

Poetry and Prose

Poem to an adopted child

Not flesh of my flesh
Nor bone of my bone
But still totally my own.
Never forget
For a single minute
You didn't grow under my
heart
But in it.
anon.



The Vision Clear

Child's eyes to see, child's
ears to hear –
God grant to me that vision
clear.
Grant me the sight of heaven
and earth –
Quiet rest at night, day's
glorious mirth.
Help me to hear those little
things,
Faint, far and clear,
rememberings.
So I may learn fully to praise
Thee for my life of happy
days.
JM Westrup

Judge Not

*I was shocked, confused, bewildered
as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
nor the lights or its decor.*

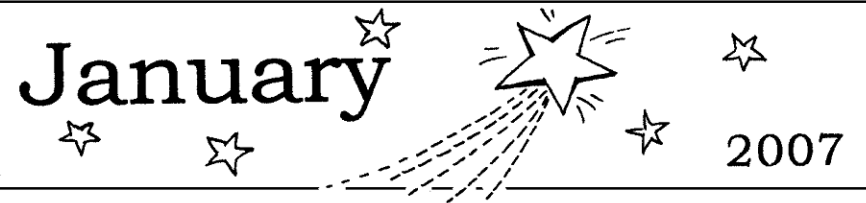
*But it was the folks in Heaven
who made me sputter and gasp–
the thieves, the liars, the sinners,
the alcoholics, the "trash".*

*There stood the kid from seventh grade
who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbour
who never said anything nice.*

*Herb, who I always thought
was rotting away in hell,
was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
looking incredibly well.*

*I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.*

*"And why's everyone so quiet,
so sombre? Give me a clue."
"Hush, child," said He, "they're all in
shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you."
*Anon**



The Chaplain writes **Transforming Community**

This title borrows on that of a book by the former warden of my theological college in Durham (Northeast England): *Transforming Communities: Re-Imagining the Church for the 21st Century*, DLT (2002). The author, the Revd Dr Steven Croft, now serves as the Archbishops' Missioner, a new job created by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to 'help churches and parishes develop for a changing future' (Archbishop's Press Release, 25 May 2004). *Transforming Communities* seeks to address such questions as 'How are we to develop new ways of being church which are sustainable and have the capacity for growth, mission and renewal?' The book, though 'practical', is also theological, drawing upon academic theology, the experience of cell churches and base ecclesial communities, as well as the Revd Dr Croft's own experience as a parish priest in England. Croft's whole project is undeniably timely, as we see many churches around us in decline, with the ever-dwindling faithful growing wearier and wearier just trying to keep the churches going.

Fortunately, the Anglican Church Twente seems to provide a contrast to this decline, if mere numbers of worshippers are a helpful indicator. God has indeed recently blessed us with hopeful signs of new growth and commitment. It was a joy to see how many came together to fill St Mary's at the lovely Carol service and Christmas Eve Night Eucharist, and I am grateful to all in our community who worked together to offer both beautiful worship to God and warm fellowship to visitors throughout Advent and at Christmas. Such worship and fellowship are powerful witnesses of how a Christian community can be.

Still, the title of Croft's book speaks to me, as I reflect on the challenges we face, especially given how scattered our membership is. We might as well be a church in diaspora – perhaps we are. I wonder how we can better embody Christ as His church here. How can we create a stronger sense of community in the Anglican Church Twente, that is manifest throughout the week, not just on Sundays? (For me, these are eternally relevant questions, so forgive my preoccupation with them.) Many of us lead quite isolated existences the rest of the week. Many of us do, though, belong to House groups, which are invaluable sources of support. Others belong to the Flower Guild or the Quilting Bee. Still others are Lay Eucharistic Ministers who visit the housebound and hospitalized. And these are only some of the formal and longstanding groupings I know of, which exist alongside or overlap with other informal networks.

(Continued on page 5)



Twente News

Fund Raising 2006

You might think you had heard all about the last Castle Fair but it is only now that we have a complete breakdown of income and expenditure, this is because some people are a bit slow sending in their accounts.

Immediately after the Fair it was announced after a Sunday service that we had made a profit of approx. €6000.- which was a pretty good guess as the exact figure is €6,089.97. The major income came from entrance fees €4053,00, with the Tea Room doing well with €1569,00 plus an extra €140.00 on the sale of extra cakes. Of the stalls manned by St. Mary's members, the antique silver brought in an amazing €896.00, the Jams €521.00, and the paintings in the Art Show €169.00. All the other stalls gave St. Mary's varying sums based on a proportion of their turnover.

The major expenses were for hire of crockery etc. for the Tea Room, expenses for the performers and printing with a few smaller sums for 'various'. That said, we must not forget that our expenses would be much higher if Count Alfred did not allow us the help of his men in setting up the whole Fair. There is an amazing amount of work involved in getting all the stands down from the attic and the carpenters really enter into the spirit of the thing when setting up the Exhibition space, while the gardeners slave away bringing the gardens to peak condition. We are also very much aware that the profits in the Tea Room and Jam Stalls are due to the generosity of members of St. Mary's who GIVE their contributions and thus everything sold is pure profit.

The result was very satisfactory and the Castle Fair Committee already have their next meeting planned in the New Year to start thinking about the 2007 Castle Fair.

The Christmas Fair: This is, of course a much smaller affair, but it still raised €550/600. The exact figure will be known in due time. This year we could use the new extension to the Hut for the first time. This extension is another example of Count Alfred's generosity, we still need to finish it off with something on the floor but the painting volunteers had done great work brightening it up to match the rest. After the black-out before the midnight service caused by Caroline plugging in a hotplate, we should seriously

(Continued on page 3)

Top Ten Pickup Lines used by Adam

10. "You know you're the only one for me!"
9. "Do you come here often?"
8. "Trust me, this was meant to be!"
7. "Look around, baby. All the other guys around here are animals!"
6. "I already feel like you're a part of me!"
5. "Honey, you were made for me!"
4. "Why don't you come over to my place and we can name some animals?"
3. "You're the girl of my dreams!" (Gen. 2:21)
2. "I like a girl who doesn't mind being ribbed!"

And the number one pick up line from Adam is: "You're the apple of my eye!" *



Sunday School

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when



NEW BEGINNINGS

At the start of a new year we look back on the year just gone with all its good and bad memories, and look forward to the year ahead full of hope for the future.

The month January takes its name from the Roman god Janus, the god of 'openings' and the god of 'gates'. As the god of 'openings' he was prayed to at the beginning of all undertakings, he was the protector of the archway through which Roman armies marched out to war.

But we have a real protector and help. We remember that Jesus said 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' (St John's Gospel, chapter 14, verse 6). Jesus is our road to travel into the unknown year, our signpost for the future. His promise is that he will always be with us to show us the way.

If we put our hand into Jesus' hand and let him lead us into every year for the rest of our lives then we shall be travelling the right road.

NEW WORDS

All these words begin with the letters NEW. So which NEW is...

1. a type of dog?
2. just married?
3. the second part of the Bible?
4. a beginner?
5. sells papers and magazines?
6. a small lizard?
7. a stair post?
8. is read every day?



What did one snowman say to the other snowman?
Can you smell carrots?



Who was too heavy to go to the ball?
Cinderelephant.

What's a hanky for?
Cold storage.



1. Newfoundland 2. newlywed
3. New Testament 4. newcomer
5. newsgent 6. newt 7. newel
8. newspaper



Social News

Corks

The Main collector in Goor has asked for only real corks now and not plastic. Cathie thanks you all for collecting corks and asks you to keep enjoying your wines and bringing the corks to the hut.

Little Old Ladies

A young man shopping in a supermarket noticed a little old lady following him around. If he stopped, she stopped. Furthermore she kept staring at him. She finally overtook him at the checkout, and she turned to him and said, "I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease. It's just that you look so much like my late son." He answered, "That's okay." "I know it's silly, but if you'd call out. "Good bye, Mom" as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy." She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out of the store, the man called out, "Goodbye, Mom." The little old lady waved, and smiled back at him. Pleased that he had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, he went to pay for his groceries. "That comes to €121.85," said the clerk. "How come so much, I only bought 5 items?" The clerk replied, "Yes, but your Mother said you'd be paying for her things too." MORAL- Don't trust little Old Ladies!!!

Birthdays

The January issue is a busy one for birthdays as the December arrivals share this month. Having said that there only two in December, James Olaniyi and Cathy Warmink, both on 2 December. A belated happy birthday to both of you.

On 9 January we have one Lancashire lass celebrating her birthday, Kathy Rusius, and on the 10 January, another Lancashire lass, Marilyn Charles. Happy birthday to the two red roses.

On the 15 January our reader Frances Gothard celebrates her birthday. Many happy returns of the day Frances.

Coping with bereavement

Many books have been written by people whose partner has died, telling how it was for them and how they survived. Relatively little has been written about the *practicalities of how to survive such a shock*, and how one can get help other than from counselling and support groups. A new edition of such a guide. *'Surviving your Partner,'* has recently been published. It is by Sylvia Murphy, who worked for a bereavement charity for 20 years and has first-hand experience of losing her partner in tragic circumstances. The book contains straightforward, no-nonsense descriptions of the roller-coaster-ride of emotions that are experienced in bereavement, and practical self-help ideas that fit a wide range of situations. The author says her book is for "those who want to know that they have a future apart from being 'poor-so and-so whose partner died' and who will welcome a few suggestions on how to take some positive steps towards that future."

Surviving your Partner can be obtained, price £5.99 plus 75p p&p from George Penaluna, 74a Main Street, Cononley, N. Yorks, BD20 8LL (Tel 01535 631474).

Note: Please remember, if there is any event that you would like to share with your friends at St Mary's Chapel, please feel free to use this page. Contact information is on the back cover.

consider increasing the electrical capacity in the Hut and maybe as we have such an improved accommodation we should change the name, although I have grown attached to 'The Hut', suggestions welcome!

I am sure the good results we are booking are due not only to good publicity and the hard work of the volunteers but also to God's blessing which we are experiencing in the way St. Mary's is growing and the influence of our Chaplain, Sam and the enthusiasm he engenders in us all.

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Christmas Services

This year we at St Mary's Chapel were blessed with three magical services that encapsulated the spirit of Christmas.

The Carol Service on the 17 December was absolutely wonderful. The church was filled to beyond design (and possibly fire regulation?) capacity to listen to the Carols, the trumpets, the organ music, the choir led by Victor Pirenne, and the readings, in the beautifully decorated chapel. This was followed by a Christmas fair in the new extended hut. A big thank you to all who participated in the service.

On Christmas Eve, our reader Frances organized a Matins service that transformed the little chapel in the woods into a cathedral. The singing was led by the St John's Singers choir, of which Hans Pol is a member and who thus made it available for the service. Thank you Frances, and when is the next one?.

The midnight Christmas Eucharist service again filled the chapel to capacity as friends and family traipsed up the candle lit path in a seemingly endless flow. The wonderful service led everyone into Christmas with song and prayer. A big thank you to our chaplain Sam, our reader Frances, and all the volunteers for making the services so special.



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.

little Jason interrupted, "My mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"



Seen on a birthday card:

Forget about the past, You can't change it. Forget about the future, You can't predict it. Forget about the present, I didn't buy you one.



Marriage

Early in my marriage I was having trouble figuring out what "mood" my wife was in. So I had a brilliant idea and bought her a mood ring - it worked great! When she was in a good mood, it would turn a pleasant shade of blue, and when she was in a bad mood, it would leave a red mark on my forehead!



Cutting remarks

During my surgical residency I was called out of a sound sleep to the emergency room. Unshaven and with tousled hair, I showed up with an equally unrepresentable medical student. In the ER we encountered the on-call medical resident and his student, both neatly attired in clean white lab coats. The resident said to his student, "You can always tell the surgeons by their absolute disregard for appearance."

Two evenings later, I was at a banquet when called to the ER to suture a minor laceration.

I was stitching away -- wearing a tuxedo -- when I encountered that same medical resident. He looked at me, then said to his student, "Sure is sensitive to criticism, isn't he?"



Scarred

"Oh Doctor!" said the young lady prior to her surgery, "Will the scar show?"

"Not in church, madam," replied the doctor, "but anywhere else, it's entirely up to you....."



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

Letter from St James the Least of All –On what clergy do after Christmas

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your post-Christmas break from the parish, although a week ski-ing in the Alps does seem a little excessive. In my day, an extra hour in bed on Boxing Day was considered quite sufficient. Curates are clearly paid much more these days; perhaps rather too much.

While your week after Christmas was spent falling down mountains at excessive speeds, mine was used with the traditional activity of making apologies. Apologies are always sent out to all those ladies who had fur coats ruined by guttering candles at the Carol Service. But as I feel obliged to point out, at least they were ruined with the best beeswax money can buy. Had they attended Saint Agatha's, our next-door parish, they would have been ruined by paraffin wax, which is most inferior.

A general apology was also necessary in the parish magazine. That our thurifer was slightly over-zealous with the incense at the midnight Service was quite excusable at such an important Service; that the organist improvised during Communion on the tune "Smoke gets in your Eyes" was not.

I felt duty-bound to apologise to the landlord of the public house which adjoins the church when his customers were blocked in the pub car park with cars of those attending our midnight Service. Since his customers were obliged to stay in the pub for an extra two hours, he asked if we could make the same mistake in future years. I also received several letters of thanks from those who were unable to return home until the early hours. One even made a donation to the church in appreciation.

Apologies were also made to the 8am Christmas morning congregation, the Service having been taken by Canon Rogers for

(Continued on page 5)

Epiphany - 6 January

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were they called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.



It may not be the weather that is making you feel under the weather

We all know that water is important, but did you know that it is estimated that well over half of us are chronically dehydrated? In many people, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger. Yet even mild dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as much as 3%.

One glass of water shuts down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a recent study. Lack of water is the Number One trigger of daytime fatigue.

A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math's, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page.

Research indicates that drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked,

"What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?" He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job



Parking prayer

Peter was driving down the street in considerable agitation because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up toward heaven, he said: "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up the booze."

Miraculously, just then a parking place appeared. Peter looked up again and said "Never mind, Lord. I found one."





ENCOURAGEMENT

You never know who may be in need..

The Message?

A Catholic priest and a Methodist pastor from two local churches were standing by the side of the road, feverishly pounding a handmade sign into the ground with a large rock.

The sign read:

The End is Near! Turn Yourself Around Now Before It's Too Late!

As a car sped past them, the driver yelled, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" A moment later, from around the curve they heard screeching tyres and a big splash. The pastor turned to the priest and asked thoughtfully: "Do you think the sign should just say 'Bridge Out?'"



Cool, Calm and Collection

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the fears and temptations his future congregations faced if he

YOU SAY	GOD SAYS	THE BIBLE SAYS
You say: It's impossible	God says: All things are possible	Luke 18:27
You say: I'm too tired	God says: I will give you rest	Matt 11:28-30
You say: Nobody really loves me	God says: I love you	John 3:16
You say: I can't go on	God says: My grace is sufficient	2 Cor 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
You say: I can't figure things out	God says: I will direct your steps	Proverbs 3:5-6
You say: I can't do it	God says: You can do all things	Philippians 4:13
You say: I'm not able	God says: I am able	2 Corinthians 9:8
You say: It's not worth it	God says: It will be worth it	Romans 8:28
You say: I can't forgive myself	God says: I forgive you	1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
You say: I can't manage	God says: I will supply all your needs	Philippians 4:19
You say: I'm afraid	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	2 Timothy 1:7
You say: I'm always worried and frustrated	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	1 Peter 5:7
You say: I'm not smart enough	God says: I give you wisdom	1 Corinthians 1:30
You say: I feel all alone	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	Deut 31:6 & Hebrews 13:5

(Continued from page 4)

the last 15 years. Now in his ninety-seventh year he is becoming somewhat forgetful. Beginning the Service by wishing the congregation a very happy Easter was not entirely helpful. I think I may have to gently tell him that he has taken his last Service at St. James the Least.

My final apologies were given to Lady Duckworth who, having tumbled her returning children to church, discovered that strangers were sitting in her pew. Since her family has sat there for the last 400 centuries, she considers that gives her squatter's rights. Being obliged to sit at the rear of a side aisle was not appreciated. I suspect her contributions on the plate will decrease somewhat for a few weeks.

And so we both begin a new year, you exhilarated from a week's strenuous activity and me energised by knowing that I will not have to apologize to anyone about anything for another 12 months.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



(Continued from page 1)

How can we look after, pray for, listen to, and learn from each other such that our community extends beyond Sundays? Give it some of your prayerful and inspired consideration. The Council will, at its retreat in mid-January. More news later!

Every blessing to you and yours this New Year,

Sam Van Leer



Confused

A fellow nurse at my hospital received a call from an anxious woman. "I'm diabetic and I'm afraid I've had too much sugar today," she said. "Are you light-headed?" my colleague asked. "No," the caller answered, "I'm a brunette."



Counselling

A husband and wife went to a counsellor after 15 years of marriage. The counsellor asked them what the problem was and the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they have ever had. Finally, the counsellor got up, went around the desk, embraced the woman and kissed her passionately. The woman shut up and sat down quietly in a daze.

The counsellor turned to the husband and said "that is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do that?"

The husband thought for a moment and replied, "Welllllllllll I can get her here Monday and Wednesday....but Friday I play golf."



7th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Nettie van Sisseren
	First Reading Mr. Siertsema	Isaiah 60:1-6
	Second Reading Mr. Siertsema?	Ephesians 3:1-12
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 2.1 - 11

28th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	First Reading Mr Talstra	Malachi 3:1-5
	Second Reading Mrs Talstra	Hebrews 2:14-18
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 2.22 - 40

14th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	First Reading Mrs Reinders	Isaiah 62:1-5
	Second Reading Mrs v.d.Neut	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	John 2.1 - 11

4th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Linda ten Berge
	First Reading Mr Yallop	Isaiah 6:1-8
	Second Reading Mr Cass	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 5.1 - 11

21st January	Celebrant & Preacher	To be determined
	Intercessor	Philippa te West
	First Reading Mrs v. Sisseren	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
	Second Reading Mrs Romeyn	Corinthians. 12:12-31a
Sung Eucharist ?	Gospel	Luke 4.14-21

11th February	Officiant & Preacher	Frances Gothard
	Intercessor	Simon Yallop
	First Reading Mrs ten Berge	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25
	Second Reading Mrs Michalska	Revelation 4:1-11
Morning Prayer	Gospel	Luke 8.22 - 25