

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

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January 2023

Next issue: First Sunday February 2023

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St Mary's Magazine



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The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND





December 2022 & January 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

At our chaplaincy's Quiet Day on 5th November, we prepared ourselves as a community of Christ in Twente for the new Church year. We did so by reflecting on the Lectionary, the structure of references which guides our readings from Scripture throughout the Church year.

The aim was to grow awareness among us of the Lectionary's place in the life of the Church and of ourselves as People of The Way. Our Lectionary provides a way for us to hear God's Word in our ordinary life, to encounter Christ - the Living Word - and to walk with Christ through the year. It is intrinsically linked to the Church year, which starts on Advent Sunday.

During Advent, which starts four Sundays before Christmas, our daily living as Christians is rooted in the Spirit of expectant waiting. Like waiting to exhale. Scripture tells us how we wait:

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall rise up like wings on eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not grow faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

This text from Isaiah informs us that all our waiting is towards a perfect and gracious execution of God's purpose for us. On the one hand, remembering that God has physically entered into our midst in the form and person of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the other hand, awaiting the Second coming of our Lord in faith and with great expectation. The Advent season creates expectations.

The idea of an active period of waiting and anticipation throughout the Old Testament is linked to the coming of the Messiah. Not necessarily connected with remembrance of personal and individual sins, but rather a context of oppression, exploitation and injustice, the longing for freedom from the systemic evil of the world, expressed in evil empires and tyrants. We see this theme also in the New Testament when Paul speaks of "all creation groans for its redemption as we witness the evil that so dominates our world".

St Mary's Chapel News



Santa

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

Christmas card

Richard, my husband, and I had a hectic Christmas holiday schedule involving work, care of parents, driving of teenagers, shopping, and all the required doings of the season. Running out of time, I asked a local printer to simply print our name on our Christmas cards, to save me signing each one.

Soon we started getting cards from friends signed 'The Modest Morrisons', 'The Clever Clarks', and 'The Successful Smiths'. This baffled me until I looked again at our card. I had posted out a hundred cards neatly imprinted with 'Happy Holidays from the Rich Armstrongs'.

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ALL WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022

at St. Mary's Chapel, Diepenheimseweg 102, Weldam Goor.

Festive service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be Sunday December 11th - 10:30 hrs followed by our little Christmas Market, Mulled wine and Hot Chocolate will be served afterwards.

Christmas Eve, December 24th - 16:00 hrs Children's Service. Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Midnight Service December 24th – 22:30 hrs.

Christmas Day Service December 25th - 10:30 hrs Holy Eucharist

We would love you to join us and wish you a **Happy Christmas**

Anglican Church Twente

Dear Friends of St. Mary's

At the 7th December I intend to move to Coevorden in Drenthe.

I am moving to live near my children again. It is such a pity that I have to leave you all. However, I will come occasionally, (with Daniël), to the Sunday services.

And you will all stay in my prayers. I have had a lovely time at St. Mary's and I have many good memories.

God bless you all!

Theda Gort Ten Barge

(Theda's new address details are with Simone Yallop, Chaplaincy Council Secretary)

A Word From Wales

Reading the above message from Theda made me realise how much we still miss St Mary's Weldam. We are enjoying St Deiniol's Church but are still settling in.

And the church is enormous in comparison to the Chapel. I feel well-exercised after walking up to the altar for communion and then back to my pew. I say my pew, as I have found a bench with a radiator

behind it. Big churches are beautiful, but in winter, they are cold. Visiting St Deiniol's in the days before the invention of central heating must have been challenging!

On Saturday, we went to a book sale held in the Tithe Barn (the church hall). There was a £3 per person entrance fee, but that also gave you six raffle tickets and a cup of tea or coffee. Oh, and as many biscuits as you could munch without embarrassment. Once we had bought two bags of books, we shared a table with another couple. They each spoke with a different regional accent. I'm not good with British regional accents. Marilyn had to do some discrete translations for me. As I said, we are still settling in.

In closing, I wish you all a Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda. (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)

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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The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Another child ventured: "Verge?"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

Good home

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

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Christmas entertaining

Inviting a number of people to come and stay with you over the Christmas holidays is a lot like living in California: if you find a fault, don't dwell on it!

Lord's Prayer, updated

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. Then she implored: "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us some e-mail."

US elections

Edward Hale, while chaplain of the U.S. Senate, was once asked if he prayed for the senators. He quickly replied,

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

On giving the after-dinner speech

My dear Nephew Darren

I have been slightly surprised that in your ministry so far, you have never been asked to give an after-dinner speech. Now you have delivered your first one, I can understand why. Speeches after any dinner come at the point where stomachs are dealing with a little too much food and brains with about the same quantity of wine. They should be short and witty; yours was neither.

An hour-long speech on the Herodians and Second Temple Judaism at the time of the birth of Christ was not quite what we had expected. I applauded your enthusiasm, but I was the only one; the rest of them were asleep. Long after you had left, the catering staff gently vacuumed the carpets around the audience, and it was only when the night security guard arrived that the last diners were woken and politely sent home. I suspect you will have put many marriages under strain as husbands, returning home in the early hours of the morning, had to explain to wives why they were so late. Their truthful answers would have been unbelievable.

When the head waiter appeared in a dressing gown and started placing chairs on tables, even you must have suspected that hints were being dropped and I have never heard of a hotel manager interrupting a speech to place his keys on the top table and asking if the last person to leave would kindly lock the main door.

I know that your clerical attire is more usually T-shirt and jeans, but borrowing the curate's dinner suit from your next-door parish was also not a good idea. He is a foot taller and several stones heavier than you. The result was quite worrying - several people wondered if you had just recovered from some dreadful disease that had made you shrink.

In the light of your qualified success, thank you for offering to come to repeat your speech after our annual Christmas dinner, but no thank you. The verger's son wants to share with us how many potholes he has counted in and around the town, and that should be most interesting.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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While the church celebrates God's breaking into history in the Incarnation and anticipates a future fulfilment to that history. It also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbour as yourself." We are, therefore, constantly waiting, keeping still long enough, to effortlessly and graciously rise up like eagles to do good and ensure justice is served for the Kingdom of God to be manifested in our midst.

After Advent, church life is in the Christmas Season, from the 25th December to the day before the Epiphany of our Lord, the 6th January. The focus is on God with us, God taking human form in Jesus Christ, the baby of Bethlehem. Fully entering the lived experience of humanity. An amazing event, one of the most significant events in human history and it starts with a vulnerable baby. Just imagine God having to be nurtured by mere human beings! Totally dependent on the love and care of a human family and community. If this does not speak to the importance of human families, nothing will.

They are an extraordinary family. Jesus was born into a family with issues. His mother, who could not have been more than 16 years, pregnant, but not from the man she was engaged to. Her partner willing to stop the relationship without making a fuss or creating a scandal. However, a God encounter, through an angel, made him understand the incredible privilege of taking responsibility for this family.

As we pray for love, justice and peace for the world these days, let us wait long enough until we can rise like eagles and allow the spirit of God to take us to our next destination of beginnings and endings.

Yours in Christ as always,
Revd Jacque



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"No. After getting to know the senators, I pray for the people."

Some observations 'on Christmas ...

I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Christ has outlasted the empire that crucified Him 19 centuries ago. He will outlast the nations who deny Him now. - Anon

We know how God would act if He were in our place - He has been in our place.

- A W Tozer

Christ is the great central fact in the world's history. To Him everything looks forward or backward. All the lines of history converge upon Him.

- C H Spurgeon

The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding.

- Martin Luther

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Church officials

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel demanded.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two big men standing by the door and glaring at you? They're hushers."

Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for

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Shoebboxes project 2022

Like most autumns in previous years, St. Mary's has participated in the Schoenendoos Actie (Shoebboxes project) organized by GAiN. It was again a success in which quite a number of our congregation participated. I started the preparations in Spring 2022 by asking some shoe sellers in Haaksbergen and Ahaus if they would be so kind as to provide me with shoeboxes, size "Summer collection 2022". These boxes are the correct size proposed by the organizing GAiN project.

I received instructions on how to go ahead with the boxes and took them to our Chapel on the Sunday two weeks before the collection date. A bit late, maybe. Nevertheless, of all 21 Shoebboxes handed out to anyone who wanted to participate, 20 did make it back in time for the delivery to the collection point in Ambt-Delden. The one that did not make it may be very early next year.



On Monday, November 7th, Jeanet and I took all the boxes. Quite a number were already brought in by other churches and schools. I did ask the person in charge how many boxes arrived last year, and he told me that over 9.000 boxes were delivered to his collection point in 2021.

It was a good feeling to see how many of St. Mary's congregation were still willing to spend time and money preparing a well-filled shoebox. A gift that may well bring a

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smile or a laugh to a child's face who is living in a miserable condition far away from home.

On behalf of the GAIN project, I would like to thank everyone who did take part and made this year's Schoenendoos Actie a success.
©Lub Gringhuis



6th December: What's in a (Christmas) Name?

What do your family call him, that cheerful old man in a red robe and floppy hat who pops up everywhere at Christmas? Sometimes he's Father Christmas, sometimes Santa Claus, and in parts of Europe he's Saint Nicholas. That's his real name, abbreviated to 'Santa Claus' by Brits and Americans who don't like to follow the Europeans, and then turned into a more homely, cuddly kind of name for the children. Whatever he's called, his function is the same - delivering presents to children at Christmas.

The first St Nicholas was bishop of Myra, in the country we now call Turkey, in the fourth century. He was known as the friend of the poor, and especially poor or abused children. At (or just before) Christmas he went around handing out presents to them, as well as rescuing some from dreadful circumstances. The red robe our modern Santa Claus wears may be a vague representation of a bishop's garment, and the floppy hat is his mitre!

The original good bishop from 1600 years ago is remembered by the Church on 6th December, and the lucky children in Belgium and the Netherlands get their presents then.

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Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Presents

December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist on getting him a shirt, others a pair of socks. But the argument always ends in a tie.

Seasonal smiles

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

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Forthcoming Services

December 4 2022

10:30 Eucharist		Advent 2
Officiant and Preacher	Lay Minister Simone Yallop	
Duty Warden Klaas Prins	Intercessor: Joyce Wigboldus	
Sidesperson/Reader		Readings
Louw Talstra		Isaiah 11 1-10
Eliza Hannon		Romans 15 4-13
Gospel		Matthew 3 1-12

December 11 2022

10.30 Lessons and Carols		Advent 3
Celebrant and Preacher	Rev. Jacqueline Williams	
Duty Warden Caroline Siertsema	Intercessor: Caroline Siertsema	
Sidesperson/Reader		Readings
	The Wardens will invite members of the congregation to read the lessons	

December 18 2022

10:30 Eucharist		Advent 4
Celebrant and Preacher	Rev. Jacqueline Williams	
Duty Warden Klaas Prins	Intercessor: Lea Meinders	
Sidesperson/Reader		Readings
Erick Wanjala		Isaiah 7, 10-16
Elisabeth v d Heijden		Romans 1, 1-7
Gospel		Matthew 1, 18 to end

Forthcoming Services

December 24 Children's Service
16.00 Birthday Cake for Jesus



December 24 2022

22:30 Eucharist

Christmas Eve

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden
Klaas Prins

Intercessor:
Klaas Prins

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Jan de Beij

Isaiah 9, 2 - 7

Jeanet Luiten

Titus 2, 11-14

Gospel

Luke 2, 1-14 {15-20}

December 25 2022

10:30 Eucharist

Christmas Morning

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden
Caroline Siertsema

Intercessor:
Klaas Prins

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Caroline Siertsema

Isaiah 62, 6-end

Jenny List

Titus 3, 4-7

Gospel

Luke 2, {1-7} 8-20

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A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"

"What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be when the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter. - Anon.

New Year's Eve is coming soon...

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. - E K Kruger

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic piglet under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the

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90 years of broadcasting the Royal Christmas Messages

This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised - live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year - except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary *Royal Family*, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.

©Tim Lenton, Parish Pump

25th December: Christmas throughout the Christian world

For nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at His 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace.

Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for 12 days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6th January).

Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25th December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7th January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

On 6th January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.

Orthodox Christians use this day to recall the baptism of Jesus as a grown man. The significance of Jesus being baptised was that He identified Himself with human beings in all their need. They mark the day by praying for God's blessing on rivers, wells, and water sources.

Christmas has never been just an escapist festival for Christians. Those who treat it seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy.

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sound achieved by
the pig. - Alfred
Hitchcock.

Bring not a
bagpipe to a man
in trouble. -
Jonathan Swift.

Cold

It was so cold last
night, the
thermometer
knocked on the
door and wanted
to come in.

Pay for it

Have you noticed?
By the time you
have paid off your
holiday, it is time
to think about
Christmas
presents.

Early

You might as well
do your Christmas
hinting early.

Really?

From a church
magazine in
Hampshire:
We badly need
more sinners for
our choir.

Fox

I called the
RSPCA today to
report I had just
found a suitcase
in the woods
containing a fox
and four cubs.
"That's terrible,"
she said. "Are
they moving?"

"I'm not sure, to
be honest," I
replied, "But that
would explain the
suitcase."

Rumour Has It

A man flying a hot air balloon suddenly realizes he's lost. He reduces his height and spots a man down below.

He lowers the balloon further and shouts to get directions.

"Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?"

The man replies, "Yes. You're in a hot air balloon, hovering 10 metres above this field."

"You must work in IT," says the balloonist.

"I do," replies the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is technically correct, but it's of no use to anyone."

The man below retorts, "You must work in management."

"I do," replies the balloonist. "How did you know?"

"Well," says the

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The Crow

A Crow was absolutely satisfied with life. But one day he saw a swan...

This swan is so white and I am so black... crow thought. The swan must be the happiest bird in the world. He expressed his thoughts to the swan.

"Actually" the swan replied, "I was feeling the happiest bird around until I saw a parrot, which has two colours. I now think the parrot is the happiest bird in creation."

The crow then approached the parrot. The parrot explained, "I lived a very happy life - until I saw a peacock. I have only two colours, but the peacock has multiple colours."

The crow then visited a peacock in the zoo and saw hundreds had gathered to see him. After the people had left, the crow approached the peacock....

"Dear peacock, you are so beautiful. Every day, hundreds of people come to see you. When people see me, they immediately shoo me away. I think you are the happiest bird on the planet."

The peacock replied, "I always thought I was the most beautiful and happiest bird on the planet. But because of my beauty I am entrapped in this zoo. I have examined the zoo very carefully, and I have realised that the crow is the only bird not kept in a cage. So for the past few days I have been thinking that if I were a crow, I could happily roam everywhere.

That is our problem too. We make unnecessary comparisons with others and become sad. We don't value what God has given us. This all leads to a vicious cycle of unhappiness. Value the things God has given us. Learn the secret of being happy by discarding the comparisons that lead only to unhappiness.

©Kevin Adams

Why begin at Midnight with Holy Communion?

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight - a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the real hour of His birth.

Certainly, in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its "domestic convenience" in 1947: "for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time." (So things don't change, then!)

©Parish Pump

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The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God.

And two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.

This is from: https://christianity.org.uk/christmas-throughout-the-christian-world/#.W9LI_xNKhsM

The History of Christmas

The Bible does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. In the third century it was suggested that Jesus was conceived at the Spring equinox, 25th March, popularising the belief that He was born nine months later on 25th December. John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople, encouraged Christians worldwide to make Christmas a holy day in about 400.

In the early Middle Ages, Christians celebrated a series of midwinter holy days. Epiphany (which recalls the visit to the infant Jesus of the wise men bearing gifts) was the climax of 12 days of Christmas, beginning on 25th December. The Emperor Charlemagne chose 25th December for his coronation in 800, and the prominence of Christmas Day rose. In England, William the Conqueror also chose 25th December for his coronation in 1066, and the date became a fixture both for religious observance and feasting.

Cooking a boar was a common feature of mediaeval Christmas feasts, and singing carols accompanied it. Writers of the time lament the fact that the true significance of Christmas was being lost because of partying. They condemn the rise of 'misrule' - drunken dancing and promiscuity. The day was a public holiday, and traditions of bringing evergreen foliage into the house and the exchange of gifts (usually on Epiphany) date from this time.

In the 17th century the rise of new Protestant denominations led to a rejection of many celebrations that were associated with Catholic Christianity. Christmas was one of them. After the execution of Charles I, England's Puritan rulers made the celebration of Christmas illegal for 14 years. The restoration of Charles II ended the ban, but religious leaders continued to discourage excess, especially in Scotland. In Western Europe (but not worldwide) the day for exchanging gifts changed from Epiphany (6th January) to Christmas Day.

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man, "you don't know where you are or where you going, but you expect me to be able to help. You're in the same position you were before we met, but now it's my fault."

Punishing Puns

How does an attorney sleep? First he lies on one side, then he lies on the other side.

What is the difference between a hippo and a zippo. One is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter.

Heard about the new restaurant called Karma? There's no menu, you get what you deserve.

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind. A maybe

Which country's capital has the fastest growing population? Ireland. Every day its Dublin.

Need an Ark? I Noah guy.



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Miscellaneous observations on daily life...

Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive or dead, try missing a couple of mortgage payments.

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog to worship him and a cat to ignore him.

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

I ate a kid's meal at McDonald's today. His mum got really angry.

Dear Lord, please keep your arm around my shoulder -- and your hand over my mouth.

Thingamajigs and Whatchamacallits

As we age we lose our brain, ideas and thoughts drop through the drain. Like a tap lets the water out the years create a mental drought.

Names of peoples are the first to go, although their names we well know. "The other day I saw...um...you recall he helped to fix our basement wall."

Next to go are places we've been, the towns and parks we vacationed in. "You remember that huge totem pole? Was it Durango or Jackson's hole?"

Sometimes names of objects we use every day vacate our mind, refuse to stay. "What is the name of that bed or sofa on which I sit? You know what I mean, the whatchamacallit?"

We start a repair but soon have to stop, A tool is missing from the shop. "It's got a thingy on the end and a handle real big. I'm sure you've seen it, oh, drats, that thingamajig."

I run an errand to the store, but forgot why once out the door. My wife says the pills they are to blame, but what does she know? What's her name?

Jerry Robbins



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



(Continued on page 17)

By the 1820s, the significance of Christmas was declining. Charles Dickens was one of several writers who sought to restore it. His novel *A Christmas Carol* was significant in reviving merriment during the festival. He emphasised charity and family reunions, alongside religious observance. Christmas trees, paper chains, cards and many well-known carols date from this time. So did the tradition of Boxing Day, on 26th December, when tradesmen who had given reliable service during the year would collect 'boxes' of money or gifts from their customers.

In Europe Santa Claus is the figure associated with the bringing of gifts. Santa Claus is a shortening of the name of Saint Nicholas, who was a Christian bishop in the fourth century in present-day Turkey. He was particularly noted for his care for children and for his generosity to the poor. By the Middle Ages his appearance, in red bishop's robes and a mitre, was adored in the Netherlands and familiar across Europe.

Father Christmas dates from 17th century England, where he was a secular figure of good cheer (more associated with drunkenness than gifts). The transformation of Santa Claus into today's Father Christmas started in New York in the 1880s, where his red robes and white beard became potent advertising symbols. In some countries (such as Latin America and Eastern Europe) the tradition attempts to combine the secular and religious elements by holding that Santa Claus makes children's presents and then gives them to the baby Jesus to distribute.

From: <https://christianity.org.uk/the-history-of-christmas/#.W9LmchNKhsM>

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 he 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.

(Continued from page 16)

Father John and His Young Parishioner

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England.

Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father John.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'

CHRISTMAS

Carols sound throughout the land
Heralding a special birth
Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm
Immanuel comes to bless the earth.

So in the town of Bethlehem
The Saviour Jesus gently lies,
Mary rocks the tiny child
As angels serenade the skies.

Shepherds told the awesome story
Divinity will now reside
As He who ruled in Heaven above
Yet Lord of all comes as a child.

By Megan Carter



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.