



CREDO

60p

Volume 24 Issue 9

The Parish Magazine of Christ Church, Roath Park
Lake Road North, CARDIFF CF 23 5QN

Final edition of Credo

Thank you to the many contributors, past and present, young and old who supplied such varied articles, comments, letters, thoughts and reports since the inception of Credo in January 1994 with David Alexander as Editor and Val Goodman assisting with any typing required for hand written items – Val continued with this when required until March 2015 when Gill Barker took over this task. John Griffiths assisted David in 1997 and then took over as editor in 1998 when Crispin John and Richard Hill helped with the technology until Claire Edwards took up the challenge in February 2001 to learn on the job, when an SOS call went out in the Christmas 2000 edition “*we desperately need help from anyone familiar with computers*”.

Rewarding years with the opportunity for greater friendships across the range of all who are part of the community of Christ Church, Roath Park. Let the friendships continue. Time to conclude. We encourage our readers to support a different publication that is being considered.

Claire Edwards and John Griffiths

Credo, an excellent magazine edited by John and Claire, has always given me the opportunity to view the life of Christ Church in a broader context than the weekly newsletter.

This is the final edition of Credo but I have offered to produce 2 or 3 times a year, a different publication, **Reflexion** – *the X refers to Christ as X is the first letter of the word Christ in Greek and was used to represent Christ in the early church* – with the support of Trystan, open to all to contribute articles seeking to explore and reflect on our faith in the contemporary world as well as looking at the life of the church and community.

Watch for further details in the weekly newsletter – meantime contributions to pythagoras3@sky.com or via Trystan.

Andrew Wade



**Christ Church the Church
by the Lake**

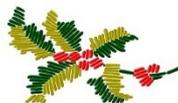
where everyone is welcome

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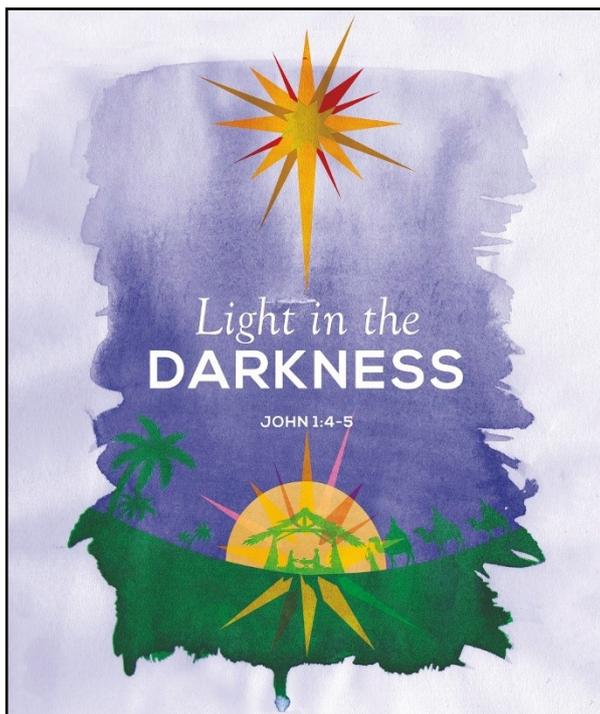
Let your friends and family
know too!

www.christchurchcardiff.co.uk

Future articles for new Publication Reflexion can be sent to
Andrew Wade at pythagoras3@sky.com or via Trystan



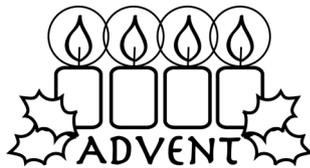
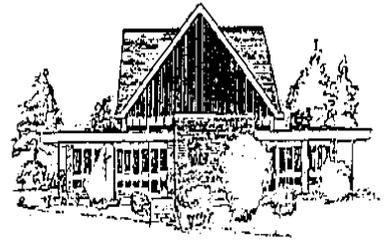
December 2017
& January 2018



Christmas at Christ Church,
Roath Park - see page 2

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◆
DECEMBER◆
2017 DIARY

- Sunday 3rd** **ADVENT SUNDAY**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE
6.00 pm Evening Worship
- Wednesday 6th** 10.00 am - 12.00 noon Church open for PRAYER
- Thursday 7th** 9.30 am Holy Eucharist (*tea & coffee to follow*)
- Saturday 9th** 10.30am –1.00 pm Messy Christmas
- Sunday 10th** **ADVENT 2**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Parish Eucharist, Funky Church & JWalkers
6.00 pm Evening Worship
- Sunday 17th** **ADVENT 3**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Parish Eucharist, Funky Church & JWalkers
6.00 pm Carol Service
- Thursday 21st** 9.30 am Holy Eucharist (*tea & coffee to follow*)
- Friday 22nd** 10.30 am - Carols at Cartref with Youth Choir
- Sunday 24th** **ADVENT 4 - CHRISTMAS EVE**
10.00 am Said Eucharist
4.00 pm **CHRISTINGLE AND NATIVITY**



11.00 pm Midnight Mass



Monday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am Christmas Communion



- Sunday 31st** **SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Parish Eucharist
6.00 pm *No Evening Service*



Prayers for Healing 10.00 am every Wednesday in Church
The meetings involve prayers for individuals and for our local community - all are welcome

Other services & activities as announced in the newsletter

Thought for the Month

Teach me, my God and King,
 In all things Thee to see,
 And what I do in anything
 To do it as for Thee.

A man that looks on glass,
 On it may stay his eye;
 Or if he pleaseth, though it pass,
 And then the heaven espy.

To scorn the senses' sway,
 While still to Thee I tend:
 In all I do be Thou the Way,
 In all be Thou the End.

All may of Thee partake;
 Nothing so small can be
 Which with this tincture
 'For Thy Sake'
 Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with the clause,
 Makes drudgery divine,
 Who sweeps a room,
 as for Thy laws,
 Makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
 That turneth all to gold;
 For that which God doth
 touch and own
 Cannot for less be sold.

George Herbert. 1593 – 1633





Our Vicar Trystan Writes - Farewell Credo . . .

Dear friends,

There are so many things that I feel blessed about in Christ Church over the past four years, since we arrived here at Roath Park. Church numbers have increased so much that the diocese is using us as an example of a growing church, the pastoral care team has developed wonderfully, our Sunday services are vibrant and uplifting, our outreach to children and young people is now thriving (*Funky Church, Messy Church, Chatterbox, Youth Alpha, and J-Walkers*), and our ConneXion Groups are flourishing.

We are so close to erecting our shiny new church hall, and we have had so many events that have brought us together closer as a community (*Lent talks, garden parties, film showings, parish breakfasts, open days, guest speakers, book launches, pilgrimages, and so on*). I am grateful to all of you for contributing so much to our church life – making Christ Church a church that looks outward to share God’s love, joy, and compassion with the community around our building.

The reality is, of course, that you already had some wonderful things in place when we arrived four years ago, and you were a congregation that were willing to look to the future and were eager for growth and discipleship.

Among the many things I remember thinking was special about Christ Church was your church magazine – *Credo*. I remember being given a copy of *Credo* at my interview for the position of priest-in-charge here, while being shown around the church by Linda Alexander and John Griffiths. I was immediately impressed.

I have been involved in many churches, and I also taught a module at Cardiff University where I collected dozens of church magazines from our diocese for analysis by the students. I can honestly say, and I am not exaggerating, that *Credo* is the best church magazine that I have come across in South Wales.

This is due in a large part to the editors and helpers down the years – David Alexander, Val Goodman, Gill Barker, Crispin John, Richard Hill, Claire Edwards, and John Griffiths. Thank you so much to all of them, and a special thank you to Claire Edwards and John Griffiths who have published a consistently high-quality *Credo* each month since we came here four years ago. Thank you also to those of you who have been involved in contributing articles down the years and in distributing the magazine.

It is, therefore, a sad day today as *Credo*, after 23 years of informing

and exciting our congregation, is coming to an end.

You know me well by now, and you will know that my sermons, and hopefully my life, emphasize the centrality of hope and resurrection in our faith.

So, as we look to the future, I’m immensely thankful to Andrew Wade, who will start a new magazine *Re-fleXion* in the next few months. This will be a different format to *Credo* – it will only be published two or three times a year, it will largely be articles about events at Christ Church or articles considering pressing theological or ethical issues, and will be printed out-of-house.

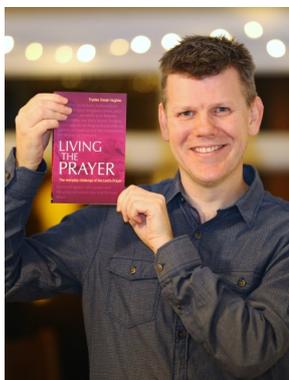
But, more than that, I want to give thanks how this little magazine has inspired and informed us down the years, bringing us hope and joy.

Something of what we will have read in its pages will still be inside of us, and, for that, we should be grateful and we should rejoice! *Credo* is leaving us, but it has left something in us.

As Winnie the Pooh puts it in A.A. Milne’s *House at Pooh Corner*, “**how lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard**”.

Yours in Christ,

Trystan



Book Launch – Living the Prayer by Trystan Owain Hughes

Thank you to all who came on Monday 27th November 2017 to the book launch of ***Living the Prayer: The Everyday Challenge of the Lord’s Prayer***.

Approximately 150 came to support the launch of my book. They were treated to wonderful musical performances of The Lord’s Prayer by Christ Church Youth Choir and by Gareth Erlandson, as well as readings from the book.

Thank you to all of you who helped set up, serve drinks and snacks, run the bookstall, and contribute to the music. I really am grateful to you all. You, as a congregation, are thanked in the book too – for supporting me through the writing of the book and for putting up with far-too-many sermons on the Lord’s Prayer as I was forming my ideas!

For those unable to attend the evening, but would like to purchase a book or two (*they make great Christmas presents!*), the special launch prices will stay until Christmas – discounted from £7.99 to £6 and reduced further to £10 for two copies. Please speak to **Claire Edwards** ced45@btinternet.com or **Haydn Hopkins**, our warden. And, finally, please do let me know what you think of the book once you have read it!

Trystan

Trystan’s books will be available for purchase in the Hall after the 10 am Sunday service from 3rd - 17th December.

Claire



From our curate Revd Jordan Advent and the Gift of Waiting



We have arrived once again at the beginning of the Church's calendar – the season of Advent. Advent is one of my favourite times of year – it's a time when the Church anticipates celebrating anew the birth of Jesus at Christmas and when we look forward to the triumphant return of Christ our King. It is a time of hope, a time of excitement, a time of anticipation, and a time of waiting.

But waiting is a funny thing.

When we wait for something, we build up our level of excitement. During the spring, we count down the days to summer holiday – we think about what we'll do and where we'll go. Similarly, by the end of summer, we look forward to autumn, to the leaves changing colours, and maybe even the first snowfall. Waiting has a way of making things special. If it was summer all the time, we'd probably get a bit bored of it. If it was winter all the time – like in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* – we would grow desperate for the snow to melt. So in Advent, the waiting makes Christmas all the more special.

But waiting can also be hard. It can be frustrating. It can be boring.

Waiting is the thing we do before the thing we really want to do.

One of the reasons we don't like to wait is because when we want something... we want it *now*. When I'm cooking a nice curry or a pot of chilli, it takes a long time to finish. But as the kitchen fills with the smell of spices and seasonings, I get hungrier and hungrier. Occasionally (or rather often), my impatience compels me to fix up a bowl before its ready. I know it will be better in an hour, but I want it *now*... and so I settle for a mediocre bowl of chilli instead of waiting for the finished product.

Another reason we don't like to wait, is because we're afraid we'll be disappointed when the thing we're waiting for finally arrives. I once heard someone refer to this as *anticapointment*... that feeling we have when we've waited a long time for something and it lets us down in the end (just think of the reaction to the *Star Wars* prequels!).

What's so great then about Advent?

If waiting can be hard, and boring, and disappointing... why is this such a joyful time of year?

To begin with, as Christians we believe that the thing we're waiting for,

the thing we're hoping for, is already bursting into the world around us. The life of Christian faith is a foretaste of the good things to come. As St Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians, we are already seated with Christ in heavenly places (2:6). The one we wait for is the one who meets us again and again in scripture, in one another, and in our own hearts and lives – comforting us, encouraging us, filling us with his love. At the Lord's Supper, we already partake of the great heavenly banquet that awaits us. The Kingdom of God that is to come has in fact drawn near.

And in Advent we know that the thing we're waiting for will never disappoint us. Faith is *'the assurance of things hoped for'* (Heb. 11:1). The follower of Christ need not fear anticapointment! God is true to his word. And so we know that when Jesus returns, everything that is broken will be fixed, every tear shall be wiped away, God will make all things new.

Advent is the gift of waiting for that blessed day.

With love and best wishes

Jordan



CHRISTMAS - THE STORY

performs for it's 8th year in Cardiff from 1st -20th December at the Tabernacle, Welsh Chapel in the Hayes, right in the heart of Cardiff shopping centre.

The 20 mins FREE performance of this wonderful story of Christmas runs every 40 mins from 10 am through the day. Many Schools arrange to visit during the weekdays between 1st-12th December.

Groups in Aberdare, Barry and Carmarthen are joined by Bridgend this year in organising similar performances all undertaken by volunteers from various churches. Geoff and Mary Payne are participating again this year while a few from our congregation have been knitting the *'bobbing robins'* which will greet visitors at the entrance to the chapel. If you are in town pop in to see a performance.

These productions (*done via large puppets*) are fully dependant on donations - any *'spare pennies'* will be appreciated from any members in our church to help fill the Box that will be available in our church porch during December. Of course donations like this are appreciated throughout the year!



CLIC Sargent 35th Christmas Celebration Concert in Cardiff Monday 11th December 7.30 pm St David's Hall

Massed Hospital Choir (*Shirley Davies, Elizabeth Burston and Adrian Wilson are members of the choir*)
Welsh Guard Brass Ensemble, Pianist, Christopher Williams, Organist, Jane Watts and Charles Williams
C in W Primary School choir from Caerleon, - tickets from St David's Hall 2029 20878444

Our Ordinands, Matthew and Gareth Write



‘So when are you going to get ordained?’

The question came like a bolt from nowhere and caught me by surprise. I had been helping a visiting priest to set up for a Eucharist service for a group of pupils in the high school I work in. I had been teaching RE at the school for around ten years by then and had been lay chaplain for around 6 years. This was only the second time that I had met this priest. She carried on, perhaps unaware of my bewilderment, *‘I can see it in you.’*

I was left reeling as I had been feeling for some time that I needed to look at what God was calling me to next, that there was more to come. I have heard it described as a feeling of ‘divine dissatisfaction’, the sense that there is more that God wants you to do, so much so that it actually becomes uncomfortable to stay where you are. A friend in church had also been praying for me and had recently said ‘Whenever I pray for you I get the sense that there is more to come.’ If you have been watching the current series of Factor you will have heard the judges talking about the singers having ‘a moment’, a performance when it was clear that they were doing the right thing, what they were meant to be doing. So the priest’s words that day felt like ‘a moment’, a stirring up that I had been seeking God for and that I couldn’t ignore. That was over two years ago and it kick-started the process where I’m now training for non-stipendiary ministry [NSM] with the Church in Wales. NSM ministers are ordained just as full time priests are and go through a very similar training process and formation. They don’t receive a stipend or financial payment for the role they play after ordination.

The call to ordained ministry was something I was aware of nearly twenty years ago while working as a youth and community worker at

St.Edmund’s Church, Crickhowell. The vicar I worked with told me that I should consider it. At my next youth work post in Aberystwyth I was part of a group led by the vicar and his wife, exploring ordination. Having worked as a church youth worker for seven years and enjoyed building teams leading youth services, doing schools work, running small groups, developing after school clubs and youth cafes, I decided it was time for a change and so trained as an RE teacher. When we left the church in Aberystwyth, the vicar reminded me of God’s call on our lives that doesn’t leave us.

I thought I would only be teaching for around five years but I’m now in my twelfth! The opportunities I’ve had during that time in teaching and developing chaplaincy at the school, although I didn’t realise it, have helped to shape me and have led me to the point where this next step feels like a natural progression.

He certainly can be a God of surprises!

Matthew Sellers



My name is Gareth Erlandson and I’m an ordinand here at Christ Church, having started my placement at the start of my second year at St Padarn’s Institute in October. I live between Roath Park and Llanishen with my wife, Shavonne, and our dog, Elsa, but we are from Wrexham in St Asaph Diocese. We will return to North East Wales when I’m ordained, God willing, in June 2019.

As a couple we enjoy sharing our faith (Shavonne is the youth worker at All Saints’, Penarth), visiting

the cinema and theatre, taking Elsa for walks, and socialising with fellow students and their partners at St Padarn’s.

Before God called me to ordained ministry I worked as a high school music teacher in Ysgol Rhiwabon. This was a rewarding ten-year career in which I taught up to GCSE and A level, and staged various musical productions, concerts, eisteddfodau, and carol services. My musical specialisms are flute and voice, alongside Baroque and C20th musicology.

Whilst working in Ruabon, I was privileged to worship in the local parish church, St Mary’s, where I was director of music and a volunteer youth worker. I enjoyed conducting the mixed robed choir; highlights of my time there included visits to St Asaph Cathedral to sing Evensong, recording broadcasts for the BBC Radio Wales *“Celebration”* programme, and holding a *“Come and Sing Stainer’s Crucifixion”*.

Since embarking on ministerial training in June 2016, it’s been great to be studying again and I’m particularly interested in biblical studies and doctrine. I absolutely adore working in Christ Church and am relishing the opportunity to build on the experiences I gained in the East Vale last year. So far, I’ve liked getting to know the J Walkers during Youth Alpha sessions, pastoral visiting with Gerald, visiting the pupils at St Teilo’s, singing with the choir, and playing flute in family services... as well as getting to know everyone in the congregation, of course. I’m now looking forward to the fun of all the Christmas festivities.

I leave you with a Bible verse that is very special to me – part of a reading we had at our wedding...

Love must be sincere.

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in love.

Honour one another above yourselves

(Romans 12:9-10).

*With love and prayers
Gareth*

Messy Harvest

Happy children at Messy Harvest with two scarecrow friends.

We had a great Messy Harvest as we looked at the Parable of the Sower.

I think the scarecrows must be angels who stop the seed getting eaten! There were around 40 children with their adults and it was a good manageable sized group.

Messy Church continues to bring new people into our midst who might not otherwise come to our regular services. It certainly has earned a place in our calendar. Its not an easy thing to do and we go full pelt keeping it going throughout the morning.



We are always looking for volunteers to help us both in being there and in setting up and clearing up. ... could that be you?

Thanks again to everyone who helps with both time, energy, ideas, shopping and cooking.

Linda Alexander

See you at: Messy Christmas - Saturday 9th December 2017

10.30 am - 1.00 pm

Christ Church, Roath Park, Lake Road North, CF23 5QN

Children to be accompanied by an adult.

ALL WELCOME



J Walkers are powering on !

We've all had a great time working with our J Walkers group. There are now 22 young people from 11 - 17+ and the Youth Alpha course has certainly grabbed their attention. The course is interactive and allows for question time throughout the evening. We are showing the new 2017 version of the course which is very up to date with modern life and the technological terms which are now everyday speak.

Each evening is supported by dedicated helpers as we offer food, film and games and friendship.

We went to Hebron Hall on 11th November for a full day to study the Holy Spirit and how he/she is the igniter of our faith as happened at Pentecost. We had great fun and lots of praying ensued. The day finished with a swim in the Hebron Hall pool, which we had completely to ourselves....it was a great way to finish the day which was most memorable both for the young people and for us leaders. We will be finishing the course in January.

We are planning a trip to the ice rink in Winter Wonderland in the next week or so, and a residential trip to a Christian camp in March. None of us has time to get bored.

Linda



Hair Cut to help others - well done Immy

I went to the hairdressers with mummy. They did two bobbles by my shoulders and two at the bottom. And then the lady cut my hair off and styled my short hair. We put the hair that was cut off in a plastic bag and sent it to the Little Princess Trust. This is a charity for people who have been very sick from cancer and they have hair loss.



My hair will make a wig so someone will be wearing my hair, and it is a nice thing to do for making other people happy. Now that I have short hair it is easier to wash!

Immy Hurrell

Details of the charity: <http://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/>



Dear Editor It was heartening for me when I read in last months CREDO, the letter from John and Betty Waldron, now on the other side of the Bristol Channel. It was sad and yet hopeful as they brought to our notice not just quality content but the appreciation felt in places some 50 miles away.

CREDO was never meant for church people only, but also as a means of taking a living Christ onto the neighbourhood and beyond.

Overall, Church and printed work have succeeded; families came, increased and spread THE NEWS of a living loving family of God – from the newest baby, through the generations to the older and retired.

Bernard Davies



James 'Paddy' Hales - passed away on 28th October peacefully at home, in the care of his loving family, at the age of 79.

Best friend to, and adored by, his loving wife of 55 happy years, Mary, who in turn was the love of his life, Paddy was also a devoted dad and grandpa to Andrew, Sali, Patrick and their families. He was loved and respected

by many, and will be sorely missed.

Over 200 people gathered in Christ Church on 9th November to celebrate Paddy's life in a service of thanksgiving led by Canon Sally Davies, with many friends from various connections joining Paddy's wide family in a very fitting occasion of affectionate recollection and farewell.

After a hymn and opening prayers passages from scripture were read: from Ecclesiastes 3 by our former vicar Rev'd Edward Davies, and from St. Paul's first Corinth letter his great paean to the supremacy of love by our current vicar, Rev'd Trystan. Grandchildren participated, James by reciting the poem *'Death is nothing at all'*, and David and Alice in a charmingly rendered duet of Cole Porter's *'When I fall in love'*.

Sali and Patrick gave a moving and very affectionate joint eulogy in tribute to Paddy: this recounted the salient events and achievements of his life, illustrating features of his character and approach to people. Qualified as a chartered surveyor, he served in the widely respected Cardiff family firm of E. J. Hales. Golf was the recreation at which he excelled, competing at the highest amateur level in Wales and winning numerous matches and trophies. Consideration of others, empathy and good interpersonal skills showed, for example, in his voluntary work with the Talking Book service for the visually impaired and with The Samaritans, where his special skill at patient listening and quiet, wise, unflinchingly kindly advice helped greatly - as indeed they did above all within the close circle of his family, whom he loved and cared for supremely. Good instances were given of Paddy's marked and unusual sense of humour, with remarks sometimes inscrutable (*perhaps deliberately*) quite often quirky but usually funny alongside serious, as in his 10 golden rules of life, which Sali recited, as freely provided by him in imparting requested advice. Canon Sally gave a very fitting homily, before the service concluded with a suitably hearty congregational rendition of *'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer' to the tune 'Cwm Rhondda'*.

The Christ Church family has much to thank God for in Paddy's long and committed involvement, with Mary, in our worship and activities, including latterly with Paddy's valued regular service in our choir; also in the stalwart support so kindly and willingly given in time, advice and resources to our church as a whole and its individual members. May Paddy rest in peace and rise with our Lord in glory! *Gerald Bradnum*

Around Church Family
Congratulations, good wishes and prayers to:

David and Becky Jones on the birth of their son Dominic, a brother for Alexander and fourth grandchild for Val and Tony Jones

Eric Lewis, who celebrated his 96th birthday on 21st November

A very warm welcome into our church family and activities to:

Owen and Audrey Pryce, parents of the late much-missed Sian

Keith and Chris(tine) Stacey, and their daughter, **Kate**

Rosemary Webb, recently settled locally from Neath

Our sympathies and prayers to the families of those who have recently passed away:

Eileen Roberts – to daughters Margaret; Meryl; Wendy and son-in-law Steve Isaacs

Beryl Norton – to son Simon and family

Paddy Hales – to wife Mary; Sali daughter, and sons Andrew and Patrick

Doug Sanders – to wife Linda; daughter Julie and son John

Roy Greening, former Reader at St.Isan Llanishen, after long worship at Ton-yr-Ywen School - to daughters Janet and Patti

Our good wishes and prayers to:

Eric Howell - recovering from a major operation at home

Nancy Eyre - not so mobile, and so continuing carefully at home

Kay Dugdale - also at home, and recovering, we hope, steadily

Norma Jenkins - on a temporary respite stay at a local care home

Janet Freeman, Justin's mother, - for continuing improvement in health

Good to see back in church, thankfully faring rather better again:-

Bill Mapleson, Molly Hughes, Howard Kilvington, Len Bowker, Mark Hamber and Robin Wood



Thank you John for your many years as Editor of Credo. It is not an easy job to continuously produce a high standard publication 10 times a year. Despite times of poor health, holidays and other events, new incumbents and technology it has been a rewarding and interesting challenge working on the production of it with you. Now a well deserved retirement! *Claire Edwards*

Thoughts of Christmas



Christmas is such a wonderful time for those who believe that God came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem, as the Bible states:-

“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself”.

2 Cor. 5 v19.

The carol below expresses this truth in such a vivid way.

**“O little town of Bethlehem
how still we see the lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the
years,
Are met in thee tonight”.**

We cannot understand how God came to Earth as a baby born in

Bethlehem. To think of him growing up in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph is beyond our understanding. Let us consider the wonderful truth that God walked on Earth. As the hymn puts it: -

*“By blue Galilee Jesus
walked of old”*

Let us also remember what Jesus said:

*“I and my Father are one”
John 10 v 30.*

Another interesting and marvellous thought is that those of us who have visited Galilee, may have walked in the steps of Jesus.

So with great joy we look forward to celebrating once more the birth of Christ.

David Gibbs.

Gifts



Glory to God
and thanks for His
love-gift,
Saviour in baby clothes.

Glory to God
and thanks for His light-gift,
shining, living Way.

Glory to God
and thanks for His life-gift,
cross-shaped sure hope.

Glory to God
and thanks for His Son-gift, Jesus,
Precious and beautiful.

Glory and thanks to God
And to His people -
Holy Christmas Peace.

*By Daphne Kitchin
(Parish Pump)*

Homelessness: a growing problem

Homelessness could rise by more than a quarter over the next ten years. The number of rough-sleepers could rise by 76 per cent, from 9,100 to 16,000.

Those are the conclusions of a recent study Homelessness Projections: **Core homelessness in Great Britain, produced for the charity Crisis.** The report also warns that at any one time across Britain in 2016, 160,000 households were experiencing ‘core homelessness’, from ‘sofa-surfing’ (over 68,000), to staying in hostels, shelter and refuges (over 42,000) to being placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation (over 19,000) to rough sleeping, staying in a car or tent, or squatting (unknown). Overall, the scale of core homelessness had increased by 33 per cent since 2011.

Now the Homelessness Reduction Bill, passed this year, will require local authorities in England to do more to prevent homelessness. Certainly, the Government is investing £550 million in tackling homelessness by 2020. Meanwhile, the Crisis report predicts that, if welfare cuts were cancelled, homelessness could be reduced by 33 per cent by 2036.

The executive director of the Church Urban Fund, Paul Hackwood, highlighted the work of churches in responding to homelessness, including the Together programme, which provides night shelters and emergency provision.

How you can help in Cardiff

Cardiff Churches Nightshelter has been organised for several years. This year it will run from 18th December through to the end of March 2018. **Seven churches** from different traditions host 15-20 homeless people each night. Each church hosts a separate night each week providing a warm, safe place to rest where a hot meal and separate areas for men and women to sleep is provided. Each church provides 3 teams of volunteers, evening, night and morning.

There are Forms in our Porch for volunteers to complete to help on Saturday nights at St German’s - training will be given and if enough volunteer your help may only be required once every 3 weeks.

For more information contact Rev’d Phelim O’Hare, priest in charge of St German’s and St Saviour’s Churches 029 22411229 or by email: phelimohare@gmail.com

Your help is really needed

How Father Christmas got where he is today



One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time, and gone through a lot of transformations.



Russian icon depicting Saint Nicholas with scenes from his life. Late 15th century or early 16th century. National Museum, Stockholm

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which

formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character.

Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas.

His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before

Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red?

That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound.

For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

Parish Pump



THE WAY I SEE IT: The Love that in a Family Dwells

Christmas is, beyond doubt, the family event of the year. For holidays and weekends we go away, but at this one time of the year most of us get in our cars to join some or all of the family somewhere.

Being human, there may be the odd squabble or falling out (*and if we believe the television drama, not much else*), but in fact they are usually treasured get-togethers.

This family element of Christmas probably originates from the story of the birth of Jesus. There must be hundreds of famous paintings of the Holy Family gathered around the manger – Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus. It was a little family from which, in the Christian story, vast blessings flowed to the whole human race. The Son of God had an earthly father and mother, and grew up in an ordinary home in an ordinary town. His later life was extra-ordinary, but his home life was utterly normal.

Family lies at the heart of our whole culture. It is created by two things, choice and inheritance. Around the family table are some who are there because by choice they married someone, and others are there because they were born into the family. It's usually a happy mix.

We are glad we chose our partner, and we are glad to be members of this family, and probably another one as well. In his poem, 'Christmas', John Betjeman spoke of *'the love that in a family dwells'*. It's not a bad idea once a year to celebrate it.

David Winter - Parish Pump



NEW CHURCH HALL

It seems a long time since we first started to plan building a new church hall. This is just to announce that we are on the final straight, but not quite there yet. We were hoping to have received planning permission by now, but this has been delayed a little by various points being raised by the council officials. As long as we can agree these points or work through them, then we should have permission by Christmas, which would be a brilliant Christmas present to us all. Please pray for a quick and speedy outcome. Thank you for all your support and especially for your generosity in giving to our funds. It won't be long now.

Linda Alexander, Chair of the new hall committee

CHURCH HALL FUNDS - GIFT DAY UPDATE

We received 82 donations in response to September's Gift Day appeal resulting in £19,550. The latest tally amounts to 174 donations contributing £50,016. This fund includes £3,855 in collections at 13 previous events plus tax refunds so far received of £3,559 on Gift-Aided donations, making a total from donations of £53,575.

A very sincere and hearty Thank You to the very many members and friends who contributed so generously to the Gift Day appeal. The new hall which you are helping to enable will be a facility of great usefulness and wide benefit not only to the church but also to the community at large. Further donations or enquiries are welcomed in favour of Christ Church, Roath Park, to Gerald Bradnum, or treasurer John Hodgson, or a churchwarden, i.e. Colin Francis or Haydn Hopkins, or to Linda Alexander. Or you can use one of the special New Hall envelopes and post-box in the church porch.

Various events/sales have so far raised a further £8,379, including £2,612 from the Open Day Fair on 9th September, £812 from regular sales of garden produce and £757 from 25th Nov. coffee morning..

At 28th Nov. 2017:- **Grand Total Received: £62,711**
 minus **Expended or contracted for -**
 (architects: scheme 1 & pre-Application Council: £7,490
 scheme 2, up to Planning Application decision: £7,452

Re-roofing: £3,700. VAT expert £2,775. Bat data: £49.
 Foundations survey etc £1,782. Trees survey £600): **£23,848**

Fund Balance in hand: £38,863



Please continue to support forthcoming events to raise further funds. We hope to have a good response when applications can be made to grant-making bodies. There will be further expenses such as planning and further professional fees, as well as the main costs for actual construction, landscaping and fitting out

Once again, very many thanks from your P.C.C. council.

North Ghana: Many of you know that I, have, with support from Christ Church, supported a Church group in North Ghana since 1999 after a visit to the area. Support has come from Lent giving, donations and sales of wonderful recycled cards and home made marmalade. The time has come to hand over the card making and now that the beautifully worked Altar kneelers are complete a group of the stitchers will be making and selling cards for Church Hall Funds from January 2018. I have just made a final donation to Ghana to enable Fr. Jeremiah's daughter Rachael to complete her midwifery studies. **Thank you all for the support you have given me over so many years.** *Norma Ash*



Norma's cards, especially Christmas cards, will be on sale after the 10 am Sunday service in the Hall during December. Come and buy to support Norma's final donation. *Claire*

Funky Church and J Walkers

During the morning services this autumn the children and young people have been busy playing, learning and making. The younger ones have been learning about some of the stories from the Acts of the Apostles as well as contributing to the Harvest and Remembrance Day services. The morning group of J Walkers have continued considering how the Ten Commandments affect our lives as Christians in the 21st Century.

And now we look forward to getting ready for Advent and Christmas. **On December 10th and 17th during the 10am services, we will all be coming together to prepare for our Christingle service, which will be held on Christmas Eve at 4pm.** We hope that as many children and young people will come along on those mornings to take part and make it the best ever! Looking forward to seeing you all there! *Val and Sandra*



ALTAR KNEELER RESUME

When, late in 2011, it was becoming evident that the existing altar rail kneelers were looking sadly tired and worn, some members of the congregation resolved to see if they could be replaced with new, made by the congregation. A proposal with a design, created by Derek Burston, rich and bold, to set against the neutral building fabric and reinforcing the imagery of the baldachino above, was presented to the PCC.



We gathered a band of tapissers and an experienced needlewoman, Rhona Boudier, was found to teach us our stitches. For what seemed ages, we worked on samplers to reach a reasonable level of competence, while Bernard Richards made adjustable hardwood frames for stretching canvas. When done, the designs for each of the eight kneelers were drawn on the canvasses and the wool and colours chosen. Once work began, we met as a body each month at the church hall, but inbetween times, three of the frames were put out to stitchers' homes and worked on by small groups.

You will see as you approach the altar, the fiery sunburst images marking the portals to the sanctuary, and to the right and left, "the Lamb" and "the Dove" reflected from the baldachino. Moving to the left the inscription XP, a punctuation as you change direction, is followed by "the Last Supper" set at the three arches, and "the Crown of Thorns, a painful symbol within the Council rose garden, and so on to the unsettling "Crucifixion" – is that the New Jerusalem aglow under those dark and threatening clouds? Here the inscription *INRI SAYS Full Stop*.



Moving right from the portals passing "the Lamb", changing direction at the inscription you may well find yourself immersed in "the Water of Life". See the rain falling on the Welsh hills, and on its way to the ocean, gives us life, baptises and washes; it is all around us at Christ Church. And here it is again at Roath Park, all geese and ganders, - then suddenly you see an open tomb, and, "the Risen Lord". Pause here and think of Rhona and Bernard who both died before we had quite finished, and find the last punctuation mark, the inscription *Alpha and Omega*.

Posy Akande



Dedication of the New Altar Kneelers

Sunday 10th December 2017 at the 10.00 am service. There will be celebratory cake with coffee in the hall after the service.

A remarkable achievement, the Altar kneelers were recently completed after many, many hours of work inspired by a dedicated and committed group particularly Derek, who has worked tirelessly designing the inspirational and creative designs and Posy, who found Rhona, our wonderful experienced needlewoman, and organised the work and encouraged so many to participate. Many of those who have been involved with the project have been invited to this dedication to be shared with all at Christ Church on this particular Sunday.

Our thanks to **Gaye and Bob Hibbert** who continue to care for the



garden beds by the Stone and keep the grass and paths in good order. They provided the tall pots with Winter pansies in the Autumn which have welcomed us as we approach the steps into church - thank you both .

Some necessary tree removal will occur shortly to open up the area by the Remembrance Garden where the Yew trees may be replanted due to new car parking areas when the Hall is rebuilt.

Claire



It is always good to welcome the uniformed groups from the Scout movement joining us for particular occasions such as the recent Remembrance Sunday on 12th November.

We are indebted to Caryl Roach for encouraging us to buy Scout stamps not just to help the Scout Movement but those of us who send Christmas cards to friends and Family in the Cardiff and surrounding area at a greatly reduced rate - **25p per stamp!** (Royal Mail 2nd class is 56p and 1st class 65p) The next few weeks will be a busy time while members and helpers sort and distribute the Scout Post.



Donations of food are welcome to be placed in the box in the Church Porch. Many thanks

Coming Events



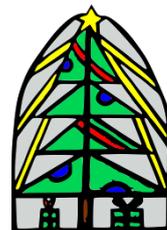
Messy Christmas - Saturday 9th December

10.30 - 1.00 pm

Christ Church, Lake road North, CF23 5QN

Children must be accompanied by an adult

029 20763151 www.christchurchcardiff.co.uk



Carols and Mince Pies



Friday 15th December 6.30 pm

An Evening of carols, drama & poems with mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine

Tickets: adults £5. Children £3.

from Ann Picken for Church Hall funds

Prayer Link 2017

Churches Together in Llanishen & District

Saturday 10.00 am - 11.00 am

2nd December - Park End Presbyterian
Llandennis Rd. at Rhydypenau Crossroads

ALL WELCOME



J-WALKERS

Youth Group 11-18 yr olds

YOUTH ALPHA

An introduction to Christian Faith

6.45pm Sunday

All young people invited - there will be 2 groups
11-13 and 14-18

Talk to Linda or Sandra for further details
07971253586

J Walkers also meet Sunday mornings during the
10 am service except 1st Sunday of the month
when it is the Family service



Christ Church, Roath Park Carol Service



Sunday 17th December 6.00

Churches Together Llanishen District LENT Discussion Groups 2018

Topic will be 'WATER'

Dates & details in January newsletter



LENT

Your choir needs YOU

Do you enjoy singing?

Vacancies for all voice parts:

Come and join us Thursday evening
rehearsals 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

You will receive a warm welcome.

Speak to Julie or any choir member!



CHATTERBOX

Babies and toddlers with
parents/grandparents

Thursdays 1.30 pm - 3.00 pm

in Christ Church Hall during term time

Contact Gill Barker 20747464 Ann Francis 20751773

Dates for your Diary 2018 - Fund Raising events for the Church Hall Funds



Thursday 11th January - **QUIZ NIGHT** with Fish & Chips at The Discovery 7.00 pm

with Owen Pryce as Quiz Master. Tickets £10 from Ann Picken

Wed. 7th February - Christ Church Society welcome **Absolute Zero Viola Quartet**
with Ross Cohen & Friends. 7.30 pm. There will be an interval for refreshments.

Tickets £10 from Howard



Friday 16th February - **Aber Male Voice Choir** - with Gareth Earlandson singing a solo halfway
through the performance. Tickets available from Gloria in the New Year.



Aber Male Voice Choir are a busy choir travelling extensively to perform in the UK and Europe
singing a wide range of music, classic rock, West End hits, operettas & Welsh hymns

A 92 year old writes - Charity begins at home

There! I have said it and if I never hear that phrase again I shall be pleased!

Folks usually deliver it with confidence self-satisfaction, by folks who believe that they are quoting Christian scripture. They most certainly are not. The nearest that might be contrived is 1st Timothy 5:8. (*A man's family should be his foremost concern*). What the phrase really means is; "No. I will not give you anything. It is all mine and I am going to keep it".

In the Christian sense "charity" can only mean "love"; which most certainly begins at home. Unfortunately it came to have a very different meaning. "As cold as charity" was often only too true. Even in my own lifetime, it conjures up a vision of middle-class Victorian ladies, with gloves and hats, going out to visit "the poor", and taking gifts of soup and jam, and maybe some old clothes to keep children warm. Workhouses and the Poor Law had nothing to do with love. People

were poor through idleness and lack of self-control.

Diocesan Moral Welfare Association provided what were virtually prisons for unmarried mothers: And nowadays, we should regard these sincerely held attitudes of "respectable people", a sheer bigoted cruelty. No wonder ordinary, humble people regarded "charity" with fear and loathing; and the established Church was very much part of it.

The Jewish attitude is quite different. "Tzedakah" is an essential part of Jewish faith and tradition. The recipient of it actually does the giver a favour in enabling him to support justice or fairness, and in giving the poor their due. There are actually "grades" of giving. The Jewish scholar, physician and philosopher, Maimonides, listed eight; from "giving grudgingly" through "before being asked" and "anonymously" to the very best; which is a gift enabling the recipient to become self-sufficient.

Jesus would have known all about the law and tradition. The great shining, wonderful difference he made was in saying (John 13:34); "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you". He would have known all about the more than 600 other commandments. They were about duty, social order, hygiene, conduct, belief etc..

Jesus' commandment was different: a new attitude, a new understanding, a new outlook on life, a new relationship with other people - and indeed, with God. Possibly it was why when he began to teach, his old neighbours did not understand him.

May I return to my title and offer you an adaption of the Scottish version of the saying?

"Love begins at home: but should not end there".

*Tony Vinnall
member of Beulah URC Rhiwbina*



Down Memory Lane - D DAY - 6 June 1944

The 220th Anti-Tank Battery Royal Suffolk Hussars: waiting until it was our turn to join the convoy on the A12 in the early hours of the morning and trusting that all the hours of training were worth the effort. Arriving in the London area we were told to bed down in tents and that there was a delay of 24 hours for some reason. The next day off to the docks and boarded a USA Liberty Ship and then sailed down the Thames. This woke us up for the cranes on the bankside bowed down to us as we passed, so this must be the real thing.

That night, down below was rather stuffy and I told my mate it would be better to sleep on the bow, so off we went to settle down for the night. In my army career I never did sleep in a bed, it was always on the floor, so that night I slept alright, but what woke me up was a prolonged noise and a lot of sparks. But used to hearing anything I just went back to sleep. Unbeknown to me (I was told later) a German shell had dropped down the funnel and buried itself in the coal; the Navy had come alongside and shouted out why we were losing speed and leaving the convoy. The reply was that we had a bomb aboard and were trying to dig it out. The sailors replied that as the bomb had not exploded already the ship was safe, and they left.

In the morning we were told the news and later saw the crew lift out the 5-foot shell and drop it overboard. The steam engine was in a bad way, so we were very late in arriving in France. So it was down with the nets and climbing down into the landing craft and seeing again our gun, the jeep and the rest of our equipment on board.

I stood up and looked around, amazed at the number of ships around us. I was shouted at to get down as I was making a marvellous target for snipers! The landing craft took us near the shore but not close enough to land without getting our feet wet. We drove up the beach and followed the directions until we met up with our unit again. They were delighted to see us as they thought we must have drowned during the crossing.

George Cable

ConneXion groups: The various groups - 5 at present - meet once a month to discuss, socialise, learn and have fun. One group meets in the daytime while the remainder meet in the evenings.

Interested in joining one? Please talk to Trystan or email trystanhughes@churchinwales.org.uk

The Beveridge Report – 75 years on

The Ven John Barton looks back on an historic watershed for the UK.

We take it for granted that all children will receive secondary education, people who are ill will be treated under a national health service and we will all be paid a State pension when we retire. Indeed, we regard these benefits as routine, perhaps not realising this has not always been the case.

Turn the clock back to World War 2. The British people accepted their wartime deprivation with a strong sense of unity and purpose in the face of a common enemy. At the same time, it was recognised that long-standing inequalities should be rectified when times improved. The British Government, which was then a coalition of political parties, commissioned Sir William Beveridge to investigate the best way of helping people on low incomes.

The resultant Beveridge Report identified five ‘**Giant Evils**’ of Want,

Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness. It proposed that in return for all people of working age paying a weekly contribution, benefits should be available to those who were sick, unemployed, retired or widowed.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, said “*this is the first time anybody has set out to embody the whole spirit of the Christian ethic in an Act of Parliament*”, for at the war’s end the Beveridge Report began to be implemented.

The 1944 Education Act was followed in 1948 by the founding of the NHS. Social security benefits meant people in need could be cared for from the cradle to the grave. Temple had himself published a vision for post-war Britain, called

“Christianity and the Social Order”.

Temple, Beveridge and the economic historian R H Tawney had been at university together and shared both Christian idealism and the urge to make it work.

This month is the 75th anniversary of Beveridge’s Report.

The Welfare State is now woven into the fabric of British Society. Like all reforms, it needs regular attention to ensure the original vision hasn’t been obscured over time. Today’s Universal Credit is a step in the right direction, though its clumsy roll-out needs rapid modification if the intended recipients are to be paid on time.

Christians may want to reflect on the Welfare State. **Is it a right or a privilege to be beneficiaries? Do we take it for granted as our due, or are we grateful for what we receive?**

Parish Pump

When Allenby took back Jerusalem

Tim Lenton, community reporter for Parish Pump, looks back to a momentous moment.

Jerusalem was occupied by the British **100 years ago, on 11 Dec 1917**, after the Ottoman Empire surrendered it two days previously. The British General Edmund Allenby entered the city on foot as a mark of respect, becoming the first Christian to control the city in 500 years.

British Prime Minister David Lloyd George described the capture as ‘*a Christmas present for the British people*’. It was seen as a huge blow to the Ottoman Empire, which had lost another Muslim holy place after Mecca and Baghdad.

Allenby’s plan had been to avoid fighting in or near Jerusalem, but to cut all road access to the city and force the Ottoman Army to evacuate it. This worked well: sporadic fighting continued in the hills surrounding Jerusalem (*itself at an altitude of nearly 2500 feet*), but the one major counter-attack, on December 26, was repulsed. Allenby was sensitive to the feelings of those within the city. He deployed Muslim troops from India to guard the Muslim holy places and issued a proclamation guaranteeing the security of the holy sites and freedom of worship for all.

Such magnanimity failed because of political mistakes. A couple of weeks earlier the British had issued the Balfour Declaration, promising the Jews a homeland in Palestine. But local British officers, including Lawrence of Arabia, had promised the Arab peoples self-rule. The frustration of Zionist and Arab nationalism has shaped the history of the region ever since.

Britain would hold Jerusalem until the end of Mandatory Palestine in 1948.



HELP needed to share organising our Church monthly stall

Please speak with Nick & Penny Goss who need some help or speak with Trystan or the Church Wardens’

Thanks!

Used postage stamps for Goodwill Children’s Homes, S India.

Christmas is a time when many of us receive good wishes from friends sending cards! I will be happy to collect your used postage stamps.. I collect through the year - used UK and Foreign stamps, preferably cut with about a 2 cm. of paper left around the edge. Leave in envelope marked for my attention in the Church porch.

Many thanks.

Claire Edwards

More info at : <http://www.goodwillhomes.org.uk/>



Modern slavery is becoming endemic in the UK, and needs urgent action

Prime Minister backs Church of England drive to eradicate modern slavery.

The Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury have given their backing to the recent launch of a project aimed at mobilising the Church of England's 12,000 parishes in the battle to eradicate modern slavery. Theresa May welcomed the Clewer Initiative, a three-year programme to help the Church of England's 42 dioceses work to support victims of modern slavery and identify the signs of exploitation in their local communities.

Mrs May said: "Modern slavery is a barbaric crime which destroys the lives of some of the most vulnerable in our society. I value the work that the Clewer Initiative will be doing. In particular, I welcome the focus on engaging with local communities to help them to spot the signs of modern slavery. We need to shine a light on this hidden crime and to encourage

more victims to come forward so that we can provide them with the support they need.

'The Government cannot tackle this problem alone, and this is why the efforts of organisations and groups such as the Clewer Initiative are so important.'

Work is already under way in dioceses, with training sessions on how to provide support and identify victims of labour exploitation in areas from the construction and property sector to hand car washes in British cities and shipping.

In a video message, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, encouraged churches to act as 'eyes and ears' in local communities to identify victims. 'Jesus came saying that He proclaimed freedom for captives. Those who purposefully constrain, confine and traffick and enslave people will face the judgement of God for their terrible sins.'

Kevin Hyland, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, said: 'Faith groups have influence, insight and rare avenues into the community; they are therefore a powerful tool in the fight against modern slavery.'

The Bishop of Derby, Dr Alastair Redfern, who chairs the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Advisory Panel, said: 'Modern slavery is present in nearly every community in England and will continue to flourish if we remain indifferent to it.'

'Churches can act as 'eyes and ears' in our communities to help identify victims. Our work in the Clewer Initiative will build on the passion of churches to be with people, to contribute to more effective structures, and to go the extra mile for the sake of those who are suffering.'

Parish Pump



Tromso Highlight

Tromso lies 217 miles north of the Arctic Circle. It is a major city and port in northern Norway which serves islands in the north Atlantic and polar region. Prominent on the southern hillside of Tromso Sound lies what is known as the Arctic Cathedral (in fact a parish church for Lutheran Christians). Designed by Jan Inge Hovig in a triangular form, it was built in 1965. Its giant triangular shape mimics a tent used by the Sami (indigenous peoples of the arctic region). The interior is plain and simple in its Scandinavian form.

Immediately there is an architectural similarity with our own Christ Church - light and airy. But there lay a problem at the east end - direct sunlight shining over the altar into the congregation! Bearing in mind the low angle of the sun's rays at this northerly latitude, the solution was to replace clear glazing with stained glass. The huge area was designed by a Danish Architect: Victor Sparre. (*see image*)

It depicts God's hand from which rays of light pass through Jesus, one through a woman and one through a man. This building is a magnificent statement above the city. It draws many visitors. Concerts at midnight are legendary - in the summer in broad day light and in winter very dark until inside. We may feel that our winters are dark and forbidding, but spare a thought for the Norwegians!

Adrian Wilson Refs: 'arctic cathedral' Tromso - web



from everyone at GOOD COMPANIONS

Tuesday afternoons in the church hall continue with growing numbers and ages - anyone and everyone is welcome to join us between 2pm and 4pm.

Over the past couple of months we have had some lovely sessions of conversation, quizzes, music. Robert performed a brilliant recital on four different types of recorder, including some Japanese music and a piece played by Victorians to their canaries to encourage the birds to sing!



Lukas was our November quiz master and managed very well indeed! Some of the questions were really obscure: did you know that Samuel Pepys buried his parmesan cheese in his garden to save it from the Great Fire of London? No, neither did we!!!!

We will be having our Christmas lunch party on December 19th at 1pm, and then will take a short break over the holidays starting up again on 9th January 2018.

DRIVERS NEEDED - Can YOU help? Contact Val 029 20747021





CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

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

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



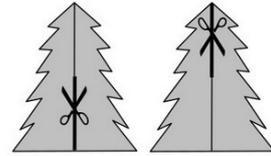
Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

CARD or DECORATION

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

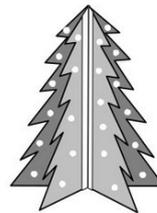
Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two pieces together and fold them in half again.

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



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

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



*What goes red white red white red white?
Santa rolling down a hill.*

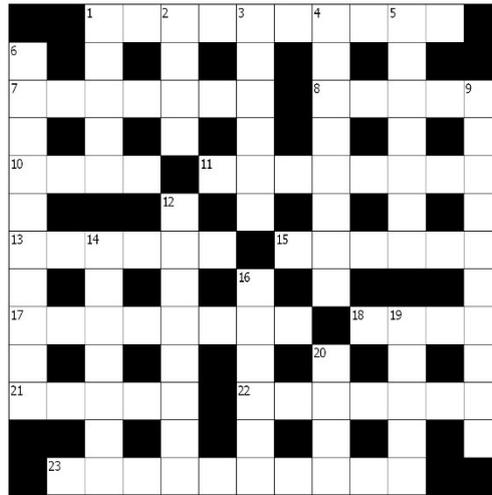


CROSSWORD PUZZLES for Christmas and New Year



ACROSS:

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)



Across: 1, Tabernacle; 7, Absalom; 8, Incas; 10, Roes; 11 Captured; 13, Fight; 15, Cavell; 17, Cyclic; 18, Herb; 21, Sonar; 22, Amazing; 23, Settlement.

Down: 1, Taste; 2, Bold; 3, Ramiah; 4, Abiathar; 5, Lucerne; 6, Sacrifices; 9, Saddledbags; 12, Theocrat; 14, Incense; 16, Pilate; 19, Exist; 20, Save.

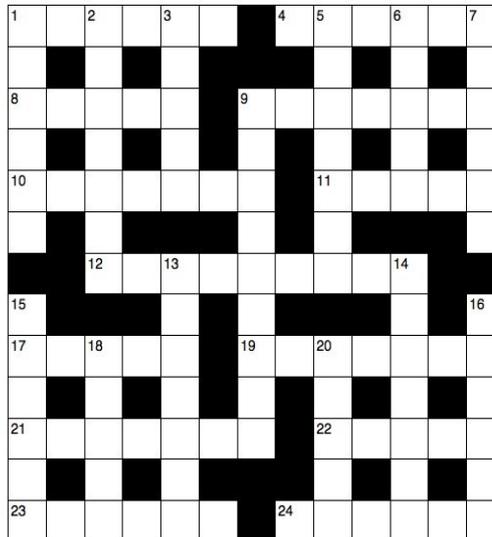
DOWN:

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)



ACROSS:

- 1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)
- 4 The number of apostles (Matt.10:2) (6)
- 8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsburg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)
- 9 'Do not — what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)
- 10 Reading desk in a church (7)
- 11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like — walking around"' (Mark 8:24) (5)
- 12 One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)
- 17 One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)
- 19 'Like — babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)
- 21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)
- 22 Girl's name (5)
- 23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)
- 24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being — (Acts 7:59)(6)



Across: 1, Armour; 4, Twelve; 8, Ulric; 9, Imitate; 10, Lectern; 11, Trees; 12, Endurance; 17, Harem; 19, Newborn; 21, Divorce; 22, Erica; 23, Wisest; 24, Stoned.

Down: 1, Aquila; 2, Miracle; 3, Uncle; 5, Written; 6, Leave; 7, Ever so; 9, Ignorance; 13, Damars; 14, Erosion; 15, Shadow; 16, Onward; 18, Raves; 20, Wheat.

DOWN:

- 1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)
- 2 For example, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)
- 3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)
- 5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone.'" (Matthew 4:4) (7)
- 6 'Peace I — with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)
- 7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)
- 9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)
- 13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
- 14 Or noise (anag.) (7)
- 15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)
- 16 ' — Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)
- 18 Saver (anag.) (5)
- 20 'Unless a grain of — falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)

GOD IN THE ARTS

'He gave us eyes to see them':

'Adoration of the Shepherds' by Georges de la Tour

Over these months we have explored the wealth of stories in scripture and their reflection in works of art. We end the year with looking at St Luke's Gospel, which is unique in containing the much-loved parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, the Annunciation and the road to Emmaus – and, of course, the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds.

Shakespeare described this feast in 'Hamlet' as 'so hallowed and gracious' a time: blessed by God and a revelation of His life and love in the birth of our Saviour. The darkness draws back as light invades the scene at Bethlehem, as it does in this painting of Georges de la Tour in 1644, 'Adoration of the Shepherds.' De la Tour lived in Metz and was fascinated by the mysterious effect of light and shade – what is called *tenebrism*. It inspired many of his works, as it does here.

At first glance the painting is a homely, intimate scene. We see Joseph's left hand shielding the candle to ensure it is not extinguished, the lamb chewing an ear of corn, one of the shepherds bringing his flute to the Christ-Child, and a serving girl carrying a terrine. But that homeliness invites us into the light shining forth from the crib to contemplate the stillness and tranquility. It is a holy and gracious time, says the artist, when the light of a new birth shines out to bring hope and joy. That is why St Luke tells us that the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

This story and this painting, like all the stories and artwork of this year, call us to read and look, to ponder and find there a light to guide us. For in that light we can find truth, and we pray that in the truth we may find God.

The Revd Michael Burgess - Parish Pump



The promise and hope of the Rainbow
The light and safety of the Lighthouse
The peace and comfort of the Dove
The love and healing of the Cross

Sonnets of Sorts

North meets South and what do we find?
Somewhere in the middle we're all of a kind.

East meets West, the result is the same
There's hardly any difference – what's in a name?

The Yellow and Black the White and the Brown
The mixed- colour races in country and town
May have different customs but you will find
It doesn't really matter – it's all in the mind.

Languages may vary, dialects and creeds
But all mankind have the basic needs
Of food and clothes and shelter.
Of warmth and friendship too.

There isn't any difference,
It's up to me and you too.



Maxian

(sent in by V. Moverley)

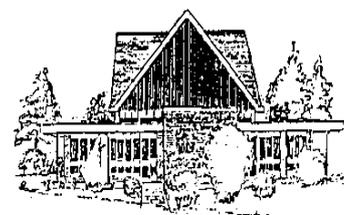


A Happy and Peaceful Christmas
and New Year 2018 to all our readers





JANUARY 2018 DIARY



Wednesday 3rd 10.00 am - 12.00 noon Church open for PRAYER

Thursday 4th 9.30 am Holy Eucharist (*tea & coffee to follow*)

Sunday 7th
First Sunday of Epiphany
 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
 10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE
 6.00 pm Evening Worship

Sunday 14th
Second Sunday of Epiphany
 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
 10.00 am Parish Eucharist, Funky Church/JWalkers
 6.00 pm Evening Worship

Thursday 18th 9.30 am Holy Eucharist (*tea & coffee to follow*)



Churches Together in Llanishen & District
 18th - 25th January 2018
 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 "THAT ALL WILL BE FREE"

The Fellowship Meal (the 'Agape') 18th or 25th (date TBC)
 At St Isan's Church, Llanishen village centre

Sunday 21st
Third Sunday of Epiphany
 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
 10.00 am Parish Eucharist, Funky Church & JWalkers
 6.00 pm Evening Worship

6.00 pm United Service at St Faith's, off Templeton Ave, Llanishen

Sunday 28th
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
 10.00 am Parish Eucharist, Funky Church & JWalkers
 6.00 pm Evening Worship

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st 9.30 am Holy Eucharist (*tea & coffee to follow*)

Sunday 4th
CREATION SUNDAY - 2nd Sunday before Lent
 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
 10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE
 6.00 pm Evening Worship

Prayers for Healing 10.00 am every Wednesday in Church
The meetings involve prayers for individuals and for our local community - all are welcome

Other services & activities
 as announced in the newsletter



Collection: If you prefer to give a weekly cash contribution during the various services and you are a UK taxpayer there are envelopes in the pews to enable us to reclaim the tax - **an extra 25p for each £1**



WHO'S WHO
at Christ Church
Lake Road North
Cardiff CF23 5QN

Priest in charge:
Rev. Trystan Owain Hughes
 Tel: 20758588

Curate:
Rev. Jordan Hillebert
 Tel: 07936 288330

Parish Secretary
 Denise Searle: at Parish Office

Parish Office/Hall Enquiries
 Tel: 20763151
Email:
 info@christchurchcardiff.co.uk
Web site:
 www.christchurchcardiff.co.uk

Church Wardens
 Haydn Hopkins Tel: 20621280
 Colin Francis Tel: 20751773

Reader
 Dominic

P CC Secretary
 Judith Hill Tel: 20758080

Treasurer
 John Hodgson Tel: 20764485

Gift Aid Secretary
 Gerald Bradnum Tel: 20751177

Electoral Roll Officer
 David Alexander Tel: 20759704

Magazine Editor
 John Griffiths Tel: 20754370

Sacristan
 Len Bowker Tel: 20758493
Assistant: Haydn Hopkins
 Tel: 20621280

Organist /Choir
 Julie Waller Tel: 20615007

Funky Church
 Val Jones Tel: 029 20747021
 Sandra Tel: 20758588

Flower Rota Organiser
 Sylvia Dowell Tel: 20408265

Churches Together
 Julie Waller Tel: 20615007

WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**Sunday**

8.00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist
 10.00 a.m. The Parish Eucharist
 6.00 p.m. Evening Service

Weekdays

1st & 3rd Thursday 9.30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist
 (Saints' Days and Festivals: See Parish Diary)

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

in the Lady Chapel for about half an hour
Wednesday mornings 10.00 am

Eucharist for healing
 with anointing and the laying on of hands as announced.
 Holy Communion is taken to the sick and housebound,
 and anointing as requested.

Please inform the Vicar in cases of sickness, bereavement or distress.

OTHER SERVICES

Please arrange with the Vicar
 for baptism, confirmation, marriage and funerals.

The Vicar is happy to arrange times for the
 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) or for counsel.

From the Registers

October 2017 Communicants

| | | |
|---------|------|-----|
| Sundays | 1st | 96 |
| | 8th | 112 |
| | 15th | 104 |
| | 22nd | 103 |
| | 29th | 96 |

Weekday communicants: 21

Communions of the ill/housebound
 at 'Cartref' 14
 at home 2

November 2017 Communicants

| | | |
|---------|------|-----|
| Sundays | 5th | 128 |
| | 12th | 118 |
| | 19th | 90 |
| | 26th | 105 |

Weekday communicants: 14

Communions of the ill/housebound
 at 'Cartref' 19
 at home 3

Funerals:

1st Gwynneth EILEEN Roberts
 6th BERYL Norton
 9th James Patrick 'PADDY' Hales
 21st Douglas Edwards Llewellyn
 'DOUG' Sanders



FELLOWSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

GOOD COMPANIONS

Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00 pm
 Julia Matthews 029 21157213
 Alison Peters 029 20761277
 Val Jones 029 20747021

CHRIST CHURCH SOCIETY

4-5 times annually
 Howard Kilvington 20317301

LADIES KEEP FIT GROUP

Mondays at 7.30 pm.
 Jill Kilvington 20317301

FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

(see newsletter for details)
 Haydn Hopkins 20621280
 Linda Alexander 20759704

SERVERS' GUILD

Sunday morning and as announced
 Gerald Bradnum 20751177

CHATTERBOX

Thursday 1.30 - 3.00 pm
 during Term time
 Gill Barker 20747464
 Ann Francis - 20751773

FUNKY CHURCH

Val Jones 029 20747021
 Sandra 20758588

YOUTH GROUP (11-18 year olds)

Sunday evening 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Rev. Trystan Hughes 20758588

CHOIR

Thursdays at 6.30 pm
 Julie Waller
 Tel: 20615007

RAINBOWS

Tuesdays at 5.00 p.m.
 Emma Lane 07975505863

BROWNIES

Mondays at 6.00 pm

84th SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader
 vacant

Group Committee Chairman

Geoff Payne 20756577

Enquiries to Caryl Roach 20754463

BEAVERS

Thursdays at 5.30 pm
 Chris Davies 07948399111

CUBS

Wednesdays at 6.15 pm
 Simon Rimell

SCOUTS

Wednesdays at 7.30 pm
 Simon Broadley