

Services held every  
Sunday morning  
10:30 am

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January 2017

*Next issue: First Sunday February 2017*

Chaplaincy            Cover  
Information

## St Mary's Magazine

The Chaplain        1  
Writes

Twente News        2

St James the Least    4

What do the        5  
Zonnevelds do at  
Christmas

My last Christmas    6  
of the war

How do we spend St    7  
Nicholas Day

My Advent            8

Forthcoming        9 - 12  
Services

December - a        13  
special month

Grand Plans and     14  
small gestures

All good things come    15  
to an end

A pity I missed it     16

Our Page             19

I heard the bells on    20  
Christmas Day



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### The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND







## December 2016 & January 2017

### *The Chaplain Writes*      *And the Word became flesh*

For some time now, we read about internet abuse, where people use the internet to vent their disagreements or even worse, where other people are threatened, accused and called names. And often enough the offender remains anonymous, but the thread is just as much of a nightmare for the addressed person even if the sender were known.

Words can have an enormous impact on someone's life. Words can build up, as much as they can break down.

In a few weeks time, we will celebrate Christmas, and St John says in the first chapter of his Gospel, and the Word became flesh.

It must have been a beautiful Word; one would say a very poetic Word to bring about such a wonderful event as the birth of our Saviour.

Every year again we are reminded of the need to change and move on to become better people. The people we were meant to be when God created the world. If we think that we are good as we are, that we are doing well, if we do not want to change, our growth towards God will come to a standstill. We need to make sure that our words and our attitude behind our actions will grow towards the light. Words that everyone may hear or read, words that build up. Words of truth and beauty that will further the Kingdom of God, so that we will help to establish harmony and peace.

May the Word that has become flesh be a light and a blessing this Christmas and in the year to come for you all, when you begin the Interregnum in January.  
May God bless you abundantly in your endeavours to carry on the work that He once began.

With every blessing

Alja Tollefsen  
Chaplain of St Mary's



"Your word is a lamp  
for my feet,  
a light for my path"  
Psalm 119:105



## Twente News

### Drive

You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.

You never learn to pray until your kids learn to drive.

### Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible story.

She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent.

"The Flight to Egypt," was Kate's reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh," explained Kate happily, "that's Pontius - the pilot!"

### Ask now

You might as well do your Christmas hinting early this year.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Dear members and friends of St. Mary's

After being caretakers of the "hut" for more than nine years, the time has come to set this undertaking aside on January 1, 2017. Having always done the job with pleasure we would now like to delegate the task to others. Of

course, we want to help our successors and have placed a duty list for the caretakers of St. Mary's Church hut. We will also make a list of specific tasks.

Who wants to take over this task from us? We would love to hear from you and we extend our thanks to every one of you for all of your help and cooperation in recent years.

*Jan and Theda ten Barge*

### Forthcoming Events

10 December - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Sion Abby, Diepenveen 20:00

11 December - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols plus  
Christmas Market 10:30

24 December - Christmas Service 22:30

18 January - Next Council Meeting 20:00

### Food Bank

A reminder that there is a large plastic container in the hut for Food Bank contributions. Your donations of non-perishable food will go to those less fortunate in our community. A list of suggested products is placed by the box.

### Magazine Contributions

St Mary's Magazine has a valuable role in helping to keep the congregation informed and in touch with each other. In these constrained financial times, financing the magazine is proving to be difficult. An annual contribution of just €15 per annum will help to ensure that you will continue to receive your copy.

### Interregnum

As of the 1 January 2017, the Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente will be in Interregnum (literally, 'between kings!'). It is also a time when your wardens and council members actually start to appreciate just

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

how much work the chaplain does in running a chaplaincy. Probably the reason the Church of England appears to encourage interregnums.

For a start, there is a requirement to continue holding regular worship in the chaplaincy while the council progress through the procedure of finding and appointing a new chaplain. In general, there appear to be more vacancies for both locums and chaplains than candidates. However, regarding locums, (a temporary priest), and arranging services, we have been reasonably successful. Having our own, Lay Reader in training, Simone Yallop, has been a great help. Not only is she a walking encyclopaedia on everything connected with the Church of England, but she is also willing, and able, to conduct a monthly Service of Morning Prayer.

The wardens and council will work with the Area Dean and former chaplain, Revd Sam van Leer and the Arch Deacon, the Venerable Paul Vrolijk, in finding a suitable chaplain. Please be patient, it may be a lengthy process. In the meantime, concerning Eucharist Services, we have so far managed to book locums right through to the middle of June. Our success in finding locums was helped by the brilliant idea of Jeanet Luiten, my fellow warden. As the chaplaincy does not have any accommodation, she suggested hiring a holiday bungalow on a recreation site near Goor. At least one potential locum has already inspected the cottage and has been delighted with it.

On a serious note, during the interregnum, Locums will provide limited pastoral cover. If any members of the congregation have an urgent need for a priest, in the first instance, phone one of the wardens. Our contact details are on the website and in the magazine. We can, if need be, contact Sam van Leer, as Area Dean, for advice and help.

During the interregnum, the wardens and council will appreciate your continuing support, your understanding if there are occasional mistakes and your help in keeping St Mary's the usual friendly, spiritual haven we all enjoy so much.



### **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

### **Laugh**

**Burglar:** What are you laughing at?

**Homeowner:** That you come at night around Christmas without a light, to look for money when I can't find any in broad daylight.

### **New Year's Eve is coming soon...**

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise.

- *E K Kruger*

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic pig under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig.

- *Alfred Hitchcock*

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble.

- *Jonathan Swift*

### **The Christmas stars**

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.

**Christmas carols  
as misheard by  
children**

Deck the Halls with  
Buddy Holly

We three kings of  
porridge and tar

On the first day of  
Christmas my tulip  
gave to me

Later on we'll  
perspire, as we dream  
by the fire.

He's makin a list,  
chicken and rice.

Noel, Noel, Barney's  
the king of Israel.

With the jelly toast  
proclaim

Olive, the other  
reindeer

Frosty the Snowman  
is a ferret elf, I say

Sleep in heavenly peas

In the meadow we can  
build a snowman,

Then pretend that he is  
sparse and brown

You'll go down in  
Listerine ...

Oh, what fun it is to  
ride with one horse,  
soap and hay

O come, froggy  
faithful.

**Irony:**  
The opposite of  
wrinkly

**Letter from St James the Least of All**

*Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...*

**On what sort of dog  
a clergyman should  
own**

The Rectory  
St. James the Least of  
All

My dear Nephew  
Darren

I am absolutely  
delighted to hear that  
you are getting a dog.  
But be careful which  
variety you choose. First, your dog must be something substantial,  
but not prone to fighting or making amorous advances towards  
parishioners' dogs. A mongrel may be all very well for you as a  
curate, but think to the future when you are an incumbent. Get a  
pedigree. It sets a better tone at the Rectory.

It should also be a breed that sheds hair copiously, which should  
deter your more fastidious parishioners from bothering you at  
home. If it also drools, that is a bonus. I would recommend you do  
not get a sheepdog. They become neurotic trying to round  
everyone up as they roam round your lawn at the annual Summer  
Fete.

It can be quite useful giving your dog a name that - naturally, by  
coincidence - is remarkably similar to that of an awkward  
parishioner. Being able to bawl out commands to "come", "sit",  
and "stop that", along with the pet's name, can be cathartic to you,  
salutary to the parishioner concerned and instructive to the rest of  
your congregation.



*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

Dogs keep every confidence you tell them, are infinitely sympathetic when you moan about the flower arrangers, and make an excellent audience when you rehearse your Sunday sermon on them. Just like my parishioners, my Labrador gives me a look of well-meaning incomprehension as I get underway, and within minutes slips into a peaceful doze, which continues until my sermon concludes.

When gentlemen of the road call, before you open the door, make a series of very audible commands that imply you are restraining a ravenous beast. That your ravenous beast is smiling and tail-wagging, is irrelevant. It will make your caller hesitate to ring the bell another time.

Dogs also provide an excellent excuse for terminating endless meetings, overlong phone calls, parish socials and even visits to the bishop. Even the hardest of hearts cannot stop you from dashing home to give your pet a toilet break, much, of course, as you would like to continue enjoying yourself with whoever it is you are obliged to flee from.

But do not take them to your church council meetings. When difficult decisions have to be made, you can never rely on them voting the way you want. My Labrador will wag her tail and agree with anyone.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

### **What the Zonnevelds' do at Christmas?**

We have five or six big boxes filled with Christmas decorations and a couple of real fake trees. We clear a nice big space in the middle of the lounge and put up the big tree. I also like to put up loads of colourful blinking lights outside. I think it makes a magic atmosphere. We watch typical Xmas films like 'Home alone,' 'Scrooged or Die Hard. We eat special things like Terry's chocolate eggs and of course turkey!

*©Marco and Nicky*



### **Over Christmas**

I asked a friend of mine what he would be doing over Christmas.

He told me he reckoned he would be doing a lot of work on "aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum, and steel under a constrained environment."

I was astonished – and baffled. In further conversation, I learned that he would be "washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision."

### **No room**

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of the Nativity, and had just finished the part about there being 'no room at the inn'. A small voice piped up: 'I blame Joseph. He should have booked.'

### **And then it is time for some inevitable New Year's Resolutions ...**

Woman's ambition: to be weighed and found wanting.

Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.

### **I never knew this**

The headrest of car seats is deliberately kept detachable and sharp so that it could be used to break open the glass in case of fire or emergency. The car's glass too are kept easily breakable from the inside. Very few people know this and thus can't save themselves in case of emergency.

### **Good Morning!**

*7 steps to  
Happiness*

**Think** less  
*Feel* more

**Fear** less  
*Love* more

**Complain** less  
*Appreciate* more

**Watch** less  
*Do* more

**Judge** less  
*Accept* more

**Talk** less  
*Listen* more

**Frown** less  
*Smile* more

*Contributed by  
Noelle Wang*



### **My last Christmas of the War**

It was Christmas 1944, the Germans still occupied our country and I was only 12 years old. It was a time of severe winters with lots of snow and impassable roads. Moreover, with no electricity or gas we had to rely on whatever wood that we could pick up for warmth.

Living in the woods in Eefde, near Zutphen, there was no lack of fuel. The only heating in our home was a stove standing in the middle of the living room. There was a 1.5-meter pipe going across to the chimney, which gave off more heat and made it nice and cosy when we sat around it. Because at the time it was enough and we, did not want to know the word for busy? The washing up had to be done in the living room, for in the kitchen it was so cold that the dishes froze together on the draining board.

At night when there was no moon, it was pitch dark outside. The windows were tightly closed and covered with blackout paper to make sure that not even a chink of light escaped, otherwise there could be serious trouble. Our lighting in the evening consisted of a cup of oil with a wick floating in it that gave off a little light. During the evenings, we spent our time at home reading while we could still see, followed by games and jigsaw puzzles before going to bed early. There was also a lot of singing because almost everybody had a harmonium organ (a pump organ) in the house and knew all the well known songs of Johannes de Heer.

Christmas was celebrated with a homely atmosphere. At home, there was a small Christmas tree and we were so happy when the box of Christmas decorations came down from the attic with the half-burned candles. We made Christmas stars and angels out of paperboard, using the paint leftover in the old tins in the barn to brighten up the angels.

Because Christmas Day that year was on a Monday, and we had to go to church on Boxing Day, it meant we to go to church three days in a row. That involved us walking there and then back each day, 20-minutes each way and having to listen to three long sermons, all with no coffee after the services. That would only come some twenty years later.

Our grandparents came from town to stay with us. Like most people, we liked the taste of rabbits, which were slaughtered for the Christmas season, and afterwards, for pudding, hot rye porridge. I

(Continued from page 8)

can still see in my mind all the people sitting there chewing their food with such happy faces. For me, despite all the difficulties and dangers, the Christmas holidays remained the bright spot of our lives.

©Flip Wegenwijs

### How do we spend St Nicholas Day a British Family in the Netherlands

Our traditional way of celebrating the feast of St Nicholas? That throws me into a bit of a quandary: we simply don't have one.

When we arrived in the Netherlands in the far-flung past, we knew absolutely nothing about this great event ringed red on the calendar. Still, with four young children, we soon found ourselves among the crowds waving and welcoming the venerable Saint and his trusty helpers from Spain.



With no family here, we were free to celebrate as we wished. I believe we once hired a video player (yes, it was *that* long ago!) and *Trading Places* has since become part of our family folklore. That and the fact that our dog, a tramp from the local animal refuge, exhibited remarkable finesse in removing and devouring bags of pepernoten while leaving the rickety surprise packages in one piece for school the next day.

Time has moved on and grandchildren now claim centre stage – although to be honest they're moving on too. So we've enjoyed visits from Sinterklaas and his Piets, with of course that exciting big Book; a special breakfast in town; puzzles, quizzes and games; poems and drawing lots; and even a DVD that featured a tailor-made story centred in the home concerned.

A stroke of genius that on the part of my daughter-in-law, who was confronted with a cool laid-back young lady who turned out to be highly distraught on discovering *THE AWFUL TRUTH*.

Where and how we will celebrate this year, who knows? It's too early to tell and anyway we'll go with the flow. Perhaps it will be "home alone" ... and the opportunity to revisit *Trading Places*!

©Janice Collins

### The night before

T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, except Papa's mouse.

The computer was humming, the icons were hopping, As Papa did last minute Internet shopping.

The stockings were hung by the modem with care

In hope that St. Nicholas would bring new software.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

While visions of computer games danced in their heads.

There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.

Mark Twain

I was gratified to be able to answer promptly, and I did. I said I didn't know.

- Mark Twain



## A Tree for Christmas

Admiring the Christmas trees displayed in his neighbour's windows, Nathan asks his father, 'Daddy, can we have a Hanukkah Tree?'

'What? No, of course not.' says his father.

'Why not?' asks Nathan again.

Bewildered, his father replies, 'Well, Nathan, because the last time we had dealings with a lighted bush we spent 40 years in the wilderness.'

### Tree Decorations

Early Christmas trees were decorated with fruits, flowers and candles, which were heavy on the tree branches. In the 1800's German glass blowers began producing glass balls to replace the heavy decorations and called them bulbs.

### What is in a name?

The actual gift givers are different in various countries:

United Kingdom  
Father Christmas  
France: Pere Noel  
(Father Christmas)

(Continued on page 15)

## My Advent

I used to be a member of a hockey club when I was about 16 years old. The club was in a little town nearby, about a half hour cycle away. One day, cycling home after the training I had to pass a few big houses with huge beeches standing in the large gardens. In one of these gardens was a tall fir tree, which from the first Sunday of Advent until after New Year, was decorated with electric lights. This at a time when there were no lit, decorated trees outside homes. In the darkness of a winter's evening, it was to me like seeing the star of Bethlehem. I was always looking forward to the moment when I could see that tree. Nowadays most people have a lit and decorated tree indoors and one in the garden or on the balcony. I never feel that same thrill as I used to experience in those days, seeing that single light emerging from the darkness.

Another event I never will forget came 25 years later. I was singing in the Choir of the Nederlandse Bachvereniging (Dutch Bach Society). During Advent, we had to perform a concert about four times a week, mainly in the western part of the country, in one of the big churches. One midnight I was driving back to Zwolle on the freeway when it started to snow, somewhere past Amersfoort. It was a fine snow drifting in sheets over the road, and I could barely see where the white lines were. No other cars were to be seen and my eyes had become sore from staring through the snow on the windshield.

To me, it felt as if I had spent hours driving at a steady 30 km per hour across an endlessly dark Veluwe. Suddenly I saw a light. It was a brightly lit Christmas tree hanging above the road from the huge boom of a crane. I found there were tears in my eyes at seeing this beacon in the darkness. I have never been so happy to see a lit Christmas tree in all of my life.

©Erica Schotman  
Bonting



First Sunday of the month - Church money for sale in the hut

<b>4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Celebrant</b>	<b>Revd. A. Tollefsen</b>
	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Jan de Beij</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Everhard Ottens</b>
<b>10:30 am Sung Eucharist</b>	Patrick Saridjan	Isaiah 11. 1 - 10
	Fred Schonewille	Romans 15. 4 - 13
	Gospel	Matthew 3. 1 - 12

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd. A. Tollefsen</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Dina Vincent</b>
<b>Service of Nine Lessons and Carols</b>	John Bestman	
	Brenda Pyle	
	Hellene Rauwerda	
	Elizabeth v.d. Heide	
	Arjen Haffmans	
	Blair Charles	
<b>10:30 am</b>	Victor Pirenne	
	Linda ten Berge	

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd. A. Tollefsen</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Fred Schonewille</b>
<b>Advent 4</b>	Heleen Rauwerda	Isaiah 7. 10 - 16
	Brenda Pyle	Romans 1. 1-7
	Gospel	Matthew 1. 18 to the end
<b>10:30 am Sung Eucharist</b>		

*Forthcoming Services*

*Forthcoming Services*

 <b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>22: 30 Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd. A. Tollefsen</b>	
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>	
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>John Bestman</b>	
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten/Simone Yallop</b>	
		Fred Schonewille	Isaiah 62. 6-12
		Dina Vincent	Titus 3.4-7
	Gospel	Luke 2. 8 -20	

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>1<sup>st</sup> January</b>  <b>The naming of Jesus</b>  <b>10:30 am Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Officiant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>	
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>	
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>John Bestman</b>	
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>na.</b>	
		Erica Bonting	
		Blair Charles	
	Gospel	Luke 2. 15 - 21	

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>8<sup>th</sup> January</b>  <b>The Epiphany</b>  <b>10:30 am Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd. A. Tollefsen</b>	
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>	
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Dina Boessenkool</b>	
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Fred Schonewille</b>	
		Arjen Haffmans	Isaiah 60. 1 - 6
		Jeanet Luiten	Ephesians 3. 1 -12
	Gospel	Matthew 2.1-12	

<b>15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd. Andrew Haig</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
<b>Epiphany 2</b>	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Everhard Ottens</b>
	Victor Pirenne	Isaiah 49.1-7
	Brenda Pyle	1 Corinthians 1.1-9
<b>10:30 am Sung Eucharist</b>	Gospel	John 1. 29-42

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd. Andrew Haig</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Fred Schonewille</b>
<b>Epiphany 3</b>	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Everhard Ottens</b>
	Elizabeth v.d. Heide	Isaiah 9.1-4
	Heleen Rauwerda	1 Corinthians 1.10-18
<b>10:30 am Sung Eucharist</b>	Gospel	Matthew 4. 12-23

*Forthcoming Services*

<b>29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Revd. Andrew Haig</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>
<b>Presentation of Christ</b>	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	Dina Vincent	Malachi 3.1-5
	John Bestman	Hebrews 2. 14-end
<b>10:30 am Sung</b>	Gospel	Luke 2. 22-40

*Forthcoming Services*

*Fortcoming Services*

<b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Officiant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>na.</b>
<b>10:30 am Morning Prayer</b>	Brenda Pyle	Isaiah 58. 1-12
	John Bestman	1 Corinthians. 2.1-12
	Gospel	Matthew 5. 13-20

*Fortcoming Services*

<b>12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Canon Geoffrey Allen</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Count Alfred Solms</b>
<b>10:30 am</b>	Patrick Saridjan	Deuteronomy. 15. 15- end
	Dina Vincent	1 Corinthians 3. 1-9
	Gospel	Matthew 5. 21-37

*Fortcoming Services*

<b>19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Canon Dirk van Leeuwen</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
<b>Dedication Festival</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Everhard Ottens</b>
<b>10:30 am Sung Eucharist</b>	Linda ten Berge	Genesis. 1. 1-2.3
	Fred Schonewille	Romans. 8. 18-25
	Gospel	Matthew 6.25-end

## December - a special month



December is an important month in the Netherlands. Not only do we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour on the 25th but also the patron saint of children on 6<sup>th</sup> with the feast of St Nicholas, one of the most famous saints across the world. He is known by different names: St Nicholas (sometimes spelled Nicolas) and to others Father Christmas or Santa Claus.

Nicholas was born into a very wealthy family, and when his parents died, he gave away most of his inheritance to those in need. One of the most famous stories of Saint Nicholas is that upon hearing of a poor widower and his three daughters in desperate need, he responded with compassion and the sharing of his resources.

The widower wanted to marry off each of his daughters in turn but to do so the man needed to find them dowries; the only other option was for them to be servants or slaves. The better the dowry, the more chance he had of finding a suitable young husband for his daughters. On three separate occasions, so the story goes, Nicholas threw a bag of gold as a dowry for each of the daughters through the window of their home. Some versions tell of how the bag of money fell into a stocking hanging up on the fireplace or into shoes drying by the fire.

Other accounts of Nicholas' life show him bringing three children back to life and tell of a time when he was at sea during a raging storm, and he knelt down in prayer to calm the storm.

As we celebrate his feast on 6<sup>th</sup>, and leading into our Christmas festivities, St Nicholas sets an example for us all to follow, that we should pay attention to those within our community who are vulnerable and in need.

*Contributed by Jeanet Luiten*

*(Continued from page 10)*

Germany: Christkind (angelic messenger from Jesus), she is a beautiful fair-haired girl with a shining crown of candles.

Netherlands: St Nicholas

Russia: In some parts - Babouschka (a grandmotherly figure), other parts it is Grandfather Frost.

Scandinavia: A variety of Christmas gnomes. One is called Julenisse.

Spain and South America: The Three Kings

Italy: La Befana (a kindly old witch)

### **Wish List**

The Santa Claus at the shopping centre was very surprised when a young lady about twenty years old walked up and sat on his lap.

Santa doesn't usually take requests from adults, but she

*(Continued on page 16)*

*(Continued from page 15)*  
smiled very nicely at him, so he asked her, "What do you want for Christmas?"

"Something for my mother, please." said the young lady.

"Something for your mother? Well, that's very thoughtful of you," smiled Santa. "What do you want me to bring her? "

Without blinking she replied, "A son-in-law!"

### **Father John and His Young Parishioner**

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England.

Father John recalls how he was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the

*(Continued on page 17)*

## **Grand plans and small gestures**

Author: Lucy Mills

Date: 01 October 2015

We can't always change things. We can't cure every illness, and we can't stop ourselves – or others – from growing older. Age or illness can mean that life skews a certain way. Limitation, not freedom, dominates the horizon.

In an ageing population, this limitation becomes a reality even for the most energetic among us. Do we then say – we have nothing to give? Do we dismiss those labelled 'elderly', even if that includes ourselves?

As someone with health issues, I've had to adapt my expectations of life. Those who love me want to change my circumstances. But the biggest ways to help me are usually small, everyday things. Often we concoct grand plans about how to help someone, but then come up against our own limitations. The plans don't come to anything. We forget about the small gestures. We forget the difference we can make by noticing someone, gifting a smile, speaking with patience instead of irritation.

For those of us struggling against limitations of age or illness, we too can despair of our grand plans and forget the importance of small gestures. Gestures that show we care, a word of kindness, the promise of a prayer.

At harvest we celebrate God's gifts – not just huge, extravagant ones, but gentle moments of small but essential provision. We celebrate by giving back to God – our 'first fruits', the produce of our lives.

The small gestures we make, the prayers whispered behind closed doors, the energy spent on making a loved one a cup of tea – all these are seen and treasured by the God who made us, young and old, the God who knows our discarded ambitions, the tender wishes of our hearts.

As the years seep by and our bodies and minds begin to fail us, we place ourselves in the care of the one whose love never fails.

© *The Sign*

### **‘All good things come to an end’**

“All good things come to an end”, a truism that we all know and to which I would add “So do all bad things”. I venture to suggest, that this should encourage us to enjoy to the utmost all the good things that come our way and not be disheartened when bad things threaten to overwhelm us. All things pass, save only the love of God, which endures forever.

My emotions are always mixed when our dear Editor requests contributions for the December/January edition of our Parish Magazine, “ Another year over, where did it go? Another one starting, what does it hold?”

So many good things have happened during 2016, for which we are truly grateful - another truth here, “We should count our Blessings”. And yes, some bad things too, but they have been encountered and wrestled with and we are still here, not alone, but with God’s arms around us.

The yearly calendar we follow today evolved, to end in December and start again in January, reflecting nature’s seasonal cycle. (*The Liturgical Calendar of course, starts the Church’s New Year on Advent Sunday, but that’s not what concerns me here*). The dates are arbitrary, and it is only for – shall we say – convenience, that they are written down as we know them.

However, the poetic “rightness” of it all appeals to me; December with the joy of Jesus’ Nativity marking the end of the era we now refer to as B.C. and the onset of the era we now refer to as A.D. not only the start of a New Year, but when the whole of humanity was given the chance of a New Beginning.

In his wisdom God knows that we cannot comprehend, let alone embrace his magnitude, but - a baby - nothing threatening or overwhelming there (*Oh no?*).

Christ - mass, when we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child, is a blessed invitation from our loving God to enter a personal relationship with him. This invitation is given to all - it is given to you and to me – and not just once, but over and over.

Most people like Christmas, decorations, presents, the tree, carols, a babe in a manger, even the most resistant or timid dare to come close to take a peek.

figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father John.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'

### **The Everlasting Turkey**

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me

I’ve bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door, The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old

### History Classes

Why aren't you doing very well in history?

Because the teacher keeps asking about things that happened before I was born!

Teacher: Who can tell me where Hadrian's Wall is?

Pupil: I expect it's around Hadrian's garden miss!

Why were the early days of history called the dark ages?

Because there were so many knights!

### Some observations on Christmas ...

Christ has outlasted the empire that crucified Him 19 centuries ago. He will outlast the nations who deny him now. - *Anon*

We know how God would act if he were in our place – He has been in our place. - *A W Tozer*

God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. *C S Lewis*.

The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that he sunk himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding. *Martin Luther*

### 'A pity I missed it' or 'Why didn't I know?' or 'Could I have known?'

I regularly talk to members of our congregation about things that are happening or have occurred recently. Often I get a reactions such as: "Why did (or do) I not know about that?". The answer may be quite simple. Either you do not have an internet connection at home, or you did not consult our Church Website.

It is already a long time since St. Mary's first had its own website. As far as I can recall, it was started by James Oliyani and later picked up by the Postma brothers. After they had left, I took over the responsibility of keeping you all up to date on what is going on in our parish. About a year ago, the complete website was modified to a modern standard able to serve both smartphones and tablet presentations as well.

For all the official announcements and information, our Chaplaincy has the well-presented Church Magazine. While it is a complete information medium well able to inform you all, it does, however, have some disadvantages, being issued only ten times a year.

To overcome the possibility of pop-up activities not being noticed, the Church Website is providing you with these. Every time the magazine is published, content like services, special announcements of future events, will be transferred onto the website pages as well. In between issue dates, anything interesting or noteworthy, released by the Chaplain or Wardens or as weekly disseminations by Simone, will also be displayed on the appropriate web pages. If you think there is something noteworthy to publish, please contact the Wardens first. They will pass the relevant details on to me for publication. Most of you regularly visit the Facebook pages of St. Mary's Chaplaincy, maintained by Nicole and Marco. They do a great job to give an impression of what went on. One has to keep in mind, however, that the site layout and maintenance of our Church Website are very much different from that of a Facebook page.

To promote our Church Website once again, I will try to give you a short impression of what may be found on the pages ( <http://anglicanchurchtwente.com> ). When you access the link, it will bring you to our **Home page**. This will give a brief description of St. Mary's and our main aims. Looking at the selection bar at the top there is a choice between **Who-What-Where, Services, News & Events, Information, Other Links, Finance/ANBI** and **Contact**.

Do you want to know more about our church you should access **Who-What-Where**. This will give access to all information about the Anglican Church, what Anglicans believe, our Mission Statement, the Chapel Location, who is our Chaplain, the Chaplain Writes monthly and our Chaplaincy Officials.

*(Continued on page 19)*

*(Continued from page 17)*

The realization that this tiny child is Gods gift to us, is the dawning of faith; understanding, obedience and love can grow as the Holy Child also grew, to be our Saviour, and accepted by us as Lord, Friend, and Brother.

No longer God “*Out there - somewhere - maybe*”, but God holding our hand as we step into a new beginning, a new life, a new start, a New Year.

*Contributed by Jeanet Luiten*



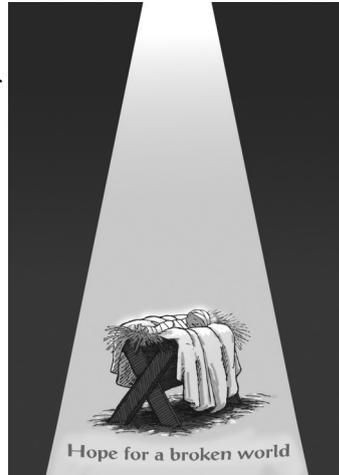
*(Continued from page 18)*

Are you interested in Services & Readings, Sunday School, Prayer requests and Sunday Fellowship then access the link **Services**. Mostly used is the Services and Readings page which will show dates, times and who is doing what in our services. Another handy page is the **Prayer Request**, which may enable you to send a request for incorporation of your own prayer request directly to the duty intercessor using a simple submit page.

The **News & Events** header admits you to the items: News & Future Events, Summer Teas, Castle Fair, Christmas Fair and Past Events. Firstly, the News & Future Events displays Forthcoming Events, which lists the activities in the future as far as is known. Here also are where activities not listed in the Church Magazine may be mentioned. Also included are secondary activities and news items concerning our congregation (e.g. Bishop Robert's Pastoral letter on Brexit, Food Bank, etc.). Looking at the left index column one may access the item Past Events, which will display the last event at St. Mary's. Continuing to Archived Events, all activities of the Past have been assembled in an interface from which to choose. Being interested in the Castle Fair of 2013, just access the link, and you will be taken back to this event. Mostly, all of these Past Events are linked to many images.

The **Information** header gives a wealth of information on St. Mary's Magazine, NW Europe Archdeaconry Synod Reports, Charities we

*(Continued on page 20)*



*(Continued from page 17)*

We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold. On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried, But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried. On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died. The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter, For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,

He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,

Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely  
*(Continued on page 20)*

*(Continued from page 19)*

tree was moulting,  
And with chilli, soy  
and oyster sauce, the  
turkey was revolting.  
On the twelfth day of  
Christmas we had  
smiles back on our  
lips,  
The guests had gone,  
the turkey too – WE  
DINED ON FISH  
AND CHIPS.

**Christmas:**

The time when  
everyone gets  
Santamental.

**Christmas in my  
heart**

Christmas is in my  
heart twelve months a  
year and, thanks to  
credit cards, it's on my  
Visa card statement  
twelve months a year,  
also.

**Sums up**

**Christmas**

Three phrases that  
sum up Christmas are:  
Peace on Earth;  
Goodwill to Men; and  
Batteries not included.

**Save it**

Save the earth.  
It's the only planet  
with chocolate.

**Awake**

Christmas is the  
season when your  
neighbour keeps you  
awake playing 'Silent  
Night'.

*(Continued from page 19)*

support, Clergy History, Chapel Architecture, Chapel Decorations, Church Library, Church Year, Did you know? and Wedding Services. Did you know that you are able to read back issues of our Church Magazine to January 2005? You also may access all Archdeaconry Synod Reports prepared by our Church representatives from 2005 onwards. If you want to know more about the 'Charities we support' in more detail, selecting this category gives you links to the respective web pages. Then there is a series of links concerning the Chapel itself; the history, a detailed architectural description and an explanation of all interior decorations.

**Other Links** will take you to a selection page for the home pages of the Church of England, the Diocese in Europe and the Anglican Council Netherlands links.

**Finance / ANBI** will provide access to our financial pages: Donations, the Tenge Fund, Stichting the Friends of St. Mary's, our Coin Collection System, ANBI pages of Anglican Church Twente and Friends St. Mary's. Select this category if you want to know more about our financial situation, how the Coins Collection System operates (or how to donate to either the church or one of the Funds). Also, there are the links to the mandatory yearly ANBI reports, which will give a quick insight into the financial situation.

**Contact** – This page will display the phone numbers and email addresses of our Chaplain, Wardens or the Secretary, as well as their surface mail addresses. If you want to contact the Webmaster, there is a link at the bottom of the page.

The Church website needs a lot of work to be maintained in the way it is right now. Therefore, it would be great to see that members of our congregation are taking the opportunity to inform themselves using the information provided therein. Also, if you have suggestions for items or pages, which may be implemented in the present set up, please do not hesitate to speak to me or send me a mail. Obviously, any changes suggested will have to be discussed with the chaplain or wardens before implementation. A pity you may have missed out on a worthwhile event in the past, therefore after having been brought up to date using this article, when you access our Church Website regularly, you will notice that all interesting events are being published well in advance. Hence, you may be sure that next time you can be attending the event of your interest.

*Lub Gringhuis – Webmaster - lub-gringhuis@outlook.com*

**Magazine Editors' Note**

Unlike the Church magazine, you cannot curl up with a webpage. The web media does however have more space and can display in colour. The report on the wonderful Evensong held in the Sion Abby, Diepenveen, November 30 would not fit into this issue. It will shortly be on the webpage, supported by the full set of colour photos taken by Hans Siertsema, Treasurer.



### NATIVITY PLAY

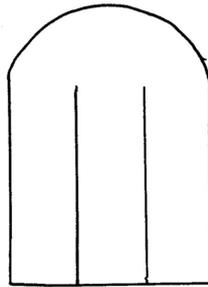
To see the story of the first Christmas through the eyes of little children makes it fresh and new. I like the story of the little boy who so wanted to be Joseph but was picked as the inn keeper instead. All went well until the nativity play started and Mary and Joseph arrived at the inn. The boy playing the innkeeper greeted them with 'Come in Mary love, there's plenty of room for you, but Joseph can get lost!'

Mary may insist that her teddy is the Baby Jesus, the angels may trip over their robes made from sheets, but every nativity play shows the wonder of the story of the first Christmas when the son of God was born a baby, like us. Tea towels used as shepherd's headdresses and angels' haloes made from wire coat hangers only serve to underline the humanity of it all. A baby born in a stable – a simple story that changes the world.



### LOTS OF LOVE

Time to make some Christmas decorations? Cut out two shapes like the pattern below, one in red card, one in green card. Don't forget to cut the slits.



Interlock the 2 shapes by weaving the strips under and over their opposite



colour. This will give you a heart shape. Use a little glue to hold them together if needed. Punch a hole in the top at the centre and thread with cord to hang your decoration. You can make lots in different colours and decorate them with sequins or stickers too. Nice symbols of love to decorate your Christmas.

### The Cat's Christmas Hymns:

Oh, Come All Ye Fishful  
Silent Mice  
Joy to the Curled  
The First Meow

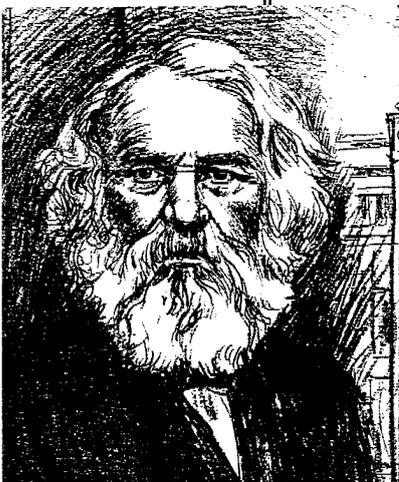


## Poetry and Prose



Finally, for those who like more traditional poems, here is a famous one by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, written in 1863, in the middle of the American Civil War.

His message of hope at a time when his country was experiencing some of the darkest days of its relatively short history, is still applicable today.



### *I heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

*I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



## 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.*