



All Saints Magazine



December 2016

Free

Letter from our Vicar

Dear Friends

December is a month of anticipation for the coming of Christ, for the absolute wonderful gift that is to us all. But in this season of preparation we must remember that it's not all joy. For us here in the vicarage it has mixed feelings this year after the loss of my mother. She will be sorely missed and we have all to make an adjustment, my brother will be with us for Christmas and new year and that's new for us and for him. The boys as ever are excited and cannot wait for Christmas to come, Matthew asking every day whether its Christmas Eve yet and Richard counting down the days already. Our copy of the Argos catalogue has several hopeful black ticks in the toy section. We've yet to think about food and drink but our budget will be stretched to the limit as we plan to celebrate.

Whether you are planning a huge affair or a simpler one, Christ's birth is something that changes our world for the better.

As Christ's disciples we are called to be his light in the world, to care for those in need and to think of others before ourselves.

There are thousands of ways we can do this in our day to day lives and Christmas is often a time when more people think of those in need than at other times of the year.

In our modern world where there is so much wealth and yet it is so unevenly distributed, charities need our support more than ever.

When you are doing your Christmas shopping why not buy something extra for the foodbank, or an extra toy for the Salvation Army or give to 'Shelter' or 'Crisis' to give someone the benefit of a Christmas dinner, a medical check or a bed for the night.

Wherever you can help then please do so.

Thank you.

AMEN

Annette

Christmas Poems from Dulverton School

Midnight in Bethlehem Zero AD
Two humble people in difficulty
Out on the street Joseph, Donkey and Wife
As they Stumble upon a problem in life,
With that kind of problem that won't go away
They finally find a stable in an inn,
But do not know what joy this boy will bring
So from this day we celebrate Jesus Birthday on Christmas Day

As meek Mary was looking high
A jubilant angel flew from the sky
Wondrous news Mary was to have a baby boy
The moment she heard she was filled with joy
They travelled on a donkey to Bethlehem
The three wise men brought gifts for them
Navigating following a bright star
Which led them to afar
Shepherds, angels and the three wise men gathered around
The baby lord awoke not making a sound
Gold, myrrh frankincense and more
Were the presents that baby Jesus adored

Once a woman living on earth
Sitting in a stable to a child gave birth
The beautiful baby the God of them all
Sitting in straw, was placed in stall
Far over the land, far over the sea
The shepherds of Bethlehem watching their sheep
So sudden, so quick, an angel came down
Now to their wonder she gave them a crown
"Shepherds listen" sang the angels on high
The saviour of God has now arrived

Christmas Poems from Dulverton School (continued)

On a magical night in Bethlehem
With a star to guide the way
The new born king lay asleep
Wrapped in bundles of hay

Virgin mother Mary
Filled with pride and joy
Hugged her husband Joseph
As they gazed at the beautiful boy

The angels sang
The church bells rang
The world was full of delight
And we celebrate our saviours birth
On the wonderful Christmas night

We cheer for shepherds that joined the birth
Told from the angel above
We cheer for our king Jesus
Who fills us with warmth and love

We cheer for the Christmas spirit
That is a gift to everyone
We for Christmas happiness
And we cheer for Christmas fun

Notes from the PCC meeting

Family Service

It's been two years now since we experimented with the family service by splitting the service on the third Sunday of the month into two separate services. The rationale for this was twofold; the earlier "quiet" service was to enable the parishioners who wanted to be able to hear the prayers, readings and sermon to be able to do so, once a month, without distraction; the later "noisy" service was to be able to specifically engage with the younger parishioners and tailor the service more to their needs.

Initially the experiment worked well, but running two half-full services does not generate the same atmosphere of one full service, and of late the attendance at the "noisy" service has declined. Maybe it's because the youngsters are getting older; maybe the change in service times is confusing; or perhaps having the tea and biscuits between services is not so popular.

However, All Saints has always prided itself as a welcoming and inclusive church and thus the PCC has decided, that with a little more effort and consideration, the objectives of encouraging the youngsters during noisy parts of the service whilst observing some quiet and respect during the peaceful parts of the service, the two separate services should be discontinued, to be replaced by one happy family service on the third Sunday at 10.00 am.

This is to start in January, as the Nativity Service in December is already arranged. January also sees a change in our Sunday School leaders, so our thanks go to Kate and Emma for all their hard work with the children and best wishes for those taking over. Please see the Vicar or Rita for details.

Many things to many people,
Gifts and parties, candle glow,
Hymns for carols, prayers for healing,
Holly berries, mistletoe.
Times of sadness, lonely feelings,
Memories to fill the nights,
Children's faces, bright eyes shining,
Santa's grotto, fairy lights.

Stories of the Christmas angel,
One enduring, guiding star,
Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Wise men travelling afar.
Christmas has another meaning.
Here and now or far away,
Hope and peace and love for sharing,
Make it Christmas every day!

Iris Hesselden

Diary Dates for December 2016

Thursday 1st	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 3rd	10.00 -12.00	Parish Office
Sunday 6th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Monday 5th	12.00 - 4.00 7.30 pm	Wyborne rehearsal Advent Study course
Tuesday 6th	1.30 pm	Wyborne Concert
Thursday 8th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Monday 12th	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Mums and Tots Carols and Mince Pies Advent Study course
Tuesday 13th	9.30 -12.00	St Olave's Rehearsal
Wednesday 14th	9.30 -12.00 10.30 -12.00 7.00 pm	St Olave's Rehearsal Fair Trade Café St Olave's Carol Service
Thursday 15th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion with Nativity CTNE Carol Service at New Eltham Methodist Church
Monday 19th	9.30 -11.30 7.30 pm	Dulverton Carol Service Advent Study course
Thursday 22nd	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 24th	4.00 pm 11.30 pm	Crib service Midnight Mass
Sunday 25th	10.00 am	Family Communion
Thursday 29th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 1st January	10.00 am	Holy Communion followed by mince pies & sherry at the vicarage

Please check the weekly news sheet for any changes

Parish Pump

Baptisms

13th November, Freddie and Annie Hill

Funerals

1st December, Patricia Burnett

100 Club

The 100 Club prize was won in October by Brenda Whyte.

Quiz Results

The October Quiz prize of £18 was won by Vera Owen, whose entry was picked 'from the hat' from the correct ones received.

Monthly Charity

This month we are raising money for "The Children's Society" Some supporters take home boxes to put spare coins in all year round, some fill the cardboard candles to bring to the Christingle Service. But if you have missed these you can still place your donations in the wall safe by the main entrance. Thank you.

Future Events

11th January 8.00 pm PCC Meeting.

22nd January 10.00 am, Churches Together in New Eltham joint service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

24th January 2.00 pm, CTNE meeting at Methodist Church.

15th March 8.00 pm PCC meeting.

23rd April, Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Remembrance Sunday

The gathering on 13th November for Remembrance Sunday was even bigger and better than last year. Joined by our friends from the Methodist Church, who supplied the improved outside amplification system, and well supported by the uniformed organisations and many parents.



The two minutes silence was well observed and in stark contrast to the loud recording of the “Last Post” and “Reveille” marking the beginning and end of the silence.

Everyone could hear the prayers and traditional readings as representatives laid their wreaths and individuals planted wooden crosses to remember family members.

Fortunately the weather stayed dry, after the rain the day before, and after the service most retired to the church hall for refreshments and to reunite with old acquaintances and hopefully to make some new ones.

Easy fundraising update

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online—especially at Christmas, not just “Black Friday”—you could be raising a FREE donation for All Saints, New Eltham.

There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, ebay, John Lewis, Tesco & Sainsburys (including grocery shopping), M&S, Thomas Cook and countless other big name stores, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to All Saints to say thank you for shopping with them. You can even access donations by buying insurance, broadband, gas & electric online.

Easyfundraising also alerts you to special offers and discount deals, so you could save money too. All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsneweltham>
2. Sign up for **FREE**, Don't forget to download the Donation Reminder on a laptop or PC so you will never forget to collect a **FREE** donation.
3. Select your store/retailer and get shopping—the stores' donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to All Saints.

Or: if you have a smart phone or tablet, you can download the **FREE** easyfundraising **app** from the App Store or Google Play Store and follow the instructions on how to sign up.

Alternatively: you can safely register debit or credit cards with easyfundraising. Visit a participating high street retailer. Make an in-store purchase and easyfundraising will do the rest. Any donations you raise are in addition to any rewards from your card provided and it won't stop you getting any cash back.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. There are no catches or hidden charges.

All Saints is really grateful for the growing number of supporters who have already signed up and for the over £95 in donations you have generated so far.

Even if you don't shop online but know of family or friends who do, please feel free to share our “cause page” (link above) with them on facebook or twitter.

Thank you for your support, every penny counts.

Smile Lines

Church Notices—do they mean that—surely not!

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mother's Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the Vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.

The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

Don't allow anxiety to kill you. Let the church help.

Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

Answers to the November Quiz sheet

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Laurel & Hardy | Stan & Oliver |
| 2. Torvill & Dean | Jane & Christopher |
| 3. Abbott & Costello | Bud & Lou |
| 4. Burke & Hare | William & William |
| 5. Hinge & Bracket | Evadne & Hilda |
| 6. Cagney & Lacey | Christine & Mary Beth |
| 7. Flanagan & Allen | Bud & Chesney |
| 8. Lerner & Loewe | Alan Jay & Fredrick |
| 9. French & Saunders | Dawn & Jennifer |
| 10. Rogers & Hammerstein | Richard & Oscar |
| 11. Armstrong & Miller | Alexander & Ben |
| 12. Morecambe & Wise | Eric & Ernie |
| 13. McPartlin & Donnelly | Ant & Dec |
| 14. Simon & Garfunkel | Paul & Art |
| 15. Orange-Nassau & Stuart | William & Mary |

From the Archives – snippets from the December magazine of 1936, price twopence.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council met on Wednesday November 4th, when discussion took place upon a letter from Mr. Ford, our architect.

As a result of the discussion the Council decided to proceed at once with the linking up of the Church and Hall heating system. The Hall will then be heated by the new boiler recently installed. The boiler cost £89 10s. And the cost of linking up the Hall and completing the work will be another £100.

As we have no money for this, we are going forward in faith the during the coming year our people will do their best to give what extra help they can.

The Council also considered repairs needed to the Vicarage roof, and agreed to ask Mr. Ford to advise. We can only say at the moment that the roof is in a bad condition and will need a considerable sum spent upon it— probably some £50.

This is another “little extra,” for which we have no funds!

A PAGEANT PLAY

The Sunday School teachers and children in this Diocese who are helping to build the new School-Church-Hall in the New Housing Area of East Wickham, are presenting a Pageant Play which tells the story of the transformation from a little Kentish village where the Canterbury Pilgrims rested, into one of the largest New Area parishes in the whole of England.

The Pageant is to be given at 8.p.m. on Wednesday to Saturday December 9th to the 12th at All Hallows' Church Hall, Guildford Street, Southwark, S.E.1. Tickets 3s 6d., 2s 6. And 1s 6d. may be obtained from the Clergy.

*The “Church Logbook” for December 1976 records:
Sale of No.1 Brownspring Drive effected, for £15,000.*

Note: No. 1 Brownspring Drive had been the vicarage for St. Aiden's Church which had closed the previous year.

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