

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

**Volume 19 Issue 10 December 2023/
January 2024**

Next issue: First Sunday February 2024

Chaplaincy
Information

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The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente



DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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The Prince of Peace

December 2023
& January 2024

Dear Saints,

Greetings! It seems good to share some reflections stemming from the International and Ecumenical Conference on Racial Justice, organised by the Diocese in Europe in Freiburg, Germany from 9-11 November 2023.

Having listened to people's lived experiences, I was and still am left with a sense of breathlessness.

Racism takes one's breath away, as was experienced by the African American victim of racism, George Floyd, whose last words were "I cannot breathe". Yes, indeed! racism takes one's breath away. As was experienced with the genocide of the Jewish people, Roma people and other so called "undesirables", during the Second World War, where millions of these so called "undesirables" were systematically murdered, yes taking their breath away, making them breathless.

Having lived in an Apartheid society in South Africa myself, yes indeed racism takes one's breath away. For the survivors, and here I am including the victims and the perpetrators, the continuous long-term effects of racism, like long Covid, takes one's breath away. It destroys and debilitates everything in its way.

The theme of the conference was "Breathing Life" God's Kaleidoscope".

The conference was divided into three parts:

1. Grieving the Past
2. Challenging the Present and
3. Envisioning the Future

These three areas of reflection were built on a sound foundation of daily Bible studies and daily Prayer: morning and evening prayer with a closing Eucharist.

The location of the conference allowed the participate of the conference to in the life of the people of Freiburg and Germany:

"Participants were aware that the first day of their meeting held a tragic significance in the context of racial hatred, as 9th November 1938 - the 'Reichsprogromnacht' - made unambiguously visible the systematic persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany and the annihilation of Jewish life as its ultimate goal. Participants also expressed their agony at the ongoing and unbridled violence between peoples and nations, causing so much of loss of life and challenging dreams and hopes for justice and peace in our time." (From the conference statement)

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St Mary's Chapel News



Signs seen outside churches in the USA

Whoever stole our air conditioner unit, keep it. It is hot where you going!

Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.

Jesus had two dads and turned out fine.

Adam and Eve - the first two people to not read Apple terms and conditions.

Too hot to keep changing this sign.
Sin bad - Jesus good
Details inside

If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a taller fence.

A Gay Christian is not an oxymoron
A hateful Christian most certainly is.

Dust on your Bible could lead to dirt in your life

The fact that there's a Highway to Hell and only a stairway to Heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers

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PRESS RELEASE

"The Twente School for Theology was founded for residents of Twente who are interested in theology. The fourth lecture is scheduled for Thursday, January 16. This time, Prof. Erik Borgman from Utrecht will come to Twente to talk to us about theology, politics and culture. In his lecture and the subsequent debate, he will discuss the relationship between the theology and topics such as the elections, the influx of migrants and the housing crisis. This lecture will take place in Saint Mary's Chapel on the Weldam estate, Diepenheimseweg 114 in Markelo, and starts at 7:30 PM.

Twente and theology have been linked since the arrival of the Irish missionary St. Plechem to this region. That is why the Twente School of Theology strives to permanently stimulate thinking about critical theological topics in Twente. However, the passion for this area of study requires constant revival. For more information and registration for this lecture and other activities, please visit www.twenteschoolvoortheologie.nl."

Congratulations

On Sunday 19th November, Carol van Straten was confirmed and welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church at the St. Lambertusbasiliek in Hengelo where her husband, Jan Schage, is a longstanding member. It was a beautiful service. The celebrant and preacher was Pastoor Jurgen Jansen.) Many congratulations to Carol and Jan on this special occasion. Simone was honoured to be witness and godparent on this special day.

A Word from Wales

This will be our fourth Christmas in Wales. Over the years, I have celebrated Christmas in six countries and on three continents. Every year, I feel the magic of Christmas settling on the Earth as we come together to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. I have even spent two Christmases in Saudi Arabia. We were not allowed to use the term Christmas there. Instead, we had Festive trees, Festive cards and Festive celebrations. It did not matter. The magic was still there. We all knew it was Christmas. As a child in Zambia, my Christmas was in the middle of the summer. As a child, it seemed that nearly the whole town would gather at the sports field for Carols by Candlelight. The service began in near-total darkness. Only one candle is lit, the one on the altar in the middle of the field. The flame was carried to the audience in the stands from that light. Light flowed across the stadium, reminding us of the birth of the light of the world. The beautiful music of Christmas Carols filled our ears. Magical! If this was tried in Wales today, I fear most of us would succumb to hypothermia. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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.

Payments Due

With the start of the new year the call has to go out again for those people who receive a paper copy, to make their annual donation. During 2020, Lub Gringhuis took over the job of arranging the printing. With some skilful home printing and costing the magazine covers its costs. With Lub's skilled management and your prompt donations, the magazine will survive.

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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Christmas in my heart

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

Turkey

He ate so much over the holidays that he decided to quit cold turkey.

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?

The outside.

Sums up Christmas

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are:

'Peace on Earth';
'Goodwill to Men';
and 'Batteries not included'.

Red

What's red and white, red and white, and red and white? Father Christmas rolling down a hill.

Stronger

Statistics prove we're all getting stronger.

Fifty years ago, you needed an estate car to hold €50 worth of Christmas presents.

Twenty-five years ago, it took two people to carry €30

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worth of Christmas groceries - now a five-year-old can do it.

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.

- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta

- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

Snowman

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite

Wise

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!" "What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"

The Christmas stars

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as

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The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

The Rectory St James the Least of All

On how to make the most of carol singing

My dear Nephew Darren

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

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

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

Those homes that contain several children are visited just after bedtime, so that parents will give generously simply to get the choir to go somewhere else. Veiled threats to stay and sing more carols (unless they give generously) are usually very effective. Getting whoever looks the most innocent and photogenic to ring the bell and ask for money is a far more subtle way of ensuring a donation than planting any number of mafia lookalikes (such as our church treasurer) on the doorstep.



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

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



What does the Advent period mean to us?

In our world, the deeper meaning of many Christian feasts or the preparation for them is more or less lost. Who knows what is the period of Advent? Ask someone in the street, and they will look at you, a puzzled look on their face.

Well, Advent is a period of waiting and preparation for the coming of a child in a wooden manger.

Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus", which means 'the coming'. This period of preparation lasts 4 weeks. On each of the four Sundays of Advent, a candle will be lit as a symbol of the coming of Christ. This symbolises the coming of Christmas, the feast of the Light.

Less known but even more important is that we are in this period and commemorating the rebirth of Christ, his coming again.

Advent was already celebrated in the 4th century in the Eastern Orthodox Church. In this period, the church was focused on the question of the incarnation. How could the Son of God become such an 'ordinary.' Person in our human world.

The tradition of Advent soon spread westward. In Gaul, now France. The Advent period was 6 weeks long and started on the 11th of November, the feast day of St Martin. A period of fasting, living soberly, and doing good work lasted six weeks.

Only in the sixth century did the Roman Catholic Church introduce the tradition of Advent. Pope Gregory the Great (590-604) shortened this period to four weeks. The Eastern Orthodox Church still has an Advent period of 40 days. The Reformed Church didn't want to know anything about

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the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.

Runs over

A vicar gave his daughter a puppy for Christmas. An hour later, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over!"

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Mother in a storm

One cold winter night, during a violent storm, a mother was tucking her small, frightened little boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he said with a tremor in his voice: "Mummy, will you stay with me tonight?"

Mummy smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I

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can't, dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy."

A long silence - and then came his shaky reply: "The big coward!"

Christmas gifts
Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

Christmas shopping
It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

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Advent. Moreover, there was nothing of Christmas until after 1600, when Christmas was accepted. And only since the 19th century has Advent been celebrated.

Nowadays, nearly all churches celebrate Advent and Christmas. The fasting period is no longer observed; it is now a time of joyful anticipation of Christmas and the coming of the Messiah.

We have four Sundays in Advent with the following themes:

1st Sunday: Hope

2nd Sunday: Love

3rd Sunday: Gaudete or Peace

4th Sunday: Joy

©Erica Bonting Schotman



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
We finished up the Christmas pudding
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,

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The Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered -
We had 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 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.



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Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

Getting ready for Christmas...

In this season of endless parties, socialising and constant hospitality, please remember:

~ No woman ever yet has shot her husband while he was washing the dishes.

~ Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

~ He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

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Forthcoming Services

December 3 2023 **The First Sunday of Advent** 10:30 Eucharist

Officiant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Linda ten Berge

Isaiah 64, 1-9

Patrick Saridjan

1 Corinthians 1. 3-9

Gospel

Mark 13. 24-end

December 10 2023 **The Second Sunday of Advent** 10.30 Lessons and Carols

Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings



The Wardens will invite members of the congregation to read the lessons

December 17 2022 **The Third Sunday of Advent** 10:30 Eucharist

Celebrant Revd. Jacqueline Williams **Preacher** Lay Minister Simone Yallop

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Lea Meijnen

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Lea Meijnen

Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end

Elisabeth v d Heijden

1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24

Gospel

John 1, 6-8, 19-28

December 24 2023 **The Fourth Sunday of Advent** 10:30 Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

t.b.a.



2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16

t.b.a.

Romans 16. 25-end

Gospel

Luke 1. 26-38

Forthcoming Services

December 24 2023 **Christmas Eve** 22:30 Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Caroline Siertsema

Sidesperson/Reader

Jan de Beij

Arthur Cass

Gospel



Readings

t.b.a.

t.b.a.

t.b.a.

December 24 2023 **Christmas Day** 10:30 Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Lea Meijnen

Sidesperson/Reader

Louw Talstra

Jaccolien Molenaar

Gospel

Readings

Isaiah 9. 2-7

Titus 2. 11-14

Luke 2, 1-20

December 31 2023 **Christmas 1** 10:30 Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Ann Powell

Erica Bonting

Gospel

Readings

Isaiah 61. 10 - 62.3

Galatians 4. 4-7

Luke 2. 15-21

January 7 2024 **Baptism of Christ** 10:30 Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Ann Powell

Linda ten Berge

Gospel

Readings

Isaiah 60,1-6

Psalms 72 [1-9] 10-15

Ephesians

Matthew 2. 1 -12

Forthcoming Services

January 14 2024 **Epiphany 2** 10:30 Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Rita Kizito

Readings
Samual 3.1 -1.0 [11 -20]

Psalm 139. 1-5, 12 - 18/ or 1 -9

Patrick Saridjan

Revelations 5, 1-10

Gospel

John 1. 43 -end

January 21 2024 **Epiphany 3** 10:30 Eucharist

Celebrant Revd. Jacqueline Williams **Preacher** Lay Minister Simone Yallop

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Arthur Cass

Readings
Genesis 14, 17 - 20

Psalm 128

Lea Meijnen

Revelations 19. 6- 10

Gospel

John 2. 1 - 11

January 28 2024 **Epiphany 2** 10:30 Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden Jeanet Luiten **Intercessor:** Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Rita Kizito

Readings
Samual 3.1 -1.0 [11 -20]

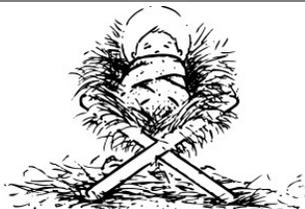
Psalm 139. 1-5, 12 - 18/ or 1 -9

Patrick Saridjan

Revelations 5, 1-10

Gospel

John 1. 43 -end



St Nicholas – a much-loved saint 6th December:

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. Nicholas dedicated his whole life to God's service and became Bishop of Myra while still young. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was determined to spread the news of God's love abroad. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – hoping to attract presents of their own from St Nicholas – on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten. In bygone years, boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December and beg alms for the poor. In the

Netherlands and Belgium, 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many people feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.



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~ Everyone has a photographic memory. But sadly, some don't have film.

~ Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves, for they will never cease to be amused.

~ Many people's ambition: to be weighed and found wanting.

~ Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.

Pardon

The ability to speak several languages is a valuable asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Anonymous

In the Old Days, before text was invented, we used telegrams, with some strange results

The Vicar, a forgetful chap, went to London to buy a banner for the Mothers' Union.

He could neither remember the wording or the size, so he sent a

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telegram to his wife asking for the details.

When he returned to the Post Office for the reply, the woman at the counter, looking very shaken, silently handed him the reply:

'Unto us a son is born stop. Four feet by nine feet stop. Top half red, bottom black stop. Love Mary.'

Feeding Time?

The old priest had a large pond surrounded by apple and pear trees at the far end of the church property.

One warm evening, he decided to have a leisurely walk through the orchard and down to the pond as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a bucket so he could bring back some fruit.

As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee.

As he came closer, he saw it

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Drink tea or coffee each day - and keep old age weakness away!

Recent research has found that drinking coffee or tea in midlife may help keep you stronger in later life.

A study at the National University of Singapore concluded that higher caffeine intake is associated with lower odds of physical frailty in old age, regardless of the source of the caffeine.

Physical frailty in old age was defined as having at least two of the following: weight loss, exhaustion, slowness and weakness. The scientists also measured handgrip strength and the time taken to complete a timed up-and-go (TUG) test.

In addition to caffeine, coffee and tea contain rich bioactive polyphenols, which have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. These have been associated with reduced risk for diseases that increase frailty, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, obesity and neurodegenerative disease.

@Parish Pump 2023



Israel-Gaza conflict - UK faith leaders condemn antisemitism and call for solidarity

The Archbishop of Canterbury was recently joined by Muslim and Jewish leaders at Lambeth Palace to condemn the sharp rise in antisemitic incidents since the start of the war in Israel and Hamas. They called for unity between British faith communities, against the backdrop of the war.

Archbishop Justin Welby, Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg stood together outside Lambeth Palace and delivered statements calling for solidarity and unity between communities in the UK, and rejecting any form of hatred or discrimination.

Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra is a scholar and imam from Leicester, and a former Assistant Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain. Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg is the Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism UK, and Rabbi of the New North London Synagogue.

@Parish Pump 2023

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We also met at a time when there were unacceptable levels of violence in Israel, Palestine and the Gaza Strip. Killing thousands of innocent women, men and particularly children and young people in this region. While we had had our final Eucharist there was a peace demonstration and a demonstration in solidarity with the people of Palestine crossing each other as they moved through the city causing tense moments to arise.

The Conference wants to move all of us from having rhetoric of justice to living justice in order to create societies where righteousness and right living is the order of the day. This should be the work of the whole human race.

The conference has encouraged participants to create moments in our local churches and localities where we could be transparent about our role in the sin of racism and to actively resist racism. It also encourages the Churches with its members to be beacons of hope, as we embrace our diversity in such a way that God's Kaleidoscope, us, breathe life into our global village by who we are and what we do.

At our Archdeaconry Synod we were encouraged to celebrate Racial Justice Sunday, which is one of the Sundays of February. It is also my intention that our bible study during Lent reflects on some of the resources made available through the Racial Justice Conference.

We are entering a new Church Year on the 3rd December. Advent season reminds us that we are living the "In Between" times. Actively practicing righteousness as we await our Lord's return. Let us stay alert while we are breathing life into this world which we have been called into.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a Spirit filled 2024.

Yours in Christ, as always

Jacque



Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. - *Albert Schweitzer*

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was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. As he approached, he made the women aware of his presence. At once, they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave."

The vicar frowned and said, "I did not come down here to watch you young ladies swim naked, or to make you get out of the pond naked." Holding up the bucket, he said, "I'm here to feed the alligator."

Do not forget 2024 is waiting at the door

Youth is when you can stay up late on New Year's Eve.

Middle age is when you're forced to

Why did the man sprinkle sugar on his pillow on New Year's Eve?

He wanted to start the year with sweet dreams

My New Year's resolution was to read more...

So I put the subtitles on my TV.

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After the Preaching on the Devil

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

Definitions of church life

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL

HYMN: The last song at Sunday morning worship is often sung a little more quietly since most people have already left.

JONAH: The original 'Jaws' story

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some

O Come, All ye Faithful The story behind the hymn:

Nobody knows who wrote this well-loved Christmas carol. It was originally a Latin Christmas hymn, 'Adeste Fidelis'. It seems to have first 'surfaced' in English due to a John Francis Wade, who lived in the 18th century, and who made his living copying manuscripts and, sometimes, music by hand. Wade was a Roman Catholic, and all services in the church at that time were conducted in Latin, and so he knew the language well.

The story goes that in about 1750 he slipped this hymn into a manuscript he was copying for the English Roman Catholic College in Lisbon, Portugal. 35 years later, in 1785, it turned up in the Portuguese Chapel in London, where it became known as the 'Portuguese Hymn'.

From there, the hymn appears to have 'travelled' across to the Margaret Chapel in London's West End. Young William Ewart Gladstone, who later became British Prime Minister, greatly appreciated the services at this church. He said that the congregation were "the most devout and happy that I have ever seen."

The minister at that time was Frederick Oakley, one of the leaders of the 19th century Oxford Movement, who was later to convert to Roman Catholicism. Oakley believed strongly in the power of religious symbols and fine music, and before he bade farewell to the Margaret Chapel, he introduced this hymn to the congregation. Having started as 'Adeste Fidelis', and been for a while 'The Portuguese Hymn', this hymn soon became known - and loved worldwide - as

'O Come, All Ye Faithful'.

*O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;*

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;*

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CHRISTMAS

A Season for joyful song

Some of us like to sing, no matter what we may sound like to others! And sometimes, something happens that is so special that we can't help but burst into song.

In the Christmas story, singing is featured on *three* occasions.

When Mary visited her elderly relative, Elizabeth, she was so overwhelmed with happiness at the forthcoming miraculous birth of her Son, that she burst into a flow of praise. Her words are known as *The Magnificat*, and they have been set to music by numerous composers down the years. Mary recalled God's promise that He would rescue His people and, through the Messiah, save the world.

The next 'song' came from the angels, on the night of Jesus' birth. They appeared to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem and were full of the glory of God. 'Peace on earth', 'goodwill toward man'.

The final 'song' in the Nativity story came from the shepherds, who hurried to see the new-born baby. They were so overwhelmed by the implications for Israel, that they sang praises to God as they returned to their sheep.

Mary, the angels and the shepherds could not help but sing for joy at the coming of the Messiah. They were the first, but not the last! Since the day of Pentecost, hundreds of millions of people have raised their voices in gratitude, thanks and wonder at God's love and mercy in sending Jesus.

Down the centuries, countless poets and musicians have composed music to describe a wondrous moment in history. At Christmas, around the world, people come together to sing carols and other songs that express the wonder of God's Gift to us.

Jesus has given *us* hope; forgiven *our* sin; and continues to impart faith and heal *our* spiritual wounds. Now isn't that something to sing about?

Lester Amann, a member of the Parish Pump, considers the three songs of the nativity story.

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churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

SIDESMEN: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew

Cats and dogs

Behind every cat that crosses the street, there is a dog saying, "Go ahead, you can make it."

Dogs believe they are human. Cats believe they are God.

The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.

Paradise lost?

A young mother stood in her kitchen and watched her baby screaming, her sons fighting, her daughter crying, the washing machine leaking, and the dog being sick. She sighed and said to her friend: "I sometimes wish I'd loved and lost."

Bishop

An exam for R.E. asked the following question: 'What does a Bishop do?'
Came one answer: 'Move diagonally across the board.'

Everyday Christmas

(Mal 4:2, Mt 1:23)

*Light a candle,
Look into the light,
Pray.*

*Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings*

*As the flame rises,
Smooth, bright,
Know the comfort of Christ
In the carol speaking
Afresh.*

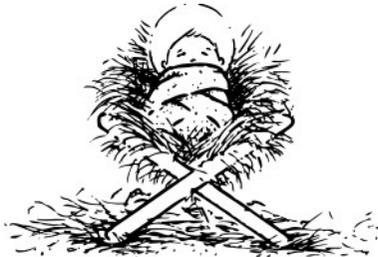
*Bringing Jesus
Into heart and prayer.*

*Emmanuel, God with us.
Light of the world,
Out of the stable
Into our situations.*

*Because of Jesus
Christmas is everyday.*

*The Lord is here.
Hallelujah.*

By Revd. Daphne Kitching



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Donations and Bequests

The policy of the Anglican Church Twente is to use donations and bequests to help fund significant development projects in the Chaplaincy, whether buildings, equipment, staff, or other major needs. As circumstances change over the years, it may not be possible to fulfil specific donor requests, so church members are encouraged to make donations and leave legacies for the general purposes of the Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy Council will discuss with donors or their executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church: for example, children & youth, music, buildings.

Donations or bequests can be paid into the current account of the Anglican Church Twente, ABN AMRO Lochem, IBAN: NL62ABNA0593634012.

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.