

**Volume 20 Issue 10 December 2024/
January 2025**

Services held every
Sunday morning
10:30 am

Next issue: First Sunday February 2025

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The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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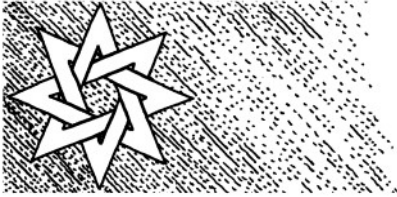
Louw Talstra

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Karel Sloomstra





December 2024 & January 2025

Dear Saints,

We thank God for the positive and joyful note we are able to end this Church year, with the Baptisms of Nelly and Mali here at St Mary's and the Confirmations of Nelly and Henny in Rotterdam at the end of November.

In the Gospel reading on the Feast of Christ our Sovereign, Christ the King, among other things, Jesus has the following to say about his Realm:

"My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this, I was born, and for this, I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

So where is this kingdom? How do we know we are part of it? St Paul reminds us in the letter to Romans 14:17 that "Christ's kingdom is unlike any on this earth: "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking *but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*". In Peter's first letter, we are taught that *God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.*

Jesus' kingdom, located where he is, is characterised not by oppression or warfare but by a call to truth and redemption. Jesus invites all of us to partake in this transformative truth He embodies: "I am the way, the truth, and the life Jesus says." It is, therefore, this truth that Jesus' followers hear and become in this world.

On Sunday, Advent Sunday, we start our new Church year, anticipating Christ's return as he has promised and preparing for our celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, God with us, at Christmas. These are very active times in the life of our Chaplaincy.

We celebrate the four Advent Sundays (1 December, 8 December, 15 December, and 22 December), with Sunday, 15 December, being our Annual Advent Carol Service and the opening of our Advent/Christmas market. On Sunday, 22 December, we have a Children's Christmas Service in the afternoon; on Tuesday,

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Actie Schoenendoos/ Action Shoebox



How to Cook a Turkey



- 1: Buy a turkey
- 2: Have a glass of wine
- 3: Stuff turkey
- 4: Have a glass of wine
- 5: Put turkey in oven
- 6: Relax and have a glass of wine
- 7: Turk the bastey
- 8: Wine of glass another get
- 9: Hunt for meat thermometer
- 10 Glass yourself another pour of wine
- 11 Bake the wine for 4 hours
- 12 Take the oven out of the turkey
- 13 Tet the sable
- 14 Grab another wottle of bine
- 15 Turk the carvey!

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas.

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Once again, our congregation has taken part in the yearly Actie Schoenendoos. This year, 28 boxes were provided to take home and filled with little presents for children in troubled areas of our world. Shortly before Christmas, the returned boxes are being sent to children in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Ukraine. Children who live in poverty or stressful situations may feel special for a (short) while receiving your carefully assembled shoebox with presents, toys, writing and drawing utensils, and maybe some toiletry.

Our Actie Schoenendoos/ Action Shoebox blends with schools, churches and associations collected through our local Collection Centre. This Centre is one of about 60 other local area collection points taking care of all the shoeboxes to be handled and sent to all those children. Last year our shoeboxes were part of 44.682 boxes collected in the Netherlands that were delivered to Moldova, Ukraine, Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Lesbos, Sierra Leone, Togo and Romania.

Twenty-two of twenty-eight supplied boxes were handed in for transport to the Collection Centre in our local area. Twenty boxes made it on time this year. Two boxes were already available as late entries from last year's action. One box was hand-carried to the Collection Centre by one of our Church Members, who could not hand in the box by the latest date. So, if you were late handing in your shoebox, keep hold of it for next year, and you could be one of the first to deliver your box.

Wrapped in colourful wrapping paper, Actie Schoenendoos/ Action Shoebox is a simple and practical gesture of compassion. It requires a bit of imagination to imagine what the boy or girl in a troubled spot of the world—with the age "target" group you want to surprise—would like. Acting together as St. Mary's Congregation for needy children also connects congregation members.

I want to thank everyone who made this year's Action a success again.

Lub Gringhuis.



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Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?"

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

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

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

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Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with.

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

Christmas carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing.

A man answered the door of one house and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol.

Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon, tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers' sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. \

One caroller ventured: "I understand - our singing reminds

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The Rectory St James the Least of All

On why Carol Services are so dangerous

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman - or more likely a double glazing salesman - you will be remembered as "the Curate who offended Mrs Smith."

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on - and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime - and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on "Here endeth", "This is the Word of the Lord", and "Thanks be to God", are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what



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he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek - apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own - and then take Christmas off.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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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you of your happy childhood Christmases."

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

Christmas play

The Sunday School Christmas play was in full swing when the teacher prompted: "And what was it that guided the Wise Men from the East?" Right on cue, the pre-schoolers turned their large white letters to face the audience. However, the last four children in the lineup had somehow reversed their sequence, and so the answer was:

C H R I S T M A S
R A T S.

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange."

The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

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Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven, my son would inevitably begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas.

Sure enough, one day near Christmas, he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy."

Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be.

"Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me

I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey - a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,

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24 December, our Midnight Mass; and on Wednesday, 25 December, the feast of Christ's birth itself: Christmas Day.

We do all this as those who embody the truth of God's purpose with Christ. Our lives in Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, bear witness to God's Kingdom of truth and redemption. We invite the world to share in this life that anticipates the fullness of our joy in God's redeeming power present in the world.

The Sunday after Christmas, we remember the Holy Innocents, the children who were killed by the authorities who wanted to ensure that the newborn Christ, who was prophesied to be the new "king", had no chance of survival. Amid our joy for the coming of Christ, we think of the children who die today at the hands of modern "kings" through their acts of violence, warfare and greed for power.

I will be on leave from 27 December until 24 January 2025. During my absence, our Sunday Services will be led by our Reader and visiting clergy.

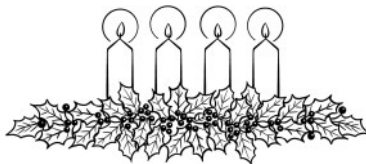
The new year 2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the construction of the Nicene Creed. Every week, we affirm our faith by reciting one of the creeds during our Sunday Worship. To celebrate the anniversary of the Nicene Creed, we will punctuate a section of the Creed each month of the year and make it part of our Lenten programme.

In the daily prayer that Christ taught us, we praise God by saying God's name is holy and ask that God's kingdom come. We ask that we may be part of the Kingdom of truth and redemption, of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, as we are called to abide in God by abiding in love for ourselves and our neighbours as ourselves.

I am wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Yours in Christ as always,

Revd Jacque



The Challenges of Christmas

Christmas is a great time of year, but it's not without its challenges! After one family had put up 250,000 Christmas lights outside, they didn't dare boil a kettle for fear of blowing the system!

The challenge of over-indulging

We all remember the episode of The Vicar of Dibley where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when we usually eat and drink far too much, with the average person gaining six pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight but losing what weighs us down. *'Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.'* (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

The challenge of overspending

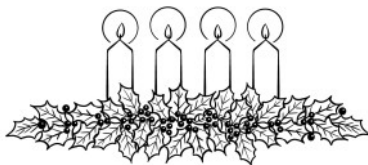
In the rush to buy Christmas cards, a woman bought a pack of 50 identical cards. Without reading the verse, she hastily signed and sent them off, but for one. A few days later, she read the message: 'This card is just to say a little gift is on its way.' Christmas is not about getting into debt, but God is getting us out of debt. He spent exactly what was needed on the first Christmas night: *'You are to give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.'* (Matthew 1:21).

The challenge is over too quickly.

Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. *'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* (John 3:16). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, both for now and all eternity.

How do we face the challenges of Christmas? *'Yet what I can, I give Him - give my heart'.*

©Revd Paul Hardingham Parish Pump



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The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried, But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.

The children fought and bickered - we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter, For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka-Seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad

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was blotto,
He knew that
bird was back
again, this time
as a risotto.

On the tenth day
of Christmas we
were drinking
home-made brew,
Anything to help
us face that
steaming turkey
stew.

On the eleventh
day of Christmas
our lovely tree
was moulting,
And with chilli,
soy and oyster
sauce, the turkey
was revolting.

On the twelfth
day of Christmas
we had smiles
back on our lips,
The guests had
gone, the turkey
too -
WE DINED ON
FISH AND
CHIPS.

Nativity scene
"Here's a king!"
announced the
five-year-old as
he unwrapped a
figurine from the
Christmas
decorations box.

"Here's a
donkey!" he
added a moment
later.

Then he removed
the tissue from
another figure,
finding the infant
Jesus moulded
permanently into
the little manger

God in the Sciences

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes this series on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Meditation on the Incarnation

*After the bright beam of annunciation
fused heaven with dark earth
His searing, sharply focused light
went out for a while
eclipsed in amniotic gloom:
His cool immensity of splendour
His universal grace
small-folded in a warm, dim
female space*

This extract from Luci Shaw's poem *Made Flesh* captures something of the wonder of the moment when the second person of the Trinity became an embryo.

How does a single cell turn into an infant, and what does that process say about us - and God? These are the questions that Professor Jeff Hardin, a developmental biologist, asks himself. Having studied theology as well as science, he has a unique perspective on embryonic development.

A new-born baby is made of around five trillion cells. These cells come in hundreds of different types, each of which must be in the correct place for the child's body to function correctly. Every new life is the result of intricate and highly ordered processes. Three things must happen as an embryo develops.

The first important process is for cells to take on their identity as types of muscle, bone, nerves, and so on. The second is when each cell learns which part of the body it belongs to. Third, those cells are moved around to form different tissues and organs. These three are not discrete stages, but they all happen at around the same time, building up gradually like the different aspects of a picture coming into focus.

All three of these processes are driven forward by the movement of cells, the connections between them, and the signals they pass to each other. Jeff studies a sort of cellular glue which is involved in joining cells together. Making and breaking these adhesions can affect how cells move and signal to each other, their identity in the body, how they are organised as groups, and ultimately their survival. This glue is found on the surface of cells throughout the animal kingdom, including the small worms Jeff's lab studies.

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Forthcoming Services

If you are unable to come to church on the day that you are on duty, please swap with someone else and let the wardens know

December 1 2024

10:30 Eucharist

Advent 1

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Diane Wesselink

Jeremiah 33.14-16

Psalm 25.1-9

Rita Kizito

1Thessalonians 3. 9-end

Gospel

Luke 21. 25-36

December 8 2024

10:30 Eucharist

Advent 2

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Elisabeth v d Heide

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Patrick Saridjan

Malachi 3. 1-4

Benedictus

Linda ten Berge

Philippians 1. 3-11

Gospel

Luke 3. 1-6

December 15 2024

10:30 Eucharist

Lessons and Carols followed by Christmas Market

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Lea Meijnen

Sidesperson/Reader

Readings

Elisabeth v d Heide and others

Psalm 146. 4-end

Gospel

Luke 3. 7-18

December 22 2024

10:30 Eucharist
16:00 Children's Christmas

Advent 4

**Celebrant
Preacher**

Rev. Jacqueline Williams
Reader Simone Yallop

Duty Warden
Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:
Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Elisa Hannan

Readings

Micah 5. 2-5a

Psalm 80. 1-8

Louw Talstra

Hebrews 10.5-10

Gospel

Luke 1 39-45 [46-55]

December 24 2024

22:30 Eucharist

Christmas Eve

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden
Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:
Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Joyce Wigboldus

Readings

Isaiah 9. 2-7

Psalm 96 22

Diane Wesseling

Titus 2.1-14 ,

Gospel

Luke 2. 1.14 [15-20]

December 25 2024

10:30 Eucharist

Christmas Day

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden:
Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor
Elizabeth v. d. Heide

Sidesperson/Reader

Lea Meijnen

Readings

Isaiah 52. 7-10

Psalm 98 10.30

Linda ten Berge

Hebrews 1. 1-4 [5-12]

Gospel

John 1. 1-14

December 29 2024

10:30 Morning Prayer

Christmas 1

Officiant and Preacher

Reader Simone Yallop

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Lea Meijnen

Sidesperson/Reader

Rita Kizito

Readings

1 Samuel 2. 18-20,26

Psalm 148 1-6 10.30

Patrick Saridjan

Colossians 3. 12-17

Gospel

Luke 2. 41-end

January 5 2025

10:30 Morning Prayer

Epiphany

Officiant and Preacher

Reader Simone Yallop

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Joyce Wigboldus

Sidesperson/Reader

Elizabeth van de Heide

Readings

Jeremiah 31. 7-14

Psalm 147. 13-end

Jan de Beij

Ephesians 1. 1-3

Gospel

John 1. 10-18

January 12 2025

10:30 Eucharist

Baptism of Christ

Celebrant and Preacher

Rev. Chris Nicolls

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Simone Yallop

Sidesperson/Reader

Ilonka de Beij

Readings

Isaiah 43. 1-7

Psalm 29

Arthur Cass

Acts 8. 14-17

Gospel

Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

January 19 2025

10:30 Eucharist

Epiphany 2

Officiant and Preacher

Revd Alja Tollefson

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Elizabeth v. d. Heide

Sidesperson/Reader

Jaccolien Molenaar

Readings

Isaiah 62. 1-5

Psalm 36. 5-10

Joyce Wigboldus

1 Corinthians. 12. 1-11

Gospel

John 2. 1-11

January 26 2025

10:30 Eucharist

Epiphany 3

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Jeanet Luiten

Sidesperson/Reader

Jan de Beij

Readings

Nehemiah 8. 1-3, 5-6,8-10

Psalm 19. 1-6 10.30 1

Lea Meijnen

Corinthians 12.12-31a ,

Gospel

Luke 4. 14-21

February 2 2025

10:30 Eucharist

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Celebrant and Preacher

Revd. Jacqueline Williams

Duty Warden

Jeanet Luiten

Intercessor:

Lea Meijnen

Sidesperson/Reader

Erica Bonting

Readings

Malachi 3. 1-5

Psalm 24. 7-end

Ilonka de Bey

Hebrews 2. 14-end ,

Gospel

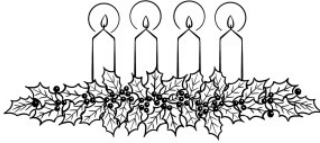
Luke 2. 22-40

(Continued from page 10)

For Jeff, peering down a microscope at tiny worm embryos can be an act of worship. It is also an exercise in art appreciation as he learns to appreciate the created order. Understanding the complexities of development while also being aware that God knows that process intimately, both as Creator and created, fills Jeff with a profound sense of awe, wonder and worship.

Compared to the incomprehensibly vast and ancient universe, does the minute scale of our early development give us a sense of insignificance? Psalm 8 says, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?"

For Jeff and the Psalmist, such feelings can be a positive experience if they serve as a reminder to be humble in the face of a vastly complicated but also deeply meaningful universe made by a God who loves each one of us.



And then there were twelve of us,

Today, we had the lowest number of people in the church as I can remember. Of course, there was a good reason for staying home for part of the congregation: on Saturday, there was a significant service in Rotterdam where, together with people from other Anglican congregations, Nelly and Hennie from our congregation in Twente were confirmed. A reason not to go to church on the day after? Perhaps. But it gave the 12 people in the church today a good reason to discuss the future of our congregation during the coffee. We are mainly elderly people, and there will not be enough young families to keep this congregation filling the pews on Sunday mornings in the future.

Well, I do remember the first time I attended a service in the chapel. We did not have pews, but several rows of chairs stood in front of the chapel. We did not have the Hut. In the back were tables made of planks on trestles, with thermoses of coffee and hot water for tea after the service. A large stove took up a lot of space. For the children, there was Sunday school in the basement under the vestry, now used as

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The child exclaimed, "And here's Baby Jesus in his car seat!"

Fragile Nativity

A couple visited their son and his family for Christmas, and admired their beautiful nativity set in the hallway.

The grandfather asked his young granddaughter if she knew what it was.

"Oh yes," she said immediately. "Of course I do. It's breakable."

Holly

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Holly.

Holly who?

Holly-days are here again!

Sign for Christmas

An old country preacher wanted a sign that told people driving on the nearby dual carriageway about the miracle of Christmas.

So he sent a short message to the general store in the village.

This story picks up at the sign-making

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company and the astonished clerk who received the message.

She read the message: "Unto us, a child is born, 2 metres long and 1 metre wide."

True Cost
How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.

You can tell
You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things:
a rainy day,
lost luggage,
and tangled Christmas tree lights.

Made in ?
When my daughter was small, she was playing with a doll she had for Christmas when she noticed some writing etched on the back of its neck and asked what it said. I explained that it said 'made in England' and was where her doll was made. I could see she was feeling the back of her own neck, she came over, lifted her

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a storage room. We did not have as many church members as we do now.

For me, churchgoing is a main part of my existence: warm, inspiring, and fulfilling. I enjoy the service and being together afterwards with like-minded people. As someone said, drinking coffee afterwards is just as important as attending the eucharist.

Let me say it my way: the theory first and the practice directly following.

See you in church next Sunday!

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Mrs. H.S. Ball's Chutney

Mrs. H.S. Ball's Chutney has been an integral part of South African cuisine for decades. Yet the story of its inception remains untold. The journey began in 1852 when Captain Henry Adkins and his wife Sarah rescued an Indian chef's recipe from the wrecked SS Quanza off East London.

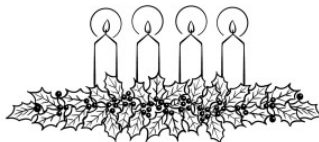
The secret recipe was passed down to their daughter Amelia, who later married Mr Herbert S. Ball. As Herbert's career with South African Railways took the family across the Cape, the recipe remained a constant companion.

Upon settling in Fish Hoek, Herbert marketed the chutney on trains to Cape Town. Partnering with Mr F.M. Metter, whose business acumen enabled mass production, the Retreat factory was established. Metter's vision also led to the distinctive octagonal glass bottle.

Following Amelia's passing in 1962, her legacy endures. From modest origins to global distribution. Mrs H. S. Ball's Chutney has expanded to six flavours while preserving its iconic original recipe.

©J and L Lidderd

Note: This famous chutney is available in the Netherlands in some Albert Hein outlets.



How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity. Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally

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hair at the back and asked, "Where does it say I was made Mummy"!

Holly

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Holly.

Holly who?

Holly-days are here again!

Miscellaneous observations on modern life

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

Humans are about 60% water. Basically, we are ice cream with anxiety.

A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.

Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Rolling

Sign on a Scottish golf course: Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling.

Drivers

Some car drivers don't need seatbelts as much as they need straitjackets.

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Never Argue With Children

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human,

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released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

© Parish Pump



Marriage

Wife: I love you!

Husband: I love you, too.

Wife: Prove it, scream it to the world.

Husband: (whispers in her ear) I love you.

Wife: Why did you whisper it?

Husband: Because you are my world.

The story behind the hymn: Good King Wenceslas

Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking on the Feast of Stephen... ever wonder who on earth he was? Here are three of the five verses...

*Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel
When the poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel...*

*Bring me flesh and bring me wine; bring me pine logs hither;
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither.
Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the rude winds' wild lament, and the bitter weather...*

*In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men, be sure wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourself find blessing.*

This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia.

For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

But that was not the end of Wenceslas. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the *rex Justus* - or 'righteous king' - that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria's envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the 'Duke' into a 'King', as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king's footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

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it was physically impossible.

The little girl "said,
"When I get to Heaven
I will ask Jonah."
The teacher asked,
"What if Jonah went
to Hell?"
The little girl replied,
"Then you can ask him"

Senior Citizen Texting Codes

ATD - At The Doctor
BFF - Best Friend
Funeral
BTW - Bring The
Wheelchair
BYOT - Bring Your
Own Teeth
DWI - Driving While
Incontinent
GHA - Got Heartburn
Again
LMDO - Laughing My
Dentures Out
OMSG - Oh My! Sorry
Gas
TOT - Texting On
Toilet
WAITT - Who Am I
Talking To
Hope these help
GGLKI
(Gotta Go Laxative
Kicking In)

Haircut

A minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man leave during the middle of his message. The man returned as the service concluded.

Afterwards the minister asked the man where he had gone.

"I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

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"But," protested the minister, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," said the man, "I didn't need one then."

Forgiveness

A Sunday School teacher asked her children:

"Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy ventured: "Sin?"

Musical Talent?

Lisa thanks her Grandpa, "Thank you Grandpa for the violin you gave me. I've never had such a wonderful gift before."

"Really," replies the surprised grandpa.

"Oh yes" replies Lisa, Every time I start playing it, mum gives me €5 to stop."

Rylan: What does a grumpy sheep say at Christmas?

Ryan: What?

Rylan: "Baaaa humbug!"

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If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol - it goes back to Finland in 1582.

Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.

@Parish Pump



Why Metrication had to happen

The origins of some of the units of measurement used in the UK were weird and wonderful.

A Foot was the length of a man's foot.

An Inch the width of a man's thumb. King Edward II of England later decreed that an inch was the length of three grains of barley placed end to end lengthwise.

A Cubit was the distance from one's elbow to the tip of the one's middle finger.

A Yard was the distance from one's nose to one's thumb with arm outstretched.

A Hand was the width of a man's hand.

A Fathom was the distance between the fingertips of a man's outstretched arms

A Rod was the length of the left foot of 16 men lined up heel to toe.

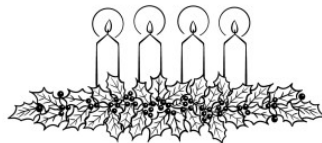
A Furlong was the distance a team of oxen could plow without resting.

An Acre was the amount of land a team of oxen could plow in a day.

A Mile was a thousand paces - a pace being two steps.

A League was the distance a man could walk in an hour (about three miles)

Lawyers must have made a fortune sorting out what was an average man.



Climate change at Weldam

This year, many places in the world were suffering from rain that came down in unexpected amounts and flooded parts of Europe.

Here at Weldam, we first appeared to have escaped with very little damage. But I am sorry to tell you that though the problem was not enormous, it did have consequences for our Holy Family, which we discovered when we were cleaning up the chapel's cellar.

Although safely tucked away in their plastic box, waiting for their next appearance at Advent, they were badly damaged. There apparently were some cracks in the box, and water flooded in.

The beautiful stable they were living in got wet, and instead of being a solid home, it turned out to be made of laminated paper. The family and all the animals were strong and could be saved. They are saved and dry now. We need to find them a new home, a new stable, as soon as possible.

Housing does not come easy these days, so we hope you can help us find it.

Our holy family and some guests would be happy with somewhere to stay during Christmas.

If you can help them, please let me know. They only need modest accommodation on a little table that will fit well in front of the altar. If there is more than one possibility, we will choose the best one together.
Your warden
Jeanet Luiten.



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

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Will: Where do snowmen keep their money?

Bill: Beats me.

Will: In a snow bank.

The lady who wanted three hymns

One Sunday a minister announced that the church needed some extra money. He asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra, and as an enticement, added that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

The offering plate was passed around, and to the minister's amazement, someone had put in a cheque for €1,000. He shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to thank the person who'd given the cheque. A very quiet, elderly lady shyly made her way down to the front of the church. The minister told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much, and asked her to pick out three hymns. Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation. She pointed carefully to the three handsomest men in the building and said: "I'll take him, and him, and him."

Ring Out Wild Bells

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.*

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.*

*Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

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Donations and Bequests

The policy of the Anglican Church Twente is to use donations and bequests to help fund significant development projects in the Chaplaincy, whether buildings, equipment, staff, or other major needs. As circumstances change over the years, it may not be possible to fulfil specific donor requests, so church members are encouraged to make donations and leave legacies for the general purposes of the Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy Council will discuss with donors or their executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church: for example, children & youth, music, buildings.

Donations or bequests can be paid into the current account of the Anglican Church Twente, ABN AMRO Lochem, IBAN: NL62ABNA0593634012.

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.