Poetry and Prose



For to us a child is born

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the Light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:2,6

A Candle in the Darkness

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest as we celebrate your birth.
Two thousand years ago you came
To live upon this earth

In a lowly stable you were born In Bethlehem that night A baby in a manger beneath A star so bright

You came to guide us on our way
To everlasting life
With you beside us every day
We know you paid the price.

A candle in the darkness.

You took away our sin.

Forever shine within us.

'Lord Jesus, please come in!'

©Elizabeth Mason





The Bishop's Christmas Message 2009

It is sometimes said that if you want to know the meaning of Easter you go to the Orthodox churches where at midnight every Easter they proclaim that 'Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!' If you want to know the meaning of Good Friday and the Passion of Christ you go to the churches of the Reformation, and stand before the Cross and know the cost of the saving love of God in Christ. But if you want to know the meaning of the Incarnation you can do no better than to be with Anglicans as Christmas is celebrated.

Like all generalizations it is far too neat - yet there is a sense in which Christmas is the Christian festival which can still speak powerfully to us and draw in, without their quite knowing why, those who rarely darken the doors of churches even in this secular age. The most widely known Anglican service is perhaps the service of Nine Lessons and Carols broadcast every Christmas Eve from King's College Chapel in Cambridge. It is a service which is not found in the Book of Common Prayer, and was devised, building on an earlier service for Truro Cathedral, by Eric Milner White, Dean of King's in the early part of the last century. The familiar carols and hymns that it uses are often from only a century earlier - such as 'Once in royal David's city', or 'God rest you merry, gentlemen', or Christina Rossetti's 'In the bleak mid-winter' - reminding us that the traditional Christmas, such as Christmas trees and Christmas cards, owes much to what the German Prince Albert brought to England when he married Queen Victoria. But other carols are far older and reach back into the popular piety of the Middle Ages, when Christians delighted to sing of the meaning of Christmas and the mystery of the incarnation.

As so often it is the amazing paradox that is at the heart of the praise and poetry, the paradox that God, the Creator of all, could choose in the freedom of his love and power to come down to where we are, 'to take our nature upon him', as the Christmas collect says, 'and be born of a pure Virgin.' To take one, not very familiar, example by Ben Jonson, a contemporary of Shakespeare:



Council Meeting 18 November - Meeting Report

Charity - Agreement was reached to divide charitable giving between Luweero in Uganda, Young Achievers in Namibia and The Brooke, 'the animal charity that helps people too. A request for a one-off charitable gift

to a needy person associated with the chaplaincy was also agreed to.

Sound System - Council agreed to continue looking at different sound systems as well as to explore other options, such as eliminating the noise from the heating system.

Christmas holiday and headed back to school.

That's telling

Young Jimmie

finished his

Only two days later his teacher was on the phone, telling his mother that he was misbehaving. "Wait a minute!" protested Jimmie's mum. "I had him here for two weeks over the Christmas break, and I never once rang YOU when he misbehaved!"

Prayer changes things

The little airl had been so naughty during the Christmas break that her mother decided to give her the worst kind of punishment. She told her she couldn't ao on the New Year's Day family

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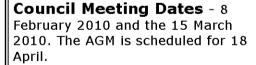
Time change for Christmas Eve Service -



Please note that the Christmas Eve service will now start at 22:30, or 10:30pm.

Carol Service - The

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is on the 13 December, Following the service there will be a Christmas Market, Tell your friends, tell your neighbours, tell your family. All donations of products gratefully appreciated.







Council Changes - Several members of the Council will either be stepping down or moving away in 2010. New members are needed to replace them. Over the Christmas, can all of you give the matter some thought. If anyone is interested in

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write the Christmas cards again - what designs have vou picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Through history the view of Christmas has been the same, usually Mary and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were 3, just Wise Men but it does tell us about the gifts they bought for the baby Jesus.

Do you know why there are so many robins on Christmas cards? The first postmen in Victorian times wore red and were called robins so robins were shown as delivering cards.



So which cards are religious? Think of what you write inside your Christmas cards... all of them

are because of what we write inside them and post them with - love. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

CARD or DECORATION

Here is a simple 3-D Christmas tree that you can use as a decoration or a card. You will need green card, crayons, glitter or paint, scissors and sellotage.



Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the 2 pieces together and fold them in half again.

Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold. Cut along the line and you will have 2 identical trees. Fold the trees in half, very lightly, hardly creasing the centre line to mark the centre of the tree. Cut a slit along the

bottom half the of centre of one tree along and



the top half of the centre of the other tree. Slip the two trees together along the slits. To help the tree to stand firmly, use sellotape to fasten the parts together where they meet.



Decorate the tree. If you are using it as a card then leave an area free decorations so that vou can write on it.

What did the werewolf write on his Christmas cards?

Best vicious of the season.

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Social News

Angels explained by

children

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. Gregory, age 5

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it Olive, age 9



Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!! Jack, age 6

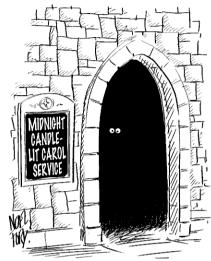
My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.

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For a couple of years I have collected Christmas cards with a religious theme (nativity, angels, churches, Three Wisemen). I would like to hang them in St.Mary's Christmas tree in 2010. If,

after the holiday season is over, you have some left over with this themeyou can give them a good home. We will cover the back of the card so all are the same and personal notes of letters are hidden. A hole will be punched in the top and hung up with red ribbon. Your cards can add to the beauty of the tree and be used for years to come! Interested? Please contact me, Linda ten Berge, 0546-868139.



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

(Continued from page 13)

By mid-afternoon, however, the balance of power shifted. When the leader of the walk from your group lost his SatNav, our members felt the need to assert themselves. The gentlemen navigated using wind direction, moss on trees and angles of the sun, while our ladies, with tweed skirts furled somewhat higher than one would have wished, showed yours how to wade through peat bog without complaining.

Perhaps town and country really can learn from one another. But if Major Bullock's wife arrives for Mattins next Sunday sporting the latest gym gear, you will have much to answer for.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

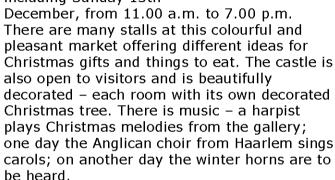
©Rev Dr Gary Bowness

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volunteering, speak to the Chaplain or a Council member.

Middachten Castle Christmas Market

The Christmas market is open from Tuesday 8th up to and including Sunday 13th



Arnhem-Nijmegen's stand sells home-made cakes and other Christmas delicacies made by the hard-working members and friends of the church. It is their main fund-raising activity each year. So, please, do come to the market to support them and, if there is anyone out there who would be willing to make a cake (or more cakes) for their stall, there is still time to contact the organisers Anne Cornelese (026 3511416, email a.cornelese1@chello.nl), or Maggie Vermeij (026 3334680, e-mail, hervermeij@hotmail.com). All offers will be welcomed with open arms!



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.

(Continued from bage 2) outina. But when the day finally came, her mother felt she had been too harsh. When she told her daughter that she could go after all, but the child's reaction was one of gloom and dismay. "What's the matter? I thought you'd be glad to go," her mother said. "But it's too late now!" the little airl protested. "I've already prayed for rain."

Incentive to succeed

An old gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery. He had insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son, to encourage him. 'Don't be nervous. do your best and iust remember, if it doesn't go well, and something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife.'

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The boyfriend

At the start of the New Year, my boyfriend had moved house and job. I decided to ring him to see how he was settling in. To mv astonishment, a woman picked up the phone. "Is Mike there?" I asked. "He's in the shower." she responded, with some hesitation. In the shower?! "Please tell him his airlfriend called." I said frostily, and huna up. When he didn't return the call, I got | more and more angry, and finally dialled again. This time a man answered. "This is Mike," he said. "You're not my bovfriend!" I exclaimed. "I've aot the wrong number." "I know," he replied. "That's what I've been trying to tell my wife for the past half-hour."



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I sing the birth was born tonight,
The author both of life and light,
The angels so did sound it,
And like the ravished shepherds said,
Who saw the light, and were afraid,
Yet searched, and true they found it.

What was that truth? Jonson tells us:

He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,
Was now laid in a manger.
The Word was now made flesh indeed,
And took on Him our nature.

And why? For what end and purpose?

What comfort by him doe we win? Who made himself the price of sin, To make us heirs of glory!

From beginning to end this was a work of love, by the God whose very being is love, who created us in love for himself, and who in love stoops down to the very lowest part of our need. As another poet, Christopher Smart, puts it:

God all bounteous, all creative, Whom no ills from good dissuade, Is incarnate, and a native, Of the very world he made!

The God whom we know and worship and adore is not a distant God, not a God of ideas and abstractions, but a God who comes to us as one of us, who comes among us in the fragility of an unborn life, beginning as we begin as those formed in the hiddenness of our mother's wombs - which is why Christians can never be casual about caring for that unborn life, can never treat abortion as no more than a matter of choice. God identifies with us from the very beginning, going, as Bishop Lancelot Andrewes once said, 'to the very ground-sill of our nature.' St Paul wrote to the Christians of Corinth of how for Christians the power of God was know most paradoxically in the weakness of the cross, the crucified

St James the Least of All

On how to mix town and country - or not

My dear Nephew Darren

Your idea for our two churches to hold a combined New Year's Day walk was an admirable one, although I could sense a certain clash of cultures when your party arrived at the starting point with boots, waterproofs and GPS equipment. Our own group, rather anticipating tottering between tea shops, with a little light shopping in between, sported tweed suits, shopping bags and furled umbrellas.

Even the two sets of dogs seemed bemused with one another, with your Westies and King Charles spaniels making enough noise to scare all the wildlife in the county, and our Retrievers puzzled why the pheasants were not dropping from the sky. Dear Miss Mill's miniature poodle, with the painted toenails, will probably need life-long counselling; the furthest she had walked previously was from her bed to beside the dining room table.

The electronic navigation equipment brought by members of your group made me think that if only the wise men had had these blessings, they wouldn't have had to follow anything as unreliable as a star. Although I suppose that instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they would then have arrived with an MP3 player, a mobile phone which would have been obsolete before Jesus' first birthday and a CD of Madonna's greatest hits.

I do concede that our two congregations learned much from one another. Our ladies were most interested to hear about the latest in personal trainers, while yours discovered how to bring a pan of jam to a rolling boil. Your men seemed impressed to hear of squirrel shooting while ours gathered useful tips for caravanning abroad. And poor Miss Mill's poodle learned that the great outdoors was a parallel and hostile universe.

(Continued from page 12)
"I am fed up with this constant bickering!"

School play

A little boy, excited about his part in the Christmas play at school, came home and shouted, "I got a part in the Christmas play! I got a part in the Christmas play!"
"What part did you get?" asked his mother excitedly.
"I'm one of the three wise quys!"

Toe

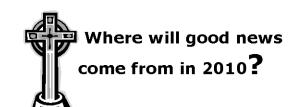
If athletes get athlete's foot, what do astronauts get? Missile toe



Presents

"My wife doesn't know what she wants for Christmas." "You're lucky. My wife does."

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Christmas conversations

The monks at a remote monastery deep in the woods followed a rigid yow of silence. Their vow could only be broken once a vear-on Christmas—by one monk. That monk could speak only one sentence. One Christmas, Brother Thomas had his turn to speak and said, "I love the delightful mashed potatoes we have every year with the Christmas roast!" Then he sat down. Silence ensued for 365 days.

The next Christmas, Brother Michael got his turn and said, "I think the mashed potatoes are lumpy, and I truly despise them!" Once again, silence ensued for 365 days.

The following Christmas, Brother Paul rose and said,

(Continued on page 13)

For many of us, our first interaction with the world each morning is to tune into the news, whether by radio, TV or on-line. Sadly, some mornings it is so dreary or even appalling

that our first reaction can be to want to go back to bed and cancel the rest of the day.

As January 2010 begins, much of the news coming in from around the world is bad. The war drags on in Afghanistan; politicians continue to argue, the economy is struggling. There doesn't seem to be a lot of good news about!

Perhaps, though, there is a different way of thinking about good news. Nowhere in the Bible did Jesus say that we should be looking to political leaders and our society for good news. Instead, he put the responsibility for bringing hope to people firmly on US, in the living of our everyday lives. 'For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' (Matthew 25:35-36 NLT)

What a challenge! Jesus put the responsibility on US to BE good news to other people, and to show his compassion in the ordinary actions and relationships of life. Sure he expects some of us to be involved in impacting the 'big issues' of society and government. But for most of us, our challenge is more straightforward, more immediate.

So today, ask yourself: 'The world may be a mess, but for whom can I be good news today? Who will have cause to be thankful today, whose life will be a bit brighter, who will be given fresh hope because of something I have done in the name of Jesus?' Bringing good news to someone today.... that is the responsibility of each one of us.

(Continued from page 4)

God was the one who saved - yet that foolishness of God, that weakness of God, is already there at Bethlehem in the child laid in the pricking straw of the manger, which devout Christians saw as foreshadowing the sharpness of the crown of thorns of the crucified.

Christmas speaks to us of a God who is love totally and completely, a God who loves us so recklessly and in so overwhelming a fashion, that he comes down to the lowest part of our need. He speaks to us as one of us, as our flesh and blood, which is why St John sums up the mystery of the incarnation as 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us'. And St John goes on to say that in that total self-giving of love, 'we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.' No wonder the shepherds on the cold hills outside Bethlehem were startled by the angelic armies of heaven singing 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace goodwill towards men!' If that is indeed the truth of the God who made the vastness of the universe, and the richness of creation, and who also made you and me, every human being, in the image and likeness of his love, then to live by and from that love and grace which came to us at Bethlehem to take us by the hand, is to live by that which alone can sustain us and transform us, and transform the whole world, into that new creation which is our end, our purpose, and our very being. This is indeed our story and our song; this is our life and our mission to the world; this is the love we are called to live; and this is the eternal life which here and now we are given, as the Child of Bethlehem feeds us with his own life in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. 'O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!' It is in that faith and love that I wish you the true and joy and blessing of Christmas.

+Geoffrey Gibraltar

Great writing

There was once a voung man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer. When asked to define "great." he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level, stuff that will make them scream in disbelief, cry in despair, howl in pain, and vent their anger in ways they've never dreamed of!"

He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.



Dial-a-prayer

They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now. You ring this number, and it rings and rings, but nobody answers.

Wise men?

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus.

Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old, the eldest, observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

What to look for in a Christmas tree

Every December it was the same excruciatina tradition. Our family would get up at the crack of dawn, go to a Christmas tree farm and tromp across acres of snow in search of the perfect tree. Hours later our feet would be freezing, but my mother would press on, convinced the tree of her dreams was "just up ahead."

One year my sister finally snapped. "Mum, face it. The

Time for the next step

Many of you have been asking how I have been getting on since my gender reassignment operation in Thailand in February this year. My recovery has gone well.

After I returned from Thailand in March I was off work for a couple of weeks. Then I worked half time for a few weeks gradually building up to full time in May. In August I was fit enough to start my running training again and that has been going well. I am now back to being able to run 5 km in less than 30 minutes.

The operation in February has healed well. I do not have to go back to Thailand but I have regular contact with the clinic via e-mail. I am now preparing for the next step in my transformation process. On 30th November I will be having a breast enlargement.

The operation will take place via the plastic surgery clinic Cosmea at the hospital in Oldenzaal. This is a bit closer to home than Thailand. I will have just one day in hospital followed by three days in the Zotel in Hengelo before returning home.

I will not be in church for the first couple of Sundays in December but I hope to be back in church before Christmas. I hope that this has brought you up to date with my situation. As always I am happy to answer any of your questions.

Simone Yallop

Signs & Symbols: Facing and pointing

Have you ever noticed that where a church has a wind vane on its roof or tower it often does not also have a static arrow showing direction?

That's because most churches in the West are built along the east-west axis; with the altar being at the east end of the church. Often the most impressive door into the church will be at the opposite end – the West Door – and normally it would be unlocked for use only on very special occasions, with another door in the north or south side being in day-to-day use.

There are two schools of thought as to why churches are orientated in this way. The first says that it's so that as the people face the altar (the most important part of the church building) they face east to Jerusalem where Christ will return at the Second Coming. The other approach is that the church faces the position of the dawn of each new day – a very visual reminder that Jesus rose from the dead.

New hope. New life. Resurrection joy.

Churches in England which are not built on this axis will still refer to the altar being at the 'East End' and to the 'West Door' so that their symbolism is identical in meaning if not in practical alignment.

This idea of facing the new dawn's light is immediate at Christmastime.

We're told in the gospel of Luke that as the shepherds had set night watches over their sheep suddenly God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. (Message translation) No wonder they were terrified! Blazing light in the middle of the night! A new dawn had come upon the earth – and nothing will ever be the same again.

perfect tree doesn't exist. It's like looking for a man. Just be satisfied if you can find one that isn't half dead, isn't too peculiar looking, and can stand without you needing to prop it up."



Holy what?

I knew I had been in the military too long when my five-year-old daughter sang her version of 'Silent Night'. It went like this: "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infantry, tender and mild ..."

Ham

We had cured ham for Boxing Day dinner. We all wondered what illness it was cured of.

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Forthcoming Services

Forthcoming Services

Forthcoming Services

24 th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Philippa te West
Third Sunday of Epiphany	First Reading Coretta Van Leer	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
	Second Reading Jeanet Luiten	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
10:30am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 4:14-21

31st January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
G	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
Candlemas Sunday	First Reading Els Ottens	Malachi 3:1-5
10:30 am	Second Reading Victor Pirenne	Hebrews 2:14-18
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 2:22-40

7 th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
Second Sunday before Lent	First Reading Heleen Rauwerda,	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25
	Second Reading Vivian Reinders	Revelation 4
10:30am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 8:22-25

6 th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Special
Second Sunday of Advent	First Reading Young people	Malachi 3:1-4
	Second Reading Young People	Philippians 1:3-11
10:30 am All Age and Holy	Gospel	Luke 3:1-6

13 th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Chaplain
Third Sunday of		
Advent	The Carol Service	
10:30 am Service of Nine	Zi "	
Lessons with Carols (Followed by		
Christmas Market)		

20 th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Fourth Sunday of Advent	Intercessor	Joy Romeijn
10:20 om	First Reading Philippa te West	Micah 5:2-5a
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Linda ten Berge	Hebrews 10:5-10
	Gospel	Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Forthcoming Services

Forthcoming Services

Forthcoming Services

24 th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
AFF.	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
Christmas Eve/	First Reading Caroline Siertsema	Isaiah 52:7-10
Night	Second Reading Blair Charles	Hebrews 1:1-4
22:30 Sung Eucharist	Gospel	John 1:1-14

25th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Dr. S. Bonting
	Intercessor	TBD
Christmas Day	First Reading TBD	Isaiah 9:2 - 7
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading TBD	Titus 2:11-14
	Gospel	Luke 2:1-14

27 th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Dr. S. Bonting
	Intercessor	TBD
St John's Day	First Reading TBD	Exodus 33:7-11a
10:30 am	Second Reading TBD	1 John 1
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	John 21:19b-25

3 rd January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
Epiphany Sunday	First Reading Janice Collins	Isaiah 60:1-6
10:30 am	Second Reading Arjen Haffmans	Ephesians 3:1-12
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12

10 th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Postion of Christ	Intercessor	Special
Baptism of Christ	First Reading	Isaiah 43:1-7
10:30 am All Age with	Second Reading	Acts 8:14-17
Communion	Gospel	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

17 th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
Second Sunday of	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
Epiphany	First Reading Elizabeth vd Heide	Isaiah 62:1-5
10:30 am	Second Reading Maureen vd Heide	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Sung Eucharist	Gospel	John 2:1-11

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