

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

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Chaplaincy
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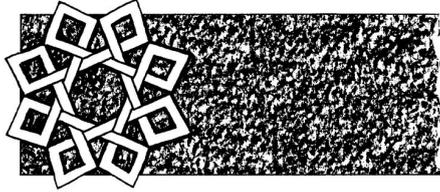


The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND





December 2015 &
January 2016

*The Bishop's
Christmas Message
2015*

My eldest daughter, Ruth, used to work for a famous high street retailer. Sadly, the stress in and around Christmas was one of the reasons that she left them. The long hours in the run up to Christmas, the packed shops and stressed

shoppers, and the night shifts just before Christmas Day itself when the shop had to be turned around rapidly into Boxing Day 'sales' mode, piled huge pressure on assistants and management alike. Yet everyone knew that Christmas was of vital commercial importance. And not just for this shop. The centre for retail research suggests that many Northern European retailers make more than half of their sales and profits in the three months around Christmas. <http://www.retailresearch.org/shoppingforxmas>.

The main character in the commercial Christmas is of course Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas. But underlying Santa's prominence, is the original Christmas story. Indirectly, at least, the giving of gifts is rooted in the gift of the Christ-child and the costly gifts given by the magi. And so the Christmas story is used to help legitimate the retail sector and the consumption of goods at Christmastime. How ironic, that our own texts can be co-opted to trap us in the very patterns of modern behaviour that many of us would long to escape or at least to control!

In this light, it is important to read the biblical infancy narratives again with fresh eyes and to notice their hugely subversive, liberating and revolutionary intent. In Luke's gospel, when Gabriel announces to Mary that she will have a child, the angel tells her that her baby son will be great and that God will make him a king inheriting the throne of King David. Everyone was well aware that there was already a local king – Herod – and that behind him was the weight of Roman imperial authority. Yet, after she is visited by Elizabeth, Mary responds with the words of the Magnificat, in which she glorifies the Lord who exalts the humble but brings rulers down from their thrones. When the child is eventually born, the first to see the new born Christ in Luke's gospel are the shepherds, who symbolise the lowest and poorest in society.

The opposition between the infant Jesus and the ruling powers is highlighted even more clearly in Matthew's gospel. Matthew's Jesus is presented from the outset as a king – descended from David, born in the royal city of Bethlehem, worshipped by

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Twente News

Keep it a surprise

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father.

While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise.

After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said, very seriously, "No, T-shirts don't rattle."

Letters to Father Christmas

Dear Father Christmas, this Christmas could you please send me a yellow door. Yours, Sherlock Holmes

Watson: So why do you want a yellow door Holmes?

Holmes: Lemon-entry, my dear Watson.

What is available in the Hut

There is a nice selection of small gifts, greetings cards and Christmas cards for sale in the "cupboard" shop in the Hut.

Don't forget to have a good browse while you drinking your coffee. All proceeds will go to the church funds. Thank you and enjoy browsing and buying.

Will readers please tear the postage stamps off your envelopes carefully and bringing the stamps to the hut. There is a box for used stamps. Money raised from selling the used stamps goes to church funds.

Theda ten Barge.

Poppy Collection

The Remembrance Day Poppy sales raised €125. Joy Romijn would like to thank everyone for their contribution. At the same time Joy feels it is time to hand the job over and is asking for someone to come forward and offer. It is not a strenuous job, just needs a bit of organizing.



Key Dates

Carol Service - 10:30 am	13 th December
Christmas Market - After Carol Service	13 th December
Social Evening	16 th January
Castle Fair	10 th September

Additional Event

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - 19:00 13th December at the Grote of Lebuinuskkerk te Deventer, on Grote Kerkhof 42. Fred Schonewille, Secretary of St Mary's PCC is also involved with this church. For those of you in the Deventer area this could be a wonderful way to end a day of song heralding the beginning of the Christmas season.

PCC News

The PCC meeting was held on the 19th November in the Hut. Prior to the meeting, the Standing Committee met to discuss and agree on the terms and conditions of our Chaplains new contract, which replaces the original contract with the now defunct East Netherlands Group of Chaplaincies. Arjen Haffmans and Lub Gringhuis spent a great deal of time researching and updating the new contract. The new contract was approved by the PCC and Arjen and Lub were thanked for all their hard work. The Chaplain and the two Wardens signed the new contract.

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The PCC went on to review Finances. Hans Siertsema explained that although the financial situation was better than forecast, there was still a need to increase income and decrease expenditures. The cost of the magazine was one example. Postage charges have been voluntary and have remained static at €10 for twelve years. Those readers who receive the magazine by post are to be asked to pay €20 for postage into the Chaplaincy account, identifying the payment as 'Magazine Postage'. An alternative is to have the digital version emailed.

Donations to the local Food Bank at the Harvest Festival were a great success. The Chaplain suggested organizing a permanent collection throughout the year for the Food Bank. Members of the congregation could leave food donations in a crate in the hut. When full the crate could be delivered to the Food Bank.

Magazine Feedback

After the previous editor Janice Collins mid-way through the year stepped down, the church magazine switched to a team approach to continue production. On behalf of the congregation, the team would like to offer a big 'Thank You' to Janice for her dedicated, hard work over the past five years.

Using a team has enabled us to encourage more members of the congregation to contribute articles, in English and in Dutch. We feel that this makes the magazine even more inclusive, helping the congregation to get to know each other better. Anyone can submit an article on any subject, preferably in a Word document format. This is the most accurate and quickest format from which the editors can work. Handwritten scripts and text in emails are both acceptable. Be aware that errors are likely as reading some handwriting is often educated guesswork. Likewise, working out the content and layout of email text is difficult.

Finally, the magazine team, the Revd Alja Tollefsen, Brenda Pyle, Erica Schotman Bonting, Marilyn and Blair Charles wish all the readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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

Dad at Christmas

Steve: What's your father getting for Christmas?

Dave: Bald and fat.

Don't eat

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinselitus.



How odd

Christmas is weird - what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?

Christmas

The judge asked the defendant what he was charged with.

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," was the reply.

"That not illegal!. How early were you shopping?"

"Before the store was open."

How do you know Santa has to be a man? No woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.

Chritmas Cometh

Q: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

A: Because he had low elf esteem.

Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The Elf-abet!

Q: What does Santa call a reindeer that won't work?

A: Dinner

Just before Christmas, two brothers were spending the night at their Grandma's house. At bed time, they knelt down to say their prayers.

As they closed their eyes, one boy said in a loud voice, "Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a Wii, a telescope and a new bike."

His older brother said, "Why are you shouting? God isn't deaf."

"I know," said his brother, "but Grandma is."

Good King Wenceslas phoned Domino's for a pizza.

The salesgirl asked him:-

'Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?

St James the Least of All – final letter in the series

Editor: We have some sad and momentous news this month: after ten years and seven months in the job, the Rev Dr Gary Bowness has reluctantly decided that it is time for Uncle Eustace to 'bow out'. All good things must come to an end sometime, and thus Uncle Eustace retires this month. We will miss him! We thank Gary for all the pleasure the letters of Uncle Eustace has provided for us down the years. For anyone who would like a 'souvenir' of Uncle Eustace, you may like to purchase a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

Farewell from Uncle Eustace

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew
Darren

And so, at the beginning of the New Year, you finally go to your own first parish and I, after 50 years of ordained ministry, am to move to a home for retired clergy. Let me give you some final words of advice.

Curates, you will have noticed, are forgiven everything. I hope you have appreciated this period of grace, because come 1st January, all that will change. You will then become responsible for everything that goes wrong in your church. You must be able to mend leaking taps, arrange flowers, mow the churchyard and run jumble sales. You will be expected to know the moment someone falls ill – preferably the day before. In addition, they will expect you to preach profound sermons in six minutes that will stir their souls but not upset them, and to lead a life of prayerful solitude while being the life and soul of the parish. From the day your predecessor left, he will have turned into a saint. *You* will be their new disappointment. Be assured that *whatever* you do, you will *always*



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disappoint someone. Sometimes you will manage to upset everyone.

Be prepared for phonecalls at 3am telling you that someone has left a light on in church, and shouldn't you go turn it off. You will be asked about car parking arrangements for the October Harvest Service by mid-January, while hymns for the 9 Lessons and Carols will be required by early summer. I suggest you buy in extra pullovers, overcoats and scarves for life in your vicarage. A good number of mousetraps may well come in useful too.

Welcome to your new life of an incumbent.

I, on the other hand, greatly relish the thought of no longer having to care about any parishioners. Instead, I shall become one myself – and am already planning my revenge. In fact, this afternoon, inspired by a large glass of sherry, I have begun a list of things I can complain about. The church is too cold, I don't know any of the hymns, the vicar can't preach, he never visits, and things are generally not as good as they used to be. True, I haven't actually chosen my new church yet, but no matter, I will voice all these complaints when I get there.

Of course, I will not be in church on Sunday mornings if it is raining, or on Sunday evenings if something good is on the television. Most of all, I look forward to sitting as far back in church as is possible, and starting a campaign to stop 'passing the peace'.

My new life as a parishioner will be richly rewarding. 50 years after ordination, I can hardly wait.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Where One or Two are Gathered

A farmer turns up to evensong and discovers that he and the new vicar are the only people there.

"What shall we do?" asks the vicar.

"Well," replies the farmer, "If I goes to feed my sheep and only one turns up, I feeds her."

So after four hymns, two sung canticles, one sung psalm, two lessons, prayers for everything under the sun and a twenty minute sermon the service ends.

"So how did I do?" the vicar asked the farmer.

"Well, if I goes to feed my sheep and only one turns up, I feeds her," he said, "but I don't give her the whole bag full!"

Perplexed Primate

The gorilla at the zoo looked confused as he read two books – the Bible and Darwin's "Origin of the Species."

The tiger asked him what was wrong.

The gorilla answered, "I can't figure out if I'm supposed to be my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother."

Women

You can tell a lot about a woman by her hands.

For instance, if they're placed around your throat she's probably slightly upset!

Punography

A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

Jokes about German sausages are the Wurst.

Broken pencils are pointless.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

When chemists die they barium.

They told me I had Type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.

I tried to catch some Fog. I mist.

These boots are made for walking ...

... and that's just what they did. They carried me some 800km up hill and down dale, delivering me at the end of five weeks to Santiago de Compostela, safe and sound and without a single blister. They may be the most expensive item in my wardrobe, but they've certainly proved their weight in gold. Come to think of it, they're probably the weightiest items in my wardrobe too.



And it could all have been so different. Back in April, my first foray into the world of long-distance walking – tackling Pieterburen to Groningen on the N-S route of the Pieterpad – left me hobbling painfully, mourning the loss of a toenail. Lessons certainly had to be learnt! Fortunately, the Pieterpad proved a fertile training ground and in the summer, I even met up with an experienced backpacker who'd walked the Camino and gave me a few tips. Top of her list was: Don't start at St-Jean-Pied-de-Port!

My husband drove me down through France and, on the third day, nearing St Jean, he said, "Why don't I take you over the Pyrenees, after all we've camped there several times before." My meek answer? "Thank you very much!" And it was great. We travelled up to Roncesvalles together; attended the pilgrims' blessing in the Abbey together; shared the pilgrims' menu with other walkers together; and spent another night in our converted (camper) van together. The next morning, it was time to strap on my rucksack (just under 10 kg as recommended) and hit the road ... or rather wooded path. In my guidebook, this is marked as a three-boot trail and it well deserved its top rating because of the time-consuming scree-covered descent into Zubiri. So, my first night in a huge dormitory, in a top bunk without guard rails (one man fell out of bed during the night – fortunately unhurt), and awakened at the crack of dawn, when the early risers, some with small lamps strapped to their heads, packed their gear as quietly as possible and headed off for the next *albergue*.

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Two particular words that I'd gleaned from the pilgrims' blessing were "inspiración" and "protección" and these formed the core of my prayer each day. It is exhilarating to set off each morning not knowing who or what may come your way. Every route, every resting-place, every albergue was different, bringing companionship and friendship, or solitude and reflection. And I always did find room at the inn, even if occasionally I had to walk a little – once even 10km – further than planned.

After a few days, I joined forces with Françoise from Strasbourg, who had worked for the British embassy until Mrs Thatcher closed it during an economy drive. Still, our personal entente cordiale flourished. Maybe that was because we linked up at Irache, home to the famous wine fountain that offers free red wine to all who pass by. We travelled together to Burgos, where she planned to return home. In the past two years, Françoise has crossed France in two stages; this year the stretch to Burgos was on the agenda; and next year she'll return for the final lap to Santiago. We won't forget our journey into Burgos in a hurry. From the word go it was driving rain, so clad in our ponchos we toiled up the *Alto* (over 1000m) and ever onwards, buffeted by winds reaching (as we heard later) 100km an hour. The rucksacks performed sterling work, pegging us to the ground. And then it dawned on us ... we'd missed our path ... we were lost, with little chance of finding our way back. Lost but not alone: we were joined by yet another orphan of the storm: Anna, from Verona. Finally we trudged into a village, pretty much deserted in such weather but a welcoming light shone in the local café. The three customers and the bartender were rather taken aback to be confronted by these bedraggled Quasimodo triplets (the ponchos have a section that unzips to accommodate a rucksack) but they couldn't have been kinder. The village had originally been on the Camino but had been bypassed since the building of the motorway. To cap it all, *the* daily bus had gone. Thankfully, help was at hand. One customer was travelling into Burgos for his work and he immediately offered to take us with him. So a car of four: one from France, one from Italy, one from England and mostly importantly a driver from Spain! He would have taken us to the cathedral there and then, but, bearing in mind our pilgrim sensibilities, dropped us off where the road met the Camino on the outskirts of Burgos.

Wish I was in your
home,
you would always pick
me up,
charge me when I feel
empty
and touch me a
thousand times a day.
You never leave
without me,
share and write all your
thoughts with me.
How can I be your

Phone

*Seen on a poster at a
trade fair*

A Scottish grace

Pit doon your heid, and
up your paws
And thank the Lord for
good strong jaws
*The Rt Rev. Patrick
Rodger*

Dejected

Every time you feel
dejected/dispirited/
down-hearted in what
life brings you, realise
that nobody has come
to where he is today
without having been
where he was
yesterday.

*Translated from a French
saying.. Does it need
correction?*

What kind of
motorbike does Santa
ride?

A Holly Davidson!

Christmas: The time of
year when everyone
gets *Santamental*.

Two Wolves

An old Cherokee told his grandson, "My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, lies and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, humility, hope, kindness, empathy and truth."

The boy thought about and asked, "Grandfather, which wolf wins?" The old man quietly replied, "The one you feed."

With the true meaning of Christmas in mind...

Our God contracted to a span Incomprehensibly made man. - *Charles Wesley*

The incarnation was a necessary means to an end, and the end was the putting away of the sin of the world by the offering of the body of Christ. - *Thomas Hewitt*

The Christian story is precisely the story of one grand miracle. - *C S Lewis*

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Magi. He is immediately a threat to Herod and must be taken for his own safety out of Israel into Egypt. Biblical commentators have usually interpreted the flight into Egypt in theological terms, relating it in some way to Israel's journey into and subsequent exodus from Egypt. But, straightforwardly, it's clear that the infant Jesus is on the run. He is fleeing persecution. He is a refugee.

Thus both Matthew and Luke introduce Jesus as a king who threatens the oppressive powers governing first century Israel. Jesus is a 'prince of peace' whose kingdom is founded on very different principles from the military rule that underpinned the 'pax Romana'. His kingdom is one where the first will be last and the last first. Even in his birth and infancy he is identified with the poor, the persecuted and the refugee.

Europe faces an ongoing refugee crisis. Many towns and cities across the whole continent are receiving large numbers of migrants. Our own parishes and chaplaincies are doing what they can to bring aid and assistance. There is no easy solution to the crisis. The long term solutions involve peace building and the generation of economic prosperity in the Middle East and Africa. Medium term solutions might involve the creation of safe routes and the speedier processing of asylum applications. But in the short term, the particular calling of the church is to pray and to work for the welfare of those who have been forced to flee their homes and who face a European winter. The book of Deuteronomy 10:19 teaches: 'You are to love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.' We remember that this was how Jesus began his infant life too

I have heard some wonderful and deeply moving stories of how care for the stranger has brought unexpected grace. A teacher was telling me how pupils at her school found a new sense of meaning and purpose through ministering to the Syrians who had arrived in their town. Clergy have told me how their congregations have laid aside minor disagreements when faced with the urgency of a common mission and purpose.

This Christmas, we are summoned to see the world with divine perspective and compassion. For our own good and for the good of others, we are invited to reclaim the Christmas story! We are to preach, proclaim and live the amazing news that God enters his own creation to save, console and heal the poor and the lost. God comes amongst us as a vulnerable baby sharing our own human weaknesses

6th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
Second Sunday of Advent	Chalice	Caroline Siertsema
	Els Ottens	Baruch ch 5
	Vivian Reinders	Philippians 1.3-11
10:30 am	Gospel	Luke 3.1-6

Forthcoming Services



13th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
	Readers:	1. Dina Boessenkool 2. Fred Schonewille: 3. John Bestman 4. Simone Yallop 5. Brenda Pyle 6. Elisabeth v.d Heide 7. Everhard Ottens 8. Blair Charles:
	10:30 am Carol Service	

Forthcoming Services



20th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
Fourth Sunday of Advent	Chalice	Count Alfred
	Heleen Rauwerda	Micah. 5. 2-5a
	Linda ten Berge	Hebrews. 10. 5-10
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 1. 39-55

Forthcoming Services

Forthcoming Services

	24th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
		Duty Wardens	Blair Charles & Jeanet Luiten
		Intercessor	Fred Schonewille
		Chalice	Everhard Ottens Fred Schonewille
	22:30	Victor Pirenne	Isaiah 9. 2 - 7
Christmas Eve	Dina Boessenkool	Titus 2. 11 - 14	
	Gospel	Luke 2. 1 -14	



Forthcoming Services

	27th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
		Duty Warden	Blair Charles
		Intercessor	John Bestman
	First Sunday of Christmas	Chalice	Simone Yallop
		Arjen Haffmans	1 Samuel.2.18-20, 26
10:30 am	Heleen Rauwerda	Colossians. 3. 12-17	
Sung			
Eucharist	Gospel	Luke. 41-end	



Forthcoming Services

	3rd January	Officiate and Preacher	Simone Yallop
		Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
		Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	The Epiphany	John Bestman	1 John 4.11-18
		Brenda Pyle	Ephesians 3.1-12
10:30 am	Gospel	Mark 6. 45-52	
Morning Prayer			

Forthcoming Services

10th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Baptism of Christ	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens
	Linda ten Berge	Isaiah 43. 1-7
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Fred Schonewille	Acts 8. 14-17
	Gospel	Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

Forthcoming Services

17th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
Second Sunday of Epiphany	Intercessor	John Bestman
	Chalice	Caroline Siertsema
	Blair Charles	Isaiah 62. 1-5
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Erica Bonting	1 Corinthians. 12. 1-11
	Gospel	John 2. 1-11

Forthcoming Services

24th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Third Sunday of Epiphany	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	Chalice	Count Alfred
	Elizabeth v.d. Heide	Nehemiah. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Arjen Haffmans	1 Corinthians.12:12-31a
	Gospel	Luke 4:14-21

Fortcoming Services

31st January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
	Intercessor	Everhard Ottens
	Chalice	Simone Yallop
	Fred Schonewille	Ezekiel. 43. 27-44.4
10:30 am Sung Eucharist and Healing	John Bestman	1 Corinthians 13. 1-13
	Gospel	Luke 2. 22-40

Fortcoming Services

7th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
Presentation	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
	Intercessor	John Bestman
	Chalice	Jeanet Luiten
	Elizabeth v.d. Heide	tba
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Victor Pirenne	tba
	Gospel	tba

Fortcoming Services

10th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Alja Tollefsen
Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens
	Louw Talstra	tba
20:00 Eucharist	Gospel	tba

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and vulnerabilities. He becomes human so that we become divine (to quote Athanasius), but he also becomes human so that we can become more fully human ourselves. And in humanity to reach out beyond ourselves to others as he has reached out to us. That is the real gift

Finally – aside from the commercial pressures - I am very aware that the Christmas season puts particular opportunities and pressures in the way of our chaplaincies. We are typically receiving lots of visitors who don't normally darken the doors of our churches. At the same time, many regular church members are away at Christmas itself, visiting family or friends. So those that remain have to work especially hard to keep everything running and to provide a cheerful welcome. To all those who sustain and enable our worship over Christmas I give my warm and sincere thanks: to our clergy, lay readers and leaders, musicians, welcomers, wardens, caterers and cleaners.

And may the God whose message of peace was sung by the angels to herald the birth of his Son, bring his peace to our hearts, our homes, our families and our world over this Christmas time



+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



(Continued from page 10)

He that made man
was made man.
-C H Spurgeon

Christmas is the day
that holds all time
together. -
Alexander Smith

Filling the world he
lies in a manger! -
Augustine

Where there is
peace, God is. -
Anon

Peace rules the day
when Christ rules
the mind.
- Anon

Peace is a free gift
and flows from the
pure mercy of God.
- John Calvin

We rob ourselves of
much joy if we
forget the loving
and caring presence
all round about us
of the angels of
God.
Maurice Roberts

Whatever we hold
to ourselves is loss.
Whatever we give
to God is gain. -
Gilbert Shaw

Who can deny that
Jesus of Nazareth,
the incarnate Son of
the most High God,
is the eternal glory
of the Jewish race.
- Benjamin Disraeli

Po TATERS

Some people never seem motivated to participate,
But are just content to watch while others do the work.
They are called "Spec Taters".

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted
At finding fault with the way others do the work.
They are called "Comment Taters".

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do,
But don't want to soil their own hands.
They are called "Dick Taters".

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them.
It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet.
They are called "Agie Taters".

There are those who say they will help, but somehow
Just never get around to actually doing the promised help.
They are called "Hezzie Taters".

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After Burgos, the challenge of the Meseta loomed, the high central plateau of Castile. According to my guidebook and other sources, a landscape that is "lonely, monotonous, boring and offers scant shade from the blazing sun". Well, it was absolutely beautiful! The mornings were fresh, the sunrises breath-taking, and by midday it was warm, even hot, and jackets could be removed and wet socks or shirts pinned to the rucksack to dry. Autumn was entering in a riot of colour: yellow, orange, russet, ochre, brown – simply crying out for the palette of a Van Gogh. Towards the end of the Meseta stands the Cruce de Ferro, the iron cross where the symbolic act of leaving a stone prepares the pilgrim for the final phase and the approach to Santiago. Yes, I had brought a stone with me, or rather a piece of a stone. The stone I picked up on St Columba's Bay last year had been split (no mean task!) into four, so now a fragment of Iona lies quietly in Spain.

Why the Camino? This was a subject of conversation that cropped up periodically among pilgrims as we walked, our paths intertwining, separating, intertwining again. On a ruined wall, overlooking Najera, Françoise and I read a haunting poem written by Eugenio Garibay, a priest of the neighbourhood. Though written in melodious Spanish, even our halting translation couldn't disguise its beauty; but this is offered by the internet:

*Dust, mud, sun, and rain
The Camino de Santiago is
Thousands of pilgrims
and more than a thousand years.*

*Pilgrim, who is calling you?
What hidden force draws you?
Neither the Field of Stars
nor the great cathedrals.*

*It is not the bravery of Navarre
nor the wine of La Rioja,
nor the Galician seafood
nor the Castilian countryside.*

*Pilgrim, who calls you?
What hidden force draws you?
Neither the people of the Camino
nor their rural customs.*

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*Not the history and culture
or the Rooster of La Calzada
or the Palace of Gaudi
or the castle of Ponferrada.*

*I see everything passing by
And it is a joy to see it all,
but the voice that calls me
I feel more deeply still.*

*The force that pushes me
The force that draws me,
I cannot explain,
Only the One above knows!*

Bueno Camino!

©Janice Collins

Christmas in America.

My memories of Christmas pertains only to California. In a warm climate that means fake snow sprayed on windows and snowmen created out of three stacked graduated size balls of dried tumbleweeds spray painted white. This is the Wild West after all.

High in the Sierra mountainrange snowfall is 10 feet in a good year. More than enough to pack snow behind big car bumpers and drive down to the valley below. This would not be possible with todays solid plastic bumpers. Enough snow would remain unmelted to make a few snowballs. Just enough to throw at the neighbor kids.

The main floral decoration was the eternal red poinsettia. The pot was always wrapped in shiny colored aluminum foil. Most churches did not decorate in a special way as we do in St. Mary's. We were often reminded that Christ is the "reason for the season" Not Santa Claus. I don't think God is really worried about Santa Claus.

Christmas caroling is a magic experience when church shut-ins are treated to a surprise concert on their doorstep. Neighbors often come outside to listen in. Four-part harmony, a cappella after dark sounds wonderful in the still, cold winter air.

Homes are decorated from front to back and from top to bottom. With unbounded enthusiasm. Every year my Dad would install a life size Santa, sleigh and reindeer on our roof with spotlights.

Christmas shopping in America can leave you shell-shocked. A cacaphony of music, lights, department store Santas, bumper to bumper traffic, and excited children with pure wonderment in their eyes. Crazy but fun.

© Linda ten Berge.

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be

Someone they are not
They are called
"Immy Taters".

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand.

They bring real sunshine into the lives of others.

They are called
"Sweet Po Taters".

*Contributed by
Brenda Pyle*

Christmas Crackers

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A: Frostbite

Q: Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?

A: Because they were two deer.

Q: What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water

Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

A: Claustrophobic

Q: Why is it impossible to teach a dog to dance?

Q: Because they have two left feet.



Men's curious reluctance to ask where they are going

If you are travelling far this Christmas, pray that your satnav works, or that there is a woman in the car. Research has found that men are so stubborn about NOT asking directions that they waste hours and miles every year. Over a life-time of travel, it works out to a wasted journey that stretches from Land's End to John O' Groats.

Just six per cent of men will ask for help or check a map to avoid unnecessary travel. More than twice as many are so proud that they will persist until they find their route on their own, regardless of how long it takes them. (Which of course has inspired the joke: Why did the Children of Israel wander in the wilderness for 40 years? Because Moses wouldn't ask directions...)

The survey of modern men was by TrekAce, which makes GPS units for walkers.

Refugees, a volunteer speaks

A good friend of mine, Wim, has worked for many years with refugees and asylum seekers as a volunteer. I was curious about the work he is doing there at the moment. Because he didn't have a minute free for a meeting, we talked over the phone.

Question: How long have you been doing this?

Wim: In the 90s, I started with helping people adapt to living in another country. In 2005, rejected asylum seekers were being put out on the street so I stepped in to help fugitive and homeless families. I remember how we found shelter for some in an ancient monastery. In Goor, some squats were made available. Then in 2006, there was a general amnesty. Even so, I still witnessed a family being forcibly evicted and unable to deal with the emotional upset, I quit.

Question: But you are back and still in the middle of things. How did that happen?

Wim: Well yes, there is such a shortage of help that it makes me shudder. I have learned now to take time out for myself and in certain situations to say no. At the moment I assist people who have been here for eighteen months or longer. Usually they are waiting for a house to become available. As an example: A man from Syria, of some 45 years in age, was reunified with his family, therefore he had a right to a house. But then we have to look at the budget that the municipality provides for the furnishing. Minimal you might say. But what do they need and how do we tackle it. Where do we go for everything, what can be new and what can be second hand?

This Syrian man had a top job with Shell and he speaks good English. But in this country, he is nothing and he has nothing. He can only stay here for five years. I told him about yet another bombing raid on his city. "You say: again?" he said, "There are hourly bombing raids and the constant risk of being shot on the streets. You're not sure whether you will live from one hour to the next. But if I could safely return than I would, for after all it is my homeland!" I have used this man as an example, because his story is typical of so many others.

Question: Are there many people still waiting for a house?

Wim: In the past 10 years, 80 families have come here from refugee centres all over the country, mainly to reunify families. Therefore, these people have priority for a house. In Delden, there are still 42 families who are waiting for a house, which are not for

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bragging rights.

Question: I heard you say that a number of people were recently received at the refugee centre in Azelo.

Wim: Yes, there are about 400. They are waiting for residence permits, which will allow them to remain for five years in the Netherlands.

Question: Where do these people come from?

Wim: Mostly they are from Syria, Eritrea, Sudan and Iraq.

Question: What can we do for these people?

Wim: There is a huge need for volunteers to collect and guide the people. But it will also help a lot, if you have such a family in your neighbourhood, simply to share a cup of coffee with them. Someone once told me that only one neighbour came to visit them while the others did not even want to look at them. But the neighbour who came made it up for the others. The refugees have in general, a reasonable level of education comparable to the Netherlands. Thus, many of them speak English. There is also an Arabic interpreter available at the refugee centre. But the refugees must all learn Dutch and receive 19 months of language instructions. At the end, if they do not pass the exam, then they have to repay the cost of the lessons. The refugees also receive help in finding employment. I know of a dental assistant, who found work here and in addition, there are women who are now nursing assistants and cashiers. Shelf stacking in shops is a very popular job.

Question: Is there something you want to add here? And then I'll let you go back to your work.

Wim: Yes, I saw a woman on TV complaining about all the inconvenience caused by the asylum seekers and refugees. There was no end to her complaints. In the end the interviewer asked: "Did you ever shake hands with an asylum seeker?" A deep silence followed....

There are in Azelo and Delden many English-speaking Christians, who may want to share in our Sunday service. The problem is transport. Does anyone have a solution?

And if you want to spend time at the refugee assistance, you can find various addresses on the Internet. Some of them take into account your capabilities and time available.

©Erica Bonting Schotman

Ten thousand Icelanders offer their own homes after their government commits to take just 50 refugees

Yep - that's right. 10,000 warm-hearted Icelanders offered to welcome Syrian refugees into their own homes after their stingy government said it would take in only a handful. Popular Icelandic author, Bryndis Bjorgvinsdottir (say that out loud ten times!), encouraged her fellow citizens to stand up and speak out in favour of those in need of refuge. In the space of 24 hours, 10,000 Icelanders took to Facebook to offer up their homes and urge their government to do more. Iceland has a population of just 300,000. Here's one typical responder - Hekla Stefansdottir wrote, "I'm a single mother with a 6-year-old son... We can take a child in need. I'm a teacher and would teach the child to speak, read and write Icelandic and adjust to Icelandic society. We have clothes, a bed, toys and everything a child needs. I would of course pay for the airplane ticket."

Christmas trees and the environment

Growing Christmas trees provides a habitat for wildlife.

Recycled trees have been used to make sand and soil erosion barriers and been placed in ponds for fish shelter.

Christmas trees remove dust and pollen from the air.

Artificial trees will last for six years in your home, but for centuries in a landfill.

59 percent of real Christmas trees harvested are recycled in community programs.

An acre of Christmas trees provides for the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people.

New Years Eve

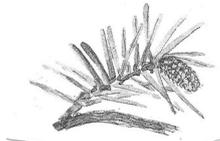
Many things can be preserved in alcohol. On New Years Eve, Dignity is not one of those things.

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year Resolutions!

The Fir Tree **Also known as a Christmas Tree**

Very soon, most of us will be off to the Garden Centre, local grower or garage to get a Christmas Fir Tree. We put it in a special stand, and then decorate it with lights and shiny, sparkling ornaments. The tree has become an important part of our Christmas celebration.

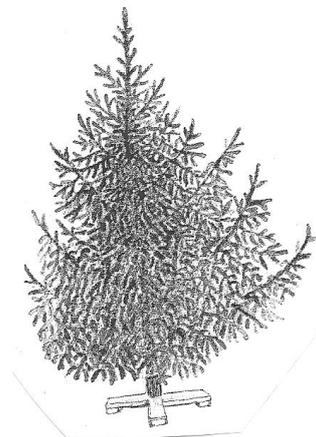
The Druids and the Celts chose different trees for celebrating their ceremonies and worship. They likened the diverse qualities of the trees to human characteristics. They believed the fir was a forthright tree with great strength and endurance. They thought this because of the way the fir grows straight and narrow, like a tall pillar of strength surviving alone in poor soil.



The winter months were extremely dark in those times. Firs, being green and vibrant, were cut and used to decorate the peoples' dwelling places. The Celts thought the green branches would bring protection against the strong, bad spirits that abounded around the winter solstice on the 21st December.

The Celts also hung shiny objects on trees and in dells where fir trees grew. They thought the glistening objects would encourage the sun to return. Naturally, in those days they did not know about planetary rotation and that the light would return in due course.

Therefore, let us remember when we decorate our trees that we are following an ancient tradition. Let us also not forget how the tradition was adopted and adapted by the early Christians to mark the birth of the Light of the World at this time. When we decorate our Fir trees, we praise and honour this wondrous Light. Enjoy making your tree look festive, a symbol of the Light.



© Brenda Pyle

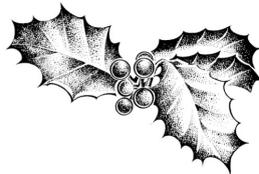


HOLLY

We sing about the 'Holly and the Ivy' and prickly green leaves and red berries are everywhere in Christmas decorations.

In Scandinavian countries the holly is even known as the 'Christ-thorn' and it seems that the name of the holly actually came from the word 'holy'.

The holly reminds us of the death of Jesus – the sharp prickles on the leaves are like the crown on thorns that Jesus was forced to wear on the cross. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood that came where the thorns hurt his head.



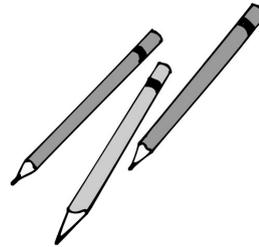
Holly is an evergreen, which means that it does not lose its leaves in the autumn, but keeps them all year round. And because its leaves are always green it is a symbol of eternal life.

SHARP PRESENTS

A quick way to make little presents for all your class and friends.

You will need nice pencils, glue (spray glue is best) and Christmas wrapping paper with a small pattern on it. Choose round pencils rather than the hexagonal type.

Cut a strip of wrapping paper wide enough to wrap around the pencil and as long as the pencil. Put glue on the back of the paper and wrap it around the pencil. When the glue has dried; trim away any excess paper with small scissors.



What did the werewolf write on his Christmas cards?

Best vicious of the season.

What do elves sing to Santa?

Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow!



Poetry and Prose

Nigel Beeton
writes:
“There is a
beautiful
little phrase
hidden in
amongst the
Gospel
stories of
Christmas.
You’ll find it
in Luke 2:19:

‘But Mary treasured up
all these things and
pondered them in her
heart.’

What a testament those
words are to the humility
and obedience of this
young woman, to whom
so much had happened.
Forced to give birth in a
dingy cow-shed.
Shepherds, telling stories
of angelic messages in
the night. Mysterious
visitors from a foreign
land bringing expensive
gifts. Does Mary rush
about telling all her
friends how special she
is? No she sits quietly,
pondering each of these
things, sharing her
treasure with her
Heavenly Father. As we
work through Advent,
and prepare for
Christmas, may we
know some of her
tranquil humility.



Mary treasured...

*Giving birth in lowly stable
Baby’s crib a feeding cart
Loveless place to bear a baby
Such a truly comfortless start!
On that chilly morn
When Jesus was born,
Mary treasured this in her heart.*

*From the fields came shepherds telling
Of the hosts that lit up the dark;
Praising God and gladly singing
Tidings glad they had to impart.
On that early morn
When Jesus was born,
Mary treasured this in her heart.*

*From the east came Magi searching
For the king they’d seen in their chart
Frankincense they bowed and presented,
Myrrh and gold they gave of their art.
On that holy morn
When Jesus was born,
Mary treasured this in her heart.*

*Christmas morn – and we come seeking
Gifts that only Christ can impart.
Life with God that’s never-ending,
Holy light to lighten the dark.
On this Christmas morn
When Jesus was born
We must treasure this in our hearts!*

By Nigel Beeton

Mission Statement

Founded in 1979, the Anglican Church Twente belongs to the Church of England's Diocese in Europe. The Church of England forms a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion of more than 80 million people

The Anglican Church Twente, based at St Mary's Chapel, Weldam provides a Christian ministry in the East Netherlands. Most of the congregation live in the towns and villages of the East Netherlands and across the border in Germany. Some come from further afield.

The Anglican Church Twente holds a service every Sunday at 10:30 am in English. The church offers Holy Communion to all baptized Christians, Sunday School to nurture and educate children in the Christian faith, and a warm welcome to people of all nationalities.

The main aims of the Anglican Church Twente are to:

- † Offer Christian worship by the rites of the Church of England in the English language.
- † Provide pastoral care to all who are in need of such help.
- † Promote a lively fellowship among those who attend the services.
- † Support outreach in Christian ministry wherever there is a need.

Stewardship

We are a self-supporting church and raise all income from our giving and stewardship. As God has blessed us, we thank Him by giving accordingly.

A Prayer for St Mary's

*Almighty and everlasting God
Creator and ruler of all things in heaven and earth,
Hear our prayer for the St Mary's family.
Strengthen our faith,
Fashion our lives according to the example of your Son,
And grant that we may show the power of your love,
To all among whom we live.
Inspire us in our worship and witness,
Grant us all things necessary for our common life,
And bring us all to be of one heart and mind
Within your Holy Church
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit
One God, now and forever,
Amen.*



Views expressed in this magazine are those of authors and contributors and are not necessarily shared by the editor or church leadership.