



December 2011
& January 2012



**WEST MOORS
PARISH MAGAZINE**

St Mary's Church WEST MOORS



VICAR	Rev'd Andrew Rowland 57 Glenwood Road West Moors <i>ajwrowland@tiscali.co.uk</i>	01202 893197
Lay Minister	Tony Cooke 1 Firs Glen Road	876235
Lay Pastoral Assistants	Pam Prendergast 3 Ashurst Road	874641
Church Wardens	Michael Bowler 9 Avon Road <i>liz_mike.bowler@virgin.net</i>	872064
	Gillian Clarke 7 Denewood Road <i>gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com</i>	894913
Assistant Church Wardens	Noel Moss-Holland	877556
	Jenny Winslade	876628
PCC Lay Vice Chairman	Gillian Clarke 7 Denewood Road	894913
PCC Secretary	Jenny Winslade 1 Glenwood Road <i>jennywinslade@hotmail.co.uk</i>	876628
Treasurer	William Munn 50 Sarum Avenue <i>whmunn@aol.com</i>	897528
Parish Admin	Ann Mace 16 St Leonard Park <i>ann.mace@tiscali.co.uk</i>	870680
Organist / Choir Trainer	Valerie Robertson 4 Elmhurst Road	871824
Flower Group Leader	Doreen Mulford 5 Denewood Copse	893276
Planned Giving Officer	Michael Bowler	872064

**Magazine Contributions for
FEBRUARY 2012**

By, or before, Sunday 15th January

gillianmaryclarke@hotmail.com

CHECK OUR WEBSITE : www.stmaryswestmoors.org.uk

including contents of the monthly magazine – see the pictures in full colour!

FROM THE SIDELINES at ST MARY'S

Mike Bowler, Gillian Clarke : Church Wardens

Noel Moss-Holland, Jenny Winslade: Assistant Wardens



Looking back over the Parish Magazine for the last year or so, one realises just how far the parish has moved (not in a physical sense I mean) but in terms of all the new things we have together managed to do. Its only just over a year ago that the 'new' hall was completed and we were able to have social events in our own building in comfort, having good facilities to serve food and drink, and having space to seat 60+ people. The Stewardship Appeal again showed just how committed and generous the members of our congregation can be, exceeding expectations not just on the percentage of returns but on the amount of money that you have so generously pledged to give to support the work of the Church here in West Moors.

The Advent Season is again planned to have a variety of Services to suit all tastes, starting with the Advent Carol Service on Sunday 27th November, followed by a Taize service on 4th December, a Carol Service with the excellent Cantamus Choir on 11th December and so on. Most of these will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine (or fruit juice) in the hall afterwards. You should all have received a Season's Greetings card from the Church which list all the extra services that have been arranged. Do please also check the Diary for all the other events that are taking place during the next two months, we will try to remind you with the Sunday Notices but we can't guarantee that we will catch everything.

In preparation for Christmas we are arranging an 'Advent Cleaning' of the church for Saturday 10th December - and we hope to be able to provide bacon butties to go with the coffee! Further details of this will be given in the Sunday Notices nearer the time.

We would like to thank you all for the love and support that you have shown to us over the past year, and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



Christian Concepts

A series of articles on Doctrine

5. Salvation

'Salvation' is a term perhaps well understood in both secular and religious thinking. To be saved is to be rescued, delivered and preserved. Jesus is known as 'Saviour' his original Jewish name Ye Shua comes from the Hebrew meaning *God is my Salvation*.



Christians proclaim Jesus to be the promised Messiah of Old Testament times. The Messiah was to be a saviour, a redeemer, a leader anointed by God. Jesus was a spiritual Messiah – he did not seek to wield power in the manner of a great ruler/king of his time. That really confused many.

When Jesus invited Peter to get out of the boat and walk on water, all went well at first, but then Peter lost faith and he sunk into the water and needed rescue. This biblical event (Matthew 14:23-33) teaches us much about the nature of Christian Salvation. God in Christ calls his disciple to leave their place of safety to come towards him and try something new, and this is always challenging. The way to proceed is to simply step out in faith and trust in the Lord. That takes faith. We cannot achieve much in our own strength, thus God appeals to us to trust him. We are tested – if and when we fail, the Lord is there to take our hand and rescue us.

The first step to salvation is a realisation of the peril one is in! In spiritual terms unless we are aware that life itself is like a formidable ocean to be navigated, we will have no idea that we must at least learn to swim, lest we flounder. A baby cries for food and comfort without understanding; it is common place for grown adults to be as relatively naïve in relation to God. A baby first develops into a toddler, then a youth and finally a young adult. Scientists tell us that man's brain is so large that we do not approach emotional maturity until our twenties and yet there is no parallel automatic maturing in a spiritual sense. Salvation is a maturing process of the spirit that requires nurture. It is freely offered but often rebuffed.

The Christian faith begins with the premise that humans are at best naive and at worst incapable. In religious terms we are all sinful, both amoral and immoral. Augustine of Hippo taught that humanity was so mired in sin, so corrupt, that it could not save itself. This doctrine is classically known as 'The Fall'. The problem being that man rejected God's authority

and rebelled like a mixed-up teenager. The story of Adam & Eve in The Garden of Eden illustrates this breakdown of relationship – but there are many other instances throughout scripture. It is mankind's innate sinfulness that breaks down the relationship with God. Children do not know the difference between right and wrong unless they are taught, they need to be delivered from evil and that is the work of salvation.

The meta-narrative (over-arching story) of the Bible is one of Salvation. God first entered into a Covenant with Abraham's family & through Moses gave *The Law* to guide their ways and save them from themselves. It didn't work out to God's satisfaction. In time God, through his Son Jesus, established a New Covenant giving his own life as an atoning sacrifice for the sinfulness of the people. God finally acted to save both Jew and Gentile alike. Man could not save himself and so God graciously reached out to take man's hand in a partnership. Man needed rescuing!

How can we learn unless we have a teacher? Must we always remain foolish and unaware? Spiritually many are still as babes and haven't learnt to crawl, let alone walk/swim. The first necessity of growing up is to accept that we need rescue! The first step in Christianity is to reach out one's hand to God and say Help! Save me! You have to be prepared to get out of the boat and get your feet wet!

God has acted decisively in Jesus Christ to save all humanity. Now we're beckoned out of the boat, we can set out to *walk on water*. It might seem daft but I believe that God honours us for trying, not for achieving. Even the great Apostle Peter quickly floundered and then later he flatly denied Christ when it really mattered – but he recognised his failings and tried again. God who saves us, reaches out, we have to choose to get a grip.

What are we saved for? We are not promised a physically easy life – never make that mistake. What we are given is a spiritual dimension that overlays our physical self – that acts as God within – His Holy Spirit lives within us, binding us to Christ the Saviour, who is our exemplary teacher. This is like getting a *life-preserver* – nothing will overwhelm the believer. Of course we might get ambitious, think we have learnt to swim strongly and push out into the deep without taking into consideration our personal limitations, shedding our life-jacket 'mid-steam'. Many may start out with God but then decide that they can manage on their own. What happens next is akin to getting out of one's depth! God is our gracious lifeguard and is attentive if we think to cry out for assistance (Salvation). It is Jesus who has authority to calm every storm (Matthew 8:23-27). Believe it! At the end, having crossed the ocean, there is 'dry land' and that is what we are saved for. This land is a blessed place where we are preserved eternally with God – call it Paradise Island if you like!

Dawn and Elizabeth
**Meetings in DECEMBER /
JANUARY**

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Afternoon Group

Wednesday 14th December - 2pm in the Church Hall
Christmas Tea and carols sung by St.Mary's schoolchildren

Wednesday 18th January 2012 - 2pm in the Church Hall. AGM

Evening Group

Monday 12th December - 7pm in the Church Hall
(please note that this is a week earlier than usual)
Christmas sharing supper.

Monday 16th January - 7pm in the Church Hall
Holy Eucharist and AGM

Our deanery Carol Service will be held in Wimborne Minster at 2.15pm on December 15th. This is always a lovely occasion. We shall be taking the banner and two of our members will be reading a lesson.

We will be having our ever popular soup lunches on January 28th and February 25th. 12noon-1.30pm.



We wish all our members a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

*May the hope of Christmas lighten your cares,
may the peace of Christmas fill your hearts,
the joy of Christmas bring you happiness,
and the spirit of Christmas remain with you all year.
Amen*

NIGHT OF MIRACLES – music by John W. Peterson

Wednesday, 21st December 2011, 7.30pm in the church.

He asked, “Is it an Oratorio or a Cantata?” Good question! So out came my trusty ‘Dictionary of Musical Terms’, given to me when I started conducting in 1992 but the first owner, I see, had it in March 1922 - long before Google.

Oratorio: ‘A sacred drama, founded upon some Scriptural story, set to music for voices and instruments, and performed without the aid of scenery and action: it derived its name from San Fillipe-Neri, who, about 1580, had sacred music sung in his ‘oratory’, after sermons and other devotions.’

Cantata: ‘A poetical composition to be set to music. A vocal composition of several movements. Originally the Cantata was for one voice, comprising airs, and recitatives, but now it frequently takes the form of a short oratorio, or operetta, without action.’

So there we have it, we’re singing an *Oratorio*, but in the church, not in an oratory.

‘Night of Miracles’ was written by John W. Peterson, in 1958, and the copies we are singing from cost \$1.95 each then. This is not a typo or misprint, John Peterson was American. He died in 2006. He served as an Army Air Force pilot in World War II, but after the war he studied at Moody Bible Institute and the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. He composed well over 1,000 songs and in addition, 35 cantatas and musicals. (Or perhaps I should say Oratorios). Night of Miracles tells the story of Christmas with stirring chorus numbers, a prophetic bass solo, sung by Bryan Clark, a beautiful lullaby, sung by Dianne Tompkins, and all interspersed with short but key extracts from the bible. These will be read by Rev Andrew Rowland and Baird Oldrey (who are also singing in the chorus). Remember, this was written in the 1950’s – the words will be very familiar to anyone not brought up solely on modern translations of the bible!

Valerie Robertson, our Organist, and members of St Mary’s ‘Sunday’ choir do want to thank all our singing friends for joining us to sing this tuneful and inspirational music. Our guest singers, chorus and soloists, are now becoming familiar friends since they have been singing with us for many years now at Easter, alternating ‘Crucifixion’ by Stainer, and ‘Olivet to Calvary’ by Maunder. Perhaps we should call ourselves the St Mary’s Community Choir!

After we have sung we would like to share with you some light refreshment, wine, soft drinks and nibbles. By 21st December Christmas will be so close we will be aching anticipation. (Or in my case, frantic with last minute rush!). It won’t be a long evening, but it promises to be a very real Christmas celebration.

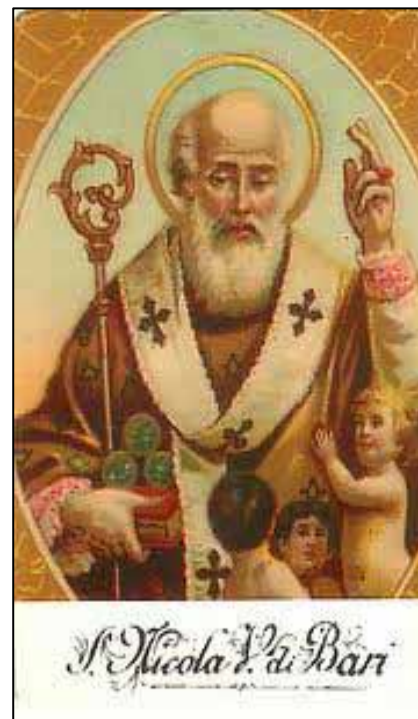
Please don’t be put off by words like ‘sacred’ and ‘Scriptural’ or ‘without the aid of scenery and action’. In these days of non-stop action on our tv screens it is good to sit quietly for a short hour, and contemplate the incredible story of Christmas – incredible, but true, a real **Night of Miracles**.

Sue Oldrey

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: 'T'was 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 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 exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

WILL YOU SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS THIS YEAR?

Are you eagerly awaiting an avalanche of Christmas cards this year? You may be in for a disappointment. Based on last year's figures, the tradition seems in decline. The ease of sending colourful Christmas emails, the ease of making international phone calls for free, and the fact that even a second class stamp now costs 36p, may well account for it.

Oxfam, one of the largest charities that sells Christmas cards, reports that its sales were 14 per cent lower in 2010 than in 2009. Mintel, the research body, reported that in 2009 less than 73 per cent of people sent a card; down ten points from 2007.



Oxfam calculates that in 2010 we sent about 882 million cards; a whopping 141 million less than just six years ago. The charities who raise a great bulk of their support through Christmas card sales are understandably concerned. "Sending a card this year could help you not only to stay in touch with your loved ones, but could make a difference to the lives of poor people around the world at the same time."



All About Oakhurst

Community First School

OAKHURST FIRST SCHOOL YEAR FOUR SCIENCE PROJECT



In our new topic ('Tomorrows World') year 4 children at Oakhurst Community First School have been focusing on forces in science.

Our class will look at friction, space, Newtons, gravity, and much more. We have been attaching force meters to force blocks and putting weights in them. We have found out how different surfaces



affect friction. We then pulled the blocks up different surfaced ramps and measured forces needed in Newton's and grams. We have been making our own tables to record results and we will make a hypothesis based on our results.

Soon we will be learning about how friction can be useful and not useful. What would happen to cars if there was no friction? Science is a fun interesting topic and very useful in everyday life.

Written by year four pupils: Teagan and Georgia.





CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When does Christmas start? Does it start when the shops begin playing Christmas carols and putting up decorations?

Or is it at the beginning of Advent which starts 4 weeks before the 25th December and is a special time for us to use to get ready for the birth of Jesus?



The word Advent means 'coming' and the season of Advent before Christmas, like Lent before Easter, is a time to get ready. A time to look forward and prepare, not just by writing Christmas cards and wrapping presents, but by inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives today.

So perhaps the question isn't when does your Christmas start, but when does it finish?

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December is Christmas Eve and the answer to each of these questions starts with the letters EVE. Answers below.

1. What EVE is equal?
2. What EVE is a swamp in Florida?
3. What EVE is a happening?
4. What EVE is a dried flower?
5. What EVE is the end of the day?
6. What EVE is the world's highest mountain?
7. What EVE never loses its leaves?

**What goes red, white, red,
white, red, white?**

Santa rolling down a hill.

**What did the snowman and
his wife hang over their baby's
cot?**

A snow mobile.

**What's brown and sneaks
round the kitchen?**

Mince spies.

Answers: 1 even 2 Everglades 3 event
4 everlasting 5 evening 6 Everest
7 evergreen

THE WAY I SEE IT – BATH SALTS FOR THE BABY

David Winter, a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC.

I suppose in a way you've got to blame those 'Wise Men'. Their gifts to the infant Jesus - gold, frankincense and myrrh - have probably got something to do with the fact that we give gifts at Christmas.

We can't give them to Jesus on his birthday, because even Amazon can't deliver to heaven, so we give them to . . . well, Auntie Jo, grandson Reuben and the nice woman next door who takes in our parcels when we're not there. And then there's the nephews and nieces, the brothers and sisters, friends at church and of course the beloved, who always poses the biggest dilemma. 'In as much as you do it for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do it for me', said Jesus, but as I look at my presents list it doesn't honestly look like 'the least'. My nephew works for a merchant bank and his annual bonus would probably pay off my mortgage. What do you give to the young man who's got everything?

Which brings me back to those Wise Men, who weren't all that wise, in fact - pedlars of spells and high class fortune tellers, really. But their gifts were clever. What do you give to the child who is 'born king', as they described him (rather unwisely) to Herod? Their answer was gold (because he was royal), frankincense (because he would be our great high priest) and myrrh (because he had been born in order to die). Their gifts may seem strange at first sight - and must have completely baffled poor Mary and Joseph - but they were absolutely right for the recipient: king and priest and sacrifice, as the carol says. When it comes to getting the presents exactly right, they're top drawer.

Which probably won't help much as we try to fathom out our presents list this Christmas. Do you remember John Betjeman's list of goofy gifts - 'bath salts and inexpensive scent, and hideous tie so kindly meant'? His lines make me wince every time I read them because it sounds exactly like my last minute Christmas shopping. But his wry list of



inappropriate gifts is to be found in a poem about the Nativity. And in it the pathetic presents we buy and wrap up and hand over at Christmas are contrasted with God's greatest gift - 'the Maker of the sky and sea, become a child on earth for me'.

'It isn't the gift - it's the spirit in which it's given', we say. True. True, too, of that greatest gift of all, 'the baby in the manger stall'. And true, too, for the Wise Men, who got their gifts so exactly right. I reckon they'd thought hard and long about them, which suggests a truly wise approach to choosing presents. But on the whole I'd still avoid the myrrh for great-aunt Beryl (or the inexpensive scent).

GO SHOPPING WITH MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

– and fly 'help' around the world!

Flying at Christmas is not a luxury for many missionaries and relief workers and people in desperate need in the developing world: it is the **ONLY** way to reach many inaccessible areas. So this Christmas why not help keep Mission Aviation Fellowship in the sky by visiting MAF's new online shop, Ethictrade (<http://maf.ethictrade.com>) and choose presents from all over the world?



There is a wide range of ethically produced, fairly traded presents, from jewellery to clothes to stocking fillers and Christmas cards. All the products help 'give back' to local communities. And the good news is that for everything thing you spend, 20% will come directly to MAF.

What does that do? Well your money can help fly people like the team from Chimala Brandt Mission clinic who bring medical help to women and children every month in the village of Madundas, Tanzania. Their visits enable people like Nambojee receive vaccinations and medical care for her twins Curua and Kadori. The alternative for Nambojee is a six- hour drive over rough roads at an exorbitant price or a three-day walk to the mission clinic.



Our World War II Topic

This term in Key Stage Two we have been learning about World War II. In particular we have concentrated on how children in Dorset would have been affected. We began by sharing what we already knew before discussing what we would like to find out.



One aspect that we were interested in was the 'Blitz' and how people stayed safe during the air raids. We found out about Anderson and Morrison air raid shelters, reconstructing a Morrison shelter in our classroom and even building magnificent models. Our parents and carers came into school to see them and were all very impressed by our hard work.

Our learning continued and in no time at all we were familiar with the spooky sound of the air raid siren and we went on to build gas mask boxes.



After gathering and sharing World War II facts in our home learning we decided to look in more detail at the evacuation of children from the cities to more rural settings such as West Moors. Mr and Mrs Sloane (Mrs Paterson's parents) visited the school to share their experiences of being evacuated from Liverpool to Ludlow. We asked lots of questions and used the answers they gave to help us write diary accounts of what it was like to be an evacuee.

We then went on to learn about the 'Dig for Victory' campaign and the effects of rationing. We were horrified to see how few sweets a family

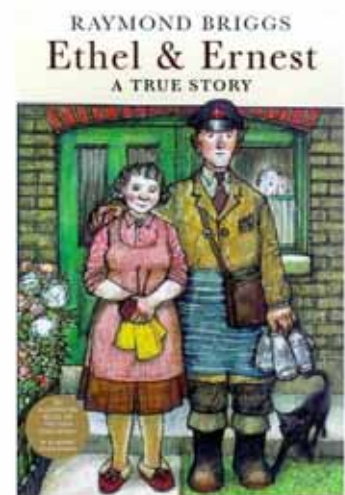
were allowed per week, but felt better after we had prepared and eaten a batch of the wartime treat, carrot fudge! At first we didn't think this sounded very tasty but we were wrong! We went on to create our own presentations to the class promoting 'Dig for Victory'.



Mr Smith brought in his grandparents' Army and Navy uniforms for us to try on and we heard about how young they were when the war took them all around the world.

We listened to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's sad radio announcement of the outbreak of war. This inspired us to create our own news coverage reports of an aspect of the war which we presented to Mr Harrison.

We read the true story of Ethel and Ernest by Raymond Briggs which told all about the author's parents' lives during and after the war. This taught us how the effects of the war lasted long after it had ended. We also read a number of short stories by Robert Westall, set during the war, which gave us a detailed look at a night in London during the blitz and the sneaky activities of black marketeers!



In Year Three we presented an assembly about World War II to our parents and carers and all enjoyed singing the wartime song 'Run Rabbit Run!'

We have all enjoyed this topic very much and feel it has prepared us well for the arrival of Remembrance Day next week. Year Four will lead an assembly on the day.



Diary Dates for December 2011 & January 2012

DECEMBER 2011

- Sunday 4 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11. 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8
6.00pm Taizé Healing Service
- Monday 5 9.15am School Christingle Service in church
- Wednesday 7 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)
- Thursday 8 3.00pm Tea @ 3 in The Hall
- Friday 9 6.00pm Village Carols Night
- Sunday 11 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end. 1 Thes 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28
7.00pm Christmas Carol Concert led by visiting
Cantamus Church Choir. Free but Retiring
Collection. Refreshments afterwards.
- Monday 12 7.00pm Evening MU Group,
Christmas Sharing Supper in the Hall
- Wednesday 14 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)
- Friday 16 7.30pm 'Fire and Ice' Show - by Unison Choir
in church, also Saturday Matinee -tickets only
- Sunday 18 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16.
Romans 16,25-end.
Luke 1:26-28
4.00pm Children's Nativity Play and Tea Party
6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols Service

Wednesday 21 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)
7.30pm Oratorio – 'Night of Angels' by
Church Choir and Sue Oldrey Singers.

Saturday 24 3.00pm Blessing of the Crib Family Service
**11.00pm Midnight Mass - The First Eucharist
of Christmas**

Sunday 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.00am Christ-Mass Our Family Service
Luke 2:1-14 'Sing Carols & bring toys'

Wednesday 28 No Communion



JANUARY 2012

Sunday 1 **THE NAMING & CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: Numbers 6:22-end. Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

Wednesday 4 No Communion

Sunday 8 **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Wednesday 11 No Communion

Thursday 12 3.00pm Tea @ 3 in The Hall

Sunday 15 **EPIPHANY 2**
8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW)
Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Revelation 5: 1-10
John 1:43-end

Monday 16 7.00pm Eucharist followed by Evening Mothers
Union AGM in Hall

Wednesday 18 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)
2.00pm Afternoon Mothers Union AGM in the Hall

- Thursday 19 7.30pm PCC Meeting in Hall
- Sunday 22 **EPIPHANY 3**
 8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.00am Our Family Service / Eucharist (CW)
 Readings: Genesis 14:17-20
 Revelation 19:6-10
 John 2:1-11
 4.00pm Songs of Praise, Churches Together WM
 At Pinehurst Chapel, Pinehurst Road
- Wednesday 25 10.00am Holy Eucharist (BCPc)
 Burns Night Celebration in the Hall – Sign-up!
- Saturday 28 12.00pm – 1.30pm MU Soup Lunch
- Sunday 29 **CANDLEMAS (FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION)**
 8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
 10.00am Eucharist (CW)
 Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Revelation 12:1-5a
 Mark 1:21-28



Advance Notices for your Diaries

22nd February Ash Wednesday 10.00am
 and 7.30pm Eucharist, Lent begins

Palm Sunday 1st April, Holy Week begins

HELP PREVENT LEAD THEFT

Lead theft is a massive problem for many churches. Pressure is being put on the Government to stop Scrap Metal Merchants being able to pay for lead by cash. If all payments had to be made to a registered bank account, it would make life much more complicated and difficult for the thieves. You can help by signing an e-petition to HM Govt at the link below. Please encourage as many as possible to sign the petition.

<http://submissions.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/406>

The Glorious 25th January 2012

Celebrate Burns Night in Style!

Now ye Westmoorians ha' a fully equipped kitchen fer feasting, in yon bonnie new hall...

It's time for us loyal Scots to re-establish ourselves in this wee Sassenach parish church! Aye it were built by me your first Vicar – Revd Claud Broun of Edinburgh, Scotland. It's taken ye more than a wee while to build'it larger – but now I bid ye all to attend ma bonnie celebration of the bard – not that English Sassenach, Shakespeare, but Rabbe Burns our famed man o' poetry pictured ha' below, and a fine man to be heard again o' the night.



Will ye not attend me to enjoy Haggis, Tatties and Neeps which ma cooks will serve thee (and sup a glass o' whisky or two - so bring your own brew then!!!)

Should a few English be brave enough to sneak into our company we will force them to eat sausages, for they will never ha the stomach fer the fine food o' Scotland.

Wear your Tartan or the like and be ready to tell of your love for the homeland and of your clan. Hear the music an verse o' Scotland the brave an' all – be roused and pipe in the Haggis & New Year an have ye a fine time of socialising together.

Ye can book in ma church that I built fer ye villagers in 1897 as ma own chapel for Bonnie Saint Mary and I will send ye ma trusty Curate, Revd. Andrew o' the noble blu-blooded Bruce Clan to keep ye in order – and to eject any unruly Sassenach Anglishers who dare attend! Ye will ha' speeches and poetries and fun an' laughter.

Sign up on ma list in church now – or miss out! Hae a wee dram an a sonsie wee heavy, will ye? Hoots Mon! Revd Claud Broun - Vicar



West Moors Singers

2011

Christmas Concert

Songs from the shows old and new
Festive music and Christmas Carols

Musical Director – **Sue Oldrey**

St. Anthony's Church, West Moors

Wednesday 7th December
and

The Barrington Theatre, Ferndown

Friday 9th and Saturday 10th December

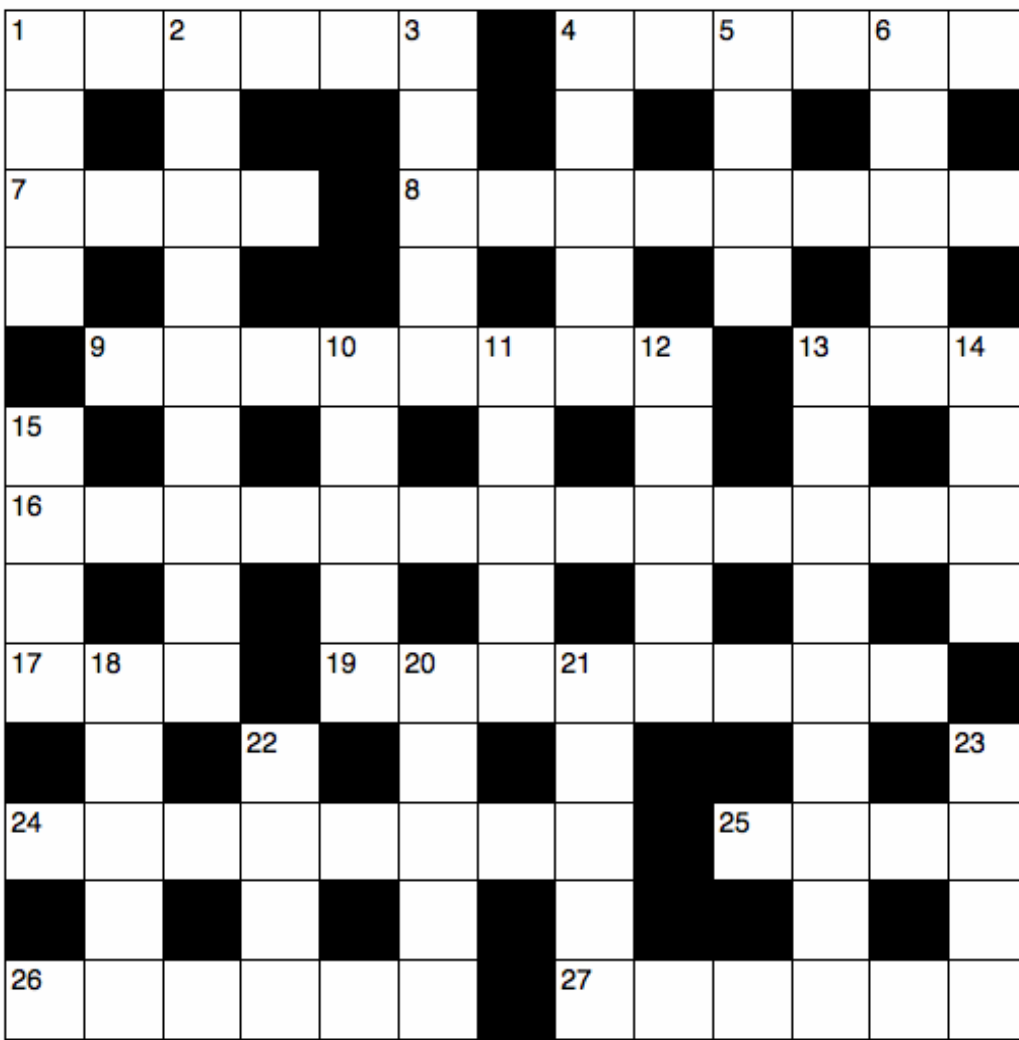
Unreserved tickets £6.50 available from

- *Jim Selby, Quality Butcher, Station Road, West Moors*
- *The Ticket Manager, Tel 01202 870769*
- *The Barrington Theatre Box Office, Tel 01202 894858*
- *and at the door*

'MOST WANTED' BY CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS!

From the sublime to the ridiculous.....this year coveted children's presents certainly cover everything. Leading the market are two competing 'children's iPads', the LeapPad and the Inno-Tab. Each tablet style computer comes with touchscreens and 'apps' such as games, ebook readers, video players and MP3 players. The price of £79.99 for either 'iPad' does not appear to be frightening off the parents, and toy shops across the country have been struggling to secure enough stock.

At the other end (the back end?) of the market there is the 'Doggie Doo', a toy dog that has an unusual 'doggie poop' feature when it is taken for a walk. Apparently the aim is to teach children how to use 'pooper scoopers', which are included. Doggie Doo is also expected to be a runaway success...!



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Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What dove carried olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, ended his days as blind prisoner in Babylon (Jer 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Pop song for New Year, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 Number of stones David chose for confrontation with Goliath (1 Sam 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)

- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinth 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of gifts Joseph's brothers took on second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinth 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Ps 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of two rivers in which Naaman would prefer to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of evils from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

WELL DONE, OAKHURST!

A recent inspection by Government inspectors, Ofsted, has found that Oakhurst Community First School in West Moors, Ferndown, is a good school with some outstanding features.

Inspectors found that pupils' progress is good and that attainment in reading, writing and mathematics is above average. Pupils like school (attendance is above average); they are enthusiastic, have high self esteem and their behaviour is good. Their contribution to the school and the wider community is 'exceptional'.

Teaching is good. Teachers use the assessments they make of pupils' attainments to accurately challenge them in lessons and to adapt work to the particular needs of different groups, including high achievers.

The school provides outstanding care, guidance and support for pupils and has very good links with parents and carers. One parent/carer wrote, 'We feel that the school's enthusiasm and support has been outstanding for our child and for ourselves'.

The school's drive towards excellence is clear; some aspects of the school are already outstanding and some are well on track to being so. Governors, including those who have recently joined, make a positive contribution to developing the school and in monitoring progress. Good leadership and management have promoted significant improvements in the education provided and the outstanding and highly effective leadership of the Headteacher has provided the school community with the vision, energy and drive to make a wide range of improvements.

Chair of Governors, Mrs Keyms-Burgess, said, "This report reflects the dedication of the whole school staff, and their commitment to the children's learning and well-being. We will use this report to build on our success so far and continue to develop in all areas."





A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales

Geraldine Cole

Our Christmas decorations stall at the Wimborne Charities Fayre held on the 12th November has yet to take place at the time of writing – but many thanks to everyone who has supported me with items to sell on the stall.

The Children's Society's Christingle Service for St. Mary's CE VC School is to be on Monday the 5th December at 9.15 am.

The Children's Society are holding an event as part of the Make Runaways Safe campaign with an attended Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. Pam Prendergast and myself will be attending. More information can be found on the campaign website www.makerunawaysafe.org.uk.

Thank you for all support given throughout the past year for the Children's Society both with house boxes and donations of goodies for the Committee's stalls we hold throughout the year. If anyone would like a house box please see me, Pam Prendergast or Rosemary Dunning. Rosemary has recently joined our committee which has been greatly appreciated in order to keep the committee number at six.

FUND-RAISING NEWS

Chris Wilson

Our next concert is 'The Joy of Christmas' with the Cantamus Choir
Sunday 11th December at St Mary's Church 7pm

This is a concert of carols celebrating the Joy of Christmas performed by the Cantamus Chamber Choir and with congregational carols too, for everyone to join in with. The concert will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine, so it's a real festive evening. We are not issuing tickets for this event – everyone is welcome and there will be a retiring collection after the concert.

ADVANCE INFORMATION FOR 2012

Make a note in your diary for the first two fund-raising events of 2012:
18th February 2012 - BARN DANCE and FISH AND CHIP SUPPER
at West Moors Memorial Hall

21st April 2012 - AUCTION OF PROMISES at St Mary's Church Hall

See you there!

Thank you for all your support and help throughout 2011

And now for something completely different ...

Unison Theatrical Choir are presenting

Frost & Fire, Candlelight & Snow

A colourful show celebrating the Christmas Season –
from Chestnuts to Sleigh Bells, not forgetting the Baby Jesus!

WHERE - St Mary's Church, West Moors

WHEN - Friday 16th December, 7.30pm

Saturday, 17th December, 2.30pm

COST - Tickets £8.50 Adults, £7.50 OAP/Child

To include a festive afternoon tea/supper!

Advanced booking essential for the thoughtful and joyous entertainment.

BOOK REVIEW

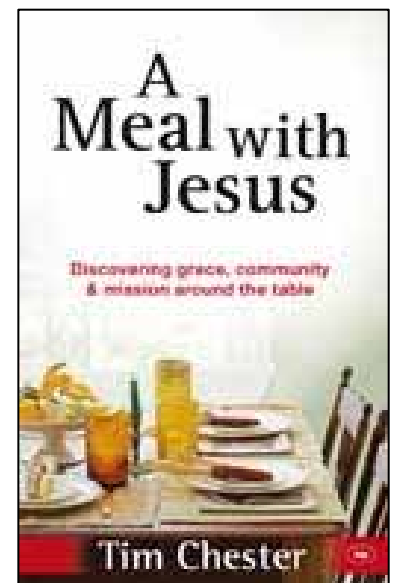
A Meal With Jesus - discovering grace, community and mission around the table

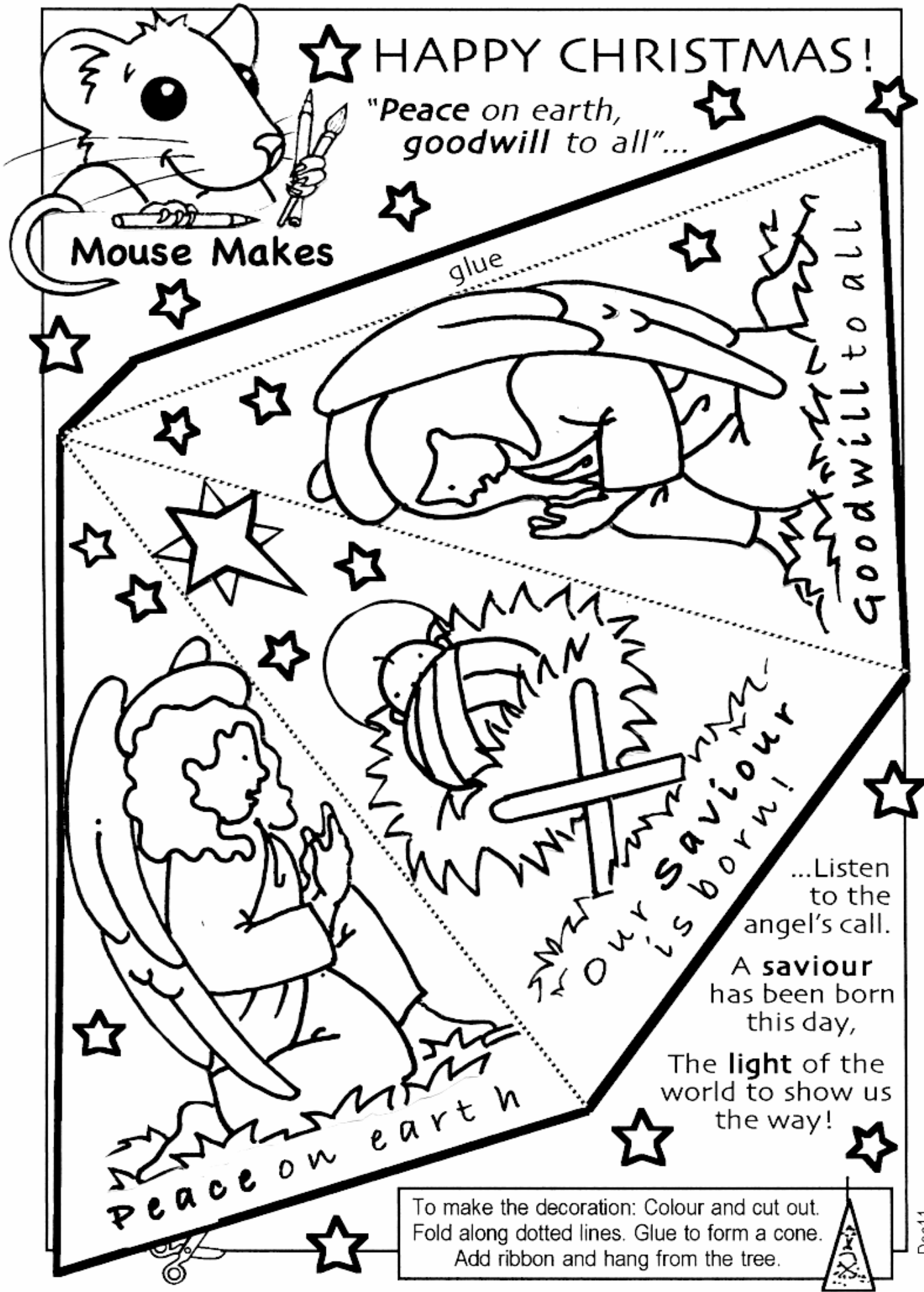
By Tim Chester, IVP, £8.99

Meals have always been important across societies and cultures - a time for friends and families to come together. An important part of relationships, meals are vital to our social health. Or as author Tim Chester puts it, 'Food connects.'

Tim argues that meals are also deeply theological - an important part of Christian fellowship and mission. He observes that Luke's Gospel is full of stories of Jesus at meals. And these meals represent something bigger. In six chapters Tim shows how they enact grace, community, hope, mission, salvation and promise.

Moving from New Testament times to today, the author applies biblical truth to challenge our contemporary understandings of hospitality. He urges sacrificial giving and loving around the table, helping readers consider how meals can be about serving others and sharing the grace of Christ.





★ HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

"Peace on earth,
goodwill to all"...

Mouse Makes

glue

Goodwill to all

OUR SAVIOUR
IS BORN!

...Listen to the
angel's call.

A **saviour**
has been born
this day,

The **light** of the
world to show us
the way!

Peace on earth

To make the decoration: Colour and cut out.
Fold along dotted lines. Glue to form a cone.
Add ribbon and hang from the tree.

GOD IN THE ARTS - *The Rev'd Michael Burgess*

Jesus the light

Longing for light is a primal longing. When the light shines, people gather and creatures are attracted. We see the light in the darkness and we move towards it to find reassurance and comfort. The Bible's diagnosis of the human condition is that we are so often blind to that light. We can't see, we won't see.

Bartimaeus in the synoptic gospels, and the man born blind in St John's Gospel – they both stand for all of us.

Like them we need sight and we need insight. This month we focus on the light that brings that sight and insight – the light who is Jesus.

Over the last months we have reflected on a variety of images, of faces of Jesus portrayed in art: the babe in the temple, the adult in the wilderness, the man of prayer, the shepherd, the vine, the door, the giver of food, the healer, the clown, the risen Lord. In this month of December we travel full circle to the babe who began the year: the Christ-Child who comes as light and life in the gloom of winter and the darkness of sin.

'The Vision of St Francis' by Ludovico Carracci of Bologna tells the story of a young friar who wakes one night to find his hut empty and the saint gone. He travels by water and wood to find St Francis with our Lady. Mary has given him the Christ-Child to hold. This work was painted around 1584, and Carracci has captured wonderfully this human, tender moment. The saint gazes into the face of the babe, whose left hand reaches up to touch St Francis. Mary looks on amid the trees with her feet on the clouds of the vision. The light in the painting shines out from the newborn child. We can



just see the young companion in the shadows on the left. All is focused on St Francis whose own face is suffused with joy and wonder as he cradles the tiny, vulnerable babe.

We know St Francis reawakened the love of the Christ-Child in the people of Greccio when he invited them to a cave outside the town to see and ponder anew the first Christmas scene of a mother and child, with St Joseph and the animals. From that arose the tradition of having a Christmas crib in our churches and homes at this season. The manger scene says 'Don't pass by amid the rush of this month. You have eyes: pause, see and wonder.' Each time we look at the crib, like the people of Greccio, we are reminded of the simplicity and the mystery of that gift of light and life in the Saviour.

When we look at the face of Jesus on the cross, perhaps we hear him saying, 'I do this for you.' When we make our communion at the Eucharist, we may hear Jesus saying 'I come to feed you.' And when we look at the Christ-Child in the crib at this holy time, like St Francis looking in this painting, we can hear Jesus say, 'I am born for you.'

ONCE IN ... KINGS COLLEGE CHAPEL CAMBRIDGE

Christmas Eve, and somewhere in Cambridge there will be a boy aged between nine and 13 who is about to sing before an audience of 10 million people worldwide.



Shortly before 3pm, the 16 boy choristers of King's College Chapel will line up in front of the adult section of the choir. They will all watch as a red light near them starts flashing, warning that the BBC announcer is telling listeners that the programme is moving to the chapel in Cambridge. When the flashing red light stops for about 10 seconds and then come on again solid, the director of music will beckon his chosen soloist forward.

The boy will then step forward to perform the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', the traditional start to Christmas Eve Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast each year by the BBC. The boy will have ten seconds warning to give the performance of his life. The lack of warning is to prevent the boys having to worry about it ahead of time....

Vicar's Vista

An Authentic Christmas

What is an authentic Christmas?

We know that a Winter Wonderland picture such as this with copious snow, is part of the Northern European winter festival of what was originally Yuletide. Christianity managed to absorb this pagan tradition. This is where our Nordic Christmas Tree, Yule Log, Twelve Days of...and Mistletoe come from.



The traditional 'British Christmas' is still very much influenced by Victoria & Albert's Germanic customs. I always look forward to Stollen cake at this time. It is part of an authentic Christmas for me. Interestingly the recipe changed at The Reformation. Advent was a time of preparatory fasting for Catholics, so oil was used. Protestants allowed butter – these days there's a lot of feasting, not fasting, before the great feast. The fasting (dieting?) happens afterwards!

The birth of Jesus was fixed in Christianised Rome to substitute their previous winter ceremonies. No-one has really worked out the year (probably between 6 B.C. - 1 A.D.), let alone the season of Christ's birth, which is completely lost. The customs overlaying the festival are fun, but often do not authenticate the actual meaning of Christmas. There is no historical question that Jesus was a rabbinic Jew who exercised an itinerant ministry, calling disciples to follow him. We can be much more certain about his death, but his birth is more difficult to demystify. Stripping away the ancient traditions to get towards authenticity, Christianity holds that God became man, born in Jesus, in a miraculous way. The Christ (anointed) child was both fully God and fully human and thus unique. He was named Ye-shua, literally meaning 'God saves'. In Hebrew his name is Joshua and in Greek, Jesus. His name points foursquare to the meaning and function of his human existence. God came to save mankind. That's it!

By the way our original Christian Carols are also from early pagan *wassailing*. Wassail is derived from old English words meaning, 'be in good health'. This hearty singing with *good cheer* (often too much) took place on 5th January. "Love and joy come to you, And to you your wassail too; And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year" is of course equivalent to our current, 'We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'. So be it – Amen. A.R.



CHRISTMAS BELLS AND BISCUITS



***AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH
WEST MOORS.***



EVERYONE IS WELCOME
TO JOIN US FOR A CHILDREN'S
SERVICE FOLLOWED BY
CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES,
SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS AND
PLAY;

ON TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER
AT 10AM





The Joy of Christmas

with the
CANTAMUS CHOIR

A celebration of Christmas Carols
at

St Mary's Church
Station Road West Moors
Sunday 11th December

with mulled wine & mince pies
Everyone is welcome

There will be a retiring collection after the concert
All proceeds to St Mary's Church funds