

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

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Next issue: First Sunday February 2018

Chaplaincy
Information

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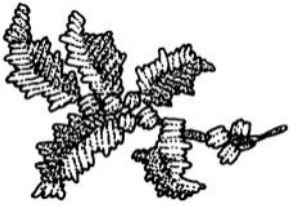
The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente



DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND





December 2017 & January 2018

Let Jesus Show

The nativity scene with all its characters was in place, as the children (representing angels), gathered around the manger. They sang: '*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men*'. Suddenly a small girl on the edge of the crowd, who couldn't see what was going on, shouted out, '*Let Jesus show!*'

At Christmas time, we want to *let Jesus show*, in our churches, communities and lives. We have an amazing message to share: '*in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord*' (Luke 2:10). It was to the shepherds, apart from His parents, that Jesus was first showed.

No doubt these simple shepherds would have no idea of what the names given to Jesus fully meant (ie Saviour, Messiah and Lord). All they needed to know, and all we need to know, is that God has done something unique in coming to earth as a human being. This is good news of great joy for everybody!

After worshipping the child, the shepherds return to their normal routine. However, they would never be the same again! Even though their work and social standing were unchanged, they had a message to share and let Jesus show. Although we don't normally see angels, we have the same good news to share! When Christmas is over and we're back to our normal routines, how will we *let Jesus show* in our lives?





Twente News

Forthcoming Dates

- 09 December - Service of Nine Lesson and Carols, Sion Abbey
- 10 December - St Mary's Service on Nine Lessons and Carols plus Christmas Market
- 24 December - Midnight Service
- 21 January - Licensing service for Canon Rodford (this is a preliminary date subject to Canon Rodford's official appointment}
- 24 January - Chaplaincy Council Meeting

Christmas Cards

A friend of ours waited until the last minute to send Christmas cards. She knew she had 49 people on her list, so she rushed into a shop and bought a package of 50 cards without really looking at them. Still in a big hurry, she addressed the 49 and signed them without reading the message inside.

On Christmas Day when things had quieted down somewhat, she happened to come across the one leftover card and finally read the message she had sent to 49 of her friends. Much to her dismay, it read like this:

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Food Bank

A reminder that there is a large plastic container in the hut for Food Bank contributions. Your donations of non-perishable food will go to those less fortunate in our community. A list of suggested products is placed by the box.

Magazine Payments

St Mary's Magazine has a valuable role in helping to keep the congregation informed and in touch with each other. An annual contribution of just €15 per annum will help to ensure that you will continue to receive your copy. Last year, nearly two thirds of the magazine costs were covered by reader's payments. This year, it would help the survival of the magazine if contributions covered all the costs. Thank you.

Christmas Market

The Christmas Market will be held on the 10 December and the 17 December. Consequently, on the 8 December, a Friday morning, volunteers are asked for to clean the chapel and then decorate it. Naturally, all this work will be interspersed by much fun and of course, coffee breaks. As the Christmas Tree will be set up so we need a lot of help, because as you all know, many hands make lights work.



Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact one of the Churchwardens before the Service.

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

The Interregnum Rhyme?

At the end of the 26 November Service, Joyce Wigboldus and Everhard Ottens made a surprise presentation to the Wardens, Blair Charles and Jeanet Luiten, and Simone Yallop, Lay Reader in Training. This was to thank them for all their hard work during the Interregnum in managing the chaplaincy. THANK YOU JOYCE AND EVERHARD, WE REALLY APPRECIATED YOUR KINDNESS. For those who could not attend, is the **Interregnum Rhyme**.

1. Who welcomed
Andrew (Haig), Richard
(Capper) Steve (Collis) and
Brian Rodford
To locum at St Mary's
Weldam over the past
year?
Who were at the helm and
steered the flock
And were as solid as a
rock?
Yes it is true if you said:
Our two wardens: **Blair**
and **Jeanet**

2. When we became
vacant early this year,
We did not at all worry: to
all it was clear:
Whatever will happen ,
whatever will be,
These two able bodies can
do it, said we.
These two wonderful
persons, who're always
there,
You name them: they are
Jeanet and **Blair**.

3. Who was the one
with the brilliant idea,
Of renting idyllic
accommodation,
To house locums with

possible spouses or pets
Cats, dogs, whatever it
gets?
Who was a beacon, oracle
and support,
And besides all this a
wonderful sport?
We say it, because it ought
to be said,
Of course that is our
beloved: **Jeanet**

4. Who corresponds
with Higher Powers
Such as Area Dean,
Archdeacon and Bishop,
And did the paperwork,
rota in the small hours?
Service Sheets, magazines
without a hiccup
Certainly Omnipresent, he
is there,
Who else could this be but:
Blair?

5. Our Hut was
transfigured from a shack
at the most
To a place which can
certainly host
Many people; the space is
so lovely now I believe
That after coffee on Sunday
none want to leave.

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*This card is just to
say a little gift is
on the way.*

Suddenly she
realised that 49 of
her friends were
expecting a gift
from her.

The name of God....

A little boy arrived
at the gate of
heaven. There he
met an angel.
'Before you come
in, can you tell me
God's name?' said
the angel. 'Oh,
that's easy,' the
little boy replied,
'His name is
Harold.' 'What
make you think His
name is Harold?'
the angel asked
incredulously. The
little boy
explained:
'Because at
Christmas we sing
"Hark while
Harold's angels
sing..." and also,
when we pray, we
say: "Our Father
in Heaven, Harold
be Thy Name..."'



Camels

In a little girl's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a huge star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. 'Why is the third man going in a different direction?' her mother asked. She replied, 'Oh, he's looking for a place to park.'

Paying for it

By the time we pay off this year's Christmas presents, it will be time to pay for next summer's holiday.

Christmas presents

Catching her in the act, I confronted our three-year-old granddaughter. 'Are you opening your little sister's presents?' I

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St James the Least of All

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...



Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

Letter from St James the Least of All

On keeping warm in church

My dear Nephew Darren

It was delightful to have a family from your church visiting ours last week, but perhaps if it happens again, you may suggest a certain dress code to them. That the man arrived without wearing a tie was probably forgivable, but I do think you should have warned them about the temperature. Your church building may be warmer than a nursing home, but the only time that hot air is blown over the heads of *our* congregation, is when the archdeacon preaches.

Thus, by early December, our congregation knows to come to church equipped with overcoats, scarves, gloves and thermal socks. And the Verger's regular disappearance into the side chapel during Services isn't on urgent ecclesiastical business, but to warm himself up with copious swigs from his hip flask.

So, your poor visitors suffered from the cold. In fact, by the time of the sermon, were they to have been laid horizontally, they would have been

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indistinguishable from the marble effigies of the Earls of Stowe lying in state in the north aisle. As they limped out at the end of the Service, totally numb, my offer of a sherry at the Rectory was more medicinal than social.

December is almost always the month when I gracefully concede defeat regarding the church boiler. True, the congregation has been dropping hints to me since Harvest about the autumnal nip in the air, or of the flowers keeping well in church because it is cool there, or even the slightly more pointed remark that it will soon be time for the heating to be turned on. But all are studiously ignored. I live in an arctic 17th century Rectory, and am hardened to it.

But when members of the congregation start arriving bearing travelling rugs and flasks of hot tea, I begin to realise that the time approaches to fire the boilers up. Then on the Sunday when Colonel Richards lights up his primus stove next to him on the pew, I know it is appropriate to announce that next Sunday the church will be heated – although 'heated' is rather more an aspiration than a reality.

Should any of our congregation be tempted to pay a visit to your own church, I will tell them to dress for a Mediterranean August – although the men will certainly wear a tie. One does have standards to maintain.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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demanded. 'No,' she innocently replied, 'I'm just helping her learn to share.'

Virgin mother

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, 'Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?'

Red

What goes red
white red white
red white?
Santa rolling
down a hill.

Prompting

The boy forgot his lines in the Christmas drama presentation. His mother, sitting in the front row, tried to prompt him, gesturing and forming the words silently with her lips, but

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(Continued from page 6)

it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, 'I am the angel Gabriel!' The child beamed with acknowledgment, and in a loud, clear voice so that everyone in the audience could hear him say: 'My Mummy is the angel Gabriel!'

Angels, explained by children

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

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

Wiped out

Just got home and found all the windows and doors open and

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The history of church music Part: V

In the 18th century, spiritual life was for the most part dominated by the Methodists, whose leader was John Wesley (1703-1791).

This movement started in the beginning as a spiritual revival but became an independent church eventually. The emphasis was on the conversion of man and the way in which he lives (embeds) his faith life.

John's brother, Charles Wesley (1707-1788) wrote hymns according to this movement. He wrote them (more than 6000) during their travelling through the country. Many of these hymns are too much revival hymns to be liturgically useful.

Charles Wesley's hymns have had a significant influence not only on Methodism but on modern theology as a whole.

The texts of the following hymns are from his hand:

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Jesus, Lover of My Soul
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Rejoice, the Lord is King

John himself also wrote a few beautiful hymns. He translated many German chorales.

Contemporaries are Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
*(When I survey the wondrous Cross, How
beauteous are their feet, There is a land of pure*

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delight, O, God our help in ages past, Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun).

And William Cowper (*God moves in a mysterious way, Jesus, where e'er thy people meet, Sometimes a light surprises, O, for a closer walk with God*)

In the 19th century John Henry Newman (1801-1890) (*Lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, Praise to the holiest in the height*).

And John Keble (1792-1866) (*Blest are the pure in heart*).

All committed to raising the Anglican liturgy to a higher level. It was during these centuries that the church divided into high church, (Anglicans) and Low Church (Puritans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Methodists).

©Erica Schotman-Bonting



The Four Advent Candles.

In a far away country with high mountains lived a sweet little girl. Her name was Anna. She lived with her grandmother in a cozy little house just outside a small village. Her parents were travelling somewhere in the wild to make pictures of all kinds of animals to put them in a book.

It was winter, so Anna, and her grandmother were planning to celebrate the next Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent. Grandmother had baked gingerbread cookies, and out of a big cupboard, she took a beautiful wooden lantern. Anna's granny told how she burned Advent candles in this lantern every year. But then, when Grandmother looked in the cupboard to put the candles inside,

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everything has gone.

What kind of sick twisted person does that to someone's Advent calendar?

Christmas turkey

A gentleman walked into a restaurant and asked the maitre d', 'Can you please tell me how you prepare your Christmas turkeys?'

The maitre d' solemnly replied: 'Yes. Well, we let them know right up front they're not going to make it.'

Why Bethlehem?

A minister asked his Bible class: 'Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?'

A student replied, 'Because his mother was there.'

Visiting Vicar

A vicar went out one Saturday to visit his church members. At one house, it was obvious that someone was home, but nobody came to the door even though the preacher knocked several times.

Finally, the preacher took out his card, wrote out "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it, and stuck it in the door.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. - Revelation 3:20

The next day, the card turned up in the collection plate. Below the preacher's message was written the following notation:

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she discovered that there was only one candle left. On the night of the first Sunday of Advent, they sat together in the warm room with the cookies and hot chocolate milk, while Grandmother lit the candle and told all kinds of stories from Christmas days past. It was an enjoyable and happy evening.

The next day Grandmother asked Anna to go to the village for three new candles to celebrate the remaining Sundays of Advent. Anna, who was playing with her doll, put on her warm coat, took the lantern and wrapping her doll in a woollen shawl, took the doll along too on the walk to the village.

There was only one shop in the village. But when she asked there for candles in the size of the lantern, the shopkeeper told her the candles were sold out. New ones would only come next week. Anna was very disappointed. She had tears in her eyes when, walking in the street, she bumped into a gentleman who kept her from falling, told her that he was the new doctor and that he admired her doll. Would Anna be so kind as to come to his house and play with his daughter, who, feeling so lonely in a new house without her old friends, would welcome playing with Anna and her beautiful doll. Anna went with the friendly doctor and had a good time with his little girl. When she had to leave, the wife of the doctor thanked her and gave Anna a candle, which the women had bought for their own Christmas. To her surprise, Anna saw that the candle was the right size for the Advent lantern.

With her Grandmother, she celebrated the second Sunday of Advent with two candles lighting the table. And yet again, it was a happy evening.

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3rd December	Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Advent	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	Chalice	Simone Yallop
	Jeanet Luiten	Isaiah 64: [1-9]
	Linda ten Berge	1 Corinthians 1: [3-9]
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Mark 13: [24-37]

[Church money for sale in the Hut]

10th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	Intercessor	n.a.
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens
	1. Lea Meijnen	2. Fred Schonewille
	3. Jeanet Luiten	4. Patrick Saridjan
10:30 Eucharist	5. Vivian Reinders	6. Linda ten Berge
	7. Joyce Wigboldus	8. Simone Yallop

17th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Third Sunday of Advent	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	Chalice	Simone Yallop
	Vivian Reinders	Isaiah 61: [1-4, 8-11]
	Jeanet Luiten	1 Thessalonians 5: [16-24]
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Gospel	John: 1 [6-8, 19-28]

Fortcoming Services

24^h December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
Christmas Eve	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
	Chalice	Joyce Wigboldus
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Simone Yallop	2 Samuel 7: [1-11,16]
	Jeanet Luiten	Romans. 16: [25-end]
	Gospel	Luke 1: [26-38]

Fortcoming Services

24th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Christmas Eve Midnight Service	Intercessor	Fred Schonewille
	Chalice	Jeanet Luiten
22:30 Sung Eucharist	Louw Talstra	Isaiah 52:[7-10]
	Blair Charles	Hebrews 1:[1-12]
	Gospel	John 1:[1-14]

Fortcoming Services

31st December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
First Sunday of Christmas	Intercessor	Jan de Beij
	Chalice	Simone Yallop
	Blair Charles	Isaiah 61: [10-62.3]
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Arjan Hafmans	Galatians 4: [4-7]
	Gospel	Luke 2; [22-40]

7th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
	Intercessor	Janet Luiten
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens
	Elizabeth van der Heijden	Genesis 1: [1-5]
Epiphany	Heleen Rauwerda	Acts 19: [1-17]
	10:30 Sung Eucharist	Gospel Mark 1: [4-11]

14th January	Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	Chalice	Simone Yallop
	Linda ten Berge	1 Samuel 3: [1-10]
Epiphany 2	Patrick Saridjan	Revelation. 5: [1-10]
	10:30 Sung Eucharist	Gospel John 1: [43-end]

21st January	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
	Chalice	Joyce Wigboldus
	Louw Talstra	Genesis 14: [17-20]
Epiphany 3	Lea Meijnen	Revelation 19 [6-10]
	10:30 Sung Eucharist	Gospel John 2: [1-11]

28th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
	Intercessor	Lea Meijnen
	Chalice	Simone Yallop
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Vivian Reinders	Malachi 3: [1-5]
	Jan de Beij	Hebrews 2: [14-end]
	Gospel	Luke 22:[22-40]

Bearable

In this life, I'm a woman. In my next life, I'd like to come back as a bear. When you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that.

Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that too.

When you're a girl bear, you give birth to your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you're sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that.

If you're mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too. I could deal with that.

If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat.



Yup, gonna be a bear!

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That next week, Anna went with the lantern to the village shop for more candles. Alas, the deliverer, who brought fresh stock once a week, had forgotten the candles because he was so busy in the days before Christmas. There was a big man in the shop who told Anna, that once he had a lantern like hers, but he had given it to his eldest daughter who lived on the other side of the country. He asked her to come with him to show the lantern to his wife. Anna went with him and told the woman, who was bed-ridden with an illness, about her celebrations of the Advent Sundays with her Grandmother. The woman so much enjoyed the visit of the lovely little girl that when Anna stood up to go home, the woman asked her husband to look in the cupboard for a candle she had saved. It turned out it was the right size for the lantern. So Anna went home with a happy heart. For now, there were three candles to burn on the third Sunday of Advent.

The week after Anna went once again to the shop. Snow had fallen in the past days, and it was not an easy walk. In the store, they told her that the man with the fresh stock had not come at all because of the snow.

Anna went home, very disappointed. Not far from her house, Anna saw a rather young man standing at the side of the street. He had placed a big rucksack down next to him and looked rather tired. When he saw Anna, he walked towards her and asked where he could find a hotel to sleep that night. Anna told him there was no hotel in this little village, but she was sure grandmother would undoubtedly give him a bed in her house. The man, Hans was his name, was warmly welcomed in the home. There he had a tasty supper and a good bed for the night.

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I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. - Genesis 3:10

In the Bath

Little five year old Johnny was in the bath tub, and his mom was washing his hair. She said to him, "Wow, your hair is growing so fast! You need a haircut again." Little Johnny replied hopefully, "Maybe you should stop watering it so much."

One-Liner

Little Girl to her friend: "I'm never having kids. I hear they take nine months to download."

Asking to Play

George knocked on the door of his friend's house. When his friend's mother answered he asked, "can Albert come out to play?"

"No," said the

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mother, "it's too cold."

"Well, then," said George, "can his football come out to play?"

Embarrassing Incident

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman -- already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet -- who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in

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On leaving, he took a candle from his rucksack and thanking Grandmother and Anna, told them he always had a candle with him on his walks in case of emergency. And a thick candle could give light for a long time. Since Anna had told him the story of the Advent candles, he wanted them to have the candle. He also explained to them the meaning of the candles.

The first candle symbolized LOVE for each other; Anna and Grandmother had been so happy together in celebrating the first Sunday of Advent.

The second candle stood for FRIENDSHIP. Anna had made a little girl happy by playing with her.

The third candle symbolized GLADNESS. Anna had made an ill woman very happy with her visit.

And the fourth candle was for the HOSPITALITY they had offered to Hans.

After that, every year Anna her grandmother and her parents lit the candles in the old wooden lantern. For it reminded them how, just as the light of candles burning in the darkest days of the year brought light into the world, Love, Friendship, Happiness, and Hospitality brought light into the lives of people.

Adapted by Erica Schotman Bonting from a story of Henk Kuindersma



Christmas: Where did Christmas trees come from?

There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8th century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: "This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the one who will give you life, because he gave his life for you."

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16th century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea, and took up the custom.



Christmas: World's oldest fake tree

Did you know that it is a family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, who claim to own the world's oldest artificial Christmas tree? It was bought in 1886, and is still put up every year.

Christmas: The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare



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the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

The Hypochondriac

Danny was an extremely nervous patient whose imagination afflicted him with all kinds of misfortunes that never materialised. One afternoon he staggered into the house. He was bent forwards. He tottered to a chair and, still curled into a half-moon shape, dropped into it.

'Jenny,' he gasped, 'it's happened at last. There was no warning. All of a sudden I found I couldn't straighten up. I can't lift my head.'

When the doctor had arrived and looked at Danny, Jenny inquired, 'Is there any hope, doc?'

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'Well,' the GP replied, 'it would help a great deal if he would undo the third buttonhole of his waistcoat from the top button of his trousers.'

Santa

Q. What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective?

A. Santa Clues!

Q. What happened when Santa ate the Christmas decorations?

A. He went down with tinsel-itis.

Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.

Q: What's a good holiday tip?

A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.

A man went to his psychiatrist and said, "What's wrong with me? I'm afraid of Santa."

The psychiatrist said, "You must be Claustrofobic

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since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

Christmas: Where did Christmas stockings come from?

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

Christmas: Why was Jesus born in a barn?

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice – the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for His beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable?

Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a perfect picture of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth

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and darkness of sin. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least – instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for His unspeakable gift. No wonder the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

Christmas: Why the world was ready for Christmas

Ever wonder why Jesus was born when He was? The Bible tells us that “when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son...” The Jewish people had been waiting for their Messiah for centuries. Why did God send Him precisely when He did?

Many biblical scholars believe that the ‘time had fully come’ for Jesus because of the politics of the time. The Roman Empire’s sheer size and dominance had achieved something unique in world history: the opportunity for travel from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed without ever crossing into ‘enemy territory’ or needing a ‘passport’. or the first time ever, it was possible for ‘common’ people to travel wide and far, and quickly spread news and ideas. And all you needed were two languages - Greek to the east of Rome, and Latin to the west and north. You could set sail from Joppa (Tel Aviv) and head for any port on the Med. And the Roman roads ran straight and true throughout the empire.

So the Roman Empire achieved something it never intended: it helped spread news of Christianity far and wide for 400 years. After that, the Empire crumbled, and the borders shut down. Not until the 19th century would people again roam so freely. The time for Jesus to be born, and for news of Him to be able to travel, had indeed ‘fully come’.



No handicap

Genius knows no handicap through physical ills.

Lord Byron had a club foot

Robert Louis Stevenson and John Keats had tuberculosis.

Alexander Pope was a hunchback.

Admiral Nelson had only one eye.

Edgar Allan Poe was a

psychoneurotic.

Charles Darwin

was an invalid. Julius Caesar was an epileptic.

Thomas Edison and Ludwig von

Beethoven were deaf,

Peter Stuyvesant had a wooden leg.

Handicaps build strength and purpose – and accomplishment.

Wear

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

Hardening

Hardening of the heart ages people more quickly than hardening of the arteries.

(Continued from page 4)

Who planned all this and put it together

And finally not even at the end of her ^{tether,}

Nor her indispensable, ingenious hub,

Calm, competent and inventive Lub.

Of course, as we said:

That's our warden: **Jeanet**

6. Who chaired Council meetings with skill and with care

Who gave everyone his or her equal share?

Who was even tempered beyond belief,

Although discussions sometimes ran high, good grief!

We always went home contented and said

The chairman was right no small achievement that!

So who do you think was referred to there,

Naturally our great warden: **Blair**

Simone embodies all alone, on her own,

Our collective memory, SHE is the archive of St Mary,

And what we ask her may vary,

From what is the address of whom,

When did we decide what in Church Council,

What did we do and what Chaplain

Preached which sermon, And who was present at what occasion?

Who's got the answer to any question?

Yes **Simone**, she alone

Her training as a Reader is almost half way

And we at St Mary's will welcome the day

That she is fully fledged to lead Morning Prayer

Only three more years and she will be there

Her sermons are well wrought, her voice is clear

We have real Reader material here!

And all this and a fulltime job too

We ask you who could all this do

Yes Simone

But something we should have said from the start

And which comes from the bottom of our heart:

Where could we be without us all?

Our congregation, which without qualms

Listened, and with fervour, has been singing the psalms

With an eye for priorities, giving our trust

For in God we believe always we must

So therefore we say together the same:

Thanks to us all and praised be **His name.**



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write your Christmas cards again – what designs have you picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Traditional religious cards have usually included the nativity – Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? The Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were three; just that they were Wise Men, who travelled far to bring special gifts 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.



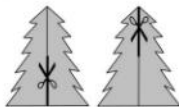
Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

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 sticky tape.

Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two 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 of the centre of one tree



and along 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 sticky tape to fasten the parts together where they meet.

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



*What goes red white red white red white?
Santa rolling down a hill.*

Good News from heav'n the angels bring

- 1. Good news from heav'n the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a Child is giv'n,
To crown us with the joy of heav'n.*
- 2. This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself our Saviour be,
And from our sins will set us free.*
- 3. All hail, Thou noble Guest, this morn,
Whose love did not the sinner scorn:
In my distress Thou com'st to me,
What thanks shall I return to Thee*
- 4. Were earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.*
- 5. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.*
- 6. Praise God upon His heavenly throne,
Who gave to us His only Son;
For this His hosts, on joyful wing,
A blest New Year of mercy sing. Amen.*



Martin Luther

*Martin Luther's Christmas poem is included
to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation*

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.