

Poetry
and
Prose

What the Donkey Saw

*No room in the inn,
of course,
And not that much in the stable,
What with the shepherds, Magi
Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host –
Not to mention the baby
Using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another
cherub in
For love nor money.*

*Still, in spite of the overcrowding,
I did my best to make them feel
wanted.*

*I could see the baby and I
Would be going places together.*

By U.A. Fanthorpe (1929-2009)



As last year, this poem is taken from the collection *Christmas Poems*, which brings together poems written by U.A. Fanthorpe and sent to friends as Christmas cards

December 2013
& January 2014

The Chaplain Writes

Christmas 2013

Angels announce the birth of Christ, just as there are angels at every important moment in his life. Before he was born, an angel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of God's Son. Angels attend to Jesus at the end of his fasting in the desert. Jesus speaks about legions of angels to the man whose ear was cut off just before Jesus is arrested. Angels are a reality in the Gospel; they are messengers: not only then, but they still are.

When I was on my bike ride from Canterbury to Rome, we were sometimes confronted with awkward situations and, more than once, saved by a passenger-by. We called them our "angels". Sometimes just a cup of coffee, when we couldn't find a restaurant or find a bed for the night.

Angels announce the peace; they announce the arrival of the Prince of Peace. We hope then for quiet and harmony, but sometimes we have to work hard for peace through the confrontation. That didn't make Jesus a "softy" and sometimes he had to speak in no uncertain words – which weren't well received. It was felt like criticism, but criticism can be constructive if we use it as advice and it is not said in anger or behind someone's back. Gently and with diplomacy.

Angels announce the peace to us at Christmas and we do receive it with open arms. Sometimes war stops for a little while because of it. Its message speaks to us. We need to help to establish peace by cooperating with God's plan, with the support of his grace. Remember that every time you see an angel we have to further his plan for peace in this world.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Alja Tollefsen
Chaplain of the East Netherlands





Twente News

Chevetogne

As 2013 draws to a close and thoughts start turning to the new year ahead, you might like to mull over the following.

A reservation has been made at Chevetogne for a group of 10 to 12 people from the Twente and Arnhem/Nijmegen chaplaincies from Tuesday

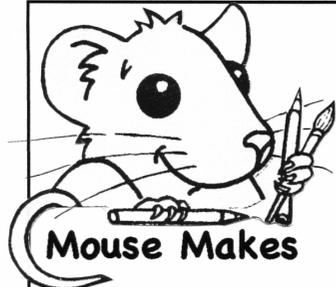
3rd to Friday 6th June 2014. Chevetogne is a small village in the principality of Namur/Namen, just south of Luik/Liege in Belgium. The monastery of Chevetogne was set up in 1925 by Father Lambert Beauduin, a monk from the Benedictine Abbey at Keizersberg, Leuven, in Belgium. Through his contacts with the Eastern Christians, he became inspired to create a foundation dedicated to Christian unity. The liturgy is celebrated according to the Latin and the Byzantine rites. Both the Latin church (built in the Basilican style: atrium, ship and altar) and the Byzantine church are very beautiful and strikingly distinctive (see www.monasterechevetogne.com).

Travelling by train/bus takes at least 6 to 7 hours! So the best idea is to travel down by car. Using McDonalds, Duiven, as a meeting point, it then takes 3hrs 40 minutes – a far better proposition. Ah yes, costs: petrol contribution would be based on 4 to 5 people per car.

Accommodation is offered in two lodgings, both about 500m from the monastery. The first is a grand old house called Bethanie, which has been renovated to offer singles, doubles, communal showers and toilets (some doubles have own bathroom). There is a communal kitchen for breakfast and tea/coffee as wished during the day, as well as a sitting room and enclosed patio. Lunch and supper are served in the guest dining room in the monastery. It costs €30 a day (single room including meals). The second option is Emmaus, a building offering singles/doubles, living room, kitchen and bathrooms. This accommodation is intended for groups who wish to prepare their own meals.

This is just a brief introduction – perhaps something to bear in mind when making holiday arrangements. Further information will be forthcoming, but in the meantime I will hang a booklet in the Hut to give you even more food for thought.

Caroline Siertsema



Mouse Makes

A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN!
 "Good news! - wonderful, joyous news for all people.
 A Saviour has been born.
 He is **Christ the Lord.**"

"Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him."

Read about the birth of Jesus in Luke chapters 1 and 2

• Make this crib box to hang from the Christmas tree.
 • Glue onto thin card then carefully cut around the outside.
 Fold back the sides along the dotted lines.

• Punch out the holes then cut 30cm of thin ribbon and thread through the holes.

• Pull together and knot to form a box. Hide small sweets inside.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

• Photocopy this page onto card to make lots of crib boxes.

Dec13 @teboahmobile @parishpump.co.uk

Somewhere in the Darkness

When the snows of winter
Covered verdant land
Somewhere in the darkness
God came down to man.

Silently the snowflakes
Fluttered from the sky
Somewhere in the darkness
Came a baby's cry.

When the shafts of sunlight
Turned from Calvary
Somewhere in the darkness
Jesus died for me.

Darkness before dawning
On that Easter Day
Somewhere in the darkness
The stone was rolled away.

Now, if Satan's winter
Turns a soul to night
Somewhere through the darkness
Comes Christ's saving light!

By Nigel Beeton



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear...*

What wonderful words of hope and faith in the coming of Jesus, our Messiah! You've heard that Advent carol every Christmas-tide of your entire life. But if it wasn't for a quiet, High Anglican English vicar who was once warden of an almshouse in East Grinstead, most likely you would never have heard of it.

John Mason Neale (1818-66) had always loved words. As a child of 10 he had edited his own handwritten family magazine. As a young man he enjoyed long solitary walks in the English countryside, pausing only to do a bit of brass-rubbing or to collect the architectural details of the country churches he discovered.

Neale was something of a scholar: he was captivated by the Middle Ages and the medieval church, the early church fathers and the lives of the saints. As one small girl at his almshouse orphanage once observed, Mr Neale (then in his 40s) "must be very old, to have talked to so many saints and martyrs".

John Mason Neale's place in history was assured when he decided to translate old hymns into English. He went on to become the greatest of all translators of hymns from the old Latin, Greek, Russian and Syrian churches. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* was just one of them; it began as an old Latin hymn of doubtful date. Today it is loved round the world. *The English Hymnal* (1906) contains 63 of the translated hymns and six original hymns by Neale.

(Source: Parish Pump 2013)

Sunday School

Last Sunday I asked a lot of people to take part in restarting the Sunday School in the Hut. I am grateful for so many positive reactions. It may be a bit scary at first, but I'm sure we will all find our way into it. If that does not happen so easily, we can always meet up and help one another out.

We are happy to see children coming to church but realize that for them it can be a long time to sit still and just listen. We plan to start on Sunday, 1st December, the first Sunday in Advent. In the Hut there will be materials available: a story to read for two different age groups (4 to 7 and 7 to 12), as well as paper and drawing materials. Please take a look at the materials next Sunday.

Alja has suggested that the children be asked to come along to the Hut after the readings and before the sermon. She will make the announcement in good time. Then we can bring them back into the chapel before communion. Our programme should take about 20 minutes at the most.

It would be great if more people could join us, so do please think about it. There will be no Sunday school during the Carol Service or on Christmas Day.

Hope we will have a great time with the children ... and hope you will be contacting me soon!

Jeanet Luiten



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.

Fairy Tale

Once upon a time a handsome Prince said to a beautiful Princess, "Will you marry me?" And the Princess said ...



"No!"

So the Prince lived happily ever after and rode motorcycles and dated gorgeous blondes and hunted and fished and raced cars and went out on the town, and never had to worry about the weekly shop or remembering birthdays. And he had his house and dogs, and ate junk food and all his friends and family thought he was the height of cool, and he had tons of money in the bank and changed his socks when he felt like it.

THE END

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Age and Experience

An old Doberman starts chasing rabbits and before long discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.



"Oh, oh!" thinks the old Doberman, "I'm in deep trouble now!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old Doberman exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder, if there are any more around here?" Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over

Archdeaonry Report (Synod: Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th October 2013)

This item follows on from the Archdeaonry Report given in the November issue of the magazine by Joyce Wigboldus. As Joyce mentioned in her report both she and our Chaplain Alja had to leave the Archdeaonry Synod on the Saturday morning due to other commitments. I stayed on to attend the meetings arranged for the Saturday and because I had been asked by the Archdeacon to take the minutes of the business meeting. I will produce a more detailed report later once I have completed the minutes, but this is a short item just for the magazine.

The Saturday morning began with an additional meeting that had been inserted before the business meeting. This was a panel discussion on the Luweero twinning. For some years the Diocese in Europe has been twinned with the Diocese of Luweero in Uganda and this twinning has been minded by our Archdeaonry. The people who originally set up the twinning arrangement have now moved on. The Archdeaonry is now at a point that it needs to evaluate the way forward. Therefore a proposal has been made to commission a consultant to evaluate the twinning and propose a way forward. During the panel discussion the history of the twinning link was given and Synod members were given the opportunity to ask questions concerning the proposed evaluation. This gave everyone the necessary background before the vote would be taken at the business meeting on whether to go ahead and commission the consultancy work. The Luweero panel discussion was immediately followed by the business meeting, during which the resolution was passed that Synod approves a review of the Luweero link by Mark Oxbrow, with a report to Synod in 2014.

One of the standards is made to remember Operation Market Garden. It is a very special standard since it is the only one that bears the English and Dutch flags. On 10th November, we all saw the last living Veteran, 90 years old, laying the wreath in front of the Altar. When he eventually passes away, the standard, with a black ribbon, will be shown for the last time at his funeral. And then the standard will be laid up to rest forever. In other words, the standard won't be used any longer but will go to a museum.

Next year is the 70th anniversary of Operation Market Garden. So next year when you enter the church, please stand still in front of those standards and greet them solemnly, in that way showing respect to all those men and women who made it possible for us today to live in peace and who liberated us from the yoke of suppression and constant fear of persecution. Also in that way "we will remember Them"!

*Inevitable,
life is cut off,
as an ear of corn that is ripe,
and often it is just that,
but often it is not ...
The lives they sacrificed were not
ripe yet but they were prepared to
cut it off for our sake ...*

Winston Churchill said: "A nation that forgets its past has no future." And therefore it is our Holy Duty that we shall remember and honour the Fallen!

Christiaan Koning

Morning Star, O Cheering Sight!

Morning Star, O
cheering sight!
Ere thou cam'st
how dark earth's
night!
Jesus mine,
In me shine;
Fill my heart with
light divine.



Morning star, thy
glory bright
Far excels the sun's
clear light:
Jesus be
Constantly,
More than a 1000
suns to me.

Thy glad beams,
thou morning star,
Cheer the nations
near and far;
Thee we own
Lord alone,
Man's great
Saviour, God's dear
Son.

Morning star, my
soul's true light,
Tarry not, dispel my
night;
Jesus mine,
In me shine;
Fill my heart with
the light divine.
Moravian Carol



Distance

Though our loved ones might be far away in this Christmas Season,

God is near and dear to us,
Remembering that He loved us first,
So we must love him,
And believe that he holds our loved ones safe and close to Him.
Contributed by Carol van Straten

Painter of *The Last Supper*

He discovered ... God in the miraculous beauty of light, in the harmonious movement of the planets, in the intricate arrangement of muscles and nerves inside the human body, and in that inexpressible masterpiece the human soul.

– Serge Bramly on the spirituality of Leonardo da Vinci

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, 10th November, we celebrated Remembrance Sunday. While entering St Mary's we walked between three men carrying two standards. Most of us just walked past, probably thinking it was a jolly nice sight. However, those two standards represented a symbol with a deeper meaning.



Photo courtesy of Christiaan Koning

A standard is not just a piece of material. No, it is the symbolic bridge between the material world and the immaterial world. It is the symbol representing all those young and old men and women who during Operation Market Garden, but also in all the other battles – soldiers and civilians alike – sacrificed their lives on the Altar of Peace so that we could live in freedom and democracy.

The main item of the business meeting was a question-and-answer session with the Bishop. During this session Bishop Geoffrey explained the recent developments regarding the proposal to have free-standing Archdeacons. As mentioned on the Diocesan website, the allocation of funding for the diocese from the Church Commissioners, agreed by the Archbishop's council recently at their meeting in September, amounted to £84,000. The Bishop said that we welcome this because it is the first time that we have shared in the allocation of funding from the Church Commissioners. In order to be able to do that there had to be a change in the law of the land, a measure of General Synod, approved by Parliament and receiving royal assent. Unfortunately the amount of £84,000 is so far below the one third of a million pounds per year that was asked for that it is impossible to take forward the plan for free-standing Archdeacons that was proposed. The Bishop said that if it had been £200,000 we could have considered creative ways to take things forward. Bishop Geoffrey explained what will happen now, which will be to continue with our existing pattern of Archdeacons, some of whom are serving in an "Acting" role.

The business meeting was followed by the Synod Eucharist with Bishop Geoffrey as Celebrant and Preacher. It was a wonderful service and the closing hymn was one with words that had been written by Bishop Geoffrey himself.

After lunch it was time for the annual general meetings of the Anglican Council for Belgium (ACB) and the Anglican Council for the Netherlands (AKIN). These two meetings took place at the same time in different meeting rooms. As one would expect I attended the AGM for the Anglican Council for the Netherlands. The meeting was chaired by the Area Dean and it covered a number of things that are important for us in the Netherlands.

his face and he slinks away into the trees. "Whew!" says the panther. "That was close! That old Doberman nearly had me!" Meanwhile a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes. The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther.



The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now the old Doberman sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old Doberman says ...



"Where on earth has that squirrel got to? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!"

Live Life

I just took a leaflet out of my letterbox, informing me that I can have sex at 82! I'm so very happy, because I live at 74 ... so it's not far to walk home afterwards!
– Dawn French
(contributed by Els Ottens)

There are two items to bring to your attention. The first is that the Anglican Council for the Netherlands now has its own website (www.anglican.nl) and we are requested to make a link to it from our own website. The second thing is that the Executive Committee has two vacancies, which we are asked to advertise. One of these vacancies concerns communications. Various items of information sometimes need circulating following a meeting of the Executive Committee. They need someone who is a clear communicator in written English, and who can also update the website. The other vacancy concerns personnel. They need someone who can give clear guidance to churchwardens, clergy and treasurers about the various employment options, the tax implications of remuneration and benefits, and who can administer the pension scheme. Should anyone be suitably qualified and interested in either of these positions, please contact me for further details.

The Archdeaconry Synod finished at about 15:30 on the Saturday afternoon, after what had been a very interesting and enjoyable few days.

Simone Yallop



Shearer's Cake

This recipe (a favourite of his) has been submitted by Malcolm McBride. His Butley Story and some of his poetry have appeared in earlier issues of this magazine, so you can see he is a man of many parts – definitely a good job description for a churchwarden!

This recipe produces a full flavoured and moist fruitcake, which is recommended for having a very low cholesterol content. It could be used as a healthy alternative for a Christmas cake.

Who We Are and Where We Are Matters

Who we are matters to God. In the words of Ephesians 2:10, we are each his masterpiece, one of a kind, a reflection of the heart and the mind and the creative genius of the Maker. We are crafted to do his good works. In the providence of God, each of these good works is woven together for his purposes; each also bears the stamp of uniqueness that was our Creator's intent.

What about you? What's shaping your vision for your own life? One way you might approach this question is to take seriously the places where you spend most of your time. That's what Jesus did. John 1:14 tells us that Jesus "came and lived among them" In other words he came to live in a fixed time and place. It mattered *where* he was. This was the context in which he could fulfil his unique and specific life calling in obedience to his Father.

Jesus was sent to a tiny geographic area on our planet for a limited amount of time, but with a purpose. He came to seek and to save the lost. He came to declare by word and deed that the kingdom of God had come. He ate and drank, he taught and healed, he talked and cried, he worked and slept, he prayed and celebrated. He lived fully and purposefully in that moment and in that place and He invited His disciples to do likewise.

Where we are matters. Where we spend the majority of our time in an ordinary week matters to God. So where is that for you – work, home, college, in your community, or somewhere else? Can you make a difference *there*? On the "frontline" of *your* daily life?

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Lots of lucre, but little luck? (5,7)
For nothing squared's a cube (3)
Japanese once flew a duck! (4)
Men used to wear this tube. (4)

A "small fortune" should come to you
An "oxo" cube you know;
A "Zero" was a plane they flew,
And "hose" – worn long ago.

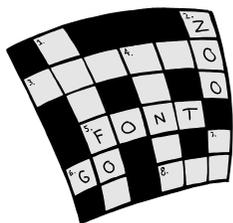
You may have seen a cake walk
If you had plenty (9) at the time
Or heard within a science talk
A line concerning lime (6)

A cake walk, or "a bun dance"?
"Alkali" you'll not have missed –
Are you, dear friend, by any chance
A cruciverbalist?
By Nigel Beeton

(Clues are in verses 3 & 5, answers are in verses 4 & 6)

Preamble

100 years ago, on 21st December 1913, the first crossword puzzle was published. It was invented by British-born puzzle creator Arthur Wynne, who called it a "Word-Cross Puzzle", and it was published in the *New York World*.



Crossword Fun

A cryptic crossword brings great fun (If you've got a twisted mind) With gems like anagrams and puns And hidden clues to find.

For a hundred years we have been clued For words across and down It's wondrous how the setters brewed Such clues to make us frown!

At the end of the service the Bishop was presented by representatives of the Greek Orthodox community with a specially crafted Icon, which was a gift from the Diocese.

An All Saints Day to Remember

(Posted on 2 November 2013)

All Saints Day, 1st November 2013, was marked with a special ceremony in the diocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Gibraltar when Bishop Geoffrey retired exactly 12 years to the day since his enthronement in the same Cathedral.

It was also the 44th anniversary of his ordination as a Priest. The service, attended by the Governor of Gibraltar and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Gibraltar, began with a highland pipe band and included the commissioning of Canon Geoffrey Johnston as Acting Archdeacon of Gibraltar. Bishop Geoffrey formally handed over the legal mandate for Bishop David, his Suffragan, to act as Diocesan Bishop during the interregnum. In addition to the Cathedral choir, the National Choir of Gibraltar sang items during the Communion.

Before the final blessing there were presentations to the Bishop and to Canon David Sutch, who has also retired as Archdeacon of Gibraltar. The final hymn, *For All the Saints*, was sung with gusto, with the addition of a trumpet played by Fr Jim Sutton, who assists in leading worship in the Cathedral.

Source: Website Diocese in Europe (<http://europe.anglican.org>). Why not visit the website to keep up to date with the news throughout the diocese illustrated with full-colour photographs.

Ingredients:

400gr (14oz) mixed dried fruit
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
225gr (8oz) margarine
275gr (10oz) wholemeal flour
275gr (10oz) self-raising flour
350gr (12oz) granulated sugar
350gr (12 fl. oz) water
1-2 tablespoons of milk

Heat the oven to a temperature of 150C, 300F or gas mark 2.

Lightly grease and line a 20-centimetre (eight-inch) round cake tin; also lightly grease the lining paper you are using.

Wash and dry the dried fruit. Place the margarine, sugar, water, dried fruit and bicarbonate of soda into a saucepan. Heat gently to dissolve the margarine, then bring to the boil, stirring gently to dissolve the sugar.

Simmer for three minutes, then allow to cool until it becomes tepid.

Meanwhile, mix the flours together and add to the now tepid mixture, beating well until thoroughly mixed. Finally add the milk and blend in. Place the completed cake mixture into the already prepared tin and bake in the pre-heated oven for about two hours, or until firm to the touch and beginning to shrink from the sides of the tin.

Allow the cake to cool in the tin for about 10 minutes and then turn it out onto a cooling rack, finally removing the lining paper. Final decoration and presentation is entirely your choice, depending on the guests and the occasion.

(From the W.I. Book of Cakes)



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Clubbed!

A young man was just about to start a round of golf when an elderly gentleman walked over to ask if he could join him. Despite misgivings that the older player might slow him down, the younger one agreed.

To his surprise and delight, the old man was a quick player.

He only ever hit his drives about 150 yards but he was no slouch along the fairways.

Eventually they reached the tenth hole, where the younger player hooked his drive into a plantation, leaving himself with a tall pine tree standing between his ball and the green. Seeing his opponent's predicament, the old man volunteered, "When I was your age, I used to hit the ball right over that tree to the green."



Without stopping to think (so eager was he to show off his skills), the young man took an almighty swing at the ball and then watched in horror as it thudded into the tree trunk and rebounded 20 yards behind him. The old man was silent for a few seconds before remarking, "Of course, when I was your age that pine tree was only three feet tall."



I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me!

Bill Gates is a very rich man today ... and do you want to know why? The answer is one word: versions.

— Dave Barry

St James the Least of All

On How to Make the Most of Carol Singing

My dear Nephew Darren,

Carol singing is not what it used to be. My fond memories of a group of choristers, muffled in scarves and overcoats, carrying lanterns and walking from door to door in the snow, as they sang *While shepherds watched ...* had to be suddenly revised when I saw your own music group, in T-shirts inscribed with "Jesus loves You", singing *Little Donkey*, in your shopping centre. I suspect any money you raised would just about have paid for the electricity used to power your banks of electronic equipment. Singing in the main square of the Centre next to the fountain may have looked good, but it seemed to mean that the choir members were obliged to make constant trips to the lavatory.

Here at St James the Least of All, carol singing is regarded as a staff perk for the choir; the year when the Boys' Brigade tried to break their monopoly was suppressed with a ruthlessness that would have impressed Genghis Khan.

Our annual carol-singing route involves months of meticulous planning. We find that a transparent collection box is vital, so that donors can see what earlier patrons have given. This means that those who are bound to put in notes must be visited first – *pour encourager les autres*. It also needs a detachable base, so that if coppers are given, they can be removed from sight before the next call.

Those homes that contain several children are visited just after bed-time, so that parents will give generously simply to get the choir to go somewhere else. Veiled threats to stay and sing more carols

been my staff in my own office at Worth, where a welcome back, or shared laughter, has been so important a part of enabling me, like St Paul, to shoulder that which comes on me daily, the care of all the churches. For to be a bishop is not to be a monarch, but to have one particular ministry in the church, a ministry exercised in partnership with others, with Bishop David, with the archdeacons, and the diocesan office, and the registrar with his wise legal advice. All of these are part of the rich tapestry which I see as I look backwards over these 12 years of ministry in this Diocese and ask you to join in prayer with me in giving thanks to God, and for forgiveness for things that have not been done, or not been well done; for, as Jesus reminded us, when you have done all these things remember that you are still unprofitable servants. As John Keble wisely said: 'God never lets us know the result of our actions, and in one way this keeps us humble, and in another it keeps us hopeful.'

"St Aelred of Rievaulx in the 12th century dared to say that 'God is friendship'. Jesus calls us into that friendship, and by the life of the Spirit draws us into the communion of love which is the life of God himself, the Trinity of love which is 'God above us, God beside us, God beneath us, the beginning, the end, the everlasting One'. That is the living truth of which St John speaks; and the glory of the Lord into whose likeness we are being transformed. In words that have become famous, Dag Hammarskjöld, sometime Secretary-General of the United Nations, said: 'For all that has been, *Thanks*; for all that will be, *Yes*.' That is my prayer for myself, and my prayer for this Diocese; and the God who holds us all in his love will surely bring this to pass, for not your Bishop, but the Lord himself says: *Nothing gives me greater joy than to hear that my children are living in the truth.*

Why Church?

A church-goer complained: "I've been coming to church for 30 years, and in that time I've heard thousands of sermons, but for the life of me, I can't think of a single one now. So I think I've wasted my time."

The minister thought a moment, then replied: "I've been



married for 30 years and my wife has cooked me thousands of meals. For the life of me I can't recall the entire menu of a single one. But I do know that each one nourished me and gave me strength to carry on living. If she had not given me those meals, I would have been stunted and eventually starved. Without regular Christian nourishment, we also will starve ... spiritually.

gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow-growing and would not reach maturity for 100 years. The Marshall replied, 'In that case, there is no time to lose; plant it this afternoon!'

– John F. Kennedy



I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

– C.S. Lewis
(*memorial stone unveiled in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey, 22nd November 2013*)

After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

– Aldous Huxley
(*author of Brave New World*)

from their country as a result of their responding to the call of Christ; to the joy of a new congregation in south-east Amsterdam, and for the work of the *Spe Gaudentes* (Rejoicing in Hope) community in the Red-light district of that same city; to the two Pastoral Conferences we have held, gathering the clergy to the Kardinal Schulte Haus in Cologne, where, worshipping in the Edith Stein Chapel there, with its searching architecture echoing the gas chamber in which she was martyred, I can remember Archbishop Rowan breaking down in tears as he preached to us on Holy Cross Day.

"Then there have been the people: young Bryan Levi, talented artist, whom I met in Naples, and was able to nominate as a Child of the Almonry for the Royal Maundy and, of course, the many wonderful older people from the Diocese, whose service to the Church and community, was recognised then; and so many, in chaplaincies and congregations, where I have been received with such warmth and hospitality – a living out of the Lord's words, *I have not called you servants but friends*. And unnamed strangers whom I have met at airports or on planes and who have asked a blessing, or had a conversation which sometimes has gone into deep places. There have been conversations with ambassadors, whose hospitality I have enjoyed; pilgrimages, such as that to Albania, where the Church has been born again in Easter life after the atheist tyranny of Enver Hoxha, and you now fly into the Mother Teresa International Airport. Of airports there have been many, and it is good to have seen the flourishing of the airport chaplaincy at Schiphol, where I treasure the Candlemas celebration of an anniversary of my consecration, with a small congregation at one side of the Chapel and Muslims praying to Mecca at the other.

Last, but not least, are the friends who are and have



We've got online carol-singers again!

(unless they give generously) are usually very effective. Getting whoever looks the most innocent and photogenic to ring the bell and ask for money is a far more subtle way of ensuring a donation than planting any number of mafia lookalikes (such as our church treasurer) on the doorstep.

The choir always finishes its evening at the local pub – but again, the timing has to be carefully managed. Too early and there will only be the landlord, his wife and their Labrador to listen; too late and people will be so full of Christmas cheer that any carols will be hi-jacked and become the equivalent of back-of-the-bus rugby songs.

I am never entirely sure what charity our choristers collect for, but the fact that all the men return to the pub once the boys are taken home does rather give one pause for thought.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

© The Revd Dr Gary Bowness

Battle O'er

Walking into a bar, Mike said to Charlie the bartender, "Pour me a stiff one – I've just had another fight with the little woman." "Is that right?" replied Charlie. "And how did it end this time?" "When it was over," said Mike, "she came to me on her hands and knees." "Really," said Charlie. "Now that's a switch. What did she say?" "She said, 'Come out from under the bed, you little chicken!'"

Marriage Lines



Married life is full of excitement and frustration. In the first year the man speaks and the woman listens. In the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens. In the third year, they both speak and the neighbour listens.

The typewriting machine, when played with expression, is no more annoying than the piano when played by a sister or near relation.

– Oscar Wilde

Law of Life

At any sports or theatrical event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, drinks, ice-cream or the restroom and who leave early before the end of the performance or game.

The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs and stay to the bitter end of the performance or game.

The aisle people are also very surly folk!



Wanted – New Church Minder for Floral Guild!

What is a church minder you may ask. Our Cathie Warmink has served St Mary's as a volunteer for several years now. Alternating with Vivian Reinders on a monthly basis, she comes to St Mary's during the week to check on the flowers, plants and the general state of things. Dead flowers are thrown out on the compost heap behind the church and sometimes messes left by wedding parties have to be cleaned up. Whoever has put their name down to do the flowers for the coming Sunday is informed of what is needed. All in all, an important job that goes (alas) without fanfare or recognition.

Joy Romeijn, Kathleen Rusius and Anja van der Neut have also served in this way during their time. Cathie is stepping down on 1st January 2014. Our cheerful and much loved Flower Lady will get a much deserved rest in laying aside this particular service.

If you live in the area of St Mary's and can help out on an alternating monthly basis, please contact Cathie (0547-271876) or me, Linda (0546-868139). If there are more people that can help out in this capacity, Vivian will be much relieved! ... as well as the rest of the Floral Guild.

Groetjes,
Linda ten Berge



Key Dates

10th to 15th December	Middachten Castle Fair
15th December	Carol Service, with Christmas Market in the Hut after the service

Retirement of Bishop Geoffrey

A Special Icon for Bishop's Farewell

(Posted 23rd October)

As Bishop Geoffrey began his farewell sermon in front of a crowded St Margaret's Church, Westminster, he held up a traditional hourglass as historically used by preachers – although this one had a difference as it contained purple sand!

In his sermon during the Eucharist on Wednesday, 23rd October 2013, the Bishop said: "I give thanks for the Christian faith in which, through my mother and father and home church of All Saints', Alton, I was brought up; for God's calling of me when I was confirmed at 13, writing in the weekend essay we were asked to write on the theme *My Ambition* that 'My ambition is to be a priest, and if it be the will of God, a bishop in his Church.' I give thanks for so many – priests, friends, students of many generations at Keble College, Oxford, and elsewhere – who have been given to me by God in his great love and generosity to be gifts and means of grace.

"In this Diocese the first Eucharist in which I shared was before I became bishop, on one of my great summer travels, and was celebrated in a yurt in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan, with yaks outside in the unseasonable snow. There have been countless visits to chaplaincies, where the Christian life unfolded in many particular places: great occasions of thanksgiving, as only this last Sunday in Copenhagen; to the joyful worship of Nigerian congregations in Padova and Macciarata (where I blessed a football and football shirts – and the team won!); to the White Nile congregation of Southern Sudanese refugees in Vaasa in northern Finland; to confirmations, such as the one in Ankara earlier this year, where seven Iranians came "thirsting for baptism", where they and others like them face exile



Quote Unquote

As you will have heard via various media last month – or remembered without prompting – it was 50 years ago, on 22nd November 1963, that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Perhaps less well known was the fact that the two influential writers C.S. Lewis and Aldous Huxley died on the very same day. Reason for a quote or two ...

We believe that if men have the talent to invent new machines that put men out of work, they have the talent to put those men back to work.

– John F. Kennedy

And a quote within a quote:

The great French Marshall Lyautey once asked his

26th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
Epiphany 3	Chalice	Everhard Ottens Caroline Siertsema
	Elizabeth v.d. Heide	(1) Isaiah 9: 1-4
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Maureen v.d. Heide	(2) 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
	Gospel	Matthew 4: 12-23

2nd February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
Presentation in the Temple	Chalice	Janice Collins Simone Yallop
	Simone Yallop	(1) Malachi 3: 1-5
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Carla Koomen	(2) Hebrews 2: 14 to end
	Gospel	Luke 2: 22-40

* * * * *
 * *As this is the last issue of 2013,* *
 * *may we wish you,* *
 * *our readers and contributors,* *
 * *all the peace and joy of this* *
 * *blessed season and a happy* *
 * *and healthy New Year.* *
 * * * * *

8th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
Advent 2	Chalice	Everhard Ottens Count Alfred Solms
	Pauline Talstra	(1) Isaiah 11: 1-10
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Els Ottens	(2) Romans 15: 4-13
	Gospel	Matthew 3: 1-12

15th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
Advent 3	Various Readers	
		
10:30 am Carol Service		

22nd December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
Advent 4	Chalice	Janice Collins Caroline Siertsema
	Maureen v.d. Heide	(1) Isaiah 7: 10-16
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Elizabeth v.d. Heide	(2) Romans 1: 1-7
	Gospel	Matthew 1: 18 to end

24th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	Chalice	Joyce Wigboldus Simone Yallop
Christmas Eve	Simone Yallop	(1) Isaiah 62: 6-12
	Jeanet Luiten	(2) Titus 3: 4-7
21:30 hrs Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 2: 8-20

25th December		
Christmas Day	<p>At the time of going to press, there are no arrangements for a service to be held on Christmas Day. However, if a locum can be found during this busy period, an announcement to this effect will be made in church.</p>	

29th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
Christmas 1	Chalice	Everhard Ottens Count Alfred Solms
	Linda ten Berge	(1) Isaiah 63: 7-9
	Brenda Pyle	(2) Hebrews 2: 10-18
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 2: 13-23

5th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
	Chalice	Count Alfred Solms Joyce Wigboldus
Epiphany	Erica Schotman-Bonting	Isaiah 60: 1-6
	Blair Charles	Ephesians 3: 1-12
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 1: 1-12

12th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Janice Collins
Epiphany 1	Chalice	Everhard Ottens Caroline Siertsema
	Arjen Haffmans	(1) Isaiah 42: 1-9
	Jeanet Luiten	(2) Acts 10: 34-43
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 3: 13 to end

19th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
Epiphany 2	Chalice	Janice Collins Simone Yallop
	Victor Pirenne	(1) Isaiah 49: 1-7
	Brenda Pyle	(2) 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	John 1: 29-42