

Poetry and Prose

A Poem for God, From the hard of hearing.

Oh God!

When God gave out
Brains. I thought he
said trains, so I missed
mine.

When God gave out
Looks. I thought he
said books, so I didn't
want any.

When God gave out
Noses. I thought he
said roses, so I
ordered a big red one.

When God gave out
Chins. I thought he
said gins, so I ordered
a double.

When God gave out
Legs. I thought he said
kegs, so I ordered two
fat ones.

When God gave out
Heads. I thought he
said beds, so I asked
for a big soft one.

O God - I am in a
MESS!

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The Month After Christmas...

'Twas the month after Christmas,
and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there arose such a
number!
When I walked to the store
(less a walk than a lumber).
I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the
cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you,
please."
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt---
I said to myself, as I only can
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"
So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
"Till all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

Author unknown

St Mary's Magazine

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Chaplain's message

To begin with, please permit me to
wish you all a Happy New Year!

Though it seems like it has been

longer (in a nice way!), I cannot believe my family and I have only been
here for less than a half-year so far. But perhaps that is because the
gloriously fever-pitched time of Christmas, and all the lovely Carol Services,
the Middachten and St Mary's Christmas markets, and the Christmas Eve
service in Nijmegen, Christmas Night service in Twente, and the Christmas
Morning service at Middachten are just past, and in the last months, and
especially December, I've gotten to visit with, work alongside, and worship
with so many of you by now.

Now the New (calendar) Year is upon us. What will it hold for us as
individuals and as a Christian community? At this time of year, between
the old and the new, we often take a moment to reflect on their lives and
goals, and try to make resolutions for the coming year. Like to spend less
money on ourselves, or to eat less, or to devote more time to friends and
family and to the service of others. Sadly, many of these seemingly worthy
resolutions fizzle out within a couple of weeks, either because they are too
demanding, or we ourselves are not up to keeping them (or a combination
of the two). I half wonder, though, if the failure of many of our resolutions
has to do with a fault in their basic aim. A lot of what we resolve aims at
self-improvement, and maybe that's why we are not inspired to sustain
what we resolve. Curiously, we may be aiming too low, for we often need
a higher aim or purpose to motivate us, a different perspective.

As I think about how I will spend my time, my talents and resources in the
coming year, I recall celebrating the gift of the birth of Jesus at Christmas
just past and I wonder: How have I received the gift of Christ in my life and
how is that manifest in the way I spend my time, talents and resources?

I am also reminded of those words from 1 Chronicles 29, a version of which
we sometimes say just before the Eucharist, as we dedicate the offerings of
bread and wine and the collection. They are words attributed to King
David, who gave thanks for the peoples' free will offering towards the

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Twente News

Happy Birthday St Mary's Magazine

Yes, the St Mary Magazine has been in existence for one year now, with circulation slowly increasing. Thank you for all the support and compliments over the past year. Please remember this is your church magazine so please feel free to

send in contributions at any time. News on birthdays, christenings, anniversaries, graduations and sadly, obituaries. The congregation of St Mary are spread over a wide area and yet we all seem to enjoy meeting each other so much after services. The magazine is just another way for us to keep in touch with each other. Please continue with your support and contributions.

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 11 December was the day of the Carol service. Wow, what a service it was.

The Church Flower Group spent the Saturday before the service decorating the chapel and what an incredible job they did. Thank you to all the willing volunteers for all the hard work.

This year, the ladies singing quartet, Opus Cantabile, provided both vocal support to the Carols, as well as several moving performances. Sitting in the chapel listening to the their beautiful voices was quite moving. Thank you Opus Cantabile.

For those of you who were not fortunate to be there, the chapel was packed with both the regular congregation and visitors. The chaplain, Sam Van Leer, gave a short history of the service, and the nine lessons led us through the story of Christmas. In between the readings there was the music and the singing. With over a hundred voices singing Carols in the small chapel the sound, the atmosphere, the feeling, was one of pure magical joy celebrating the birth of Christ.

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January

Every man should be born again on the first day of January.

Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past.

~Henry Ward Beecher

"Sorrow looks back... Worry looks around... But faith looks up."

—From 'God's Little Instruction Book'

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

~Bill Vaughan

Christmas Crackers

A selection of the best Christmas Cracker jokes of Christmas 2005.

Q What do you call a man who is scared of Christmas?

A Noel Coward!

Q What do you call a women who delivers puppies?

A A midwoof!

Q What kind of sweet goes swinging through the jungle?

A Tarzipan!

Q What do you call a lazy skeleton?

A Bone idle!

Q What do you call a fly with no wings?

A A walk!

Q What do baby apes sleep in?

A Apricots!

Q What do snowmen have for supper?

A Iceburgers!

Q What do you get if you cross a kangaroo with a sheep?

A A woolly jumper!



...and a selection of riddles

A man and a dog were going down the street. The man rode, yet walked. What was the dog's name?

Yet.

If the ruler of Russia was called the Czar and his wife the Czarina, what were his children called?

Sardines.

What do you call a bee born in May?

A maybe.

...and harder ones!

David's father has three sons : Snap, Crackle and _____ ?

David

How many ears did Davy Crockett have?

Three - his left ear, his right ear, and his wild front ear.



Social News

Birthdays

The New Year begins with a whole bunch of birthdays.

On the 9 January our little treasure, the assistant treasurer, Kathleen Rusius celebrates her birthday. A very happy birthday to you Kathleen.

...and Eve wore!

A vicar was in the habit of reading every word of his sermons - which were rather long and tedious. One of the congregation thought to cure him of this, and before the service, slipped into the pulpit and removed one page at random.

The vicar began. After a while he reached the point where the page was gone. "And Adam said unto Eve..." He paused. "And Adam, err; said unto Eve... There seems to be a leaf missing!"

In loco parentis

Latin for 'children drive their parents crazy'.

Parenthood

Parenthood has two stages: when your children ask all the questions, and when they think they have all the answers.

Sleep

The lion and the calf may lay lie down together

But the calf won't get much sleep.

The next day, 10 January, Marilyn Charles celebrates her birthday. Hugs and kisses from the rest of the editorial staff is a quite appropriate greeting as Marilyn is married to the rest of the editorial staff.

Then to round off a very good month, on 15 January our Reader, Frances Gothard celebrates her birthday. Happy birthday and three cheers to our hard working Reader.



The English language...

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in egg-plant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down.

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Afterwards everyone gathered in the hut to for the Christmas Market where a variety of goods, largely made and contributed by volunteers, were offered for sale. Home made mince pies, shortbread, apple puree, Christmas Cakes, marmalades, jams and Did it raise money for the church? Probably. Did we all enjoy ourselves and leave full of the spirit of Christmas? Definitely.

The Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain has been going for several months now, largely due to the efforts of Frances Gothard and Mariska Olaniyi. For it to continue, for it to be available at that time when you need it, you need to support it now. Please find time to make contact, to show your interest, and to find out how you can participate or use the prayer chain.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain has been operating for several months and has received many requests for prayer. You are always welcome to request a private prayers if you do not want to request an intercessionary prayer in church. The chain is always open for new requests, either to Mariska Olaniyi or Frances Gothard. Preferably in person or by e-mail.

We now have six members and if anyone else would like to join us please contact Mariska.

Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens before the Service.

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need of pastoral care, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens.



Happy NewYear

On New Year's Eve the vicar stood up at the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, he wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. Well, it was kind of embarrassing.

The bartender was almost crushed to death.

Women's Institute

A bus load of ladies from the Women's Institute had a tragic accident and they were all killed so all 50 arrived at the Pearly Gates together. St. Peter was taken by surprise and said that due to redecorating there wasn't room for them so they would have to spend a little time in hell until their mansion was ready. The devil reluctantly agreed to offer them the temporary accommodation. Three weeks later St. Peter phoned up hell to say that all was now ready and the ladies could be sent to heaven. "Couldn't I keep them just a little longer?" pleaded the devil. "Why?" enquired St. Peter. "Well, only two more cake sales and we've raised enough for the air conditioning!"

Cast thy bread upon the waters

..and watch what you say to kids

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her Brunette head. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, "Why is some of your hair white, Mummy?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one strand of my hair turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while, and then said "So, Mummy, how come ALL of grandma's hair is white!"

The Senility Prayer

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I like, and the eyesight to tell the difference. Now that I'm older (but refuse to grow up), here's

As most of you know, if you were at last year's AGM, a lot of the church council members and one Churchwarden (me) are stepping down at the end of this year. This means that the next AGM on 19th March 2006 is very important as we need to elect at least four new members to the church council.

The first thing to be sure of is that you are on the Electoral Roll, and Simon Yallop will shortly be handing out forms to those who want them.

Church council members are chosen for a period of three years, after which they should then step down. After one year they are eligible for re-election. The churchwardens are chosen and appointed each year for a maximum of six years after which they must make room for someone else.

At the 2005 AGM you were told of the situation and asked to seriously consider offering your time and energy to the congregation of St. Mary's by serving on the church council or becoming churchwarden. I hope you have done this thinking and have decided to help in this way. Anyone over 16 who is a regular communicant at St. Mary's and on the electoral roll is eligible and I think some younger members provide an important balance. It is very rewarding work because the congregation really appreciates what you do for them and you must realise that you do not have to do everything yourself, there are always plenty of volunteers from the congregation to take on the various tasks, it is really quite fun!

For those who think it sounds too much like hard work, I can reassure you. The Church Council meets once in 6 weeks with July/August free so it is about 7 times a year. That isn't so bad, is it? Of course some jobs take more time than others, the Secretary has to take the minutes of meetings and take care of correspondence, the Treasurer has to be capable of simple book-keeping but someone with some computer skills could do it very quickly.

Now that the interregnum is over and we have a permanent

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building of the Temple. (They are timely words as I think of our need to build a sound basis for sustaining ministry in the chaplaincies in the coming years.)

¹¹Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

¹²Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all.

¹³And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

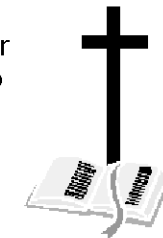
¹⁴But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you."

All things? All things that are good come from God: our life, our health, our relationships, our time, our talents and our resources. From these gifts, we can try to give back to God for his purposes. Obviously, God himself does not, strictly speaking, need our gifts, for what does the loving Creator not have that we can give? But it is in our turning to God, acknowledging him, trusting him and in giving our selves and gifts to his purposes that he is glorified. We give only because God gave and still gives.

Yes we need to give our time, talents and resources to good things to sustain them – the church most definitely included. But perhaps giving thanks to God and seeking to glorify him in our lives are the main resolutions we really need for the New Year. Perhaps our other priorities might then become clearer or get re-ordered or even revised. Praise be to God!

Every blessing to you and yours this New Year,

Sam Van Leer



drinking them in turn. One day he comes in and orders only two pints. The other regulars notice and fall silent. When he returns to the bar for the second round the barman says: "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences and those of my regulars for your sad loss." The Irishman looks confused for a moment before the light dawns and he laughs. "Oh no," he says, "everyone is fine but I've stopped drinking for Lent."

Longevity

An old man was relaxing at his hundredth birthday party when a reporter went up to him. "Sir, what is it the secret of your long life?"

The man considered this for a moment then replied, "Every day at 9pm I have a glass of port. Good for the heart."

The reporter replied, "That's ALL?"

The man smiled, "That and cancelling my voyage on the Titanic."

Men and Women

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.



Lent Study Groups 2006

Acts 2:42 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the

prayers.' And they met in the Temple and they met in their homes And the Lord added to their number daily.

Ash Wednesday may seem a while away (March 1), but it is now less than two months to the start of Lent. So it is time to start thinking about Lenten Study Groups. There are many excellent books and guides out there to help us focus ourselves during the Lenten period of reflection and preparation for Easter, and I have whittled it down to one or two to recommend.

It is my hope this year that, in both Chaplaincies, we will use common Lent study materials, and follow them each week in small groups in each major locality. Some towns or villages already have house groups, and others can form groups especially for this course and take it from there! There is no reason why we could not have a group (or two) in Almelo/Hengelo/Enschede, in Goor/Lochem, in Apeldoorn/Deventer/Zutphen, in Winterswijk and so on.

If you would like to offer to host a Lenten Study Group in your locality, please contact the Chaplain. If you would like to be a part of a Lenten Study Group, please contact the Chaplain. I've discovered that even in the days of internet and express delivery, shipping of devotional literature over from the UK can sometimes take several weeks. The sooner we determine the level of interest and the locations where groups can be hosted, the sooner we can make arrangements to get hold of the right numbers of books for the Groups. Thanks much.

Revd Sam Van Leer

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Lent

An Irishman walks into a Dublin bar; orders three pints of Guinness and sits in a corner taking a sip out of each glass in turn. When all three pint glasses are empty, he returns to the bar and orders three more. The barman advises him: "You know a pint goes flat after it's drawn. It would taste better if you bought one at a time.

The Irishman replies: "Well, you see I have two brothers - one in America, the other in Australia and I'm here in Dublin. When we all left home, we promised to always drink this way to remember the days when we drank together."

The barman admits this is a touching custom and leaves it at that. Over the next few weeks the Irishman becomes a regular at the bar; always drinking three pints of Guinness at a time and

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chaplain the churchwardens are a lot less busy, if you are interested in this please get in touch with one of us or the Chaplain and we will explain what it involves.

I must stress that it is not difficult, it just requires a certain amount of dedication and determination and a willingness to work in a team, and surely, with God's help, we can all do that! Please think seriously about this, consider that the retiring members have worked for you during the past 4 years (one year extra because of the interregnum) and some a lot longer. Isn't it time that someone else took over?

If you are interested, please get in touch with the Chaplain or one of the churchwardens.

©Marykay Schouten

Advance Notice:

Church Away Day, February 18th 2006

Saturday February 18th 2006, the Anglican Church Twente will have a chaplaincy 'Away Day' at the Diepenheim Cultural Center (so not too far 'away!'). All members of the chaplaincy are invited to join us for what we hope will prove a thought-provoking and inspiring day. The program will run mid-morning to mid-afternoon and draw on *The Healthy Churches Handbook*, an exciting and influential resource, based on analysis of church life in Britain, which has already helped churches identify their strengths and weaknesses and develop their spiritual 'health'. We will worship together, pray, chat and brainstorm together about the life of our church and begin the process of discerning where God will lead us in the next couple of years. More specific program details will come in the next magazine, but for now, please be sure to mark this important date in your diaries. We hope to see you there.

what I have discovered:

- 1 I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.
- 2 My wild oats have turned into prunes and All-Bran.
- 3 I finally got my head together - now my body is falling apart.
- 4 Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
- 5 Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
- 6 It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- 7 The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
- 8 If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
- 9 It's not hard to meet expenses. They're everywhere you turn.
- 10 These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter. I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm hereafter.

Sunday Morning 10:30 1st January	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam van Leer
	First Reading Mrs. M. v.d. Heide	Numbers 6.22-end
Naming & Circumcision of Jesus	Psalm	8
	Second Reading Mrs. E.v.d.Heide	Galatians 4.4-7
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 2.15-21

Sunday Morning 10:30 8th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam van Leer
	First Reading Mrs. Collins	Isaiah 60.1-6
Epiphany	Psalm	72.10-15
Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Mr. Charles	Ephesians 3.1-12
	Gospel	Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday Morning 10:30 15th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam van Leer
	First Reading Mr. Cass	1 Samuel 3.1-10
Epiphany 2	Psalm	139.1-9
Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Mrs. te West	Revelation 5.1-10
	Gospel	John 1.43-end

Sunday Morning 10:30 22nd January	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam van Leer
	First Reading Mrs. Rauwerda	Genesis 14.17-20
Epiphany 3	Psalm	128
Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Mrs. Romeijn	Revelation 19.6-10
	Gospel	John 2.1-11

Sunday Morning 10:30 22th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam van Leer
	First Reading Mrs. van Sisseren	Malachi 3.1-5
Candlemas	Psalm	24.7-end
Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Mr. van Houten	Hebrews 2.14-end ^a
	Gospel	Luke 2.22-40

Sunday Morning 10:30 5th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Rev Sam van Leer
	First Reading Mr. Lee	Isaiah 40.20-end
Fourth Sunday before Lent	Psalm	147.1-12
Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Mrs. Lee	1 Corinthians 9.16-23
	Gospel	Mark 1.29-39