

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

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Next issue: First Sunday March 2022

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St Mary's Magazine



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

The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente



DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND





February 2022



An introduction to the new Chaplain, The Revd Jacqueline Williams

Revd Jacqueline Williams is the new Chaplain of St Mary's Anglican Church Twente.

Jacque is from South Africa. She has been involved in the church since she was very young, first in the choir and later as a youth and parish worker in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. She attended the Anglican Seminary in Grahamstown long before the Anglican Church accepted the ordination of women. She subsequently worked in Johannesburg as a researcher for the Institute for Contextual Theology and as Youth Director for the South African Council of Churches.

Revd Williams studied theology at the Union Theological Seminary attached to Columbia

University in New York. She also studied theology at the University of Amsterdam, where she started her PhD process. She lived in The Netherlands in the 1990s, working as an education and development facilitator for the city churches in Amsterdam.

When she returned to a democratic South Africa in the late 1990-ies, Jacque headed the Church Community Leadership Trust (CCLT), which focused on ethics and Integrity development. In the diocese of Johannesburg, she first served at Christ the King Sophiatown as a lay minister, then as a deacon at St Timothy's The Reeds (diocese of Pretoria) and St John the Divine in Belgravia. She was ordained to the priesthood while serving at St Margaret's in Bedfordview and took up full-time ministry in 2013, first at St Peter's in Auckland Park and lastly at St Mónica's in Midrand.

Jacque recently came back to The Netherlands with her Dutch husband Rob Calmer, to be part of the care for his ageing mother, who lives in Amsterdam. She is grateful that she can combine the care for her mother-law with her ministry at St Mary's Twente. Jacque has a deep passion for justice, especially concerning women. People who know her describe her as an initiator, consistent, hard-working, honest, a do-er with a natural curiosity for people.

In her sparse free time in South Africa, Jacque enjoyed wildlife photography and making jams and preserves from her garden in Observatory. This talent may benefit the fruit stall at the annual Castle Fair. She is delighted to be part of the diocese of Europe and excited to serve at St Mary's with such a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community.

St Mary's Chapel News



*With Valentine's Day
in mind...*

The Rules of Marriage

*Here are the real-
life answers from a
group of children:*

*How do you decide
who to marry?*

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

- Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.

- Kirsten, age 10

*What is the right
age to get married?*

23 is the best age because you'll have known the person FOREVER by then.

- Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married.

- Freddie, age 6

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Great News on the end of the Interregnum

On 20 January, an email arrived from Jeanet bearing the great news that the Reverend Jacqueline Wilson had been appointed as the new Chaplain of St Mary's Weldam. If you have already read the magazine's first page, you may already have that by now. The new Chaplain will be licensed by the Venerable Sam van Leer on the 6 February. A former Chaplain welcoming the new Chaplain to St Mary's will undoubtedly be an outstanding service. Especially after having had to struggle on through the pandemic without a priest.

Fortunately for St Mary's Chapel, with Simone Yallop as Lay Minister, secretary, and fount of Anglican lore and the two Wardens, Jeanet Luiten and Klaas Prins, the Chapel, the chaplaincy is already to resume regular services. Having served as a warden during a previous interregnum, I know how difficult it is to arrange for locums. With all the travel restrictions and Covid restrictions, at times, it must have been seen as an impossible task to provide a Sunday service.

But the Chapel kept going, both in physical reality and online. The latter is undoubtedly due to Lub Gringhuis, who recorded and distributed digital services every Sunday. Hans Siertsema, the treasurer, managed the finances and kept the chaplaincy solvent even with finances reduced to a trickle. And every Sunday, there at the back of the Chapel, I would see Louw Talstra playing the organ. No doubt I have missed some people, for which I apologise. Still, I offer the excuse that I am working remotely, very remote! With such a team, it is little wonder that St Mary's Chapel made it through the double whammy of pandemic and Interregnum.

Welcome to the Reverend Jacqueline Williams. You have a great congregation to guide and a dedicated team of people to help you.

A Word from Wales

Christmas at St Deiniol's Church began with a Christmas Tree Festival on 5 December. Fifteen beautifully decorated Christmas Trees adorned the church. Local businesses and organisations bought and bedecked trees, such as the local Post Office to the Hawarden Mother's Union. Other organisations rented the windowsills to decorate. The advertising was discrete and tasteful, resulting in an exquisitely decorated church. Maybe St Mary's could investigate the idea. However, I doubt there would be too many trees before the chaplain found herself sharing the pulpit with a tree!

Our Christmas Season began with the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 18:00 on a Sunday evening. The service started with the church in semi-darkness. Lit only by the congregation's candles, a candle for the organist, and another for the soloist. As the clergy processed in, the soprano soloist, a South African woman, sang *Once in Royal David's City*. Even in the flickering candlelight, it was possible to see many a person dabbing away their tears. The familiar accent in the singer's voice made it particularly poignant for me.

Another innovation that delighted me was that all the readers were chosen from the community served by the church. For example, a person called Lord Peter took the first reading. I later found out he had been the local MP for many years, and on retirement, had been elevated to the

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Magazine Payments

St. Mary's Magazine plays a valuable role in helping to keep the congregation informed on what is going on in their church and the chapel community. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the magazine, issued ten times a year, an annual donation of €15 will help to cover printing costs. If you cannot pick up your copy in the chapel and want to have it posted to you, we need to ask for an additional donation of €20 to cover postage.

Payments Due

With the start of the new year the call has to go out again for those people who receive a paper copy, to make their annual donation. During 2020, Lub Gringhuis took over the job of arranging the printing. With some skilful home printing and costing the magazine for the covered its costs. With Lub's skilled management and your prompt donations, the magazine will survive.

Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercessions, or who is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact one of the Churchwardens or the Chaplain, before the Service. Alternatively, if you want to have someone included in the intercessions you could contact the Intercessor via the Prayer Request Tool on the Chapel Website. The Chaplain, the Wardens and the Intercessor will simultaneously receive your message via this tool. The link below will take you directly to the Prayer Request.

<http://anglicanchurchtwente.com/home/service%20%26%20readings/prayers%20requests.html>

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How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

- Derrick, age 8

What do you think your Mum and Dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids.

- Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

- Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.

- Martin, age 10

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns.

- Craig, age 9

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When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich.

- Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be 18, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

- Kelvin, age 8

And the #1 Favourite is.....

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry.

- Ricky, age 10

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On how to survive a residential conference

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything.

Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless.

As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say no.' But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic, and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back - and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also - you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.

You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.



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No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but you will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

©Parish Pump

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House of Lords. He was still active in local affairs, hence his invitation to read. Another reader was the village shop owner, which included the Post Office.

The crib stood opposite the main West door in the centre cross-aisle. At St Mary's, I was used to the crib placed on a table in front of the altar. Here at St Deiniol's, the crib was big enough to hold several lambs. The figures inside were all more than 60cm tall. Beautiful, but there was too much detail. I thought that the Joseph depicted here was far too old for Mary.

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, the refreshments in the Tithe Barn were cancelled. However, after such a fantastic spiritual service, missing the physical refreshments was a small price to pay.

Instead of going to the Midnight Service, I attended a somewhat subdued Christmas Day service. No choir as they were all sung out from the previous evening. Likewise, the organist was the reserve, and only a curate led the service. For all that, I was so grateful to be able to attend church again.

Christmas 2020 had fallen amidst the plague, with no vaccines available and all churches closed. Confined within the Welsh borders and only allowed to travel 8 Km from home. Hospitals were overflowing, and the daily list of dead stifling celebration of the birth of Christ.

Christmas 2021 was so different. With ancient, beautiful churches open again, there was a new feeling of hope and joy. With Carols, prayer, and warm companionship, the people of Wales were free once again to celebrate Christ's birthday.

The fantastic news that St Mary's Weldam had a new chaplain came with the new year. Surely now we can now face 2022 and overcome whatever new challenges arise.

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Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

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Considering the introduction on Page 1 of this magazine, this seems to be appropriate

Report on the search for a new Vicar

From a church council: We are still looking for a suitable candidate, and sadly the Bible doesn't provide any role models whom we would really want in our church. For example:

Adam: Good man but had problems with his wife. Also, we hear that he and his wife enjoyed walking nude in the woods.

Noah: Former pastor of 120 years, yet with no converts. Also, prone to unrealistic building projects.

Abraham: Twice offered to share his own wife with another man.

Joseph: Obsessed with the meaning of dreams, plus he had a prison record.

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The Love of Wisdom of Natural Things

Some time ago a scientist was invited to speak at the Dewsbury Women's Institute. He spoke about his research on polymers, hoping that the women of this Yorkshire mill town would connect with his desire to develop new fibres.

One person in particular, a woman called Betty who had worked in a mill since the age of 15, listened as if her life depended on it, and peppered him with questions afterwards. She had always been interested in how things work, but until that day had not found anyone to answer her questions. Whenever she had asked about the processes that they were using in the mill, she was just told to get on with her job.

From the outside, science can seem a closed specialty, hemmed in by intimidating jargon. When McLeish described science as 'the love of wisdom of natural things', however, he realised he was opening a door. He was moved to see that Betty was not the only person who shed a tear when her questions were finally taken seriously, confirming that her enquiring mind was indeed probing in the right direction - only fifty years too late.

Hearing about people like Betty reminds me that science is a very natural activity for anyone to be involved in. McLeish is convinced that there is a future in 'science therapy'. In his book *Faith and Wisdom in Science*, where this story appears, he asks the question "If a reintroduction to the activity of representing both inner and outer worlds in paint, music and drama can help to heal minds, what hope might there be for a participation in a gentle and contemplative science in restoring a broken or misunderstood relationship with the physical world?"

This story inspired me to run a number of hands-on science activities with adult audiences in churches. I have extracted DNA from strawberries with a midweek group for older people, organised hands-on exhibits to liven up lecture or discussion events, and even had groups extracting DNA from their own cheek cells.

Every time I lead activities like these, I find that grown-ups are grateful for the opportunity to have a go at science themselves. I love helping church-based groups, in particular, to reconnect with science and celebrate what they find. Science is not just for children and professionals - it is for everyone to enjoy and explore the world God made.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

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The Christian faith of Denzel Washington

The American actor Denzel Washington, 66, mentioned his Christian faith in a recent interview with the New York Times.

Washington described himself as God-fearing and warned against the dangers of the digital age. He said: "The Bible says in the last days ... we'll be lovers of ourselves. The No. 1 photograph today is a selfie, 'Oh, me at the protest.' 'Follow me.' 'Listen to me.' ... We're living in a time where people are willing to do anything to get followed."

NYT Journalist Maureen Dowd said that during the interview, Washington encouraged her to read the Bible. He said: "You have to fill up that bucket every morning. It's rough out there." He went on: "If you don't have a spiritual anchor you'll be easily blown by the wind and you'll be led to depression."

Speaking recently at The Better Man Event conference in Florida, Washington said: "I hope that the words in my mouth and the meditation of my heart are pleasing in God's sight, but I'm human. I'm just like you... If you want to talk to someone, talk to the One that can do something about it."

Washington also said that before his 97-year-old mother died last year, he promised her he would "attempt to honour her and God by living the rest of my days in a way that would make her proud."

Washington has been married to Paulette Pearson for 38 years. With Archbishop Desmond Tutu officiating, he and his wife renewed their wedding vows in 1995 in South Africa.



Helen's electric chasuble was
the envy of everyone

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Moses: Modest, but a poor communicator, and even stuttered at times. Moreover, he had a temper, and there were rumours he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

David: Very promising leader, except that he wrote poetry, and then had an affair with his neighbour's wife.

Solomon: We suspect he was a bit of a wise guy, and anyway our vicarage would never hold all those wives.

Elijah: Prone to depression, and he set things on fire.

Deborah: Played the tambourine, so not at all suitable for us.

Jeremiah: An alarmist, always lamenting things. Plus, he buried his underwear outside.

Isaiah: Claimed to have seen angels flying in the church.

Jonah: Says God had him swallowed up by a great fish, and that later it spit him out on the shore near here because he was called to ministry. We hung up.

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Forthcoming Services

February 6 2022

10:30 Eucharist

Candlemas

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden

Klaas Prins

Intercessor:

Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Jenny List

Malachi 3, 1-5

Heleen Rauwerda

Hebrews 2, 14-end

Gospel

Luke 20,22-40

February 13 2022

10:30 Eucharist

3rd Sunday before Lent

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Anne Powell

Jeremiah 17, 5-10

Louw Talstra

1 Corinthians 15, 12-20

Gospel

Luke 6, 17-26

February 20 2022

10:30 Eucharist

2nd Sunday before Lent

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden

Klaas Prins

Intercessor:

Klaas Prins

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Vivian Reinders

Genesis 2, 4b-9, 15-end

Arthur Cass

Revelation Chapter 4

Gospel

Luke 8, 22-25

Forthcoming Services

February 27 2022

10:30 Eucharist

Next Sunday before Lent

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden
Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:
Dave Thomas

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Patrick Saridjan

Exodus 34, 29-end

Victor Pirenne

2 Corinthians 3, 12-4,2

Gospel

Luke 9. 28-36, 37-43a

March 2 2022

20:00

Ash Wednesday

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden
Klaas Prins

Intercessor:
Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Erica Schotman

Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17

Elizabeth v d Heide

2. Corinthians 5, 20b-6 10

Gospel

John 8. 1-11

March 6 2022

10:30 Eucharist

Lent 1

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:
Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor
Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Frances Gothard

Deuteronomy 26, 1-11

Jonathan de Groot

Romans 10, 8b-13

Gospel

Luke 4, 1-13

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John: Said he was a Baptist, but he doesn't dress like any Baptists we know. Has slept outside, eats a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

Peter: Too blue collar, and too impetuous. Had also been known to curse.

Paul: Powerful message, and people responded to him, but he had been known to preach all night. That would never do for us.

Judas: Seems to have been a steady plodder, with excellent connections. Knew how to handle money. We're inviting someone like him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

More church bulletin bloopers
The youth group has raised almost €500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin:

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A letter to Johanna

Dear Johanna,

Did you have a lovely Christmas time? Did the Covid virus not spoil your feast, and are you and your family still healthy? I still am (knock, knock, knock). And now, all the Christmas decorations will have another eleven months vacation in the darkness of the attic. I acceded to having them there before the 6th of January. My mother used to say that all signs of Christmas should be gone by that day. So Herod, the wicked King of Judea, could not find where the child Jesus was born. He tracked the three Wise Men, but they left the same day they visited the little baby, warning Maria and Joseph before they left. The couple fled with their baby to Egypt.

I always thought this a lovely story and a good reason for storing away all the coloured and shiny Christmas items on time before dealing with the dark January days.

But the Christian Church has chosen another day for ending the Christmas season, and that is the 2nd of February. The English call that day Candlemas, while the Dutch name is Lichtmis. It is the day Jesus was brought to the temple to be dedicated to God.

When I lived in America, I was surprised to discover that they start the Christmas season the day after Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November. And you won't believe it, the Christmas season does go on till deep in February. At the time, I was singing as a soprano in a professional double quartet. Before Christmas, we performed for expensive companies like Apple during their festive Christmas receptions and dinners.

They paid us very well. (We donated the money to a children's hospital in San Francisco). In January and February, we gave free performances in the hospitals and elderly homes of the less fortunate. Or better to say, the poor. That was so rewarding! We were not allowed to be in the rooms, so we performed in the hallway before open doors where people were. The people often had tears in their eyes, and I will never forget the time we sang for two Mexican men, one in a wheelchair, the other was his brother. They asked us if we could sing O Holy Night. It was not in our repertoire, but we did sing the song. The brother fell on his knees and thanked God, and his crippled sibling cried: they said it was as if they were for a moment in heaven.

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In some regions of the Netherland, people eat pancakes with bacon on the 2nd of February. They do the same thing on the 24th of December.

In the old days, the servants were allowed to go to their families for one day. Before bikes and automobiles were invented, they had to walk, sometimes for hours. They received from the mistress pancakes to eat on their way home, wrapped in a cotton towel.

I thought this was a wonderful tradition. Every Christmas Eve, I am still eating pancakes with bacon, sausage and syrup.

Dear friend, in my following letter I will tell you more about the habits and traditions of the Anglican Church. Stay healthy and in good spirits, and give greetings to your husband and children from me.

Your friend

Erica

©Erica Schotman Bonting



The "Mrs Miniver Hymn"

I regarded Mrs Miniver as one of the best movies I had ever seen in my twenties. I expect many others will remember this wartime film with as much affection as I do. The film tells the story of a lady (Mrs Miniver) whose only son is killed as a pilot in the Battle of Britain. The parish church is destroyed in an air raid, and the entire village is involved.

What I did not know then was that the author of the best-selling novel (on which the film was based) would also be the author of one of my best-loved hymns. It was called the 'All-day hymn' and was often sung at the school assembly. Now I am glad to say the hymn, *Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy*, has found its way into general use in churches of all denominations everywhere

The author used the pen name Jan Struther - her family name was Anstruther, and she was born in London and went to live at Playden, near Rye. At one time, she was on the Editorial Board of *The Times*. A great friend of Dr Percy Dearmer, responsible for creating the hymnal *Songs of Praise* (1931), composed this lovely hymn deliberately at his request to fit the old folk tune 'Slane', to which it is sung universally. She married a Polish airman and became Mrs Joyce Placzek.

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'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is invited to join in the lay ministry programme. It requires only a minimal amount of training and time: six weekly classes of about 200 hours, each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert, all in a covered dish.

Advert for a church jumble sale: 'We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.'

Called

An ineffective vicar was asked by his exasperated bishop what had first prompted him to even enter the ministry.

"I was called," the vicar replied simply.

"Are you sure," pondered the bishop, "that it was not some other voice you heard?"

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Church Bulletins

*They're Back!
Those wonderful
Church Bulletins!
Thank God for
the church ladies
with typewriters.
These sentences
actually appeared
in church
bulletins or were
announced at
church services:*

Scouts are saving
aluminium cans,
bottles and
other items to
be recycled.
Proceeds will be
used to cripple
children.

The sermon this
morning:
'Jesus Walks on
the Water.' The
sermon tonight:
'Searching for
Jesus.'

Ladies, don't
forget the
rummage sale.
It's a chance to
get rid of those
things not worth
keeping around
the house. Bring
your husbands.

Miss Charlene
Mason sang
'I will not pass
this way again,'
giving obvious
pleasure to the
congregation.

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Another of her hymns, 'When Mary brought her Treasure,' is lovely for Candlemas Day Service.

No eye of man could measure
The joy upon her face.
He was but six weeks old,
Her plaything and her pleasure,
Her silver and her gold.

When the child grew to become the carpenter of Nazareth,
our author again has just the right words:

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hand were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

And Jan Struther needed all the strength she could get, for
cancer struck her down in middle age. Indeed, she was only
52 when she died in America in 1953. In the light of this,
the closing lines of the 'All-day hymn' take on an added
poignancy:

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

The Rev Canon Peter Harvey



NUNC DIMITTIS

Waiting is a common human experience. Our lives are made
up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting
requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness,
'They also serve who only stand and wait' as he wondered
what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had
gone.

In this month's painting of the 'Presentation of Christ',
Simeon had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had
been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and
dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the
holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders. He clung to the
hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life
with his people. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring
this about. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning,
just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the
Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn
son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the

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new-born child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.

Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God. It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist later. The aged priest and the new-born babe impresses us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half-closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open.

As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 paintings covering the span of years.

In this final painting, the years have moved on as we see Simeon mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half-closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an end so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step out together on a new journey?

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Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall.

Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

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Preparing for Lent

The need of the world is to listen to God.

- Albert Einstein

A religion that does not begin with repentance is certain to end there, perhaps too late.

- Anon

You cannot starve a man who is feeding on God's promises.

- Anon

Time spent on the knees in prayer will do more to remedy heart strain and nerve worry than anything else. - G D Stewart

If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt Him less.

- C E Jefferson

The Bible has a great deal to say about suffering, and most of it is encouraging. - A W Tozer

Some people treat God as they do a lawyer; they go to Him only when they are in

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February

First Day of February Brigid of Ireland, compassion and love

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her 'Lives', written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and became a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bathwater to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least 19 ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.

The Second Day of February: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is precisely 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times, 40 days old was a significant age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Like all good Jewish mothers, Mary went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, as a new mother, she was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of

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blessing the year's supply of candles for the Church on this day - hence Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Of course, Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis mainly was used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

Fourteenth Day of February: Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewed with lace, cupids, and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any apparent connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time, the link was assumed to be because the birds are supposed to pair on these saints' day -14th February. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia, it was a widespread custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the celebrations. Modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine. Still, since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.



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trouble.

- Anon

The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, and the self-righteous cannot pray.

- L Ravenhill

We talk about heaven being so far away.

Yet it is within speaking distance to those who belong there.

- D L Moody

How is it that nobody has dreamed up any moral advances since Christ's teaching? What was there in His heredity and His environment to account for this unique teacher, and the remarkable fact that no greater has ever looked like emerging?

- Michael Green

The yearning of man's heart is homesickness for God.

- Anon

Preparing for Valentines Day!

Marriage requires falling in love many times - always with the same person.

Marriage has three states:
cooing, wedding, and billing.



Love

*He held her close in his arms' embrace,
Their eyes and their lips did meet,
He looked down into her lovely face,
And her heart did faster beat...*

*They went to the kirk an it came the day,
And the book the priest did take;
He in his kilt was so bright and gay
As his promise he did make.*

*She stood at his side so white and fair,
Her white fingers fair to give,
The priest handfasted them then and there,
And he blessed them long to live.*

*O God give the joy and God the love
To those who are lovers true,
Shed down benediction from above
As in one are joined the two.*

From Prayers of the Western Highlanders

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.*

