



Born in West End, New Jersey, nature and circumstances combined to make **Dorothy Parker** something of a rebel from an early age. Having decided at 11 to make literature her life, her formal education ended at the age of 14. She published poems and short stories, worked in an editorial position for *Vogue* and as a drama critic for *Vanity Fair*, and collaborated on film scripts. Renowned for her spontaneous wit and acerbic criticism, she is particularly associated with *The New Yorker* and with the legendary Algonquin Hotel Round Table luncheon club.

This pensive poem reveals another side to her personality and perhaps reflects the time she spent at the private parochial school run by the Sisters of Charity in New York City.

The Maid-Servant at the Inn

*“It’s queer,” she said: “I see the light
As plain as I beheld it then,
All silver-like and calm and bright –
We’ve not had stars like that again!*

*“And she was such a gentle thing
To birth a baby in the cold.
The barn was dark and frightening –
This new one’s better than the old.*

*“I mind my eyes were full of tears,
For I was young, and quick distressed,
But she was less than me in years
That held a son against her breast.*

*“I never saw a sweeter child –
The little one, the darling one! –
I mind I told her, when he smiled
You’d know he was his mother’s son.*

*“It’s queer that I should see them so –
The time they came to Bethlehem
Was more than thirty years ago;
I’ve prayed that all is well with them.”*

By Dorothy Parker (1893-1967)



December 2011



January 2012

The Bishop’s Advent Appeal, 2011

My Advent Appeal this year is to support the work of the Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). This was established in

2009 to support the Christians in the Holy Land, and they work in close cooperation with the Christian Churches in the region and in the UK. The FHL is entirely non-political and is carried out with the backing and blessing of Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops in England and Wales. The primary purpose of their work is to support Christians in the Holy Land, to enable them to maintain a minimum level of quality of life such that pressures to abandon their homeland are reduced. The Friends provide resources for small projects that make a big difference to Christians in the community, and the funds made available contribute to the sustainability of Christians (especially the most vulnerable) in the Holy Land.

The Friends’ objectives are as follows:

- to raise awareness of the challenges experienced by Christians in the Holy Land
- to encourage prayer for their intentions
- to generate and channel financial resources to provide a sustainable future
- to encourage visits to the Holy Land to meet with local Christians.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has given his particular encouragement to support this initiative, which was launched at the General Synod last July, and I hope we may play our part in our giving this Advent as Christmas approaches and we celebrate again the coming of God among us in the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. Further details may be found in the video which accompanied the Archbishop’s address to the General Synod on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRM2aBM9_Q and in the

(Continued on page 4)



Twente News

Christmas is Coming!

If you cast your eyes over our Christmas poster on page 19, you will see that a small Christmas market is to be held in the Hut after the Carol Service on 11 December. Any contributions you feel able to make to the stall will be most welcome and will certainly add to the sense of

Question and Answer

A mature lady (over 40) gets pulled over for speeding. "Is there a problem, Officer?" she asks politely. "



Well, Ma'am, you were speeding," replies the officer. "Can I see your licence please?" "Oh, I'd give it to you but I don't have one," comes the response. "Don't have one!" "No," continues the lady, "I lost it four years ago for drunk driving." "Hmm, I see. Can I see your vehicle registration papers please." "I can't do that either. You see, I stole this car, and killed and hacked up the owner." "You did what?"

occasion. Singing traditional carols in the chapel, wending our way along the path with friends and discussing family preparations, enjoying fellowship and perhaps choosing a gift in the festive Hut ... well, the heading says it all!

Market at Middachten

For those who prepared to travel further afield, the Christmas market at Middachten Castle begins on Tuesday, 13 December, and continues through till the Sunday. This is the main fund-raising event of the year for our friends at Arnhem-Nijmegen and your support in any way, shape or form would be highly appreciated. Should you wish to know more details, please contact Anne Cornelese (026 3511 416) or Maggie Vermeij (026 333 4680). Or nearer to home, Pauline Talstra will be happy to answer any questions.

Key Dates

11 December	Carol Service followed by Christmas Market
13-18 December	Middachten Christmas Market: 13-18 & 18: 11:00-19:00 hrs 16 & 17: 11:00-20:00 hrs
24 December	Christmas Eve Eucharist 22:30
25 December	Christmas Day Eucharist 10:30
17-19 February 2012	Archdeaconry Pre-Lent Retreat

As this is the last issue of 2011, may we wish you, our readers, all the peace and joy of this blessed season and a happy and healthy New Year.

more churches understand about bat behaviour, the easier it will be for Natural England to grant the licences that we apply for. Often, it is not a case of banishing bat colonies but encouraging them to move to less intrusive parts of the church.

From Town & Country edited by Kate Green in Country Life, October 26, 2011.

Contributed by Count Alfred Solms



St Mary's Carol Service

Sunday 11th December 2011 10.30 am

Traditional Christmas service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** in a beautifully decorated chapel followed by **a small Christmas Market.**

Mince pies - Chutneys and Marmalades
Christmas cakes - Christmas gifts

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday 24th December 2011 10.30 pm.

Follow the candle-lit path to the chapel doors, where all are welcome to join in the sung Eucharist Service. Experience the Victorian chapel in its midnight splendour.

St. Mary's Chapel is on the N824 road between Goor and Diepenheim



Know Your "Enemy"

Actually you don't have to go far afield to learn more about these creatures of the night. In this Year of the Bat, lectures have been given regularly in the library in Neede, culminating in moonlit cycle rides along country paths for sightings and soundings (via a bat detector) of these impressive flyers. But are they of any real use? The answer is yes – as pollinators, dispersers of seeds, eaters of midges, and providers of guano, a highly valued fertilizer. As for the infamous Vampire bat, found only in Central and South America and *not* Twente, this is currently under careful study since it has been discovered that its saliva contains an anti-coagulant, which is being used to help haemophiliacs.

Does this make the "household" chores any easier to bear?

Bats Still Rule the Roost in Churches

Measures are being taken to ease the tension between bat sympathisers and those who have had enough of clearing up the creatures' mess in churches. Natural England and the Church of England have formed the Bats in Churches Working Group (BCWG), which aims to help those responsible for church buildings minimise the damage caused by bat droppings and urine. A Bat Conservation Trust survey estimates that almost 6,400 churches may have bats and, although 75% of respondents said they welcomed them, there is no doubt that they can cause tension – the issue once led a vicar to remark that the bats seem to have more rights than his parishioners.

Most bat species can fit through a 0.75in crack, and they like places that protect them from sudden changes in temperature, such as the chancel arch, crevices and cracks in the eaves or roof timbers, and even behind wall hangings or plaques. Most of the advice in the BCWG's leaflet (www.churchcare.co.uk) is concerned with how to work around the bats (such as boards to catch droppings, and cleaning before services) – it warns that applying for a licence to move the bats should only be a last resort – but other experiments are under way. There is a pilot project in Norfolk where techniques are being used to encourage bats to migrate to other parts of the church, including bat boxes outside in the caves.

Ann Sloman, chairman of the Church Buildings Council who leads the working group, comments: "I am delighted that the Church is reaching a better working relationship with Natural England. We can only offer serious practical help to congregations who are suffering from the problems caused by bats by working together. The research projects are important because, although they offer no instant solution, the

Why Churchwardens Love January

*Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergyman and lay,
They're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!
The hectic Christmas season
Of service constantly -
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!*

*The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker -
They don't get that much sleep.
The overworked Churchwardens
And their sidespersons team -
Sure don't get time for boredom
And only seldom scream!*

*So, when the season's over;
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!
They laugh and smile with pleasure
And sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure -
For soon comes Easter time!*

*By Nigel Beeton
(who is married to a Churchwarden)*

With grateful thanks to our Churchwardens for all the hard work that they do week in, week out.



Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Churchwardens before the Service.

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need of pastoral care, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Churchwardens.

gasps the officer, now thoroughly shocked. "His body parts are in plastic bags in the boot if you want to see," adds the lady. The officer slowly retreats to his car and calls for back-up. Within minutes five police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the woman's car, clasp a half-drawn gun, and says, "Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please!" The woman complies, adding "Is there a problem sir?" "One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner. Could you please open the boot of your car." Again the woman complies, revealing nothing but an empty baggage compartment. "Is this your car, ma'am?" asks the senior officer. "Oh, yes," answers the lady, "Here are the registration papers and my driving licence." The senior officer is now quite puzzled. "One of my officers told me that you didn't have a licence, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner." Laughing, the mature lady says, "And I bet he told you I was speeding, too!"

Computer Terms

486: the average IQ needed to understand a PC

State-of-the-art: any computer you can't afford

Obsolete: any computer you own

Microsecond: the time it takes for your state-of-the-art computer to become obsolete

Syntax error: walking into a computer store and saying, "Hi, I want to buy a computer and money is no object."

Hard drive: the sales technique employed by computer salesmen, particularly after a syntax error

Keyboard: the standard way to generate computer errors

Mouse: an advanced input device to make computer errors easier to generate

Floppy: the state of your wallet after purchasing a computer

Portable computer: a device invented to force businessmen to work at home, on vacation, and on business trips

Disk crash: a typical computer response to any critical deadline

System update: a quick method of fouling up all of your software.

(Continued from page 1)

accompanying newsletter from the FHL, which tells how you can support the Friends through this Advent Appeal. Please give generously as a response to the generosity of the God who loved us so much that at Bethlehem he came down to the lowest part of our need.



+Geoffrey Gibraltar

Friends of the Holy Land

Below you can read some extracts from the FHL Advent 2011 newsletter. The full illustrated text is hanging up in the Hut, and further information on the work of this organization can be found on its website (www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk).

Distribution of Funds in the Holy Land

Many international agencies provide finance for major projects. The FHL provides resources for small projects that make a big difference to Christians in the community. These currently include:

(1) Projects for the repair of deteriorating homes

In recent months work has included rebuilding bathrooms and kitchens, making roofs watertight, restoring plumbing, repairing electrics and redecorating. A few thousand dollars can go a long way to improving the lifestyle and dignity of many families where conditions have resulted in them huddling together in one room of a home when other rooms have become uninhabitable. There are still many projects to be completed. The FHL has gathered together its own workforce of skilled local tradesmen in Bethlehem. The team take a real pride in the quality of their work, as if it were their own properties they were repairing. They appreciate the double benefit of helping poor families whilst

13:1).

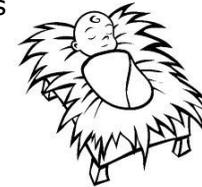
It's easy to be put off by the dark type and odd words: "thee" and "thou", "-eth" endings, "abide" and "sojourn". Some parts, especially the Epistles, can be dense and tortuous. We can't turn the clock back: the KJV can never be the only version for us now. But if we use both old and new translations together, we gain so much more.

In its heightened language, the KJV gives us a richer appreciation of wonder. So, just as we would not want to knock down old churches, we shouldn't leave the KJV unread. It's not just a cultural landmark, but it's something that can shape our life right now.

©Rachel Boulding

Christmas Begins

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations? Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts four weeks before 25 December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means "coming" and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today. So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

Source: Parish Pump

Answers: 1 even 2 everglades 3 event 4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest 7 evergreen

When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God is all you need.

If you do not pray, everything can disappoint you by going wrong. If you do pray, everything can still go wrong, but not in a way that will disappoint you.

— Hubert van Zeller



Christmas Eve 24th December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE.

What EVE is equal?

What EVE is a swamp in Florida?

What EVE is a happening?

What EVE is a dried flower?

What EVE is the end of the day?

What EVE is the world's highest mountain?

What EVE never loses its leaves?



A Smile

A smile costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile as much as he who has no more to give.

Contributed by Elizabeth van der Heide

The King James Version: 400 Years On

The King James Bible Trust hosted a Service of Celebration at Westminster Abbey on Wednesday 16 November to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. The services was attended by Queen Elizabeth.

Which of these means more to you: "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!" – or "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled"?

Both are translations of Matthew 5:6, but the first is from the *Good News Bible* from the 1960s, while the second is the *King James Version*, or *Authorised Version*, of 1611 (KJV for short). For many people, the older version goes deeper, is more stirring and tells us more about God.

In 2011 we mark its 400th anniversary. There has been a range of celebratory events – from talks by celebrities to readings in tiny churches. As we are often hearing, the KJV has shaped the hearts and minds of English-speaking people throughout the world in these four centuries. It first coined many words and expressions that have become part of the language – so much so that most people wouldn't necessarily think of them as biblical, and usually think that they're from Shakespeare (especially as he was writing at about the same time). So we have: "lovingkindness" (Psalm 17 and elsewhere), "the signs of the times" (Matthew 16), "the powers that be" (Romans 13), and many more.

But the old-fashioned words aren't just part of our heritage, like an ancient monument; their poetry can speak directly to our needs today. They can give a stronger and more immediate sense of God's tender love and glorious majesty, from "I water my couch with my tears" (Psalm 6:6) to "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels ..." (1 Corinthians

providing them with much needed employment.

(2) The running and development of a day care centre for the elderly in Bethlehem: St Martha's House

One of the many visible signs of donations from the Friends in the UK has been St Martha's House, the first dedicated day care centre for elderly ladies in Bethlehem. It is now well established as the regular meeting place twice a week for 35 ladies to enjoy friendship and a healthy lunch. Much of the original development and the ongoing running costs are provided by the FHL, with a significant contribution from the Catenian Pilgrimage Group. It is part of a "care and repair" initiative led by Mrs Laila Asfoura and supported by a group of Palestinian women in Bethlehem. The centre focuses on providing for the elderly, through basic health care, hairdressing, pedicure, healthy meals, exercise classes, recreational trips, amusement activities and workshops. Many elderly Christians in the Holy Land are facing particular difficulties as they are losing their traditional family support due to the emigration of their sons and daughters. With no social security, no home-care or medical support, the suffering of the elderly is acute. The immediate need is to obtain a vehicle to enable the elderly to be collected from their homes and transported to St Martha's House. Why not make a donation to ensure this can be purchased in the near future?

(3) Seed-corn funding for new businesses to provide employment opportunities, in particular youth employment

Seed corn funding is available for:

- olive wood production
- manufacture of olive wood soap
- wax candle factory
- icons and paintings gallery
- ceramics factory
- kindergarten nursery
- a fragrance of the Bible factory.

Professional Judgement

A doctor, engineer, and programmer were debating what the world's oldest profession was. The doctor said that medicine was the oldest because the Lord performed surgery in the removal of Adam's rib. The engineer countered that before that act, the Lord had performed feats of engineering by creating the earth and heavens from nothing. The doctor conceded that the engineer was right and that engineering was indeed the oldest profession. But then the programmer interjected that programming was even older. He was chided by both the doctor and the engineer saying that engineering had to be the oldest because, before the Lord engineered the earth and heavens, there was nothing, only the Great Void, only Chaos! The programmer simply smiled and said: "My point exactly. Where do you think the Chaos came from?"

And Then It is Winter

I didn't write this, but it speaks for me



You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. And yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all, and I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is, the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well, seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine

Immediate beneficiaries of each project are between four and 15 families.

(4) The distribution of food and clothes, vouchers, medicines, food parcels, heaters and blankets in winter amongst those in most desperate need of assistance

At Easter and Christmas, the FHL arranges for families and children in the Bethlehem District to receive food and clothing vouchers, which are then "spent" at shops owned by local Christians. Blankets, heaters and medicines are distributed at Christmas. This project is coordinated for the FHL in the Holy Land by the Sons of the Earth Association (SEA), a non-profit organization that deals with the economic and social considerations of the Christians in the Bethlehem District. The three parish priests in St Catherine's Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour encourage the initiative and ensure the most needy receive support. The real advantage of this project is that three parties benefit: the children, their parents and the local family-run neighbourhood shops. SEA provides the FHL with the names of all beneficiaries, so it is known that our funds, given most generously in the UK, are channelled to the most deserving cases. A typical response from a parent was "Thank you for drawing a big smile on the faces of our children and for opening a window of hope and happiness for a better future". A shopkeeper said, "This is the first time in my life I am having a good Easter business period. I know my shop is small but, all thanks to you FHL, I managed to sell more than 3000 NIS in less than five days. Thank you and may God bless you all."

Pilgrimages

"Seeing is believing". There is no better way to understand the Holy Land than to walk in the steps of Our Lord. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Holy Land, pray with the local community at the Sunday Service, visit a school or children's home, be among

manoeuvring, signing of non-aggression pacts, and formation of tactical truces to make the United Nations look like amateurs. Unfortunately, we do not have the ecclesiastical equivalents of the blue berets to enforce peace.

The more patriotic members of the congregation have suggested they all show the Union Jack – presumably so they can be waved at appropriate moments in our service. One belligerent individual wants to see depictions of St Michael slaughtering the dragon, John the Baptist's head on a platter, and other such tasteful scenes. On the other hand, dear Miss Timmins wants them all to depict doves or small fluffy creatures, which would make the church look more like pets corner.

Cutting through these vital issues, I have suggested that the entire congregation converts to Roman Catholicism ... and then we could stand for our prayers and do without kneelers entirely.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

©The Rev Dr Gary Bowness

Shepherd Family Cookbook

The following recipe is from cousin Virginia Bethune. I've never met her but she has a sense of humour!

Pickles

One gallon hamburger dill pickles
5 lb sugar
1 small bottle Tabasco sauce

Drain all juice off of pickles. Place a layer of pickles, a layer of sugar and some Tabasco sauce in the gallon jar. Repeat this process until all the ingredients are in the jar. Turn the jar upside down every four hours for 24 hours. Eat the whole jar in one sitting if you can.

Please let me know if you try this!

Linda ten Berge-Shepherd (0546-868139)

Paddy McCoy, an elderly Irish farmer, received a letter from the Department for Work & Pensions stating that they suspected he was not paying his employees the statutory minimum wage and they would send an inspector to interview them. On the appointed day, the inspector turned up. "Tell me about your staff," he asked Paddy.

"Well," said Paddy, "there's the farm hand; I pay him £240 a week, and he has a free cottage. Then there's the house-keeper. She gets £190 a week, along with free board and lodging. There's also the half-wit. He works a 16-hour day, does 90% of the work, earns about £25 a week along with a bottle of whisky and, as a special treat, occasionally enjoys some home comforts with my wife."

"That's disgraceful," said the inspector. "I need to interview the half-wit."

"That'll be me then," said Paddy.



Dorothy Parker

(in a change of mood from page 20)

A way with words:
"If, with the literate, I am
Impelled to try an epigram,
I never seek to take the credit;
We all assume that Oscar said it."

As a drama critic:
"I thought the play was frightful but I saw it under particularly unfortunate circumstances. The curtain was up."

"The House Beautiful is the Play Lousy."

As a book reviewer:
"This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown aside with great force."



And Who Said This?

Thirty-five is a very attractive age. London society is full of women of the very highest birth who have, of their own free choice, remained thirty-five for years.

From The Importance of Being Ernest by Oscar Wilde

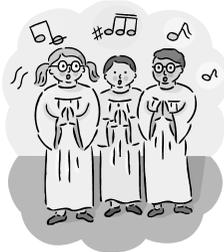
St James the Least of All On the peril of choosing new kneelers

My dear Nephew Darren,
After all these years, I now understand why the non-conformist denominations sit down, rather than kneel, to say their prayers. That way, no decisions have to be taken over the number, size, shape, colour, material and design of kneelers in church.

Our present set was donated by a retired major-general in 1899 to celebrate the relief of Mafeking and a century of use by the pious and not-so-devout has taken its toll. Like certain members of our congregation, they now look a little worse for wear. Many have sprung leaks, so that when used, a jet of flocking is emitted all over the clothes of their neighbour, who then has to leave Matins looking like a Yeti.

Other kneelers have been occupied by grateful mice, who find them most congenial for nesting and who leave in high umbrage, creating chaos as Miss Mapp chases them down the aisle with her umbrella; that this provides her with the perfect excuse to leave before the sermon is, I am sure, entirely coincidental. The final straw came when my own, by some quirk in its design, began to sound like a whoopee cushion every time I knelt down. It may cause the choirboys much amusement, but lends nothing to the dignity of our worship.

So we have decided to have a completely new set – and therein lies the problem. Who makes them? What will be the designs? Who coordinates the whole project? There is enough here to occupy the combined minds of our Church Council for the next millennium and there will be enough scheming,



the Christians living their daily lives and share with them support and friendship. They will then know they are not alone. We have experienced people in the UK and the Holy Land who can help you plan and organize Diocesan or Parish Pilgrimages or small private groups. Our itineraries make it possible for you to meet the local Christians in the Holy Land.



The Churchwardens Write

Expectations

Advent is a time of expectation. On the 27th of November it was the first Sunday in Advent this year, and the first of the four candles was lit in anticipation of Christmas. Expectations of a material kind in Dutch children – and their (grand) parents! – are usually quite satisfied at the celebration on the eve of St Nicholas' birthday on the 5th of December. But once this event with all its pageantry and folklore and hilarious rhymes is over, our full attention returns to the celebration of the Birth of Christ and we expect what? Yes, what are our expectations? In a way, we at St Mary's know exactly what is coming: a wonderful Carol Service, a festive Midnight Service on Christmas Eve, wonderful familiar songs, a service on Christmas day, good food, visits from relatives and friends, and a festive atmosphere. St Mary's even feels a closer community during this interregnum period; more than at other times we have to rely on one another. But there are also expectations of a different kind – "Great Expectations" you might call them. The awareness of renewal, the notion that God always gives us

fully what it would be like. But here it is. My friends are retired and getting gray. They move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some in worse shape than me. But I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore – it's mandatory! Cos if I don't of my own free will, I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But at least I know that, although winter has come and I'm not sure how long it will last, when it's over, it's over. Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done,

(Continued from page 7)
 things I should have done, but indeed there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime. So if you're not into your winter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life. So live for good today, and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past. Life is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Contributed by Blair Charles

We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny. But what we put into it is ours.
 – Dag Hammarskjöld

another chance whatever wrong we have done in our lives. The Birth of Christ is a new beginning, we are forgiven. We are allowed to start again and look about us in wonder and marvel at God's goodness to us. And so we are able to reach out to others who need our help, support or attention. Like Pip, the leading character in Dickens' novel, we realize that expectations of wealth are not everything in the world. Like him, we become sadder and wiser in that respect as we grow older. But at the same time we dare to keep the feeling of expectancy, of hope, even when the world at present is faced with many problems and disasters. As it is expressed in the Collect of the First Sunday in Advent taken from the 11th Century Sarum Gradual:

*Almighty God,
 give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
 and to put on the armour of light,
 now in the time of this mortal life,
 in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in
 great humility;
 that on the last day,
 when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
 to judge the living and the dead,
 we may rise to the life immortal;
 through him who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.*

In the same hope and expectation, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Blessed New Year,

Your Wardens
 Everhard Ottens and Joyce Wigboldus



Guidance



*I said
 to the man
 who stood at the
 Gate of the Year,
 "Give me a light that
 I may tread safely
 into the unknown."
 And he replied, "Go out into
 the darkness and put your hand
 into the hand of God.
 That shall be to you better than
 light and safer than a known way."
 May that almighty hand
 guide and uphold us all.*

Minnie Haskins 1875-1957

Our thanks go to Erica Schotman for this seasonal contribution



When written in Chinese the word "crisis" is composed of two characters. One represents danger. The other represents opportunity.

– John F. Kennedy

Art of Marriage

A couple who had been married for 40 years were entertaining friends at a dinner party. The conversation turned to marriage counselling. "We'll never need that," said the wife confidently. "Jim and I have a great relationship. It's all a question of education." "What do you mean?" asked one of the friends. "Well, she continued, "at college, Jim did a communications course and I studied drama. So he communicates really well and I act like I'm listening."

Celebration

Mrs Jones was celebrating a very special birthday



and among the guests was a local reporter. "What's the best thing about being 107 years old?" he asked. "No peer pressure," came the ready reply.

29th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
	First Reading Hans Siertsema	Malachi 3:1-5
	Second Reading Arjen Haffmans	Hebrews 2:14-18
	Gospel	Luke 2:22-40
Candlemas		
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

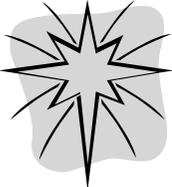
5th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
	Duty Warden	Caroline Siertsema
	Intercessor	Peter Ribbens
	First Reading Philippa te West	Isaiah 40:21-31
	Second Reading Arthur Cass	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
	Gospel	Mark 1:29-39
Third Sunday before Lent (Proper 1)		
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

12th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Janice Collins
	First Reading Maureen vd Heide	Proverbs 8:1, 22-31
	Second Reading Elizabeth vd Heide	Colossians 1:15-20
	Gospel	John 1:1-14
Second Sunday before Lent		
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

4th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Peter Ribbens
	First Reading Els Ottens	Isaiah 40:1-11
	Second Reading Philippa te West	2 Peter 3:8-15a
	Gospel	Mark 1:1-8
Second Sunday of Advent		
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

11th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	The Nine Lessons Various Readers	
		
	10:30 am Service of Nine Lessons & Carols	
Third Sunday of Advent		

18th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	First Reading Joyce Wigboldus	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
	Second Reading Simone Yallop	Romans 16:25-27
	Gospel	Luke 1:26-38
Fourth Sunday of Advent		
10:30 am Sung Eucharist		

<p>24th December</p>  <p>Christmas Eve (Night)</p> <p>22:30 hrs</p>	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Dr S. Bonting
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Philippa te West
	First Reading Linda ten Berge	Isaiah 52:7-10
	Second Reading Janice Collins	Hebrews 1:1-4
	Gospel	John 1:1-14

<p>25th December</p>  <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>10:30 am</p> <p>Sung Eucharist</p>	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Dr S. Bonting
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	First Reading Arthur Cass	Isaiah 52:7-10
	Second Reading Arjen Haffmans	Hebrews 1:1-4
	Gospel	John 1:1-14

<p>1st January</p> <p>The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</p> <p>10:30 am</p> <p>Sung Eucharist</p>	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
	First Reading Phlippa te West	Numbers 6:22-27
	Second Reading Blair Charles	Galations 4:4-7
	Gospel	Luke 2:15-21

<p>8th January</p>  <p>Epiphany Sunday</p> <p>10:30 am</p> <p>Sung Eucharist</p>	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Janice Collins
	First Reading Victor Pirenne	Isaiah 60: 1-6
	Second Reading Vivian Reinders	Ephesians 3:1-12
	Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12

<p>15th January</p> <p>Epiphany 2</p> <p>10:30 am</p> <p>Sung Eucharist</p>	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	First Reading Heleen Rauwerda	1 Samuel 3:1-10
	Second Reading Peter Ribbens	Revelation 5:1-10
	Gospel	John 1:43-51

<p>22nd January</p> <p>Epiphany 3</p> <p>10:30 am</p> <p>Sung Eucharist</p>	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Philippa te West
	Louw Talstra	Genesis 14:17-20
	Linda ten Berge	Revelation 19:6-10
	Gospel	John 2:1-11