

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

Vol. 14 Iss. 10 December /January 2018

Next issue: First Sunday February 2019

Chaplaincy
Information

Cover

St Mary's Magazine

The Chaplain 1

Twente News 2

The Merton Prayer 2

St James the Least 4

The woman bishop
who does not much
like all-female
clergy at services 5

New Years Soup 6

Peaceful Praise on a
Silent Night 7

Integrity 8

Forthcoming 9 - 12

An African Tale?? 13

What would
Christmas be 14

Where did 15

Advent Hope 16

The pilot 17

Remembrance 18

Mouse Makes 19

Christmas Eve in
1914 20



St Mary's Chapel,
Diepenheimseweg 102
7475 MN Markelo
www.anglicanchurchtwente.com

The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND





December 2018 & January 2019

Dear Friends,

One of the best and most enjoyable novels ever to have utterly captivated me was “A Prayer for Owen Meany”, by American writer John Irving. Among the intricacies of this compellingly entertaining story, the chronicle deals with a succession of spiritual issues, such as matters of faith, social justice, and the concept of fate, in the context of a bizarre narrative.

John Wheelwright tells of his childhood, when his best friend, Owen Meany, made him believe in God. Owen was an eccentrically weird, tiny dwarfish child, with strangely luminous skin, and an unearthly nasal voice. In a diarized entry at the beginning of one Holy Week, Wheelwright expressed his apprehension that the Resurrection wouldn't happen that year. He knew what his friend, Owen, would say, “IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN EASTER . . . DON'T KID YOURSELF—DON'T CALL YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN.”

It bears considering, doesn't it? Churches full for Christmas, seem considerably depleted, in comparison, at Easter. However, in truth, the Passion of Jesus begins with the Incarnation. It is significant that in Advent, we contemplate the coming of the Christ in lowliness, and recognise the infinite humility of the Creator's Son, who did not hesitate to become human? His search for shelter, with Mary and Joseph, was, in a real sense, a 'Way of the Cross' for him, who suffers even as He comes to his own world. Even his own people did not receive Him. Bethlehem is a “Mount of Olives”, too: Mary and Joseph suffered anguish with him, as they were denied comfortable lodging for their son, God's Son, who was entrusted to their care. So, too, the 'stable' of Bethlehem is similarly a Golgotha, where Christ begins his life in a wooden manger and, 33 years later, submits to the wood of the Cross.

The Passion of Christ began with the Incarnation, and continued through his birth in a cold, unsterile stable, and is part and parcel of the same story that led to his Passion and death on the Cross.

Quite a perspective to consider while so many personal Christmases are indulged with profligacy, as other's Christmases are meagre, lonely and desolate, in a selfish world of commercial abundance! Owen Meany presents quite a challenge, I think!

I pray that you embrace the joy, hope and generosity of the real spirit of Christmas, and may God bless you in your holy observance, and for the New Year.

Love, as ever, Brian.



Twente News

Christmas Market

On the 16 December, following the Christmas Carol Service, there will be a Christmas Market in the Hut. However, before that can happen volunteers are needed. The Chapel needs cleaning and decorating. The Hut needs cleaning and decorating. Baked goodies need to be baked.

First priority is for people with baking skills to place their name on the list in the Hut. What is meant by baking skills? It does not mean you have to be a serious contender to win the Great British Bakeoff. It means, if you enjoy baking cakes and pastries for your friends and family, then you are a baker. Look on the list to see what is needed and if there is something there you are reasonably confident about then put your name down.



From Rudolf to Blitzen

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year (the only members of the deer family, Cervidae, to have females do so). Male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid December. Female reindeer, however, retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolf to Blitzen.... had to be a female.

On the 15 December the Chapel and the Hut will be cleaned and decorated. If you can operate a vacuum cleaner then your chapel needs you. Cleaning, polishing and decorating days are not only necessary, they are great social events. By the end of the day all the volunteers should be exhausted and content.

Forthcoming Dates

- 16 December St Mary's Service on Nine Lessons and Carols plus Christmas Market
- 19 December Chaplaincy Council Meeting
- 23 December Service of Nine Lesson and Carols, Sion Abbey
- 24 December Midnight Service
- 21 January - First Anniversary of the Licensing of Canon Brian Rodford

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. At this time of the year, generous donations of seasonal fare will help those who are struggling to get by, to maybe also enjoy their Christmas.

(Continued from page 4)

Magazine Payments

St Mary's Magazine plays 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. For those of you who receive the magazine by post, a contribution of €20 will cover postage costs. 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.

The Merton Prayer

If, during the Christmas Season you feel the need to rest and reflect, the following prayer may provide comfort.

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right
road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Thomas Merton

Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, or in need of pastoral care, please contact one of the Churchwardens or the Chaplain, before the Service. If you wish to have someone included in the Intercessions you may contact the intercessor primarily via the Prayer Request Tool on our Church Website. Via this tool the Chaplain, Wardens and all intercessors will receive your message at once and simultaneously. Following link will bring you directly to the Prayer Request:

<http://anglicanchurchtwente.com/home/services%20%26%20readings/prayer%20requests.html>

(Continued from page 4)

We should've known this when they were able to find their way

Santa Question

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?
A rebel without a Clause

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
A Christmas Quacker

Who is Santa's favourite singer?
Elf-is Presley

Christmas One Liners

Two snowmen in a field, one turned to the other and said, 'I don't know about you, but I can smell carrots'

Did you know Santa is not allowed to go down chimneys this year?

It has been declared unsafe by the Elf and Safety Commission



It may be Christmas, but wait until political correctness gets hold of some well-loved carols...

Little Donkey

Little donkey,
little donkey on
the dusty road
Got to keep on
plodding onwards
with your
precious load

The RSPCA have issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load that a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry. Also included in the guidelines is guidance regarding how often to feed the donkey and how many rest breaks are required over a four-hour plodding period. The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled 'little' and would prefer just to be simply referred to as Mr Donkey. To comment upon

(Continued on page 7)

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...



On two wise men, one three-legged sheep and a tipsy tree

My dear Nephew Darren

It really is time to get some new figures for the crib. After a series of accidents over the years, we are now down to two wise men, two shepherds, and one three-legged sheep that only remains upright if it is leaning against a shepherd.

Joseph, having been obliged to stand outside the shelter of the stable for the last four decades, is now comprehensively veneered with bat droppings. In a rather desperate effort to enlarge this rather frugal cast, Miss Timmins hit on the idea of introducing characters from the children's Easter garden. This would have all been very well if both sets of figures had been to the same scale, but we now have the shepherds apparently being threatened by two ten feet rabbits.

One of our local farmers – I am sure very kindly meant – donated far more straw for the stable than was necessary. Our decorators, refusing to let his generosity go to waste, used the lot. The result is that Mary and Joseph stand up to their waists, looking as if they are being engulfed by a straw snow drift. The crib, along with baby Jesus, has disappeared entirely. The latter is not entirely to be regretted, since no one can now see that Jesus has no nose and only one arm, the result of one of our children dropping Him on the floor at last year's Crib Service.

I am sure your ecologically appropriate Christmas tree, made of re-cycled dustbin liners will be much appreciated by your congregation, knowing that they are saving the planet for future generations. We however remain traditional, with a tree always donated by the local squire from his estate, even if it is at the

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

cost of adding another degree to global warming. Not only does it look more fitting, but it gives our verger something to do on twelfth night, as he sweeps up several hundredweight of pine needles.

I sometimes wonder if it is entire coincidence that the tree is always delivered by the estate staff on a day when there has been torrential rain in the area. Carrying it into church up the aisle makes it look as if the parting of the Red Sea has unsuccessfully taken place inside St. James'. The major problem every year is getting the wretched thing to stand upright in the sanctuary. It takes so long that I sometimes feel it would be quicker to re-align all the church pillars to the same angle as the tree itself.

Last year's decision to have tree lights which flashed in succession was not a success. Those members who stared at them for too long while singing carols tended to fall over – although I suspect that Major Crump's inability to remain upright at the midnight Service was for rather different reasons. Not using flashing lights this year, the Major will have to find a different excuse.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



The woman bishop who does not much like all-female clergy at services

It is as undesirable to see all women 'at the front' of church leading worship as it was once to see all men 'at the front' leading worship.

So says the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, and the first female bishop to sit in the House of Lords.

Speaking at this year's Cheltenham Literature Festival, she said: 'For me, I want to see diverse leadership, and part of that includes men and women working together.' She spoke of her own joy of 'discovering the joy of being in leadership alongside men, as an equal.'

(Continued from page 6)
his height or lack thereof may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.

While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night All seated on the ground The angel of the Lord came down And glory shone around

The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Please note, the angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his/her glory all around she/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)
with glasses
capable of
filtering out the
harmful effects of
UVA, UVB and
Glory.

What she wants for Christmas

A little girl was in the kitchen watching her mother busily preparing for the following day's Christmas dinner. She asked, 'Mum, can I please have a cat for Christmas?' Her mother replied, 'No, you'll have turkey like the rest of us.'

Milky sermon

A Somerset parish magazine told how ministers from the Welsh valleys were distressing the older members of the Chapel by the length of their sermons. On one occasion an elderly man greeted the minister: "And what is the subject of your sermon this morning?"

(Continued on page 9)

New Year's soup from Black-eyed Peas

During the time I lived in California, I learned about many charming American Traditions. Serving a healthy pea soup on New Year's Day is one of them.

Originally a Southern tradition, perhaps traceable to Jewish practices in antiquity, holds that the eating of black-eyed peas on New Year's day portends good luck in the coming year. I can't attest to the efficacy of that believe but will say that this is a tasty way to fix a legume.

Ingredients:

1 large onion
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
2 stalks (green included) celery, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups of black-eyed peas, picked and rinsed
6 cups water (1,5 litre)
15 ounce can diced tomatoes (0,5 litre)
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
1/8 teaspoon cayenne (optional)
1 teaspoon Worcester sauce
1/2 a teaspoon black pepper
1/2 teaspoon Liquid Smoke flavouring

Soak dried peas overnight in cold water. Drain. Sauté onion with bell pepper and celery until softened; add garlic and cook for another minute or so. Add black eyes peas and water to cover the peas. Cook until tender, about 1.5 to 2 hours, adding water as necessary. When tender, add tomatoes, spices and liquid smoke and allow to simmer for another ten minutes. May be served with fresh bread or over rice.

Note:

Instead of liquid smoke, I use to add a Hema sausage, but I am not a vegetarian. Also in stead of salt I use Maggi cubes. You can of course vary as much as you like, as long as there are black-eyes peas in the soup.

Good luck with the soup and the New Year!

©Erica Schotman Bonting



Peaceful Praise on a Silent Night

Tim Lenton tells the story of this much loved Carol



One of the most popular Christmas carols, *Silent Night*, was performed for the first time 200 years ago this month, on

24th December 1818, at midnight mass at a parish church in Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria.

The carol was originally a poem, written in six verses by a priest Joseph Mohr two years earlier. Because the church organ was

broken, he thought it would be nice to turn the poem into a simple carol that could be played by a guitar, and so he asked church organist Franz Xaver Gruber if he could write a suitable tune. Gruber did so in a matter of hours.

That night Mohr and Gruber sang the new composition, with Mohr playing guitar. Karl Mauracher, an organ builder working at the Oberndorf church, took the carol home with him to the Zillertal, about 100 miles away, where it was taken up and popularised by two travelling families of folk singers, the Strassers and the Rainers.

They eventually sang it in New York, where in 1859 Episcopal priest John Freeman Young wrote and published the rather free English translation that is most frequently sung today, using only three verses and changing the rhythm slightly. The carol has since been translated into about 140 languages.

Canon David Winter takes a slightly different approach

My father told me of his experience in the First World War, when on Christmas Day the British troops heard the sound of German soldiers singing *Stille Nacht*. They responded with *Silent Night*, and the sacred words echoed across the blood-stained no man's land.

It is a carol that breathes peace, quite unlike the traditional ones that stir us to action – 'O come all ye faithful', 'Hark the herald angels sing'. This German song is about the infinite

(Continued from page 8)

"The milk of human kindness," replied the minister.

"Ah," the old man mused a moment. "Condensed, I hope?"

(From Peterborough in The Daily Telegraph)

Describes you

There are many ways to measure success; not the least of which is the way your child describes you when talking to their friends.

Wanna do

When I was young my parents told me what to do. Now I am old, my children tell me what to do. When will I be able to do what I want?

Idiot Sighting

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)
without my
knowledge, how
would I know?'
He smiled
knowingly and
nodded, 'That's
why we ask.'
*Happened at
Luton Airport*

IDIOT SIGHTING No2

When my
husband and I
arrived at our
local Ford dealer
to pick up our
car, we were told
the keys had
been locked in it.
We went to the
Service
Department and
found a mechanic
working feverishly
to unlock the
Driver's door.
As I watched
from the
passenger side, I
instinctively tried
the door-handle
and discovered
that it was
unlocked.
'Hey,' I
announced to the
Fitter/Mechanic,
'it's open!'
His reply: 'I
know. I already
did that side.'

(Continued from page 9)

peace of nativity – Mary pondering her heart all that was
happening and the shepherds returning to their fields. The
birth of this royal baby went largely unnoticed. There were
no crowds, no cheering, no processions. But for two
centuries people have sung this precious song of peace to
recall that silent and holy night.

Integrity

Integrity is
found in the
small things we
do!



Some time ago, a new
preacher moved to

Twente, the Netherlands. Some weeks
after he arrived, he had occasion to
ride the bus from his home to the centre of Goor. When he
sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally
given him half a euro too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd
better give the fifty cents back. It would be wrong to keep
it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget, it's only half a euro. Who
would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus
company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept
it as a gift from God and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door,
then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here,
you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile
replied, "aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been
thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just
wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much
change. I'll see you at church on Sunday"

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally
grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God,
I almost sold your Son for fifty cents."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read.
This is a really almost scary example of how much people
watch us as Christians and will put us to the test! Always
be on guard and remember (as I try to remember) that you
carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call
yourself "Christian."

2nd December	Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	Chalice	Fred Schonewille
	Vivian Reinders	Jeremiah [33. 14 - 16]
	Jan de Beij	Thessalonians [3. 3 -9 -end]
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke [21. 25 - 36]

9th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
	Intercessor	Fred Schonewille
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens
	Maureen Underwood	Isaiah [40. 1-5] (in Dutch)
	10:30 Eucharist	Gospel

16th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
	Intercessor	n.a.
	Chalice	n.a.
	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
	10:30 Distribution of Eucharist	

Forthcoming Services

23rd December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Advent 4	Intercessor	Simone Yallop
	Chalice	Joyce Wigboldus
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Lea Meijnen	Micah [5. 2 - 5A]
	Arthur Cass	Hebrews [10. 5 - 10]
	Gospel	Luke [1. 39 -45 46 - 55]

Forthcoming Services

24th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles/Jeanet Luiten
Christmas Eve Midnight Service/ Christmas Day	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	Chalice	Jeanet Luiten
22:30 Sung Eucharist	Arjan Hafmans	Isaiah [52. 7 -10]
	Victor Pirenne	Hebrews [1. 1 -12]
	Gospel	John [1. 1 -14]

Forthcoming Services

30th December	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
First Sunday of Christmas	Intercessor	Philippa te West
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Eric Wanjala	1 Samuel 2. [18 - 20. 26]
	Elizabeth v.d. Heijden	Colossians [3. 12 - 17]
	Gospel	Luke [2. 41 - end]

6th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
Epiphany	Intercessor	Lea Meijnen
	Chalice	Fred Schonewille
	Frances Goddard	Isaiah [60. 1 -6]
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Patrick Saridjan	Ephesians [3. 1 -12]
	Gospel	Matthew [2. 1 -12]

13th January	Celebrant and Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Baptism of Christ	Intercessor	Joyce Wigboldus
	Chalice	Everhard Ottens
	Elisa Hannan	Isaiah [43. 1 -7]
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Vivian Reinders	Acts [8. 14 -17]
	Gospel	Luke [3. 15 -17, 21 - 22]

20th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
Epiphany 3	Intercessor	Maureen Underwood
	Chalice	Joyce Wigboldus
	Jan de Beij	Isaiah [43. 1 - 7]
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Fred Schonewille	1 Corinthians [12. 1 -11]
	Gospel	John 2: [1-11]

Forthcoming Services

27th January	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Epiphany 4	Intercessor	Jeanet Luiten
	Chalice	Jeanet Luiten
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Maureen Underwood Erica Schotman Gospel	Nehemiah [8. 1 - 3, 5 - 6, 8 - 10] 1 Corinthians [12. 12 - 31A] Luke [4. 14 - 21]

Forthcoming Services

3rd February	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Jeanet Luiten
Candlemas	Intercessor	Frances Goddard
	Chalice	Fred Schonewille
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Lea Meijnen Arthur Cass Gospel	Malachi [3. 1 - 5] Hebrews [2. 14 - end] Luke [2. 22 - 40]

Forthcoming Services

10th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Canon Brian Rodford
	Duty Warden	Blair Charles
Fourth Sunday before Lent	Intercessor	Lea Meijnen
	Chalice	Joyce Wigboldus
10:30 Sung Eucharist	Arjen Hafmans Victor Pirenne Gospel	Isaiah [6. 1 - 8. 9 - end] 1 Corinthians [15. 1 - 11] Luke [5. 1 - 11]

An African Tale??

Long, long ago, numerous small nations of people lived in small villages scattered across the vast grass plains of Southern Africa. The grass, known as elephant grass, for even an elephant could hide in the luxurious three to four metre high growth, tended to isolate the villages from each other. The towering grass also prevented trees getting a foothold, meaning that most of their wood came from tough, thorny, twisted, acacias.

The only building material readily available was grass, and the twisted, thin acacia branches. The people were ingenious in using these materials to build wondrous houses out of intricately woven grass, supported on light acacia frames. The huge, domed houses gave shelter from the burning sun and, in the rainy season, the driving rain.

The many kings and chiefs openly declared their status by sitting on short legged, high backed wooden chairs, or thrones. The wood for these coming at great cost from forests far to the north. The beautifully decorated chairs were naturally, high status items.

The land supported these people well and they lived in relative harmony. Sadly, one of the kings, a young, vain man, but a brilliant soldier, took it upon himself to wage war on his neighbours. Raiding parties brought back cattle, slaves and most unusual, the chairs of defeated kings were seized as victory trophies.

These chairs were hung from the roof of the enormous house of the young king. He took great delight in boasting to his cronies about his great battles as they admired the beautiful chairs suspended some four metres above their heads. And as time went by, sadly the number of chairs grew and grew.

Inevitably, one night during a great storm, with the rain beating down, the roof gave way. The chairs fell onto the king and his friends, killing them all.

Over time, the story of the foolish, vain king was repeatedly told. For there was an important moral lesson to be learnt, which was:

*That People Who Live in Grass Houses,
Shouldn't Stow Thrones*

©Blair Charles
Merry Christmas

Christmas Cracker Jokes

Knock knock
Whose there?

Arthur

Arthur who?

Arthur any mince
pies left

How did Scrooge
win the football
game?

*The ghost of
Christmas passed*

What did Santa
say to the
smoker?

*Please don't
smoke, its bad for
my elf*

Did Rudolph go to
school?

*No, he was Elf-
taught*

How do snowmen
get around?

They ride an icicle

What does Santa
do with fat elves?

*He sends them to
an Elf-farm*

Why don't you
ever see Father
Christmas in
hospital?

*Because he has
private Elf-care*

What do
snowmen wear on
their heads?

Ice caps

Thoughts on the Incarnation

The Son came out from the Father to help us to come out from the world; He descended to us to enable us to ascend to Him.

Anthony of Padua

Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is.

Athanasius

I hope your Christmas has had a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next – but that after all is the idea!

Evelyn Underhill

God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man.

CS Lewis

What would Christmas be without the Carols?



One of the things I like most about the Christmas season is the music. What would Christmas be without the carols? A carol is a Church related Christmas song.

It recently occurred to me that a number of the most sung Christmas carols are written by Episcopal Americans, not so strange, because the Episcopal Church is the American offspring of the Anglican Church of England.

The carols I sung most during the time I lived in America are originally rooted in England.

The text of the popular "O little town of Bethlehem" was written by Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal priest, long time Rector of Trinity Church in Boston, and later Bishop of Massachusetts. He was inspired by visiting Bethlehem in 1865. At Christmas, 1868, he asked his organist, Lewis Redner, to write music for the poem he had written. Redner's tune, titled "St. Louis", is the one most often used in the USA. Ralph Vaughan Williams composed the melody most used in the UK.

John Mason Neale, an Anglican priest, scholar, and hymn writer, translated many ancient hymns, including the Christmas classic "of the Father's love begotten". He was also responsible for much of the translation of the Advent hymn "O come, O come, Emmanuel," based on the "Great of Antiphons" for the week preceding Christmas.

Neal's most enduring and widely known legacy are probably his own original contributions, most notably "Good Christian men, rejoice" and his Boxing Day carol, "Good King Wenceslas".

The Anglican priest Charles Wesley penned the classic "Hark! The Herald Angels sing." The original words were reworked by his friend and fellow priest into the verses familiar to us today. The "Father of English Hymnody", Isaac Watts, a nonconformist minister in the Church of England, wrote the

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

words of the famous carol "Joy to the world!".

Anglican bishop Christopher Wordsworth penned the famous carol, "Sing, O sing, this blessed morn." Christina Rossetti was an English poet and devout Anglo-Catholic. Two of her poems, "In the bleak midwinter" and "Love came down at Christmas," became popular Christmas carols

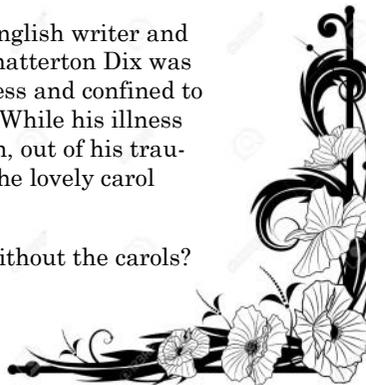
Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of bishop in the church of England in Ireland, wrote the hymn "Once in royal David's city."

Nahum Tate, the son of a priest and England's poet laureate, wrote the hymn "While shepherds watched their flocks by night."

At the age of twenty-nine, English writer and Anglican layman William Chatterton Dix was struck with a near-fatal illness and confined to bed rest for several months. While his illness resulted in a deep depression, out of his traumatic experience, he wrote the lovely carol "What child is this?"

What would Christmas be without the carols?

©Erica Schotman Bonting



25 December 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.

(Continued from page 16)

My brother heard a woman on the bus say, as the bus passed a church with a Crib outside it, Oh Lor! They bring religion into everything. Look – they're even dragging it into Christmas now!' *CS Lewis*

Jesus did not come to take sides, but to take over. *Anon*

Surely royalty in rags, angels in cells, is not descent compared to Deity in flesh! *H Law*

The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable. *Ralph Sockman*

For anyone with relatives coming to stay this Christmas...

An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly. *Gene Perret*

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Anon

When we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over.

George MacDonald

Age doesn't always bring wisdom.

Sometimes age comes alone. *Anon*

Nothing is often a good thing to say. *Will Durant*

Our children await Christmas presents like a politician getting election returns. *Marceline Cox*

The best baby-sitters, of course, are the baby's grandparents. You feel completely comfortable entrusting your baby to them for long periods, which is why most grandparents flee to the south coast. *Dave Barry*

(Continued on page 19)

Page 18

Advent Hope

We live in a world in which “bigger and better” define our expectations for much of life. We have come so enamoured by super-size, super-stars, and high-definition that we tend to overlook small things and their potential. But throughout the Scriptures, we find God usually works with humble beginnings and impossible situations.

Most of the Biblical heroes are frail and imperfect:

*Abraham, the coward who cannot believe the promise;

*Jacob, the cheat who struggles with everybody;

*Joseph, the immature and arrogant teen;

*Moses, the impatient murderer who cannot wait for God;

*Gideon, the cowardly Baal-worshipper;

*Samson, the womanising drunk;

*David, the power-abusing adulterer;

*Solomon, the unwise wise man;

*Hezekiah, the reforming kin who could not quite go far enough;

*Mary, a very young Jewish girl, coming from a small village located in a remote corner of a vast empire.

If God used all of them for such great work, it is likely that God is able to use us, inadequate, unwise, and too often lacking in faith. We best not, in self-righteousness, put limits on what God can do with the smallest things, the most unlikely of people, and the most hopeless of circumstances.

Listen to young children, recite the words of Handel's Messiah, look to the leaves falling in the crisp morning light – this is the wonder of Advent. While many today talk about the death of Jesus and the atonement of sins, the early Church celebrated the Resurrection and the hope it embodied.

Advent is a time of expectation for the Incarnation and Christ's return in glory – a past and a future orientation filled with hope!

Those who have suffered, and still hope to understand more about God, than those who have not had such experiences. Maybe, that is what hope is all about. A way of living, not just surviving, and living authentically amidst all life's problems with faith that continues to see possibility simply because God is God.

May our Advent be filled with wonder and hope?

©Erica Schotman Bonting

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’. For 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’.

©Parish Pump

The pilot

A Sunday school teacher was speaking to a group of four-year-olds about Jesus, Joseph, and Mary.

After the lesson, the kids were asked to draw a picture depicting their favourite part of the story.

The teacher then shared the pictures the children drew with the entire class. She got pictures of the baby Jesus in the manger with animals, she got pictures of the three wise men.

Then she got to a picture from Jimmy, a picture of an airplane with four people on it. She called Jimmy up to explain his picture.

She told Jimmy that she could see Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus, obviously in their “flight” to Egypt. She didn’t understand why there was another man on the plane.

Jimmy quickly explained, “That’s Pontius, the pilot”

©Erica Schotman Bonting

(Continued from page 18)

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around.
Anon

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild. *Welsh proverb*

For the young at heart

What happens when the Queen burps?

She gets a Royal pardon

My friend told me he had the body of a Greek god
I had to explain to him that Buddha was not Greek

A mother texts 'Hi son, what do IDK, LY and TTYL, mean? He texts back, I Don't Know, Love You, and Talk To You Later.

The mother texts him, 'Its okay, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister. Love you too, mum.

A question from another age

Over the Remembrance weekend, the BBC naturally carried many programs on the subject.

One of these programs mentioned Harry Patch, the last British survivor, who died in 2009 at the age of 111.

Harry, in 1998, agreed to take part in the program, *Veterans*.

In an excerpt, Harry admits there is one question he has wanted answered for the past 80 odd years.

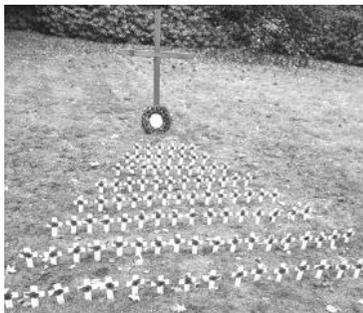
Looking into the camera with eyes that had once seen such horror, he asked,

'Following the Armistice, men sat around the table to discuss peace terms. Why could they not have sat around that table four years earlier?'

Remembrance Sunday 1918 -2018

This year, across the world, millions gathered to mark the centenary of the armistice that ended fighting along a Western Front that stretched from Pfetterhouse on the Swiss border to Nieuwpoort, on the Belgian channel coast.

Earlier in the week, on the lawn outside St Mary's Chapel, Weldam, Lub Gringhuis constructed a Garden of Remembrance (see photo). A simple wooden cross, styled on the grave markers that once dotted the Western Front, from which spread 100 small white crosses, each bearing a simple red poppy.



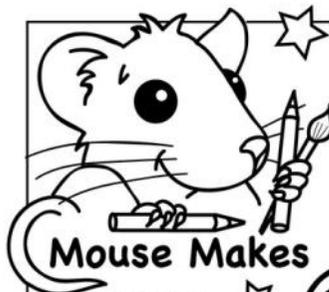
On Sunday morning, under a grey sky and a light drizzle, ninety people, of many nationalities and ethnicities, gathered before the crosses to hear our chaplain, Canon Brian Rodford begin the Remembrance Sunday Service. Philippa te West read the poem, 'The 'Wound in Time', written for the occasion by the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy. After which, the visiting choir, The Veluwe Cantorij, led the way into the chapel, where the rest of the service was held.

With angelic choral music, silver noted trumpet calls and traditional, solemn readings by Arthur Cass, the service was memorable. Many an eye was discretely dabbed dry.

For me personally, it was that moment when, during the Last Post, contrary to custom, Canon Rodford laid the flags of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom onto the altar carpet. There the two national symbols lay, crumpled, discarded, so reminiscent of the tens of thousands of bodies that once lay scattered across the Western Front.

Sadly, this year was the first time The 'Bond of Wapenbroeders were not able to mount the Honour Guard. The Dutch veterans, with numbers depleted by age and infirmity, retired last year. They were missed.

©Blair Charles



HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas
story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

When Mary gave birth to Jesus she wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. There were shepherds in a field nearby looking after their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. The angel said, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, I bring you good news! Today your Saviour has been born, He is Christ the Lord."

Then an army of angels appeared praising God. When the angels left the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, found Joseph and Mary and saw the baby lying in a manger.



Christmas Eve in 1914

This year around the world, the centenary of the Armistice and the guns falling silent along the Western Front, has been marked in countless ceremonies. It therefore seemed appropriate to mark the First Christmas of the First World War.

A time when troops on both sides laid down their arms and came together to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Stars were burning, burning bright
And all along the Western Front
Guns were lying still and quiet.
Men lay dozing in the trenches,
In the cold and in the dark,
And far away behind the lines
A village dog began to bark.

Some lay thinking of their families,
Some sang songs while others were
quiet

Rolling fags and playing brag
To while away that Christmas night.
But as they watched the German
trenches

Something moved in No Man's Land
And through the dark came a soldier
Carrying a white flag in his hand.

Then from both sides men came
running,

Crossing into No Man's Land,
Through the barbed-wire, mud and
shell holes,

Shyly stood there shaking hands.
Fritz brought out cigars and brandy,
Tommy brought corned beef and fags,
Stood there talking, singing,
laughing,

As the moon shone on No Man's
Land.

Christmas Day we all played football
In the mud of No Man's Land;
Tommy brought some Christmas
pudding,
Fritz brought out a German band.
When they beat us at football
We shared out all the grub and drink
And Fritz showed me a faded photo
Of a dark-haired girl back in Berlin.

For four days after no one fired,
Not one shot disturbed the night,
For old Fritz and Tommy Atkins
Both had lost the will to fight.

So they withdrew us from the
trenches,

Sent us far behind the lines,
Sent fresh troops to take our places
And told the guns "Prepare to fire".

And next night in 1914

Flares were burning, burning bright;
The message came along the
trenches

Over the top we're going tonight.
And the men stood waiting in the
trenches,

Looking out across our football park,
And all along the Western Front
The Christian guns began to bark.

©Michael Harding, Singer, Songwriter, Poet, Comedian, Broadcaster

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.