

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

Volume 15 Issue 10
December 2019 - January 2020

Next issue: First Sunday February 2020

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St Mary's Magazine



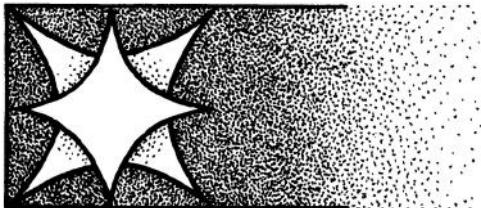
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DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND





December 2019 & January 2020

Dear Friends,

As a boy, I knew a good and holy priest who was very much loved. He once said to me, "I think, perhaps, there are many who turn their back on their Lord and on their Church because of their priest, and not in spite of their priest". I think there is truth in this. I wonder if there is truth, also, in the fact of clergy who are severely tested, sometimes to extremes, by their people, whom they love, and by the institutional Church as it operates.

I have been sad, just like many others; priests and people. I have frequently even turned this back in upon myself. Have I done enough? Am I sufficiently and often enough in tune with my God?

At Advent time we hear sermons and reflections about the two comings of Jesus: the Incarnation, and the Second Coming at the end of time. We might do well to reflect on the important significance of the Third Coming, which is generally left unmentioned. One of the most transforming graces of Advent is given us when we contemplate the first two comings of which I speak. The more we rejoice at the coming of Jesus in history and in the promise of knowing Jesus in his complete and glorious reign, the closer we come to experiencing the wonderful mystery Jesus presents in our every day lives. In this, we find we might live more at home in this world, with greater freedom and peace. The words, "Come, Lord Jesus", become, "Be with me Lord Jesus. The complete story draws us to the full picture of who we are, where we belong, and what true goodness and love are; present gifts of God's grace.

A blessed and meaningful Advent and a joyous and fulfilled Christmas to you all.

Love, Brian

PS When I was a schoolteacher, I also used to ponder if many young people learnt in spite of their teachers rather than because of them!

St Mary's Chapel News



Shopping

The manager of a department store put this notice in the window: 'If you need it this Christmas, we have it.'

But in the window of a rival, a sign appeared, stating: 'If we don't have it, you don't need it.'

'Wise?

When I told my children the story of how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus, my six-year-old daughter was not impressed. "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

The little button

At a clearance sale, the wife of a senior judge found the perfect green tie to match one of her husband's sports jackets. Soon after, while the couple was

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Christmas Market and Carol Service

The Carol Service and Christmas Market will be held on the 15th December. On the 14th December the Hut and the Chapel will need to be cleaned and decorated. Willing eager volunteers are required to drive a stuff-sucker

over all the carpets, to help put up a tree, to polish brass, to sweep and relocate spiders, plus webs and a host of other tasks. So please come along and join in. It is usually a lot of fun. In addition, there is already a list up in the Hut where bakers can sign up to produce good for the market

Postage Stamps

Christmas is coming and so hopefully will there be plenty of Christmas Cards for all those wonderful people who come to St Mary's, as well as to their family and friends. Why are we hoping for plenty of cards? Because most of those cards will have a postage stamp attached to the envelope, and that stamp is income for the Chaplaincy. Detach the stamps carefully, gather them together and bring them to church. In the Hut there is a box with Stamps on the lid, in which you can deposit your bounty. The wonderful Theda will then take them to a stamp dealer and the Chaplaincy gets a Christmas bonus.

Your Chaplaincy Website

Did you know?

Whenever you are reading your favourite chapel magazine, a question might pop up regarding an earlier edition, but where to find that article?

That is where our website comes in: All too often people ask me things that can easily be found on our website. Are you aware of this source of information, regarding all things going on at St. Mary's, as there is: Services rotas, events past and to come, often illustrated with photos, Magazines even from years back. Info on our Fair, Safeguarding page.

Even a prayer request can go through the website, where it ends up with the right person who is on intercessions that Sunday.

Actual information on our charities, info on our finances and where to send your contribution, links to the Diocese of Europe, on the Chapel the building, Clergy history,

Liturgy and the church year, symbolism, subjects you sometimes wonder where they come from in the service.

All the more reason to add www.anglicanchurchtwente.com to your favourites.

Your webmaster Lub Gringhuis loves to hear your comments and answer any questions.

Coffee Rota

The coffee and tea served after the Sunday is not only a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet up and chat, it also makes a valuable contribution to the chaplaincy funds. However, it does need a regular supply of willing, enthusiastic, cheerful volunteers to provide baked goods and to serve. Please check the coffee rota regularly. Please put your name down to help whenever and where ever you can. If you haven't tried it before you will find it great fun and rewarding. As an added bonus, you will feature on the St Mary Facebook page, managed by Nicky Barker Zonnebeld.

Magazine Payments

St. Mary's Magazine plays a valuable role in helping to keep the congregation informed on what is going on in their church and the chapel community. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the magazine, issued ten times a year, an annual donation of €15 will help to cover printing costs. If you cannot pick up your copy in the chapel and want to have it posted to you, we need to ask for an additional donation of €20 to cover postage.

Last year only two thirds of the magazine costs came from donations, the balance came from chapel funds. It would help the survival of the magazine if all costs were covered by voluntary donations. Thank you.

Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercessions, or who is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact one of the Churchwardens or the Chaplain, before the Service.

Alternatively, if you want to have someone included in the intercessions you could contact the Intercessor via the Prayer Request Tool on the Chapel Website. The Chaplain, the Wardens and the Intercessor will simultaneously receive your message via this tool. The link below will take you directly to the Prayer Request.

<http://anglicanchurchtwente.com/home/service%20%26%20readings/prayers%20requests.html>

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relaxing at a resort to get his mind off a complicated cocaine-conspiracy case, he noticed a small, round disc sewn into the tie. The judge showed it to the police, who were equally suspicious that it might be a 'bug', planted by the conspiracy defendants.

The police took the tie away for some serious analysis. A few days later, the judge phoned Scotland Yard to find out the results of their tests. "Well, we're not really sure where the disc came from," the police told him. "But we did discover that if you press it, it plays Jingle Bells."

Toe

If athletes get athlete's foot, what do astronauts get? Missile toe.



Namely...

The vicar had a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalise each service, he used the 'Find and Replace' command on his computer to replace the name of the deceased from the previous funeral with the new name.

One morning at a funeral, all was going smoothly until the congregation reached the Apostle's Creed. "Jesus Christ," the congregation intoned, reading from the programme, "born of the Virgin Edna..."

Bakery

Did you hear about the bakery that was burgled at Christmas?

Everything was stollen!

Exchange

My friend reviewed her young son's fill-in-the-blank homework. One line was: "At Christmas, we exchange gifts

The Rectory St James the Least of All The Rectory

On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas. Just think! No Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been colour coordinated, the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected was allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long it would happen unexpectedly would have been decided by a committee and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

The one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.



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I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



6 December How Father Christmas got where he is today

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

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

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with ____."

His quick
response:
"Receipts."

Biscuit

As we were putting out biscuits for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve, one fell on the floor. When I picked it up and placed it back on the plate, my four-year-old was horrified. "You can't do that!"

"Don't worry," I assured him.

"Father Christmas will never know." He shot me a suspicious look. "So, he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the biscuit fell on the floor?"

Lost

Just as I began my Christmas Eve service, the electricity in the church failed. The wardens and I found some candles and placed them around the sanctuary. Then I re-entered the pulpit, shuffled

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my notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?"

A hopeful voice called out, "Right near the end!"

Come
What is a webmaster's favourite hymn?
Oh, dot com all ye faithful!

Chimney
Why doesn't Father Christmas suffer from claustrophobia when he climbs down the chimney?

Because he has had his flue jab.

Reindeer
What did the reindeer say before launching into his comedy routine? 'This will sleigh you.'

First Christmas
Daniel aged four, had gone to Sunday School just before Christmas. He came home with a new understanding of the Christmas story...

"There wasn't a Father Christmas way

(Continued from page 7)

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

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

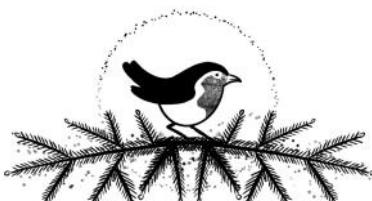
In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas. It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'.

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

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

©Parish Pump



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St Mary's Chapel, Weldam, How it all started

(This year, St Mary's Chaplaincy marked the fortieth anniversary of the chaplaincy's foundation. The following story, outlining those early years, written by the late Ria Veltrop, was discovered in old magazine papers.)

A lot has changed since the early beginnings of our Anglican Church. The first Services of the Anglican Church Twente were held in the beginning of 1979, basically at the initiative of Dr. Bonting. In 1965, Dr Bonting came back from the US, as he had been appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Bio-Chemistry in the University of Nijmegen, where he took up residence.

Dr Bonting had been ordained in Washington in 1964, and had worked in churches in the US. On his arrival in the Netherlands he knew that someone was required to look after the growing Anglican communities in Nijmegen and Eindhoven.

It was in Eindhoven that Dr Bonting got to know Mr Brian Lynch and his wife Dianna. The couple left Eindhoven in 1975 to go and live in Goor, but they remained in touch. In 1978, Mr Lynch was asked if there were any ex-patriots and Christians who would welcome the opportunity to attend services in English among their circle of friends. After some investigation, Brian Lynch found a small nucleus living within a thirty mile radius of Goor. So in January 1979 a meeting of interested parties was called. The venue was their home in Goor.

It was a particularly severe winter and the first meeting was almost cancelled because of snow and frost.

There was a celebration of Holy Communion during the meeting with the kitchen table as an altar. It was resolved to find a suitable venue, and a positive response was received from the clergy at St Lambertus Church in Hengelo. Arrangements were made to hold a service, initially only once a month, in the chapel of what was a rather awe-inspiring and huge church for the modest congregation of those days.

The Lambertus Church was the place where Count Alfred Solms first appeared on the scene. He had probably seen announcements in the local press and was curious to see what type of service we were holding. Anyhow, Count Alfred recognized our dilemma of not having a place of our own to

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back then, so
these three
blokes on camels
had to deliver all
the toys. And
Rudolph the Red-
nosed Reindeer
with his nose so
bright wasn't
there yet, so
they used this big
light in the sky to
find their way
around."*

**With New Year's
Eve in mind...**
Bagpipes - the
best way to
terrorise your
neighbours
without getting
an ASBO.

If a piper was
playing alone in a
forest 100 miles
from anywhere -
would everyone
still hate him?

Good advice
If you have a lot
of tension this
Christmas and
you get a
headache, do
what it says on
the aspirin
bottle: 'Take two
aspirin' and 'Keep
away from
children.'

Come and go
At Christmas
friends come and
go, but relatives
tend to
accumulate.

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Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos first!"

Answer?

Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive - do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"



worship in, and that the church in Hengelo was too vast for such a small congregation as ours. The result was that Count Alfred generously offered us the use of the chapel on his estate, nowadays called St Mary's Weldam.

Everyone was delighted by the offer and services started there on the 19th August 1979. The chapel was not only ideally situated but having been designed by an English architect and built in 1898, it was particularly fitting to our needs. The first Carol Service was held on the 16th December of the same year.

As there was an increasing number of English speaking engaged in industry in the area the congregation began to grow steadily. Services were held twice a month. Morning Prayer on the first Sunday in the month conducted by our Reader John Tugwood, who retired to England in 1989 after serving the Anglican Church Twente for ten years. Holy Communion was celebrated on the third Sunday of the month by Dr Bonting.

Some years went by in which we had our Autumn Fairs in September and our Carol Service in December as highlights. Particularly for the 'Bazaars' many in the congregation had to make a real effort. A long time in advance people started making and collecting articles to be sold, with all making jams and chutneys and baking cakes etc. These 'Bazaars' were usually a great success and the proceeds such that we could send donations to the Rev. Keith Benzie Project in Madagascar.

Then came the time, October 1985, when Dr Bonting would be leaving for the United States. Long before his actual departure, Dr Bonting had alerted the Bishops and the Intercontinental Church Society (ICS) to the need to provide for the congregations of Eindhoven, Nijmegen, Arnhem and Twente. He had succeeded in convincing them that an East Netherlands Chaplaincy, comprising those four congregations, (nowadays Eindhoven does not take part anymore), was a viable entity. ICS would pay to them an annual contribution, and that the subsidy of ICS would gradually diminish.

The search for a Chaplain, however, turned out to take much longer than expected. Although there was an inter regnum of exactly two years we never missed out on any services. Clergy from the other Anglican Churches in this country took services, and we owe a lot to our faithful Reader John Tugwood, and also in John Underwood, who became a lay-assistant in 1985.

Fred Preston and his wife Doris, joined us in October 1987, for a two-year period. Bishop Edward Holland conducted the Installation and Induction Service in the Studentenkerk in Nijmegen on the 11 October 1987. They eventually took up residence in Nijmegen, and it was from there they were to serve the Chaplaincies

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Forthcoming Services

1 December 2019

10:30 Eucharist

Advent 1

Celebrant and Preacher

Canon Brian Rodford

Duty Warden:

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Maureen Underwood

Chalice:

Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Frances Gothard

Isaiah [2. 1-5]

Elisa Hannan

Romans [13. 11 - end]

Gospel

Matthew[24. 36 - 44]

8 December 2019

10:30 Eucharist

Advent 2

Celebrant and Preacher

Canon Brian Rodford

Duty Warden:

Blair Charles

Intercessor

Philippa te West

Chalice:

Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Maureen Underwood

Isaiah [11. 1-10]

Patrick Saridjan

Romans[15. 4 -13]

Gospel

Matthew [3. 1-12]

15 December 2019

10:30 Service of Lessons
and Carols

Advent 3



Celebrant and Preacher

Canon Brian Rodford

Duty Warden:

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Joyce Wigboldus

Chalice:

n.a.

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

t.b.a.

t.b.a.

t.b.a.

Gospel

Forthcoming Services

22 December 2019

10:30 Sung Eucharist	Trinity 6	
Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford	
Duty Warden: Blair Charles	Intercessor: Jeanet Luiten	Chalice: Joyce Wigboldus
Sidesperson/Reader		Readings
Linda ten Berge		Isaiah [7. 10-16]
Simone Yallop		Romans [1. 1-7]
Gospel		Matthew[1. 18-end]

24 December 2019

22:30 Christmas Eve	Midnight Service	
Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford	
Duty Warden: Jeanet Luiten	Intercessor: Simone Yallop	Chalice: Jeanet Luiten
Sidesperson/Reader		Readings
Arjan Hafmans		Isaiah [52. 7 -10]
Elisa Hannan		Hebrews [1. 1 -12]
Gospel		John [1. 1 -14]

29 December 2019

10:30 Sung Eucharist	Christmas 1	
Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford	
Duty Warden: Blair Charles	Intercessor: Lea Meijnen	Chalice: Joyce Wigboldus
Sidesperson/Reader		Readings
Jeanet Luiten		Isaiah [63. 7-9]
Louw Talstra		Hebrews [2. 10-end]
Gospel		Matthew [2. 13-end]

Forthcoming Services

5 January 2020

10:30 Sung Eucharist	Epiphany
Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
Duty Warden: Jeanet Luiten	Intercessor: Maureen Underwood Chalice: Jeanet Luiten
Sidesperson/Reader	Readings
Erica Schotman Bonting	1. John [3.22-4-6]
Elizabeth vd Heijden	Matthew [4. 12-17, 23-end]
Gospel	John [1. 10-18]

12 January 2020

10:30 Eucharist	Baptism of Christ
Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
Duty Warden: Blair Charles	Intercessor Lea Meijnen Chalice: Joyce Wigboldus
Sidesperson/Reader	Readings
Heleen Rauwerda	Isaiah. [42 1-9]
Maureen Underwood	Acts [10. 34-43]
Gospel	Matthew [3. 13-end]

19 January 2020

10:30 Sung Eucharist	Epiphany 1
Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
Duty Warden: Jeanet Luiten	Intercessor: Joyce Wigboldus Chalice: Jeanet Luiten
Sidesperson/Reader	Readings
Vivian Reinders	Isaiah [49 1-7]
Ann Powell	1 Corinthians [1. 1-9]
Gospel	John [1. 29-42]

Forthcoming Services

26 January 2020

10:30 Sung Eucharist	Epiphany 3
Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
Duty Warden: Blair Charles	Intercessor: Simone Yallop
Sidesperson/Reader	Chalice: Joyce Wigboldus
Linda ten Berge	Readings
Philippa te West	Isaiah [9. 1-4] 1. Corinthians [1 10-18]
Gospel	Matthew [4. 112-23]

2 February 2020

10:30 Sung Eucharist	Candlemas
Officiant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
Duty Warden: Jeanet Luiten	Intercessor: Jeanet Luiten
Sidesperson/Reader	Chalice: Jeanet Luiten
Rachel Koster	Readings
Lea Meijnen	Malachi [3. 1-5] Hebrews [2. 14-end]
Gospel	Luke [22. 22-40]

9 February 2020

10:30 Sung Eucharist	3rd before Lent
Officiant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
Duty Warden: Blair Charles	Intercessor: Maureen Underwood
Sidesperson/Reader	Chalice: Joyce Wigboldus
Arthur Cass	Readings
Elisa Hannan	Isaiah [58 1-9a] 1. Corinthians [2. 1-12, 13-end]
Gospel	Matthew 5. 13-20

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During the years he spent with us, Revd. Fred Preston established a regular Bible Study Group, and was instrumental in forming a Social Committee. His wife Doris worked quietly in the background offering additional support and help in many areas but particularly in re-establishing Sunday School.

In October 1989 we had to face another interregnum. Fortunately this time it only took three months to find a locum we all know now as Revd. Geoffrey Woodward. On the 28th January 1990, Geoffrey conducted his first service at Weldam. Originally, Geoffrey and his wife Nettie were here for only six months, but in the spring of 1990, Geoffrey agreed to serve as Chaplain of the East Netherlands Group of Chaplaincies for the next three years. We are very grateful that, God willing, we shall not have to worry about finding another chaplain for some time to come.

By now we are treading familiar ground. With Paul Chesmond as a replacement for John Underwood, who has recently left for Hamburg, we are well provided for.

Ria Veltrop, early 1990s?

The story of the First Cradle

Each Christmas season as we gather the greens for decoration and all the other little trinkets, we find are a necessary part of the holiday festivities we gather stories along with them.

In fact, old legends, old tales cling like glistening snow to every bough and tradition sits on every branch. To know and to retell these tales is to become a part of the succession of the long years, a pleasant feeling of being one with all the past.

The story of the First Cradle or Holy Scene is one of them. It tells about the cradle that was created by Saint Francis and the Minor Brothers.



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Huh!

If corn oil is made from corn and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made of?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be to before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings, then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Woman's Revenge'

"Cash or card" I asked after scanning the items the woman wished to buy. As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a tv remote control in her handbag. "Do you always carry your tv remote?" I asked.

"No" she replied, "but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil I could do with him legally."

The Silent Treatment

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly, the man realized that the next day, he would need his wife to wake him for 5:00AM for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (AND LOSE) he wrote

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This was erected in the hermitage of Greccio, a simple collection of crude huts high on a rock in a dark forest. Deep snow came to this region and the silence, and the cold made the place more remote. In a grotto Francis had created a representation of the Holy family in Bethlehem. The brothers had made a little crib with a great live white ox on one side and a gentle little donkey on the other side.

Just above the crib, the altar had been set up, and the frosty breath of the animals must have risen like incense as they reached toward the hay in the manger.

Peasants came up along the hillside to worship, and soon young and old were gathered around the grotto, wondering, admiring and watching for the miracle of the Holy birth.

After the mass Saint Francis went to the crib and stretched out his arms as if the holy child was there and by the intensity of his devotion the babe appeared, and the empty manger was filled with the radiance of the new-born King.

Then Saint Francis began to speak in his strong, clear voice (often, as some chronicles describe, his words were like great music, once heard it was never forgotten), talking about charity and tolerance, reverence and devotion.

From this first simple Holy Cradle, the idea of presenting the Bethlehem scene spread all through the Christian world.

This is a fragment from a much longer story by the famous herbal specialist and writer Adelma Grenier Simmons, retold here by Erica Schotman Bonting.

*Editor: Canon David Winter
considers the Christmas story...*

Christmas - the most beautiful story ever told

On the BBC's 'Today' programme last Christmas a distinguished atheist revealed that his Christmas routine included attending Midnight Mass. Asked why, he replied that it was the most beautiful story ever told and he didn't want it to be forgotten.



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Up and down the country this month, thousands and thousands of parents will be attending school and church nativity plays. They're good fun, the children like them, and they remind us of the most lovely and memorable story of all time.

First, there was the actual birth. Excluded from the shelter of the 'inn', Mary and Joseph found themselves in a stable. Soon after, Mary gave birth to a boy, wrapped Him in His birth-robe, and laid Him in the only secure place she could find - the feeding trough.

Next came the shepherds, bursting in from the fields, eager to see the baby that the angels had told them to look for, 'lying in a manger'. They worshipped him, in wonder of all that had happened that night.

Finally, at some point came the so called 'Wise Men'. The gospel calls them 'Magi', and says they were from the East. The word 'magi' comes from the Greek 'magos' (magic) and further back, from the old Persian word 'Magupati'. The Magi could have been priests from an ancient Persian religion that watched the night sky. Today they would be called astrologers.

Whoever they were, their influence at that point in history was immense. All over the ancient world their predictions were regarded with awe, but they knelt before Jesus and offered Him gifts. They were the first Gentiles to recognise a divine and kingly power and purpose in the baby in Bethlehem.

150 years later the great bishop Clement of Rome described this as the moment when the old order of fear and fate gave way before this new era of love and grace.



Church Music

I believe that we musicians, poets and artists have particular responsibilities as we use our gifts in worship. Our songs, poems and images can touch the heart in a way that mere words cannot. More than that, those who profess to have little or no faith are often moved to tears by the music they sing. Many years ago, when I first became Director of Music at a cathedral, the Bishop of the diocese told me: "Your task is to give people splashes of glory." I have never forgotten this injunction. Geoff Weaver, a former Director of Studies for the Royal School of Church Music

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on a piece of paper, Please wake me at 5:00 AM, which he left where he knew she would find it. The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00AM and he had missed his flight. Furious he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. On the paper was written, 'It is 5:00AM. Wake up! Men are not equipped for these kind of contests.'

Christmas

Q: Why did Scrooge keep a pet lamb?

A: Because it would say, "Baaaaahh humbug!"

Q: Who is a Christmas tree's favourite singer?

A: Spruce Springsteen

Q: What's Santa's favourite snack food?

A: Crisp Pringles.

**With Christmas
in mind...**

This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall.
John Betjeman's 'Christmas'

Filling the world,
He lies in a manger!
Augustine

The incarnation of Christ is the clearest affirmation of the truth that man is created in the image of God.
Lawrence Adams

To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult each year.
E B White

Remember, Christ was not a deified man, neither was He a humanized God. He was perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man.

C H Spurgeon

Christ took our flesh upon Him that He might takes our sins upon Him.
T Watson



The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2019

During August I was fortunate to take part in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and to see, again, the places associated with the life of Jesus Christ. Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, is now a sprawling Arab town, but in the first century was only a village of perhaps 500 people. Capernaum and the places around Lake Galilee have retained their peacefulness and beauty across the centuries. And Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, which was once the 'little town' spoken of in the Christmas Carol now houses the large 'Church of the Nativity' built by Constantine, a bewildering array of gift shops and the terrible and much graffitied wall that separates Palestinians from Jews.

To visit these sites is to be reminded that Jesus was born in a physical place and time. His parents had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register in a Roman census. The Bethlehem 'inn' described by St. Luke would have been a large room in which visitors would have unrolled their sleeping mats.

Despite St. Luke's comments, the room at the inn would be unlikely to have been completely full, as you could always squeeze in another body. But a crowded hostel floor was no place for a young woman about to give birth. So it seems the innkeeper - far from being the grumpy character that he has become in our infant nativities - found Mary somewhere more decent, in all likelihood his own family's cave. Caves made good homes, as they kept cool in the summer and relatively warm in the winter. At the 'Church of the Nativity' you can visit the cave where, by tradition, the birth took place. It appears that Mary gave birth in the relative privacy of the part of the cave allocated to the animals.

Luke tells us that Mary placed her newborn baby in a manger. The only ancient Near Eastern manger I have seen was used both as a reservoir for water as well as a being a feeding trough. And it was made of stone.

Attending to the details of Mary's circumstances perhaps helps us to ponder again the earthy reality of the Saviour's birth. Jesus was born in a cave, surrounded by animals, and the newborn baby was laid in an elevated stone basin intended for the nourishment of the animals. St. John reflects that 'the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,

full of grace and truth'. The divine Word is enfleshed, puts on humanity, in an utterly physical and natural manner.

Yet this baby embodies the *logos*, the Word of God. The divine Word takes flesh. The invisible, transcendent second person of the divine Trinity speaks into our human existence. God's speech is known in the life of this human person, and if we want to know how God speaks we are directed to Jesus. There is an integrity between the life and actions of Jesus and the word and will of the eternal God. This birth is an extraordinary divine 'speech-event'.

In our own day, speech and communication are as powerful as they ever were. Words are used to influence and persuade, to heal or to harm, to encourage or undermine, to nurture hope or generate fear. With the internet and social media the whole world now feels like one global speech community with a myriad of voices vying for attention, prominence and influence.

What is so frequently lacking is a consonance between what is spoken and the physicality of real people. Disembodied voices with anonymous names or email addresses offer comment without responsibility. And public figures whose image has been created by marketing consultants deliver messages massaged by spin doctors that seem unconnected with their own personal histories. As a result we experience ourselves caught up in powerful communications networks where we can't easily distinguish truth from lies and struggle to find firm foundations for trust in what we are hearing.

Words are precious, and powerful - sacred even, if we trace them back to the divine Word. The event of Christmas invites us to model our lives and our speech on the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, rather than be fashioned by the powerful networks of discourse swirling around us.

Addressing Christians at Ephesus, the second century Father of the Church Ignatius wrote:

"Pray without ceasing on behalf of other people. For there is in them hope of repentance that they may attain to God. See, then, that they be instructed by your works, if in no other way. Be meek in response to their wrath, humble in opposition to their boasting; in contrast to their error be steadfast in the faith, and for their cruelty manifest your gentleness. While we take care not to imitate their conduct, let us be found their brethren in all kindness."

Faithfulness or trustworthiness, humility, gentleness and kindness remain the hallmarks of Christ-like communication.

So amongst all the Christmas gifts, we prepare to celebrate the supreme gift - God's greatest ever gift to the world. It

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The Son came out from the Father to help us to come out from the world; He descended to us to enable us to ascend to Him.

Anthony of Padua

With New Year on the way

I find that distance lends enchantment to bagpipes.

William Blezard

The second day of a New Year's diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it.

Jackie Gleason

January: the month when you can't spend money you don't have

Bargain: it's easy to recognise one, it doesn't fit.

Happiness is made to be shared.
French proverb

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

**With Christmas
and other people
in mind...**

How do you gift
wrap love? The
nearest you will
ever get to that is
what Mary did
when the child was
born - she
'wrapped him in
swaddling clothes.
Ian Gregory

True friendships
are lasting
because true love
is eternal. A
friendship in which
heart speaks to
heart is a gift
from God, and no
gift that comes
from God is
temporary or
occasional.
Henri Nouwen

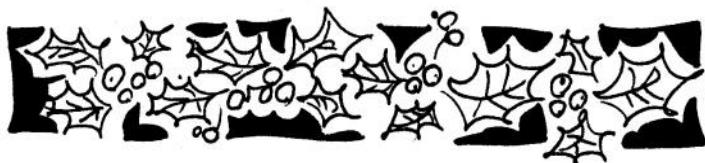
Let us remember
that the
Christmas heart is
a giving heart, a
wide-open heart
that thinks of
others first. The
birth of the baby
Jesus stands as
the most
significant event
in all history,
because it has
meant the pouring
into a sick world
of the healing
medicine of love
which has
transformed all
manner of hearts
for almost 2000
years....Underneath
all the bulging
bundles is this
beating Christmas
heart.
Helen Keller

is the gift of a person full of grace - of loveliness, goodness, graciousness. And this is a gift, a person, full of truth - reality, integrity, trustworthiness. In fragile flesh he comes and dwells, being born in a cave amongst the animals, laid in a manger. God who is outside space and time speaks into human reality to transform it from within.

Wherever you live in our European diocese, I wish each of you and your families a very happy Christmas. And I hope that during 2020, whatever the year ahead brings, God will irradiate your lives with his presence and his peace.

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe



Morning Prayer

On the 17 November Simone Yallop, the newly licensed Lay Minister at St Mary's Weldam, conducted a Service of Morning Prayer with Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. This was a first for both the congregation, and Simone, and it was a wonderful service.

Simone has of course conducted many Services of Morning Prayer, but has not distributed Holy Communion before. The Holy Communion part of the service was attached seamlessly on to the end of the Morning Prayer, giving the congregation a deeply spiritual, beautiful service.

The following Sunday, 24 November there was a second Morning Prayer with Holy Communion , and it was equally moving. Thank you Simone .

Some Thoughts on Church Life

Fleeting Thoughts

Every Sunday, wet or fine
I trot along to the half past nine.
I go because I think I should.
To praise the Lord, for he is good.

The service starts, then goodness knows
Where all my concentration goes!
For though I speak and sing the words
My thoughts fly off like little birds

I call them back on to their perch
And tell them they must stay in church
But soon when I'm supposed to pray
I find they've fluttered miles away!

Again I summon them to me,
And scold them for their truancy
And when the lesson's clearly read
They settle down inside my head.

Five minutes later, all in vain
The blighters have escaped again!
The Lord must think I'm very weak
To let them play this hide and seek!

At least I get them to confess
To all their sins and waywardness
I tell the Lord I'm filled with shame
But anyway at least I came!
Lynette Nicholson

I'd like to go to church, BUT

A is for Aunty who will come to tea
B is for Bed which won't release me
C is for car, "We do need fresh air"
D is for Dinner that Mum must prepare
E is Extremes - too 'high' or too 'low'
F for my Feelings, when they're right I go
G is for Garden, much 'nearer God's heart'
H is for Husband who won't play his part
I is for Intruders who sit in my pew
J is for Jealousy shown by few
K is for Kneeling that tries me so much
L the old language, it's so out of touch
M is for Money, they always want more
N is for New tunes that I've never heard,
O is for Overtime, double on Sunday
P the Preparing I must do for Monday
Q the Queer noises coming from the choir
R for Rector, he ought to retire,
S for Sermons, as dull as can be
T for Telly, I really must see,
U for Unfriendliness, I always find,
V for the Voice, of that woman behind
W for Weather, too much rain or snow
X for Extras, too busy to go
Y for Young rowdies who sit at the back,
Z is for Zeal, and that's what I lack!

We have all heard these at some time or other. I wonder which is your excuse!

Anon

Donation

Enclosed please find a cheque and believe me you are lucky to get it due to my shattered financial condition

This is due to: national laws, county laws, council laws, bye-laws, in-laws and outlaws

I am required to pay income tax, council tax, value added tax and carpet tacks
I am required to get a business licence, shooting licence, fishing licence, driving licence, vehicle licence and marriage licence

I am inspected, expected, suspected, dejected, rejected, examined, informed, commanded and compelled to provide an inexhaustible supply of money for every need of the human race

In fact, if it hadn't been for that happened yesterday, I could not enclose this cheque, but the wolf at the door had pups, I sold them to a zoo and here is the money.

Anon



Who Knew?

*Who saw the man and pregnant girl
Pressing through the crowded street
Struggling through the human swirl
On tired legs and aching feet?
Who knew?*

*Who heard her cries, in labour's pain
Deep within a battered shed?
Who cared for their impoverished shame
Who thought about her grassy bed?
Who knew?*

*Who, listening to an infant's cries
Hearing a birth, they thought it strange?
Expressed an int'rest, or surprise?
Who recognised that awesome change?
Who knew?*

*Who saw the shepherds rush along
Through sleeping streets at dead of night?
Who heard the angels' glorious song?
Or saw the star that shone so bright?
Who knew?*

*Who, fighting through the Christmas throngs
Or, settling down to watch TV
Eats Christmas food, sings Christmas songs
Who can the coming Saviour see?
Who knows?*

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.*

