

All Saints Magazine



December 2015

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

When we think about Christmas I don't know about you but I always think about angels don't you? The Angels are there to announce, to guide, to protect and to ensure that things go to plan. For we are about to witness the coming of Christ and it is so important that God needs some helpers.

For Christ coming was God's deliberate act. It wasn't a random happening with a few stunning coincidences. It was GOD IN ACTION, awesome and powerful and definite. He sends Jesus to that place at that time and he knew what he was doing.

However he makes sure that those there are in the know. He sends his messengers, his angels to ensure that we know that this is the time and the place

First of all he announces to Zachariah the birth of John and Zachariah does not believe it at first so, I like to think the angel is a bit miffed and strikes him dumb until John is born. Zachariah definitely believes it then. He is overjoyed, John is an important child and God needs those around him to know this. He is a priest's son and therefore probably well educated in scripture and the prophecy concerning the messiah and the one who will announce him.

Then comes the big news, the birth of God, Jesus Christ. The angel Gabriel is entrusted with this one and visits Mary. Mary too knows a thing or two about the world, things like this just don't happen do they? She asks "how can this be as I am a virgin?" The Angel is right there with the answers God can do this he is after all God. Mary agrees and so she becomes the mother of God. How many of us would have been so obliging? Would not have argued a bit more? Mary is sorted, now for the next angelic visit Joseph.

Joseph is a good man. He loves Mary, but he is also a man of the world, she can say what she likes he knows how babies are made and he knows it wasn't him, poor confused hurt Joseph.

Angels to the rescue – An Angel appears in a dream and explains the child is indeed God's son and that Mary is one very special person and the child even more so. Joseph good man that he is awakes and does the right thing. He marries Mary and he takes on her child and brings him up in his home, teaching him the faith and taking him to the synagogue as any Good Jewish father would.

After Jesus is born. God is excited and he like any father wants to share the news. In Heaven there must have been an almighty party going on angles singing, carolling galore harps pipes incense the lot!!!!. The shepherds are there in the cold watching over the sheep , it's a quiet night, as boring as any other and then a vision appears and Angel and the angel tells them some news and well the shepherds are confused and afraid , you can hear them muttering, oh really, did you see that, well I don't know- the logic of the boundaries of this world make denial an easy thing but then to reinforce the point the whole host appear singing and dancing and being truly splendid the party has broken out of heaven and onto earth- heaven breaking into reality to ensure that the shepherds know that this is true, that this is God acting that this is the messiah being born. A new baby is indeed good news for any community and this one even more so for not just those there but for the whole of humankind.

The shepherds go they find Jesus they tell all they see what they have seen and heard. About a special night when the sky lit up and they saw and heard a piece of heaven breaking into the world.

After all this you would have thought that the angels had done enough that they could put their feet up grab a mince pie and rest a bit. The kings are sorted; they have a star to bring them but no. One more angelic Job for this story and that is to warn Joseph of Herod's fear and his threat to the child. Joseph heeds the warning and takes his new family to Egypt until the danger has past.

The angels help those there at the time to understand the absolute fantastic event of God come down to earth, they help shape the people and the events, the guide, advise and protect, but they also rejoice and sing and capture for us a piece of the magic that is Christmas, a glimpse of heaven as it is in all its splendour here on earth,

And that is what we are preparing to celebrate, to stop for a moment, and let heaven break into our world, to step away from our everyday cares and concerns for just a moment and to be touched by the awe and wonder, to pause and give thanks to wish for peace and truly believe it is a possibility, and remember God is with us in this glimpse of his glory AMEN

God Bless

Annette

If your face wants to smile, let it;
If it doesn't, make it.



Stories behind the Carols

Silent Night.

On Christmas Eve in 1818, Joseph Mohr, a Roman Catholic curate of Oberndorf Village near Salzburg was in despair since he had chewed the mechanism of the church organ. Needing something for the congregation to sing at Midnight Mass Mohr wrote these simple verses and a musician friend Franz Gruber fitted the words to a gentle lullaby sung to a guitar. Silent Night has since become one of the most famous carols in the world translated into more than 200 languages and sung across the trenches in the Christmas truces during the First World War.

O little town of Bethlehem.

On Christmas Eve 1865, an American Episcopalian priest Philips Brooks rode alone from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, determined to reach the Church of the Nativity for the midnight service. He arrived in time and was so moved by his experience that two years later back home in Philadelphia he was inspired to write this touching carol for the children at his Sunday school. Brooks' carol was an instant success in America, but only became popular in England at the start of the 20th Century, when Ralph Vaughan Williams and Percy Dearmer published it in *The English Hymnal* sung to the traditional tune Forest Green.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.

Written in 1739 by Charles Wesley, the brother of John Wesley, the founding father of Methodism, this carol's original text was changed in 1753 for theological reasons that remain unclear. Altered by George Whitfield, the Wesleys' rival, to its familiar form, many clergy lamented the changes but congregations and carol singers welcomed Whitfield's revision, set to a tune adapted by WH Cummings from the second movement of an otherwise forgotten cantata by Felix Mendelssohn composed in celebration of the quarter-centenary of Gutenberg's invention of movable type.

Good King Wenceslas.

A carol not for Christmas but Boxing Day, to celebrate "the feast of Stephen", the first Christian martyr. Wenceslas was a 10th-century Roman Catholic Duke of Bohemia, also known as Vaclav the Good. Murdered by his brother Boleslaw the Bad, he is buried in a cathedral he built himself, St Vitus' in Prague and is commemorated today as the patron saint of the Czech Republic.

Although Vaclav-Wenceslas was known for his benevolence, the story in the carol is without foundation in fact, as the text was the work of J M Neale the Victorian hymn writer, and first published in 1853. Neale also wrote '*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*' and '*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*'. It does however reflect a tradition of charitable giving on Boxing Day. The tune selected by Neale comes from a collection '*Piae Cantiones*' published in Finland in 1582.

The Holly and the Ivy.

One of the most mysterious of all carols, rich in symbolism, the Druids regarded the Holly as sacred, associating it with the winter solstice; and for the Celts, Ivy represented the binding tendrils of friendship. It may be that some verses may have been lost as after the first line the carols focus is on the holly and there is no further mention of the ivy. Cecil Sharp found the tune in 1909 but the text has not been traced further back than 1710. Several other more obscure carols use holly and ivy imagery. One of them is found in a Tudor collection, set to a tune attributed to Henry VIII: "*Green grow'th the holly
So doth the ivy?*"

*Though winter blasts blow ne'er so high
Green grow'th the holly."*

Away in a Manger.

An anonymous carol first printed in 1885 in the USA and with a third verse written by John T Mcfarland (1851-1913) it is sung to the tune Cradle Song by William James Kirkpatrick. Its imagery remains a fundamental feature of childhoods Christmas in the Nativity acted movingly by little nursery and pre-school children.

Mistletoe.

Kissing under the mistletoe seems to be entirely a British custom, and no-one seems quite sure how it originated.

Christine Hole, a folklore expert, suggests that it may be due to the fact that till at least the 17th century, kissing was a very common form of greeting in this country. Erasmus wrote "Wherever you go, everyone welcomes you with a kiss, the same on bidding farewell . . . kisses, kisses everywhere."

Mistletoe has long been regarded as the plant of peace. Traditionally, if enemies met under a tree on which mistletoe was growing they were expected to make up their quarrel there and then.

During the Middle Ages, there was a custom in York Minster of laying a branch of mistletoe on the high altar and leaving it there for the Twelve Days of Christmas. While it remained, a universal peace and pardon was proclaimed at the city gates.

No doubt we shall enjoy the traditional custom of kissing under the mistletoe, but don't let us forget the symbolism of the mistletoe as the emblem of peace and love—the true marks of the Christmas season.

Smile Lines.

Definitions.

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation range.

RESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at a church service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JONAH: The original 'Jaws' story

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

How many church members does it take to change a light bulb?

What do you mean CHANGE?? That light bulb was given in memory of my Grandmother! My father installed it with his bare hands! He donated his time AND the use of his ladder to do it too! My family's been members of this church for four generations! And if you think you're going to come in here and make a bunch of changes all of a sudden, Vicar, you've got another think coming!



The Colours of Christmas



The colours of Christmas are bright and they're true
they tell of God's great love for me and for you,



Blue is the sky where the angels appeared
as they sang "*Peace on earth*" to the shepherds who
feared,



Silver is for the bright Christmas star
which guided the wise men from countries afar,



Gold tells of their gifts for the Baby that day
who they found in a manger asleep on the hay,



Purple for suffering and death on a hill,

Red is the blood which Jesus did spill.



Green shows that Jesus arose from the dead
And saved us and freed us, just as He said.

Diary Dates for December 2015

Thursday 3rd	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 5th	10.00 -12.00	Parish Office
Sunday 6th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 9th	9.30 -12.00	Dulverton rehearsal
	10.30 -12.00	Fair trade café
Thursday 10th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Monday 14th	9.30 -12.00	Dulverton Service
	12.00 – 4.00	Wyborne rehearsal
Tuesday 15th	1.30 pm	Wyborne School Service
Wednesday 16th	9.00 -12.00	St Olave's School rehearsal
Thursday 17th	9.00 -10.45	St Olave's School rehearsal
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
	7.00 pm	St Olave's Christmas Service
Sunday 20th Service	9.30 am	Holy Communion Quiet
	11.00 am	Nativity Service
	6.00 pm	CTNE Carol Service
Thursday 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE	
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	Crib Service
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Friday 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	10.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday 27th	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by mince pies & sherry at the vicarage
Thursday 31st	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes.

Parish Pump

100 Club

The 100 Club prize in November was won by Pam Piper.

Baptisms

15th November, Ayda Avery Harris.

21st November, Lilah Grace Gatter.

Funerals.

10th November, Brian Everness

Thanks

Thanks to all who contributed to the smooth running of Brian Everness' funeral. A lot of you helped in so many ways and this was appreciated by the family and by myself.

Thank you

Thanks to all who brought food for our All Saints day lunch and to those who always organise our food and fill in any gaps.

And thank you too, to all of you who contributed to our Remembrance service. All our uniformed organisations were represented and it was a solemn remembering as well as being uplifting, thank you.

Future Events

24th January—CTNE Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Joint Service at Methodists
10.30 am

Brian Everness.

Brian was born in Hackney on 24th November 1930, the first child of Gordon and Elsie Everness, with his sister Jill following five years later. His early years were significantly affected by the Second World War. He had to be evacuated; his father was then badly injured in military action in Africa and never recovered the proper use of his legs.

Brian flourished at Wilson's Grammar School both in the classroom and on the sports field and made many lifetime friends. Around Horsham he developed the love of cycling that stayed with him all his life—how many other men in their mid-eighties could be seen pedalling their way up Green Lane?

On leaving school, Brian joined the Estate Duty Office of the Inland Revenue where he spent his whole working life, in recognition of which he was awarded the Imperial Service Order. He also started a law degree at King's College London, which, after a brief interruption for his National Service in the Army, he completed shortly before his wedding to Pat on 14th August 1954. It is amazing that he managed to find the time to develop their relationship, but 'love finds a way' and so a wonderful marriage of almost 60 years began. Inevitably, Brian greatly missed Pat after she died unexpectedly in 2013.

Pat and Brian moved to New Eltham in 1957 and had three children—Penny, Graham and Kate. Brian threw himself into church and community life. At St Aiden's Church on the Edgbury Estate, he led 'Celts' (Sunday School), was churchwarden and for about ten years was a Assistant Scout Leader (rejoicing under the nickname of "Squirrel"). But there was still always time for his family, whether it be helping with homework of something more active such as walking with the children in Petts Wood (accompanied by devoted dog Candy) or taking them swimming,

On retirement in 1990 and the end of all that tiresome commuting, Brian was able to give more time to tending his garden and to indulging his 'creative writing' skills—penning Poems (both funny and serious) and beautifully-crafted Christmas letters. He began to have grandchildren to play with (that was fun!) and spent increasing time and effort caring for his elderly mother, also developing a much-valued role as a good neighbour running errands for and visiting the sick or lonely. He retained his thirst for learning, embarking on a series of courses encompassing theology, art appreciation and Spanish. He and Pat enjoyed taking part in several 'pilgrimage' trips to the holy Land, Oberammergau and other places, all well-documented in diaries and photos. Having throughout his life listened avidly to classical music, he now began to 'make' it as he joined the church choir, thereby also adding to the long list of areas in which he has served All Saints' over the years since St. Aiden's closed in 1974. And to replace the squash and football of his younger years he took up table tennis, a source of great new friendship as well as of exercise right up until this death on 29th October. We give thanks to God for a Christian life that was very much 'lived to the full'.

3rd New Eltham Guides trip to Croatia.

After all our hard work fundraising for this trip and the generosity of people at All Saints Church, we set off to Heathrow at 4:30 am Friday 31st July to catch our flight to Zagreb with some very excited girls (and leaders)! Everything went to plan the coach met us at Zagreb and took us to Pula where we were staying. We visited the beach that night which was only 5 minute walk from where we were staying.



We didn't have to rush on our first morning so we had a leisurely breakfast and went to the beach for an hour. Came back for lunch and then walked into Pula for a guided tour of the town and Amphitheatre. I think we all felt some of the Gladiators pain in the amphitheatre as Croatia was undergoing a heatwave while we were there. After the tour we had an ice cream and then had an hour to do some shopping.

The next morning was a visit to a village called Fanzana we were all up ready for our coach at 8 am. However, no coach arrived, we rang our rep who informed us the coach company had got the times wrong and was turning up at 9:30. When we eventually arrived in Fanzana we spent the morning on the beach playing on a water assault course in the sea. After lunch and before catching our boat to Brijuni National Park we had another ice cream. In the National Park, there was a museum showing the life of Tito, we then had a train ride round the Island where we saw lots of animals particularly a goat who like to stand at the bar and be fed.

On Monday we went out on a boat and we saw some Dolphins, the coast of Croatia is very picturesque. We moored up in a lovely bay and the owners of the boat barbequed us some fish and burgers for our lunch. While it was cooking we could all jump off the boat into the sea or sunbathe if you preferred. When we got back to Rovinji we were able to do some more shopping and had more Ice cream. Croatian Ice Cream is delicious, a must to try if you visit the country.

Our next outing was a coach trip visiting Motovun a Medieval Village at the top of a hill, Baredine caves and a town called Porec, we had our daily ice cream before getting back on the coach.



Wednesday was a day trip to Venice, we caught a catamaran from Pula to Venice, this was a 3 hour trip, then we caught a water shuttle bus to St. Mark's Square and went on a Gondola. It was very hot and walking around the streets of Venice was tiring, we chose to have a panoramic boat trip around Venice before returning back to Pula on the catamaran. This was a long day we left at 7am and got back at 9 pm. We had Pizza's ordered for our tea that night much to the delight of the "cooks" on the trip.

Thursday was an activity day where the group was split into two. In the morning one group kayaked to a beautiful bay near Premantura and half the group cycled there. We did some snorkelling and rested at a Safari bar then swapped with the other group Kayaking back and one group cycling back.



Friday we spent at the beach relaxing and went to Pula town in the evening. Pula is a very different town in the evening. There is a light show and a band playing in the Forum square. The girls loved this as they danced to the music. They were enjoying themselves so much we decided to let them stay for another half hour.

Then came the day to pack and clean our accommodation. We did this in the morning so we could have one last visit to the beach. Then an early night ready to be picked up at 6:30 the next morning. It was one of the girls sixteenth birthday the day we were going home, we bought her a cup cake at the airport and put a candle in it and sang her happy birthday, then once we were all on the plane everyone sang her happy birthday again.

We arrived back at Heathrow at 14:15 we some very tired and happy girls.
THANK YOU to all those who supported us.

Rosemary Thomas

Dusk In Autumn

Enjoying the flame-streaked darkening sky,
I wander up the shadowy lane;
Sweet evening birdsong fills the air -
Another day is on the wane.
The air is sharp with autumn chill,
The silhouetted tree quite bare
Their leaves in flurries at my feet
All crunchy in the frosty air.
An acrid bonfire smell pervades
The senses, woodsmoke drifts around,
A hunting owl calls from the woods,
Its cry a lonely eerie sound.
I lean upon a frost-rimed gate
And catch a fox's scent of musk;
To me it's such a magic place -
A country lane in autumn dusk!

Eileen Hay.

From the Archives – snippets from the December magazine of 1935, price twopence

CHRISTMAS CRIB

We are purchasing new figures for the Crib at a cost of £9. The children already have £5 in hand towards this and subscriptions towards the balance will be welcomed. The Crib will be arranged in the Children's Corner. We have only been able to get the three chief figures this year, i.e., the Baby Christ, the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. Our hope is to add the other figures—the Wise Men, the ox and the ass, etc. —as we can afford to buy them. Perhaps someone would like to give one or more of them.

A CHRISTMAS TREE

A large Christmas Tree to be placed in the Children's Corner will be a special feature of our Christmas decorations. It is intended that the tree shall be dressed with toys, etc., which will be sent to one of the distressed areas. It is hoped to include gifts of children's clothing books and shoes, etc. Many children have toys in good condition that they have finished with which would give much joy and happiness to the less fortunate children of some distressed areas. Such toys and clothing etc., that are still useful will be welcome and may be brought to Church on Tuesday, December 24th, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Children may bring their gifts to the Children's Service on Sunday, December 22nd, at 3 p.m. Please look out useful and serviceable toys and clothing and help us to have a Christmas Tree well stocked with good things that will bring joy and cheer to a few of those in need. Would someone like to pay for the tree?

The "Church Logbook" for December 1975 records:

P.C.C. pledged to pay £2,164 extra to the present contribution of £4,000 to the Diocese during 1976.

Historical Note: At this time the Children's Corner was situated where we now have the stewards table, to the left as you enter the church.

We hope to provide "snippets" from the relevant month of 80 and 40 years ago.