com / 07855305519
	Belinda Speed-Andrews	bspeedandrews@gmail.com
Reader	Bill Pattinson	860 880
	Howard Friend	07733739453
	Charlotte Townsend	01392 660285
Churchwarden	Emma White	07833453067
Churchwarden	Glynis Harflett	01392 214787
PCC Secretary	Helena Walker	pccsecretary@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk
Parish Treasurer	Johnathan Johns	07831486987
		electoralrollofficer@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk
Electoral Roll Officer	Sue Wilson	uk
Safeguarding Rep	Mary Kirkland	07872 626 168

St. David's www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

Treasurer	Barbara Allin	270 162
Asst. Treasurer	Geoff Crockett	468 073
Director of Music	Nigel Walsh	273 237
News Sheet	Helena Walker	notices@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk
Administrator	Deborah Leighton Plom	admin@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk
Servers	Shaun Smith	01626 3670765
Church Bookings	Mary Quest	07792 062 403
	Deborah Leighton Plom	admin@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk
Readers & Time of Prayer	Avril Pattinson	860 880

St Michael's www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

Chapel Warden	Stephanie Aplin	stephaniecaplin@yahoo.co.uk
Chapel Warden		
Treasurer	Paula Lewis	lewispf9@gmail.com
Church Bookings	Deborah Leighton Plom	admin@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk
Director of Music		
Secretary	Vivien Finnigan	
Organist	Matthew Clark	
Notices	Oliver Nicholson	opn@umn.edu

Magazine

Advertising	Glynis Harflett	214 787 bissom@icloud.com
Designer	Clive Wilson	437571 newleaves_mag@btinternet.com
Editorial Team	Richard Barnes Bill Pattinson	newleavesnews@gmail.com



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 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

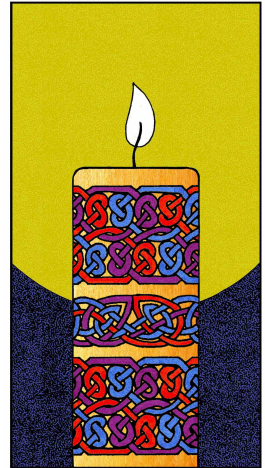
Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Richard Barnes supported by
Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

New Leaves

From the Vicarage December 2020

‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.’
(John 1:5)

To put it politely this letter has a ‘provisional’ quality to it! We really don’t know what will be happening in the next few weeks. We hope, and pray, that we will be able to hold Christmas services. Not only would it be wonderful to offer the opportunity to come together for Christmas Communion but also because it would mean that the situation with Covid was sufficiently improved to allow some gatherings.



There has been great encouragement over the past few weeks from the successful results coming from the vaccine trials, which are looking very promising. Some vaccinations might even happen by the end of the year and it would be very reassuring to know that some of the most vulnerable people in society are being protected. But we know that vaccines will not be a magic bullet and that a programme of vaccination on the scale required will be a monumental undertaking for the NHS. But we can thank God that there is new hope on the horizon and pray for all those who will be working hard to develop, manufacture, distribute and administer the vaccines – and that they will be shared with all those who need them.

So... I sincerely hope that we will be able to offer Christmas services in our churches! Sadly it seems unlikely that we can offer our traditional Christingle at St David’s. But there will be a national online Christingle Service on 13 December. I will flag up online resources in the weekly notices if our churches cannot reopen. We will also try to offer an online Carol Service. And we may be able to offer a simplified Advent Procession at St Michael’s. And if we can reopen for public worship I hope that we will be able to offer a Midnight Mass at 11.30pm at St Michael’s and a Christmas Morning Communion at St David’s at 9.30am. This arrangement

will avoid the need for extensive cleaning between midnight and morning.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to go back to offering our Sunday and midweek services from 3rd December with all the same arrangements in place as before this second lock-down. Generally these arrangements seemed to work well with a good number of people feeling safe enough to return to church. And if we do get back into church we will continue to live-stream services where we can.

The Church of England is presenting its Christmas resources under the heading of 'Comfort and Joy' quoting from the well known carol. There is an explicit acknowledgement that many people are feeling in need of comfort rather than an exuberant celebration this year. But for Christians we must hold on to that sense of deep joy that Christmas brings which is so far removed from the commercial razzmatazz which also attends the season. Because in Jesus' birth we know that hope and light have come into the world. The light sometimes seems to flicker and grow dim but as that well known verse from the Christmas Gospel reminds us 'the darkness did not overcome it' (John 1: 5). God's love for us can never be extinguished, as was gloriously shown on the first Easter morning. The hope of resurrection is always before us and renews our hope for this world and the next, even in dark times.

War Doctor

One book that has made me feel truly thankful during the past month has been 'War Doctor' by David Nott. We may have hard times to face at the moment but David Nott's account of his medical work in war torn parts of the world puts our current trials into perspective. The book is both inspiring and horrifying in equal measure. In particular his account of the siege of Aleppo and the utter disregard for human life that was shown is heartbreaking. Although David Nott says that he is not religious in a conventional sense it becomes clear as the book continues that faith has had a very significant place in his journey. He greatly values the practice of prayer and was strengthened in one of the most testing situations he faced by seeking a blessing from a local catholic priest in Syria.

There's no doubt the David Nott is a courageous man and an immensely skilled trauma surgeon. He has now, with Eleanor his wife, set up a foundation which trains doctors from all over for world in Hostile Environment Surgery.

Living in Love and Faith

This new resource from the Church of England is billed as 'Christian Teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage'. Jonathan Draper has generously (and at very short notice!) written an introduction to the material for this edition of our magazine. I would invite you to explore the online resources and the links he has suggested. We, along with the rest of the Church of England, will be thinking about how to best use these resources over the coming months, but if you have suggestions or requests do let me or one of our ministry team know.

Thank You

At the end of this extraordinary year I would like to thank everyone in our churches who has supported others with phone calls and contact and given encouragement to our life together. Last December none of us had the slightest idea what 2020 would bring: perhaps that was just as well! I am especially grateful to those who have served, and continue to serve, as church officers and PCC and committee members and to my ordained and licensed colleagues as well as those who have helped us to produce online acts of worship – and our amazing magazine!

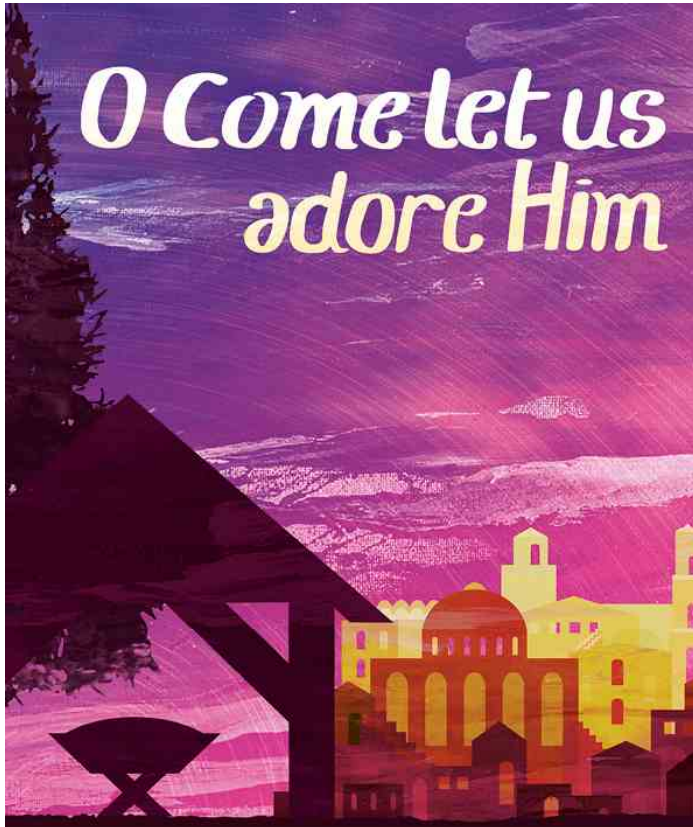
And I also want to thank all of you who have supported our churches financially. So many churches and organisations are struggling at the moment and I am truly grateful for the generous support which has continued to be given to our parish.

And finally I would like to thank everyone who has given financially or in practical ways to our appeals. I will be blessing a large number of shoeboxes and packages for Moldova next week before they are sent off. And our Tuesday supper initiative has been blessed with plenty of donations too! And the Foodbank collection point at St Michael's continues to support the many individuals and families who are in hardship

in the city. We may have a very different Christmas this year but nothing can prevent the light of Christ from shining when we respond to God's love by showing generosity towards those in need.

With every good wish and blessing

Nigel



December 2020 and January 2021 from St Michael and All Angels

Just before the current lockdown, walking along the High Street, I heard my name being called. In the past, I have turned round, but now that my name is not so unusual, I tend to ignore it. A loss of some hearing doesn't help, as I can't always be sure of what I heard. The second time, it was more insistent, so I stopped. In front of me now stood someone I had last seen about 5 years ago, and, about 15 previous to that, so a gap of about 20 years had elapsed. In the brief time that we chatted, all those years fell away, and it was as if our last meeting had been a few weeks ago. We had met as teacher and pupil in Exeter; her life was not easy, still is not, but I had stood as sponsor at her Confirmation, and was aware that a marriage had failed, a daughter had died and I had lost touch. But for Covid restrictions, she would have had a hug and we could probably have gone for a coffee somewhere. I now have an email address and can keep in touch that way. I hope the relevance of this story will become clear later. Imagining life after 2020 is, following the experience of this past year, a dangerous and risky business. A cartoon by Matt in the Daily Telegraph had his character wishing we could live in 'precedented times', rather than the contemporary unprecedent times. Plans, holidays, events: it was 'all change' for everyone.

In the stories of the Beginning in the book of Genesis, God calls the elements into being. He gives them names, and with that comes the creative power that knows all things to be His own. Adam has the task of naming the animals, thus symbolically giving humans both power and responsibility in the way of things, perhaps not always recognised as being there from the start by the Greens in our world.

The young Samuel hears a voice calling him and assumes it must be Eli. Eli is wise enough to know whose the Voice is and advises Samuel to listen and obey.

A young woman hears the voice of an angel and is taken aback by the task to which she is called; her response, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word...' changed time.

Unusual cosmic events call shepherds and wise men to Bethlehem, where they are witnesses of God's answer to us in the darkness of our need.

In Galilee, an unlikely and ill-assorted collection of men is called to a formerly unimagineable life; would they willingly have chosen death, before they encountered the Messiah, who had the words of life? In the times of private prayer and reading which lockdowns have enabled more easily than the busy daily round, I have been working through 'Exciting Holiness', collated by Bishop Robert. It is a stimulating guide to prayer and a work of great scholarship, gathering as it does from a wide range of sources to offer daily readings, prayers and reminders of saintly life from across the ages. I have also been reading ahead, and discovered that 17th December is denoted as 'O Sapientia' (O Wisdom). The following days are, until 23rd December, identified with the titles used in the great Advent hymn, 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'. We have, as language moves on, lost the use of the 'Vocative case' because we do not have a completely inflected language. The Latin words of the 'Agnus Dei' are in the Vocative: we should say or sing 'O Lamb of God...' but the translation leaves it out. Somehow, it's a bit of an attention-getter: you need to pay attention here! We do not now address our neighbours with 'O...', but I can remember many of us in fits of the giggles at 'O table!' as we learnt the First Declension in Latin lessons. In the Advent hymn, the ascriptions given to God appear as O Sapientia, O Adonai, and so on. We call upon God with these titles; some are more appropriately applied to Jesus Himself, but calling out to someone implies the need of a reply. God's reply to us is the fulfilment of our need: Emmanuel, God-with-us in Christ.

What will our calling be for 2021? We can pray that our experiences in 2020 will bring us strength, resilience and courage; we can pray for joy in what used to be called the 'small things', such as a child's spontaneous laughter, the first green shoots of the Spring, the increasing warmth of the sun as the year grows. Will it be the time to create new friendships, renew connections that seem to have drifted away and to renew our response to God's calling to each one of us?

St Paul exhorts the Ephesians to '...lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all...' (Eph.4: 1-6, NRSV).

It is a call that should help us to face the end of a very strange year and rise to the challenge offered by a new one, for which we dare not make any

forecasts at all, except of the assurance of the presence of God, Emmanuel, with us always.

Have a blessed Christmas and an exciting New Year.



Stephanie Aplin.



An additional thought!

The Media were very quick to demand that Christmas, the 'most important Christian festival' (sic) should not be 'cancelled'. The centrality of Easter was missed; we had already lost the public celebration, but we can never lose the spiritual importance of either. Like the Sacraments, all the busyness attached to both, the symbolism, the music, food and sharing of goodwill are the outward signs of inner and greater meaning that cannot be cancelled, that are eternal and allow us to grow in faith.



The Nazareth Community

Lockdown for many of us has been a really tough time but also for some it has been a blessing and for others a mixture of both. For myself, I ended up working from home which was a box room with a window out over the houses in front of us. A true blessing for me during the first lockdown was more time to read and having discovered Richard Carter's book, 'My City is a Monastery' a journey began for me that was totally unexpected. It is a book steeped in the every day but dipped in the grace of God. It is about Richard's journey to find God in a city that never sleeps (London) having spent a number of years with the Melanesian Community in the Solomon Islands as their Chaplain. This journey of discovery for Richard, led to the creation of the Nazareth Community based in St Martin in the Fields on the edge of Trafalgar Square. Their rule of life is based on 7 guiding principles; silence, sacrament, scripture, service, sharing, sabbath time & staying with and I am now a Companion of the Nazareth Community having being admitted only last week in a beautiful online service.



In looking more into the Nazareth Community I started to engage with the Sunday Eucharist online at St Martin in the Field's and to be a part of a worshipping online community saying daily prayer with people from all over the country and all over the world Monday to Friday. Prior to lockdown my daily prayer was an activity said always on my own and sometimes on the train on my way to work. I know that in saying Daily Prayer we are joining in with people across the world but this was a physical gathering, albeit online. All of a sudden I was now part of a larger body of people all saying the same prayer every day together and the beauty of Facebook meant that we were openly invited to share our prayers in the comment bar and these were read out during the intercessions. The Holy Spirit was moving and on any given day there are at least 80 people logged in to daily prayer and over 200 people logged into the Sunday Eucharist.

My journey then widened when I was introduced to HeartEdge by a friend. HeartEdge is also a part of St Martin in the Fields. It is about Living God's Kingdom Now (LGKN) on the edge but from the heart.

"HeartEdge supports churches in blending their mission around four key areas:

Congregation: Inclusive approaches to liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life.

Commerce: Commercial activity and social enterprise generating finance, creatively extending and enhancing mission and ministry.

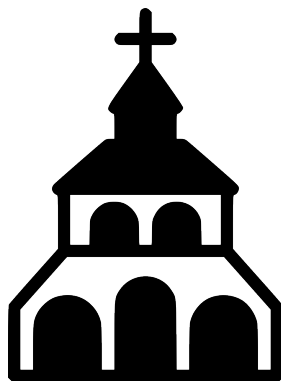
Culture: Art, music and ideas to re-imagine the Christian narrative for the present moment.

Compassion: Models of outreach serving local need and addressing social justice.

I am part of a theology group within HeartEdge and we meet weekly to discuss books and to share our thoughts and experiences based on the topic of the book under scrutiny and it is a place where I have found friendship, learning, challenge, affirmation and support without judgement, without assumption; I have found a supportive learning community which I had lost after finishing my ordination training and this has been a true blessing. In engaging with people from across the world, from different traditions and backgrounds my mind has been expanded and my language has turned from deficit to abundance recognising the inherent gifts we all have within ourselves but more importantly the inherent gifts in others.

Finally I would like to share something I wrote after an online retreat with the Nazareth Community as part of my searching and discovering a life with God:

My monastery is here and now
in the room where I sit
the streets I walk
in the sky above
and the ground beneath my feet
look, touch, see, hear, smell
go simply
go with obedience
go with peace in your heart
Amen.



Belinda Speed-Andrews (22.11.2020)

Chosen Readings for December 2020/January 2021

@St David's

Sunday 6th December Advent 2

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11
2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8
Preacher: Belinda Speed-Andrews Bible
Reader: Jean Thomas
Prayer Leader: Glynis Harflett



Sunday 13th December Advent 3

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8,19-28
Preacher: Howard Friend; Bible Reader: Lawrence Sail
Prayer Leader: Mollie Curry

Sunday 20th December Advent 4

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-end
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38
Preacher: Ash Leighton Plom; Bible Reader: Maggie Draper
Prayer Leader: Deborah Leighton Plom

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20
Preacher: Nigel Guthrie ; Bible Reader:
Charlotte Townsend
Prayer Leader: Ash Leighton Plom



Sunday 27th December Christmas 1

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3
2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel Reading: Luke 2:15-21
Preacher: Bill Pattinson; Bible Reader: Geoff Crockett

Prayer Leader: Pete Francis

Sunday 3rd January Epiphany

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Preacher: Belinda Speed-Andrews ; Bible Reader: Gina Redman

Prayer Leader: Chris Gill

Sunday 10th January: The Baptism of Christ

1st Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

2nd Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11

Preacher: Howard Friend Bible Reader: Emma White

Prayer Leader: Nigel Walsh

Sunday 17th January Epiphany 2

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

2nd Reading: Revelation 5:1-10

Gospel Reading: John 1:43-end

Preacher: Jonathan Draper Bible Reader:

Prayer Leader: Helen Friend

Sunday 24th January Epiphany 3

1st Reading: Genesis 14:17-20

2nd Reading: Revelation 19:6-10

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

Preacher: Nigel Guthrie Bible Reader:

Prayer Leader:

Sunday 31st January Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-5

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:14-end

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Preacher: Ash Leighton Plom Bible Reader:

Prayer Leader:



Living in Love and Faith



On the 9th of November the Church of England published a book and other resources under the overall title of 'Living in Love and Faith' (LLF). It is a part of the continuing discussion in the Church of England, and specifically in the House of Bishops, about sexuality and the Church. In commending the resources and the process which stems from it, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally (formerly Bishop of Crediton), said:

The challenges of the pandemic have underlined how we need each other more than ever. At the same time, we can see how deeply divided the Church is over these questions, and we must seek God's will by learning together, listening to each other and to God. ...This must be a meaningful process with a clear way forward. However, it will not succeed without love, grace, kindness and compassion.

It is probably fair to say that LLF has met with mixed responses so far, and the range of views expressed reflects the whole spectrum of the Church's thinking. The book costs £19.99 – or can be downloaded as a PDF for free from the Church of England website

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-book>).

It is a long read (over 400 pages). It is divided into sections:

Part One: Reflecting: what have we received. Sections on life, relationships,

marriage, and learning

Part Two: Paying Attention: what is going on? Sections on society, science, and religion

Part Three: Making connections: where are we in God's story? Sections on a story of love and faith with hope, a story that embraces all of life, a story about being the Church, and a story about ways of human loving

Part Four: Seeking answers: how do we hear God? Sections on the Bible, Church, creation, cultural context, experience and conscience, and prayer and guidance

Part Five: Conversing: what can we learn from each other? Sections of conversations about marriage, sex and relationships, gender identity and transition, and the life of the Church

This is followed by an 'Appeal' from the Bishops to take the process seriously. Each part is separated from the next by a series of 'Encounters' in which we hear stories of individuals and their experience.

It's a lot of material to get through: it took me a week over a number of sittings. To be fair to the process, we should all probably read it, and perhaps look at the study material that accompanies it. Personally, I have benefitted from reading reflections that others have given on the material. You can find helpful reflections on the Via Media (<https://viamedia.news/>) and some that I have commissioned for the Modern Church website by a range of distinguished people (www.modernchurch.org.uk). It also happens that the Modern Church journal (*Modern Believing*) is about the issues in 'Living in Love and Faith' and is out in January 2021. This is a journal for members, but I will try to make a few copies available at the Back of St David's, when it is published, for anyone to borrow. Other views are, of course available.

The process of discussion to which LLF gives rise is meant to take place throughout 2021 with the General Synod meeting to discuss it in early 2022.



Jonathan Draper

Services & Events for St Michael's - December 2020 & January 2021

Welcome to the New Church Year; year 'B' of the liturgical cycle in which the majority of Sunday Gospel Readings come from St Mark.

Just before November's Lockdown, we enjoyed a beautiful All Saints' & All Souls' Sunday, the Plainsong Requiem leavened with three movements from Faure. A fitting climax to 3 months of Covid-secure Services with music to lift our spirits.

Since then we have adapted again to online worship, but with our churches open for private prayer at 'Service' hours.

At the time of writing we know not, oh we know not, whether Public Worship will be permissible or there will be further restrictions. But we hope that Services for these dates will be provided either in Church or Online.

As well as the "Friends" Facebook group for social interaction online, St Michael's now also has a Facebook page for more official information and Service etc will be streamed here too. Its address is:-

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter>

Sunday Eucharists are streamed from St David's Church at 9.30am on their Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/stdavidschurchexeter>

The weekly Parish Notices and Pewsheets will keep you informed.

We are glad that Devon Recovery Learning's Djembe Drumming group has been able to use St Michael's safely on Friday afternoons.

Here is the list of our hoped-for Services for December & January; music will be provided as much as resources & restrictions allow.

Wed 2 Dec, 9am Matins on Facebook only (link). 9.30-10.30 St Michael's Church open for Private Prayer; the pattern under Lockdown.

End of 4-week Lockdown2.

Sat 5 & Sun 6 Dec, an Online 'South West Carols' Event – see Posters for times and streaming details.

Sunday 6 December, Advent II & St Nicholas. 11am Sung Mass with Covid precautions.

Sun 6 Dec, 6pm. An Advent Procession with Candles, Readings, Music, Prayer... depending on the Rules in place, this may need to be moved to a

different Sunday or cancelled.

Wed 9 Dec. 9.30 Matins, 10am Said Mass.

Sun 13 Dec, Advent III, Gaudete Rose Vestments, and St Lucy. 11am Sung Mass.

Wed 16 Dec, 9.30 Matins, 10am Said Mass.

Sun 20 Dec, Advent IV, Four Candles. 11am Sung Mass.

Wed 23 Dec, 9.30 Matins, 10am Said Mass.

Thu 24 Dec, Christmas Eve. 11.30pm, Midnight Mass of the Nativity at St Michael's Church, Mount Dinham (if Rules allow).

Fri 25 Dec, Christmas Day, 9.30am Festal Parish Eucharist at St David's Church, Hele Road.

Sun 27 Dec, Christmas I & St John the Evangelist, 11am Sung Mass..

Wed 30 Dec, NO Service in Church.

Sunday 3rd January 2021, Christmas II, 11am Sung Mass. John 1. In the beginning was the Word.

Wed 6 Jan, Epiphany. 9.30am Matins only. 7.30pm Sung Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany.

Sun 10 Jan, Epiphany I, Baptism of the Lord. 11am Sung Mass.

Wed 13 Jan, 9.30 Matins, 10am Said Mass. We remember Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, 367.

Sun 17 Jan, Epiphany II. 11am Sung Mass.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Wed 20 Jan, 9.30 Matins, 10am MSaid Mass.

Sun 24 Jan, Epiphany III. 11am Sung Mass.

Mon 25 Jan, Conversion of St Paul. Year's Mind of Canon John Thurmer.

Wed 27 Jan, 9.30 Matins, 10am Said Mass.

Sun 31 Jan, Epiphany IV. 11am Sung Mass.

Tue 2 Feb – Candlemas. Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

We wish you all a Blessed Advent & Christmastide and as happy a New Year as is possible for you.



Richard Barnes – 23/11/20.



Exeter Hot Food Project

Set-up in May, the project is run by a team of volunteers who have provided hot nutritious meals to school children and families experiencing food poverty throughout the first 'lockdown' and during the school holidays. The meals are cooked at churches and community centres then delivered immediately. The kitchens being used are at St Katherine's Priory, Beacon Heath Centre, South Street Baptist Church, Belmont Chapel

The project is recruiting volunteers to help during the Christmas holidays and in the New Year we plan to extend our 'emergency food' service to other groups vulnerable to food insecurity eg isolated elders and young carers and care leavers.

Here is a link to our Volunteer Survey for anyone interested in contributing to this growing need as a volunteer or donor:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPRvFH7CDHI_ZwWWBo2qKcwfx0WzRt8qSEq_Khu3rLDvZetQ/viewform

These are the values and principles of the project: Emergency Food: Recycling & surplus food: Healthy Food: collaboration with others in addressing food poverty.

The project has received funding from a GoFundMe site, Lions' lottery grant and individual donations that cover additional food items, the insulated bags for delivering as well as reimbursing drivers' fuel costs.

Lastly, here is a link to a local newsletter with an item about the HFP on the last page, it also contains a link to an article on the Project:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAENNZ4Wmi4/OtpWytuA63mRavWwK0UuXQ/view?utm_content=DAENNZ4Wmi4&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

A member of St Michael's Church is already involved in this project.

Nigel Guthrie

20.11.2020



Mothers' Union #NoMore1in3

Churches in Devon are being asked to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse by taking part in the Mothers' Union #NoMore1in3 action campaign from 25 Nov – 10 Dec. We will promote resources each day on our Diocese Facebook page with a video message from Bishop Jackie on launch day. Tragically, 1 in 3 women globally experience physical or sexual abuse from a partner at some point, many throughout their lives. Men can also be victims; and children directly or indirectly, with lasting effects. Chris Keppie, our Church and Society officer has written a helpful article explaining what you can do.

GETTING BEHIND THE NO MORE 1 IN 3 DOMESTIC ABUSE CAMPAIGN

Churches in Devon are being encouraged to raise awareness of domestic abuse and take action against it during a 16-day campaign organised by the Mother's Union.

The No More 1 in 3 campaign will run from 25 November to 5 December. Globally, 1 in 3 women are believed to experience physical or sexual violence at home during their lifetime – a number rising yet further this year, in what the UN has called a “shadow pandemic”

This year calls to the UK's national domestic abuse helpline have continued to rise, with 50 murders attributed to domestic violence estimated to have happened during the first lockdown.

"These horrendous statistics represent the lives of real people, in all our communities."

The diocesan Church and Society Officer, Chris Keppie, said: "This is an issue close to my heart, having previously worked in homelessness.

"I've encountered so many women – and men – needing housing and other support having escaped domestic abuse.

"Sadly long-term homeless people with 'complex needs' often experienced 'adverse childhood experiences' including domestic violence, and/or subsequent exploitation and trauma in county lines gangs or sexual slavery.

"These horrendous statistics represent the lives of real people, in all our communities."



The Mothers' Union campaign is highlighting the scale of domestic abuse worldwide

A new Domestic Abuse Bill is currently at the second reading stage in the House of Lords.

There, five of our female Anglican bishops (led by Bishop Rachel of Gloucester) are working to support and strengthen the Bill, including in legislation around children as victims (rather than observers) and on cycles of criminality associated with abuse.

The Mothers' Union campaign will end on Saturday 5 December in a global day of action.

It will include a special online service put together by the Mothers' Union in

Devon and featuring a message from Bishop Jackie and a blessing by Bishop Nick.

Resources for churches and individuals include template letters to MPs, prayers, bible readings and a campaign pack , including a church service suggestion, information about the #NoMore1in3 photo campaign, and even 1 in 3 tea cosy knitting patterns.

Another Christian charity, Restored, focuses on gender-based violence and has clear online information including I Need Help and I Want To Help. It also produces handbooks for churches, and for survivors that it distributes in refuges. Churches can buy these as a practical way of helping victims of domestic violence.

The diocese Safeguarding team is hand to respond to concerns about domestic abuse and also offers awareness training for churches in this area. Please email Chris to share any actions you or your church have been or will be taking, including #NoMore1in3 photos



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

Compline and Evensong



During Lockdown 1.0 and now, during the present November Lockdown 2.0, I have enjoyed the privilege of live streaming Compline on St David's Facebook page at 8.00pm. It is a lovely quiet time of prayer before bedtime and I do recommend you join me. It has surprisingly reminded me of my own childhood when, with mum, dad and my twin brother, we worshipped often three times on a Sunday - 8am Holy Communion, 10.30am Sung

Mattins and 6.30 Evensong. In the afternoon bro and I would go to Sunday School. A pretty full Sunday then. We were all members of the choir so 7.30pm choir practice on Thursday evening with our strict organist and choir master, Mr Thompson, was another "must attend" situation.



I have been using for Compline the "Time to Pray" app. Just after the beginning of the service there is an opportunity to read the suggested hymn, "Before the ending of the

day" or to choose one of your own. In choosing a hymn of my own to read for Compline, I have recalled those warm, comforting Evensongs the family enjoyed together. Not only do I recall hymns which I no longer, or very rarely, sing now "The day thou gavest, Lord, has ended", "Saviour again to thy dear name we raise", "Abide with me", "Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear", but I well remember the two Evening chants, the "Magnificat" and the "Nunc Dimmitis". There were so many settings for these two chants and, as a young choir boy at Primary School, none of them seemed easy and they often dominated Thursday's choir practice.

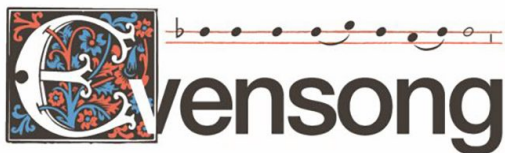
Yet perhaps one of the happiest and most enjoyable Evensongs was the one on the third Sunday evening of the month, when after the service we would go to Aunt Mary's and Uncle Joe's for the most wonderful finger buffet suppers. They weren't my real uncle and aunt, just good friends of

mum and dad, who were also in the choir, but that's what we called them. Aunty Mary was the assistant organist so after supper we would all gather round her piano to sing those hymns and other songs. Terrific evenings! We had no television then (didn't arrive until 1959 when brother and I were 13), so it was really special. I have always had a great liking for Evensong and it would be great to perhaps enjoy one at St David's occasionally. Is this something you would like? Don't forget you can always join me for Compline, 8pm on Mondays,..... at least until December 1st.



Bill Pattinson

21.11.2020



*Martin received the latest Christmas
coronavirus regulations from the diocesan
office.*

The 'Nativity' Window at St Michael's

I do love the Nativity window at St Michael's. It's the middle one of 5 stained glass windows in the South Aisle. Its classic design doesn't need much commentary. You can view it in colour in the online copy of this Magazine or via our website photo display at

<https://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/history/interactive-floorplan/> Choose the "South Aisle Windows" pin, and then click on the small image to get the full photo.

St Joseph wearing blue & red leans prayerfully on his staff holding a lamp. Jesus, the Light of the World, is not in the manger, with its fresh golden straw, but is cradled on the lap of his Mother Mary dressed in blue & white trimmed with gold. They gaze adoringly at each other. Behind them the Ox and Ass look on, the Wood of the humble Stable hinting at the Cross to come.



The dedication of this window is

"To the Glory of God and in Memory of

Cyril John Valpy French, Priest

Vicar of this Parish 1894-1914.

Dedicated by worshippers of S Davids and S Michaels"

An internet search for C J Valpy French is disappointing. His father Thomas Valpy French (1825-91) is much more famous having been a pioneering missionary in India where he became the first Bishop of Lahore. In later life he travelled in the Middle East, not so much to evangelise as to experience being close to the Holy Lands of Jesus and the Bible.

Our Valpy French, born in 1855, was Thomas's second child of eight. Cyril's elder sister Ellen married Edmund Arbuthnott Knox, Bishop of Manchester, and their children mostly became famous too.

Much of what I could find out about C J Valpy French is in a piece on the St David's Church website – The Building of St David's Church, by Michael Smith, Vicar here in the mid-1980s, I think.

This describes Rev C J Valpy French as - 'a graduate of Cambridge, he had no academic ability but was a very capable administrator and a man of

tireless energy.’ This was just what St David’s in particular needed in 1894. The Georgian ‘Pepper Pot’ St David’s of 1817 was poorly built and not much loved. The previous Vicar, Joseph Theophilus Toye, had overseen the building in 1868 of the now flourishing St Michael’s, but in the 1880s he could not get St David’s parishioners to agree to, much less fund, the rebuilding of their church.

The present St David’s Church, consecrated Tuesday 9th January 1900, stands as a fitting and much loved memorial to the drive, fundraising skills and pastoral care of Rev Cyril John Valpy French.

Returning to his memorial window in St Michael’s, I can’t help wondering; if it was installed after Christmas 1915, was its composition perhaps influenced just a little by Thomas Hardy’s recently published poem “The Oxen”, a favourite of my father. That poem’s blend of nostalgia and doubt caught the need for a narrative of hope amidst the darkness of the Great War. A message for our times too.

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.

Richard Barnes – 22/11/20.



The 'Epiphany' Window at St Michael's

My thanks to Stephanie for suggesting I include a piece about our Epiphany window at St Michael's as well as the Nativity one, as the Magazine edition covers January too.

The Annunciation, Nativity and Epiphany windows in the South Aisle seem to form a 'triptych', but their dates & dedications show they are separated by several years. The subtle differences of decoration, e.g. in the 'canopies at the top of each, confirm their separate installations. Nevertheless there is an pleasing overall unity.

In our Epiphany window, the Holy Family is on the left, Joseph still leaning on his staff. Mary has unpacked her blue cloak, and a slightly chubbier Jesus is held in her lap while he raises his right hand in blessing.

On the right, the Three Wise Men have modest crowns and haloes too.

Although they were Eastern Magi, astrologers, Zoroastrian priests from Persia perhaps, they recognise and acknowledge God in Jesus. However in this 1920s window the stained glass artist has made little attempt at diversity. They look rather Anglo-Saxon, two with beards (like Joseph) and the third at the back clean-shaven and younger (the Evangelical maybe).

The artist has made full use of colours. The 1st King, kneeling to present his gift wears a white-gold cloak, the 2nd one emerald green, the 3rd amethyst purple. Above the scene the Star of Bethlehem shines down on them all, and other stars wink in the blue sky.

Why do I say 1920s for this window? The dedication is



“To the Glory of God and in memory of
Sister Patience of the Community of
St Margaret East Grinstead, and of
Sophia Minnie Boaden. R.I.P.”

Sophia Minnie Boaden has an entry in the list of memorials in St David's Churchyard. Daughter of Luke & Eliza Boaden, she died on Lady Day 1922.

I have no information on Sister Patience herself, but the Society of St Margaret was an Anglican Religious Order founded in 1855 by the prolific hymn translator and writer, John Mason Neale.

To J M Neale we owe our seasonal translations of ‘O Come, O come Emmanuel’, ‘Of the Father's heart begotten’, ‘A great & mighty wonder’, as well as ‘To Thee before the end of day’ and many others. He himself also wrote ‘Good Christian men rejoice’ and ‘Good King Wenceslas’.

As the Order expanded in the 1860s, Rev Neale and others commissioned the architect George Edmund Street to build a Convent House & Chapel in East Grinstead in Sussex. Neale (1818-66) did not live to see the Convent completed, but it became a thriving Christian community with an orphanage and schools for girls both poor and rich, preparing them for ‘service’ in various spheres in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

I can only assume that Sister Patience was a young woman from Victorian Exeter who had a vocation to the religious life and joined the Community of St Margaret. Perhaps she died about the same time as Sophia, who must have served and been loved and valued at St Michael's. So parishioners & family decided they should share a memorial window, the subject of the Epiphany being dictated by the previous two windows.

Despite the changes & chances of recent years, the Society of St Margaret of nursing and teaching Sisters is still working amongst the poor in London, New England, Haiti & Sri Lanka.

As with the ‘Three Sisters’ window in the North Aisle, if anyone has further information it would be good to hear.



Richard Barnes – 22/11/20.

Thought for the Day on Thursday 19th November 2020

**given by Bishop James Jones, now retired,
previously Bishop of Hull and Liverpool**

The recording can be found at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08yvnn3>

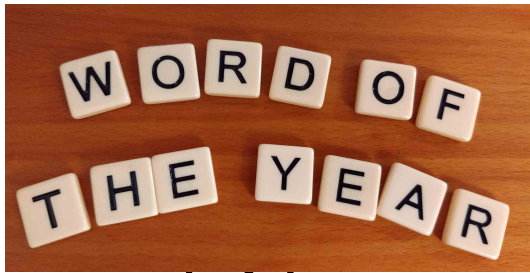
My thanks to Philip Walker for sending this recording to the editorial team. We have featured articles in the magazine this year on both the pandemic and climate change. In this recording, which I do recommend you listen to, Bishop James suggests similarities between these two issues, but realises we are nearer to solving concerns about the virus far more than anxieties about climate change. "Where there's fear", he says, "there's a way." Unfortunately, except for the occasional flood or spell of very hot weather, our fear of climate change is distant. In the recording the Bishop recalls a conversation with the late Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, about prophets, where the Rabbi asks the Bishop, "What do you think are the three most important words Jesus says in the Bible?" Listen to the recording and discover the answer.



Bill Pattinson

21.11.2020





Word of the Year

You may have heard that the Oxford English Dictionary has chosen not to name a word of the year, describing 2020 as “a year which cannot be neatly accommodated in one single word.” Indeed in a year that has left us speechless, 2020 has been filled with new words unlike any other.

Here’s my one sentence using as many words/phrases of the year as possible. I invite you to write your own sentence using at least 18 of these words or expressions which I have written in capitals. Please send your sentences for our February edition.

“Keeping ALERT, protecting our KEY WORKERS, working REMOTELY on ZOOM and FOLLOWING THE SCIENCE so as to KEEP DOWN THE R NUMBER, this LOCKDOWN I shall go into complete ISOLATION and QUARANTINE, SHIELDING myself from COVIDIOTS who operate outside their own BUBBLES, who never wear FACE MASKS and who have increased the TRANSMISSION of the CORONAVIRUS during this UNPRECEDENTED year of the COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

You may wish to use the following in your submission:

STAYCATION, WORKATION, MUTE, UNMUTE, FLATTEN THE CURVE, MAIL-IN, BLACK LIVES MATTER, SOCIAL DISTANCING.

I was delighted to read that the word BREXIT was used 80% less than in 2019. I’d be happy if I never read it again.

The editorial team look forward to your ONE sentence which should use at least 18 of the words/phrases in capital letters.

Bill Pattinson (24.11.2020)

God in the Arts

Editor: From The Parish Pump website- The Revd Michael Burgess concludes his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture... this month he considers a 13th century painting by Gerald of Wales.

He gave us eyes to see them: St Kevin of Glendalough and the blackbird

During this year we have explored the beauty and wonder of our world in the rich variety of all creatures great and small. In the months of lockdown and restrictions, many of us have used the time to look afresh at the world of Nature and have learnt to value it once again.

When we look at the life of the 6th century Irish hermit saint, Kevin of Glendalough, we see someone who had that special relationship with the birds and animals. An otter, the wolf and a wild boar were his co-hermits. We are told that during Lent as he was kneeling in prayer in his cell, he held his arm out of the window. A blackbird mistook the arm for the branch of



a tree and built its nest in the saint's hand. The saint waited until the eggs were laid and hatched and the fledglings had flown.

One of the earliest depictions of this story is a marginal drawing in The History of Ireland by Gerald of Wales in the early 13th century and now in the British Library. He visited Ireland several times and was entranced by the marvels he saw and the tales he heard. To accompany the story of St

Kevin, an unknown artist drew the saint sat in his cell, cradling the blackbird gently in his left hand. Seamus Heaney captured the story in a poem in which he wondered if the saint was self-forgetful in all those months or perhaps in agony. The poet praises St Kevin because he sought no reward, but offered time and patience to care for this sign of new life.

So much has happened to us during this year for good and ill, and we wonder what the new year will bring. Perhaps St Kevin can inspire us to journey with faith and hope, and to travel through the months ahead with a renewed concern for the created order around. The Gaelic name Kevin means loved. Like him, we pray that we will love and cherish this planet, and care for the wonder and beauty of birds like the blackbird and all the animals. Then we can rejoice with him in the wonder of Creation that displays the handiwork of God the Creator.

God in the Sciences

This article is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Follow the Star

Jesus' welcoming committee included Eastern scholars who learned about His birth through their study of astrology. I can't help thinking that the arrival of these people at Bethlehem is a link between a very early form of science (albeit mixed in with their own form of religion) and Christian faith. What better way to discover God than to explore the world and follow the evidence wherever it leads? But what exactly was the star of Bethlehem? Scientists have investigated this question over the centuries, coming up with a variety of answers.

First, there is the idea of a supernova: the massively bright explosion caused by a dying star. On rare occasions a supernova can be seen from Earth with the naked eye, remaining visible for several months. We now know that Herod the Great died around 4BC, so the actual date of Jesus' birth must be a little earlier. The supernovae that might match this timing

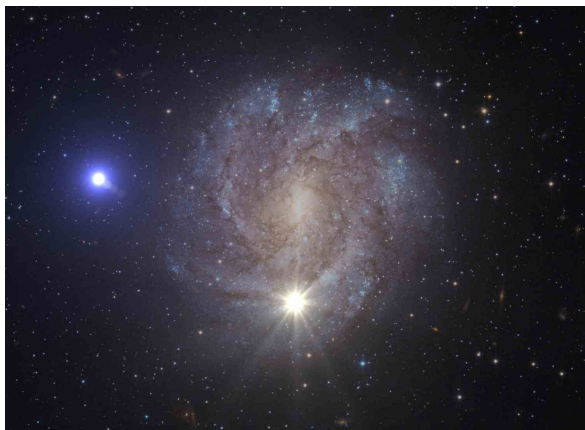
were one in the Andromeda galaxy between March 8BC and September 7BC, and another in the constellation of Capricorn in the Spring of 5BC.

Next, comes a planetary conjunction. The alignment most commonly associated with the star of Bethlehem was between Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 7BC, but not everyone is sure whether this would be extraordinary enough to be the 'star' mentioned in the Bible.

Finally, the bright astronomical object that drew the Magi could have been a comet. This idea came from Sir Colin Humphreys, Professor of Materials Science at Cambridge University, and Oxford astronomer WG Waddington, who found that a comet was recorded by Chinese astronomers between March and May, 5BC. Humphreys then speculated that the 'no room at the inn' scenario came about because Jesus was born during Passover, and the Magi visited Jesus in May or June.

People interpret the biblical account of Jesus' birth in all sorts of ways, but there's very little argument from serious historians that Jesus of Nazareth actually existed. Whatever the true explanation for the 'star of Bethlehem' may be, there's plenty of evidence that an astronomical event could have happened at the time of His birth.

I think it makes perfect sense that if God was going to enter His own creation and take on the form of one of His own creatures, it should be marked by a very significant physical event!



Thermonuclear supernova ejects our galaxy's fastest star

Seasonal Colours 2020

My vision is no longer 20/20, but I have been struck again by the colours of Autumn this year both in the Church and in Nature.

Liturgically the colours of day, at Sunday & Wednesday Masses, have been :-

For Trinity, or Coronatide as some now call it, both the bright green of growth and that orange green Chasuble we have at St Michael's that speaks of Harvest.

Saints & Martyrs merit Red; St Luke for Good News, healing, painting & travel writing, Simon & Jude for witness more obscure.

The Golden White of All Saints' Day, O quam gloriosum... amicti stolis albis, contrasting with the solemn Black of the Requiem on All Souls' Eve..

November, No Masses, but a weekly reprise of these colours – Poppy Red, Trinity Green, Kingly Gold, before we mellow into Advent Purple.

The Trees, Nature's Tapisers, weave another rich tapestry of colour with their Autumn leaves, Old Leaves set against the fabric of heaven whether blue skies or shades of grey.

Summer's green has turned to threads of yellow, orange, red, as we walk on a cloth of gold to the field of Remembrance, but return on a carpet of brown as leaves give back their nutrients to the earth.

The silver & gold of bugle's sorrow and pride meet the brown habit and black cassock of Franciscan humility and forgiving prayer.

Some leaves are evergreen but at a cost – sharp pine needles, prickly holly, clinging ivy, bitter yew. We will value them in the bleak Midwinter to brighten our homes & hearths this Covid Christmas, whatever lowly form it takes.

But for now the loose leaves that fall are gathered into the great narrative story of humanity's Fall and Rebirth in Christ and in each of us. Eddied by autumn winds into manageable clumps, families, communities, peoples or flying away on a gale of wild adventure.

As if to spite our binary fights and arguments, where Nature has Life there is seldom black and white, only broad spectra of colours, sounds, evolving abundant diversity.

O quam gloriosum... amicti stolis irideis. O how glorious... arrayed in robes of many colours, the God-given covenant of the rainbow.

A third swathe of Autumn colour is Harvest, the fruits of the earth and of humanity's endeavours in their season.

There's the fruit a-turning red where the apple tree do lean down low in William Barnes' Linden Lea. In Christian imagery, the apple is both a symbol of lost innocence, and also in Carols like 'Adam lay ybounden' & 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree' a sign of healing & redemption.

Other logos are available, but the bitten apple is still for many the symbol of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. As in "Children of Eden" (a lesser known musical by Stephen Schwarz, composer of Godspell and Wicked) we need the wisdom and love of God to use knowledge aright.

The golden ears of grain and the purple grapes on the vine remind us of the Eucharistic Feast, the Blessed Sacrament of reconciliation, community and spiritual nourishment. During Lockdown, the sacrifice, the fast, has also been ours for a season too.

All these colours will sparkle afresh as Christmas Trees are decorated for Comfort and for Joy, Light dispelling Darkness.

Meanwhile Autumn reminds me that my faith is not monochrome, not a monolith that can be toppled by doubt or failure, but a multi-coloured thread of many fibres, a little frayed, but stronger than it might seem.



Richard

Barnes –

22/11/20.



Covid Symptom Study

Roger and I have had an interesting week (14-20 November). We've been contributing to the Covid-Symptom Study for some time as we know some of you have also.

The COVID Symptom Study app is a not-for-profit initiative that was launched at the end of March 2020 to support vital COVID-19 research. The app was launched by health science company [ZOE](#) with scientific analysis provided by King's College London. With nearly four and a half million contributors globally, the Study is the world's largest ongoing study of COVID-19 and is led by ZOE Co-Founder, Tim Spector. Apart from contributing our data, we also very much appreciate the information (including case maps and graphs) that comes back and Tim's weekly brief commentary on what is happening.

Last weekend we were both really not very well and were logging our symptoms on the app as requested, and on Tuesday I received an email inviting me together with up to two members of my household to take a Covid test. I had to go through the Government website to register our requests for home tests in our case and Wednesday late afternoon, they arrived. On Thursday, we both read all the instructions twice (!) and watched the video before doing our own swab tests of throat and nose, and posted them back in the NHS Priority post box at Pynes Hill. On Friday afternoon, we received notification via text and email that, thankfully, the results were negative for both of us, a huge relief. We were both very impressed with the speed with which all stages, including the actual testing, were accomplished.

Those running the study are anxious to get more people and especially younger people to sign up because the more who do, the better the data. You may already be participating but if not, do have a look: <https://covid.joinzoe.com/>. Once you have gone through the initial set-up, if you are well, it takes just seconds to report and we find we do so every couple of days or so.

They are also keen for schools to sign up:
<https://covid.joinzoe.com/schoolnetwork>

We have really appreciated being part of the study and would encourage everyone to think about joining in too.



Hilary Todd and Roger Beer

23.11.20

Songs of Praise

In Lockdown 2 I have started to watch Songs of Praise on Sundays. Missing congregational singing it gives me a chance to join in with others. Currently the competition for Chorister of the Year is on, and the sound of young voices and the enthusiasm of the competitors is a joy to watch and listen to.

I've taken part in five recordings over the years. The first time was in 1969 when I was at school in Bristol. It was filmed at the parish church of Westbury-on-Trym and yes, I did appear in the programme – what a shock to see myself on TV. Fast forward to 1996 when I was living in southeast London and singing with Dulwich Choral Society. That was recorded at St Barnabas church in Dulwich village, and a work colleague noticed me on the recording.

Two separate occasions at Southwark Cathedral followed – the most memorable being the celebration of the Windrush generation in July 1998. Local choirs were invited to take part to swell the voices. I found myself in the north transept with a wonderful community from Brixton – who had brought entire meals to sustain them through the evenings of rehearsals and then the recording. We shared food and drink and sang with gusto. Finally, here in Exeter in 2018 when Songs of Praise came to St David's church. I was away for the singing recording, but I was part of the team filling nutritional packs of food – and we did get to meet Katherine Jenkins. It was a lovely programme and I am proud to have been part of it.

Long live Songs of Praise!



Charlotte Townsend 23 November 2020

St. David's to the Rescue

In 2008, when I left Walsall for Exeter, the second thing on my "Would like to have list" (the first thing was an easy-to-run flat, with friendly neighbours) was a nearby church like the one I had left. Montpelier Court provides comfort and lots of friends, and St. David's has been a good substitute for St. Paul's at the Crossing.

St. Paul's looks like St. David's on the outside but has been changed on the inside. The ground floor has retained its small chapel, but has shops too. A lift or stairs leads to a cafe, toilets and rooms for hire. The upper Room has a kitchen, but, more importantly, space for worship, with moveable seats, so that it is used for social occasions. They have many activities – theatre, study groups, Sunday lunches and more. The vicar was Pete Wilcox, who is now Bishop of Sheffield. His wife, Catherine, is a popular author. I have read in our magazine that Richard Barnes enjoys her books. I digress. St David's welcomed me warmly and I have made friends who have been a great help especially during the present pandemic. I want to thank them all. When the church closed I know I wasn't alone in missing the coming together on Sundays where we receive communion and uplifting spiritual encouragement. As I don't have the internet, I couldn't join in any of the activities online. Clive and Sue Wilson printed out services and news, and David Cannon printed out the magazine, while Richard brought Traidcraft and a pleasant chat; on Sundays, Jenny Baker sent lovely postcards of her cats, with loving messages, and others rang me.

When the church re-opened, I was disappointed that I couldn't make the short journey. During the last few months, Father Time has caught up with me, and my mobility and strength have deteriorated somewhat. A spell in hospital and several falls didn't help. However, St. David's came to the rescue. Sue asked Glynis for use of the church wheelchair. This was offered. However St. David's worshipers from Montpelier Court came to the rescue. Margaret Roberts asked Margaret Grimsey for the use of Ben's wheelchair. Permission was very generously given. Hilary Elliott collects it from the Refuse room. Then she collects me. She wheels me to the outside door where Clive or Alan Baker wheel me up the very uneven, steep path. They're much more skilled now, as we nearly had spills once or twice. So, I would like to thank everyone who has shown Christianity working. Our faith

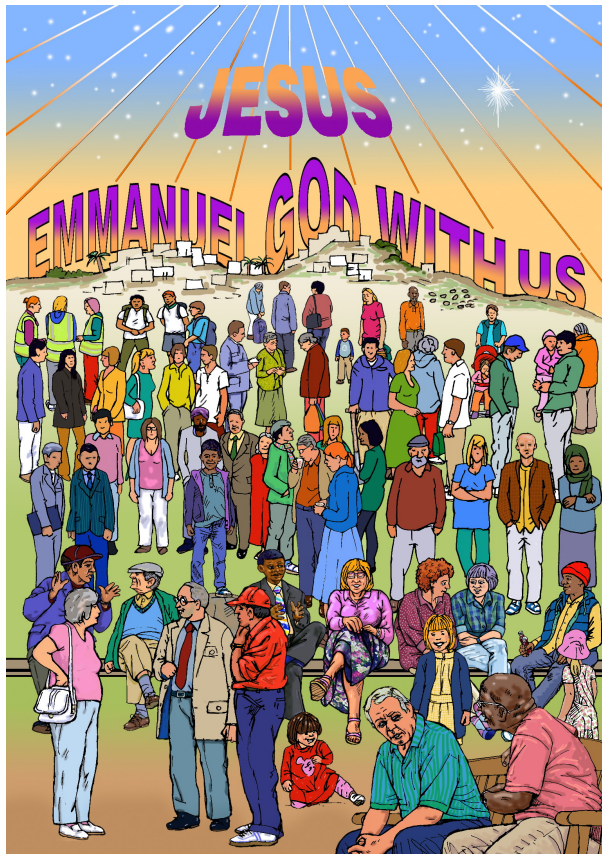
is our support and enables us to go above and beyond the call of duty. Reaching out to all the people who need help. Sadly numbers have increased. Many are living by Christian ethics but don't realise it. Thank you again to everyone who has given me strength to carry on.

Happy Christmas and Healthy 2021.



Eileen Jarman

18/10/2020



Pychester Lockdown – Chapter 5

An affectionate satire on a fictional diocese.

It's mid-October at St Pythagoras & All Angles on the hill above the River Pyke. This had been the site of Pychester's earliest Roman Camp, something the neo-Gothic Church there continues to this day.

Fr Basil and Curate Lee are enjoying the new normal, readying Vestments for St Luke's Sunday. Quite a polymath, Luke, the blessed physician, traveller with Paul, writer and evangelist, by tradition a painter too. Plenty for young Lee to preach about, and pray about in these Coronatide times. For progress with research & testing of vaccines, for those whose illnesses or needs have been leapfrogged by 'the Virus'.

Congregation & clergy have adapted to the Covid-secure Mass – the masked Liturgy, sanitised, distanced but real presence of the Sacrament after months of fasting.

Plans are in hand for an All Souls' Requiem, still just a Choir quartet, but a few movements from the Faure to leaven the Plainsong.

Hand sanitisers patrol like mini-Daleks in church, shop & pu to exterminate the Virus, but by early November the writing is on the wall. Church closed except for Private Prayer. Our Bishops are still doing 'Strictly' or 'Dancing on Ice' – spinning on a sixpence with a fixed smile to face in the opposite direction again and say it is a wonderful opportunity...

March – Churches closed, clergy banished to kitchens & studies, a chance to 'Do Church Differently'.

July – Churches can re-open, Covid-secure worship in our wonderful sacred spaces – 'Hybrid Church, inside & online'.

November – Churches re-closed, except for Private Prayer, so give thanks for small mercies. 'Doing Church the Same, Digitally', and if we're honest that's what people really want.

LockDown 2 - Here we go again! Private Prayers welcome, but many are modern day John Kebles, multi-tasking their private prayers alongside the trivial round and common task, to furnish all we need to ask, in the home, the street, the essential Waitrose shop, as well as in Church.

It's the minor ministries who are locked out again, sacristans & servers,

sidespeople & welcomers, flower arrangers & refreshers - no Faux-Bourbons for choristers, no tea-lubricated pastoral conversations.

But it's 'Be Kind' month, so we're all pulling together, and the Big Three, Canterbury, York & London realise this time that the Sacraments are important to many Christians, and some need a time of Lament before adapting to the new, new normal.

As a distraction, News Media give us saturation coverage of the US Presidential Election – and it's a really great election with so many votes that both candidates clearly won, if you only count their ballots.

In Bishop Ric's kitchen, he catches the end of a BBC Interview with a young intelligent Republican. 'So if Biden wins, you would accept him as your President?'

'Of course. Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's.'

'Thank you. Always good to end an interview with a classical quote.'

TheBBC wins another Award for Religious Illiteracy. What would Lord Reith think?

Another fortnight, another game of CofE leapfrog. Never mind 25 years of the Disability Discrimination Act, they're still at the back of the queue behind the neurodiverse, BAME, gays, women.

LGBT+ have their moment in the limelight as LLF comes out. Initial thoughts on LLF – it stands for Living in Love & Faith. See Jonathan Draper's excellent Summary in this Magazine. See also:-

Church Times – it's soft, strong and very long (I may have misquoted). And at 450 pages plus indices, it is.

LGBT+ activists – ignored and disappointed yet again - long grass.

Evangelicals – will 'engage' and 'contend' for the traditional position.

So the balance is probably about right.

Fr Basil's metaphor for LLF is a visit to a National Trust Garden; it marvels at God's beauty in nature, forgetting the design & maintenance by gardeners over many decades, studiously ignoring the naked statues that adorn the scene, and actually most people are already in the Tea Room.

I really did so just want to Be Kind to Evangelicals this Chapter; some of my

best friends are Evangelicals.

But just a week after LLF, the Church of England Evangelical Council 'engaged & contended' with a slick & divisive 30 minute video 'in response to LLF', clearly months in the making.

As Jeanette Winterson might have said - Evangelicals are not the only Christians, and Conservative Evangelicals are certainly not.

What Evangelicals are good at is applying their resources quickly and effectively. Thus they are running an online Pychester Carol Service on the weekend of 5th & 6th December. 'Glory Streams' will feature the obligatory worship band, but also the Cathedral Choristers, the University Gospel Choir and the all girl folk trio Willowherb.

As Advent draws nearer, Bishop Ric wonders whether he will need to use Deliveroo Deacons for Christmas Communion. People across Pychester Diocese wonder, will Midnight Mass be in Church or on YuleTube.

Ding! Dong! or Zoom! Zoom! Merrily on high.

Adam lay ybounden,... Two thousand millimetres thought he not too long.

Hark? Un-mute the Herald Angels.

Silent Night. Holy Night. Glories live-stream from Heaven afar.

O Zoom! All ye faithful.



Richard Barnes – 22/11/20.

"I am looking for a Christmas Card that contains inclusive language, and yet retains the richness of 16th century English and is overtly Christian whilst being sensitive to the multi-faith patterns of our day ... any suggestions?"





THE ADVENT EXPERIENCE:

Your space for peace, questions and growth

Sundays at 4pm
29th November to 20th December

**On Zoom or at
St. David's Church, EX4 4HR
(near Exeter College)**

Contact Ash on 07855 305519
Or see [Facebook.com/stdavidschurchexeter](https://www.facebook.com/stdavidschurchexeter) or
[Twitter.com/StDavids_Exeter](https://twitter.com/StDavids_Exeter) for more info

YOU ARE INVITED TO WATCH

SOUTH WEST CAROLS

THE BIGGEST FESTIVE CAROLS & NATIVITY
EVENT IN THE SOUTH WEST

LIVE ONLINE AT WWW.SOUTHWESTCAROLS.COM

5TH & 6TH DECEMBER, 7PM





2021 Calendar

A Celebration of Paintings from our 'My Outdoors' 2020 Art Competition for Devon Primary School Children



Printed on environmentally friendly paper

The Devon Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England CIO
A charitable incorporated organisation with registered charity number 1155208

the
countryside
charity



The Voice for Devon's Countryside

**Devon CPRE calendar featuring children's
Lockdown artwork raises funds to protect Devon's
countryside**

Vibrant paintings of the countryside created by Devon's primary school children during this year's first Lockdown have provided the artwork for a new calendar produced by local countryside charity Devon CPRE.

Proceeds from the calendar will be used to fund the charity's vital campaign work to safeguard Devon's precious landscapes and green spaces for future generations.

Devon CPRE's 2020 'My Outdoors' Art Competition was a big hit with youngsters during this year's spring Lockdown, with more entries than ever before. Primary school pupils from across the county rose to the challenge of creating colourful images in celebration of Devon's glorious countryside, even though many children were unable to experience the Great Outdoors at the time because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Devon CPRE Director Penny Mills says, "When we saw all the wonderful entries, we decided a calendar for 2021 would be the ideal way to showcase the children's pictures whilst raising money for our campaign work. As you'd expect, the calendar is printed on environmentally friendly paper and includes the winning entries as well as some highly commended ones. It's an ideal small gift to pop in the post for Christmas!"

The competition asked children to depict 'My Outdoors' in any medium of their choice.

- St Peter's Prep School at Lympstone near Exmouth won Best Overall School.



- The individual winner in Key Stage 1 was six-year-old **Betsy from St Peter's Prep School, Lympstone, Exmouth** for her seaside painting.
- The joint winners in Key Stage 2 were 11-year-old **Graciella from Pilton Bluecoat Academy, Barnstaple** for her watercolour of Mannings Pit in North Devon and 10-year-old **Thomasin from St Peter's Prep School, Lympstone** who painted Bowerman's Nose on Dartmoor.

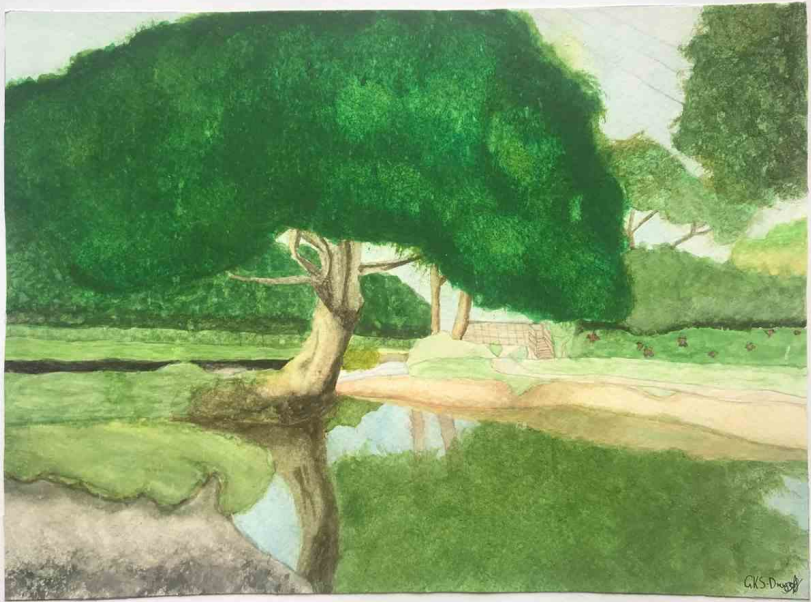
The A4-size calendar costs just £7 including post & packaging. Copies are available to buy from www.devoncpre.org.uk or by calling 01392 966737.

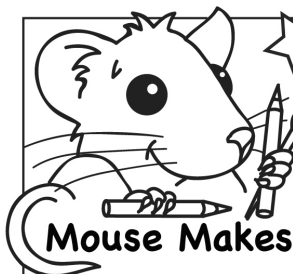
Images & photos supplied by Devon CPRE

About Devon CPRE

Devon CPRE is the new name of the Devon branch of the countryside charity CPRE, formerly known as CPRE Devon. The local charity is the go-to organisation campaigning to protect Devon's precious countryside, green spaces and unique landscapes for the benefit of all. Part of the national CPRE network, it is, however, a separate body. Devon CPRE's new name and logo place greater emphasis on the importance of its work within the county, distinct from the more generic role of the national body.

www.cpredevon.org.uk





"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom
God is pleased".*

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!

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



A picture to colour
for Christmas. Colour in
one star each day as you
count down to Christmas!

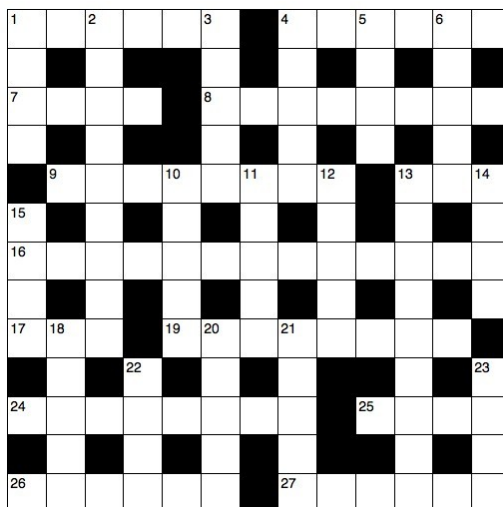
Smilelines

Children's Christmas Carols

We three kings of porridge and tar
On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me
Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire.
He's makin a list, chicken and rice.
Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.
With the jelly toast proclaim
Olive, the other reindeer
Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say
Sleep in heavenly peas.
In the meadow we can build a snowman, then pretend that he is sparse
and brown
O come, froggy faithful

Miscellaneous observations during the Christmas season...

Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.
Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.
People say it's the thought that counts, not the gift, but couldn't people think a little bigger?
Christmas is the season when your neighbour keeps you awake playing 'Silent Night'.
You might as well do your Christmas hinting early this year.
Father to three-year old: "No, a reindeer is not a horse with TV antenna."
Every year, Christmas becomes less a birthday and more a Clearance Sale.
Christmas is in my heart 12 months a year, and thanks to credit cards, it's on my Visa card statement 12 months a year as well.
Some of these new toys are so creative and inventive. This year they have a Neurotic Doll. It's wound up already.
Christmas is a time when people get emotional over family ties, particularly if they have to wear one.



Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

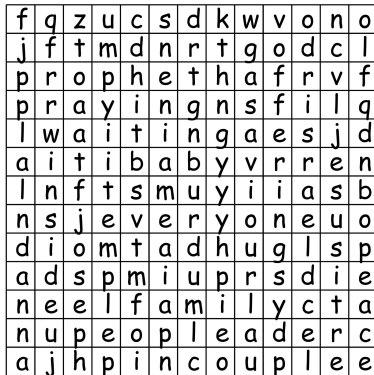
Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

Sudoku - Medium

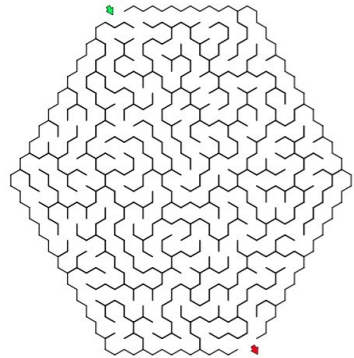
6	1			7				
					4	5		2
				8				3
	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

Word search



Temple	baby	Anna	family
praised	offerings	prophet	lifetime
peace	inside	couple	Mary
Jesus	everyone	God	praying
Anna	people	Joseph	waiting
Israel	Saviour	leader	world

Maze



Days of Note - December

4th 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.

6th December: What's in a (Christmas) Name?

What do your family call him, that cheerful old man in a red robe and floppy hat who pops up everywhere at Christmas? Sometimes he's Father Christmas, sometimes Santa Claus, and in parts of Europe he's Saint Nicholas. That's his real name, abbreviated to 'Santa Claus' by Brits and Americans who don't like to follow the Europeans, and then turned into a more homely, cuddly kind of name for the children. Whatever he's called, his function is the same – delivering presents to children at Christmas.

The first St Nicholas was bishop of Myra, in the country we now call Turkey, in the fourth century. He was known as the friend of the poor, and especially poor or abused children. At (or just before) Christmas he went around handing out presents to them, as well as rescuing some from dreadful circumstances. The red robe our modern Santa Claus wears may be a vague representation of a bishop's garment, and the floppy hat is his mitre!

The original good bishop from 1600 years ago is remembered by the Church on 6th December, and the lucky children in Belgium and the Netherlands get their presents then.

17th December: Eglantyne Jebb – founder of 'Save the Children'

Here is a modern-day saint whose compassion and determination has saved literally millions of lives.

Eglantyne did not begin as an obvious 'mover and shaker' of people. Born in Shropshire in 1876, she grew up in Ellesmere, studied history at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford, taught at Marlborough, and then resigned as she was not



physically robust.

Eglantyne moved to live with her mother in Cambridge, and it would have been so easy to settle for a life of peaceful obscurity. But she was a Christian, and at Oxford she had developed a passion for social concerns, so this compassion now drove her to take action.

She began in 1906 by publishing research on the poverty she'd found in Cambridge.

Then in 1912 the Balkan Wars broke out, and Eglantyne left Cambridge for Macedonia. Her months among the refugees led her to decide that long-term constructive aid was more effective than short-term handouts.

The First World War left Eglantyne horrified by the prolonged Allied blockade on Germany and Austria-Hungary, which even after Armistice meant starvation for millions of civilians, especially children.

And so in 1919 Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy Buxton helped found the 'Fight the Famine' Council, which wanted to end the blockade and establish a League of Nations.

One day during a rally in Trafalgar Square, Eglantyne was arrested for distributing a leaflet showing starving children which read: "Our blockade has caused this – millions of children are starving to death."

She ended up in court and was fined, but the judge was so impressed with Eglantyne's commitment to children that he himself paid her fine. His money became the first donation to Save the Children, the new charity just set up by Eglantyne and Dorothy.

Save the Children was officially launched at the Albert Hall in May 1919, with the aim of helping the starving civilians of central Europe. It was a success, raising £400,000 in that first year alone.

When in the autumn of 1921 Russia was facing famine, Save the Children chartered a cargo ship, the SS Torcello, to carry 600 tons of lifesaving food and medical supplies to Russia – saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

By 1922 Save the Children had become one of Britain's biggest charities. Eglantyne's Declaration of the Rights of the Child, written in 1923, was adopted by the League of Nations the following year. The present-day UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is derived from it.

But ten years of running Save the Children had sapped Eglantyne's fragile strength, and she died in Geneva in 1928, aged only 52.

25th December: Where did Christmas stockings come from?

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

25th December: Why was Jesus born in a barn?

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice – the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for His beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable?

Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a perfect picture of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth and darkness of sin. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least – instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for His unspeakable gift. No wonder the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

26th December: In praise of Good King Wenceslas

When I was a choir boy many years ago, *writes David Winter*, 'Good King Wenceslas' was a very popular carol. A man sang the King's lines, a boy

sang the Page's, and the choir filled in the narrative. It was not of course technically a Christmas carol but one for which most people know as 'Boxing Day' – the 'Feast of Stephen' the first Christian martyr.

But you don't hear Good King Wenceslas these days. It fell out of political correctness. The king was wealthy and very kindly, helped a poor man, but the last verse was the problem. It called on 'Christian men, wealth and rank possessing'. To help the poor and be blessed in doing it. All considered very patronising, class-conscious, and chauvinistic. So, it has simply disappeared.

I think that's a pity, and I also think it's a serious misunderstanding of the carol. It relates to the good deeds of a tenth century Duke of Bohemia, Wenceslas I, and concerns a king and his page, and a poor man freezing and potentially starving whom he saw from his window.

The king didn't, as he might well have done, simply order some minion to take the man some food or fuel. He decided to do it himself assisted by his young page. Together they braved the bitter wind and snow in order to take pine logs and food to this humble dwelling. That is not patronising but true Christian grace.

Yes, the last verse does express a Victorian view of characters but that's when it was written. No one should condemn the carol and its message. Who would shrink from following its example? I'm afraid texting a token ten quid to a charity does not quite qualify.

Love requires action, if we don't see that then we have missed the point. That is the message of this lovely carol.



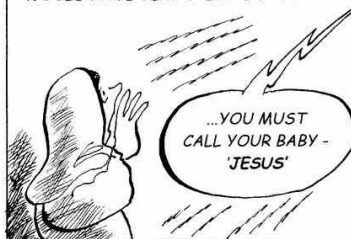
The First Christmas



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.



Puzzle solutions

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

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

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

Sunday 24th 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.