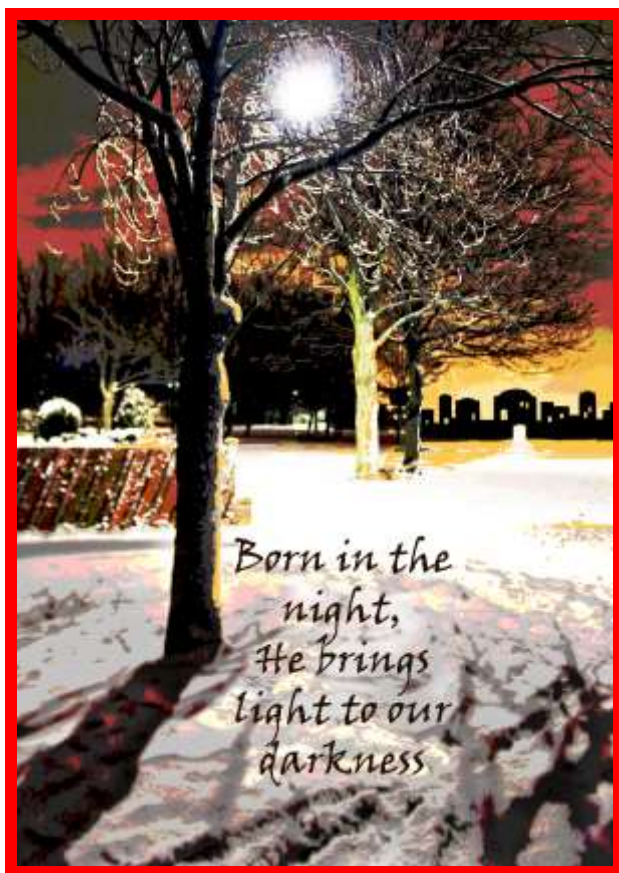


The

CRAYFISHER

December 2015

40p



The parish magazine of the Cray Valley Benefice

No. 7

CONTACTS

Vicar: Rev. Paul Prentice (01689 823775)

Curate: Rev. Jane Winter (01689 872282)

Reader: Elaine Chapple (01689 874325)

Pastoral Assistants: Jill Renwick (01689 825582)

Muriel Unsworth (01689 835275)

Churchwardens: Colin Chapple (01689 874325)

Malcolm Hubbard (01689 601827)

*Child Protection Officer and
Parish Administrator: Suzanne Diamond* (01689 823775)

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mornings

Magazine Editor: Brenda Smith (01689 829556)

Email: brendaknickknock@gmail.com

St Mary's, High Street St Mary Cray: BR5 4NJ

www.stmaryatcray.com

St Andrew's, Lower Road St Mary Cray: BR5 4AL

www.standrewatcray.com

The editorial team reserve the right to edit, and condense, if necessary, items submitted for publication.

Opinions expressed by contributors, and services offered by advertisers, are not specifically endorsed by THE CRAYFISHER magazine or the Cray Valley Benefice.

Front cover picture: Courtesy of www.Parishpump.co.uk

PARISH LETTER



On 16 November 2015 I found myself at Kings Cross Station waiting to catch the 11:45 train to Leeds. The reason for this was that I was travelling to Mirfield to begin my annual retreat. It was an unusual day for a number of reasons. This would be the first time that I had taken a retreat anywhere other than West Malling Abbey. Secondly, it was just a few days after the horrific terrorist attacks in Paris, France.

At 11:00 on the station concourse, we were asked to remain quiet and observe a minutes silence for all those who had lost their lives in France. The station fell into a complete hush, so unusual for such a busy station. As I looked I could see the rich ethnicity of London all around me, heads bowed in respectful silence, young and old alike.

Certain sections of the media were quite reactionary regarding the atrocities in France. We would do well to remember that such wanton acts of violence do not discriminate. Many people of different faiths, and indeed none, are the innocent victims of terrorism. In other countries too, such as Iraq and Libya, the young and the old have lost their lives as a result of a dangerous ideology.

When I arrived at Mirfield and finished unpacking I made my way to the chapel. Here, the Reserved Sacrament hangs suspended in the sanctuary. It is a visible sign of the unseen God, a paradox in itself save for the fact that the presence of Christ in the Sacrament reminds us of his unfailing love. It was before this visible presence that I offered to God my own personal prayers for the people of France.

The Christian hope is for a world free from violence and destruction and one that encapsulates the love of God. It is a hope worth praying for. It must never just be a pipedream beyond reach. It must always be nothing less than God's kingdom established on earth.

*Yours in Christ,
Paul*

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

This is a season of waiting. December is such a busy month that it is easy to forget that we are waiting. Some waiting is good, filled with excitement and anticipation. Some waiting is painful and full of anxiety. I guess Mary probably felt both. Anticipation and excitement at the thought of having her baby. Pain and anxiety, wondering if her family would accept her, or do the culturally right thing and throw her out. As we know, Joseph stayed faithful to God and Mary. Her cousin Elizabeth supported her and both made her waiting time much easier.

Waiting is a time of anticipation which may be coloured with excitement or fear. In our lives we have to face both kinds of waiting. Quite often we manage that waiting by filling the time with lots of activity. People say 'keeping busy helps' when they are waiting. Well it fills the time and can take our minds off the waiting, but I am not so sure it helps deep down. God gives us waiting time because God waits. The whole Bible is punctuated by waiting. In creation God spoke and then waited for creation to emerge. In the story of the Israelites God waited for his people to return to him. In the exile God longs for his people to return. In sending Jesus, God waits for people to respond individually. Remember the story of the prodigal son? In Paul's writing he reminds us that the whole creation waits in longing for the fulfilment of God's kingdom (Romans 8:19). Waiting is Godly. Giving time to God and giving time to wait with God and for God is part of what we do as Christians. God did not and does not fill time by being busy. The Bible is clear, if God waits then so should we. Waiting is good because in waiting God restores us and prepares us for what lies ahead. 'Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall rise up like eagles.' (Isaiah 8:17) In this time of Advent let's take time to wait together on God. One way we can do that is by taking part in the *Advent Travellers* when we receive figures of Mary and Joseph for a night and then pass them on to someone else the next day. The prayers that are a part of *Advent Travellers* help us wait on God. May Advent be for us all a time of holy waiting.



Rev. Jane Winter

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

- Sundays** 09:00 Said Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.
10:30 Sung Parish Eucharist.
(On the first Sunday of the month, the 10:30 service is an All Age Family Eucharist.)
- Mondays** 17:00 Rainbows in the hall, excluding school and bank holidays.
- Tuesdays** 09:00 Said Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.
- Wednesdays** 09:30 Funshine Club in the church excluding school holidays.
- Thursdays** 19:00 Said Eucharist in the Lady Chapel with homily.
- Fridays** 12:00 Said Eucharist with Healing and Wholeness, followed by the opportunity for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.
- Saturdays** There are different regular Saturday events throughout the month. See the following 'What to look out for this month'.

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY WILL BE
10 DECEMBER - PLEASE GET YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THEN
OR EARLIER AS THE NEXT EDITION IS DUE OUT ON CHRISTMAS
EVE**

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

AT ST ANDREW'S

Sat 5 th	10:00	SAID REQUIEM EUCHARIST
	11:00	PCC MEETING
Sun 6 th	15:30	JOINT BENEFICE HOUSEGROUP at vicarage
Mon 7 th	12:00	GOING PLACES & SINGLETONS LUNCH at Bromley Court Hotel. Have you ordered your meal? for
	12:30	See Trevor Taylor for full details
Wed 9 th	15:00	AFTERNOON TEA at Apsley Court - Please join us. It is just 30p for a cup of tea
	19:45	HOME GROUP in St Andrew's church - See Malcolm Deering for full details.
Thurs 10 th	09:30	HILLSIDE SCHOOL NATIVITY
Thurs 17 th	09:30	ST MARY'S SCHOOL Christmas Concert
Fri 18 th	09.45	HAPPY PRE-SCHOOL Christmas Concert
Sat 19 th	TBA	TRIP TO WEST MALLING BAZAAR followed by lunch in the village. Please see Jill Renwick for full details
Sun 20 th	15:00	NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS followed by mince pies and mulled wine
Thurs 24 th	15:00	CHRISTINGLE CRAFT
	16:00	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - All Welcome - Please return your Christingle candle collecting box today if you haven't already done so.
	23:15	CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB
	23:40	MIDNIGHT MASS
Fri 25 th	10:00	TOY SERVICE
Sat 26 th	10:00	SAID EUCHARIST - FEAST OF ST STEPHEN
Sun 27 th	10:30	PARISH EUCHARIST - FEAST OF ST JOHN
Mon 28 th	10:00	HOLY INNOCENTS Said Eucharist

ADVANCE NOTICE - St Andrew's will be hosting a quiz night on 30 January 2016 and places are limited. Tickets will be on sale from the middle of December, so if you wish to come along please get your ticket as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The price of the ticket will be £6.50 but for more details see the notice board and listen for the notices.

AT ST MARY'S

Sun 6 th	10:00	TOY SERVICE in aid of Bromley Welcare. Please donate if you can, new unwanted toys, vouchers or money in envelopes marked TOY SERVICE (no soft toys) Thank you.
Fri 11 th	15:30	JOINT BENEFICE HOUSEGROUP at vicarage
	09:30	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for St Paul's School KS1
Sun 13 th	10:15	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE for St Paul's School KS2
	10:00	EUCHARIST with JaM Nativity Service
Tues 15 th	19:30	JOINT BENEFICE PRAYER GROUP at Muriel Unsworth's
Sun 20 th	17:00	Mince pies and mulled wine followed at
Thurs 24 th	18:00	NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
	16:00	CHRISTINGLE- All Welcome - Please return your Christingle candle collecting box by the first week of January if you haven't already done so.
Fri 25 th	23:00	MIDNIGHT MASS
	10:00	TOY SERVICE - Children to bring a favourite toy from their stocking/presents
Sun 27 th	10:00	PARISH EUCHARIST - FEAST OF ST JOHN

ST ANDREW'S READINGS FOR DECEMBER

Sunday 6 th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ALL AGE FAMILY EUCHARIST Philippians 1: 3-11, Luke 3: 1-6. (Good News Bible)
Sunday 13 th	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Zephaniah 3: 14-20, Philippians 4: 4-7 and Luke 3: 7-18.
Sunday 20 th	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Micah 5: 2-5, Hebrews 10: 5-10 and Luke 1: 39-45.
Thursday 24 th	MIDNIGHT MASS Isaiah 52: 7-10, Hebrews 1: 1-4 and John 1:1-14
Friday 25 th	CHRISTMAS MORNING ALL AGE FAMILY EUCHARIST AND TOY SERVICE
Sunday 27 th	Isaiah 62: 6-12 and Luke 2: 1-7. (Good News Bible) JOHN THE EVANGELIST Exodus 33: 7-11, 1 John 1: 1-10 and John 21: 19-25.

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES AND EVENTS
AT ST MARY'S

Sundays	10:00	Holy Communion
Mondays	09:00	Morning Prayer
	17:30	Evening Prayer
Wednesdays	12:00	Midweek Eucharist

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ST MARY'S

MOTHERS' UNION

First Sunday of the month - 11:30 in the church centre (hall).

First Tuesday of the month - 13:30-16:00 at various venues. Please listen to notices and see the notice board.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Four members from our branch attended the autumn council at St Columbus school, Bexleyheath. It was very interesting hearing all the news from the Diocese.

Our outgoing President Susan Brooker received flowers and gifts and a book made up of items from each branch in the Deanery. Our new President will be Mrs Julie Jamieson who will be commissioned in Rochester Cathedral on 2 April 2016.

The Deanery meeting was held in All Saints Church on 19 October 2015, where four of our members attended.

For our November meeting five members and one husband joined All Saints Orpington branch for their overseas lunch. This gives each one of us a chance to catch-up on news from their branches and to meet old friends.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas.

Muriel Unsworth

OPEN DOOR LUNCH

Second Tuesday of the month at 12:00 (Cost £5.00)

Fourteen of us sat down to lunch on 10 November 2015.

The December lunch is at The Atlas Mexican Restaurant (by prior booking only) on the 15 December.

The next Open Door Lunch is on 12 January 2016 and is pizza and chips followed by jam sponge and custard. This will cost the usual £5 per person. Please book with Rosemary Lathey (01689 872742) or Muriel Unsworth (01689 835275).

The Open Door Team thank all of you who have attended and helped in any way during 2015 and wish you all a happy Christmas and a good new year. We hope you will join us on 12 January.

Rosemary Lathey and the Open Door Team
(01689 872742)

SOCIAL CLUB

Second Tuesday of the month 13:30 to 16:00 **Tony Lathey (01689 872742)**

COFFEE MORNING

Second Saturday of the month 10:00 - 12:00 (Cost £2:00)

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

Please would you bring your Children's Society collecting boxes to church to be counted between now and the end of December. Could you please also be kind enough to donate any new toys (but not soft toys), gift vouchers, new puzzles, games etc. for all ages of children. These are for the toy service on Sunday 6 December at St Mary's. Many thanks.

Joyce Ozsvald

ST MARY'S RESTORATION NEWS

THE GOOD NEWS

We have a maintenance manager: thank you to Terry for volunteering to do this. Terry's role is to keep a record of maintenance tasks... not to do it all!

We hosted a very successful concert which raised £483.67 for the restoration fund. Thank you to all who sold tickets and who came along. It was a wonderful afternoon and many people from the community have been asking when the next one will be.

We have finalised the history of the church and this is now being printed. Thank you to Tony for a huge amount of research and writing.

We have received all the new signage, which gives visitors information about the church. Thank you to Peter for organising this.



We have received approval from DAC for the necessary faculty approval but the Diocesan Registrar has raised objections that are currently being investigated. We do not believe this to be a *show-stopper!*

We are still seeking to submit the second round submission to HLF by the end of November which is for the major element of our funding and will, if approved, allow us to begin structural work in early spring 2016. In all honesty, a submission at the end of November is a risk which could push the whole project back three months. Robert is working with Peter to achieve a November submission and prayers for the success of their endeavours are requested.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016

We have plans for training church guides in February. If you would like to be a guide and take small groups of people around the church please see myself or Peter.

We are planning a second concert: Light Music for a Lazy Sunday Afternoon, celebrating Valentine's Day, on Sunday 14 February.

We are organising a training day so that we can learn how to care for an ancient building like ours. We will probably host this training in March. This will include people from other old churches in the diocese. If you would like to be involved in caring for St Mary's church building then speak to myself or Peter about coming to the training.



We have a lot to be very thankful for and a lot to look forward to.

Rev. Jane Winter

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

We know the second great commandment in the Gospels that we *love our neighbours as ourselves*, but ...

Where in the Old Testament are we told to love our neighbours?

This is one of ten questions by Rev. Henry Thompson B.A., vicar of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, under the title Sunday School Bible Questions in July 1899. The answer will be in next month's magazine!

Malcolm Deering

A JAR OF JaM

The children of JaM wrote acrostics for 'PEACE' and 'SUFFERING':

People who died in the war for us.
Every life remembered at the 11th hour of the 11th month.
Anyone who buys a poppy or donates helps
Carers to nurse the injured
Everywhere Zina (JaM +)

Suffer
Us
Father to have
Equality.
Remember
In
November to love
God Chiko (JaM)

So sad to remember but
Unified we
Forgive but not forget.
Forever they will be remembered.
Every step you take with Jesus
Rewards you.
In your heart
Never think that
God isn't listening. He is. Ozo (JaM)

Protect and
Encourage
All
Children
Everywhere Sofii (JaM)

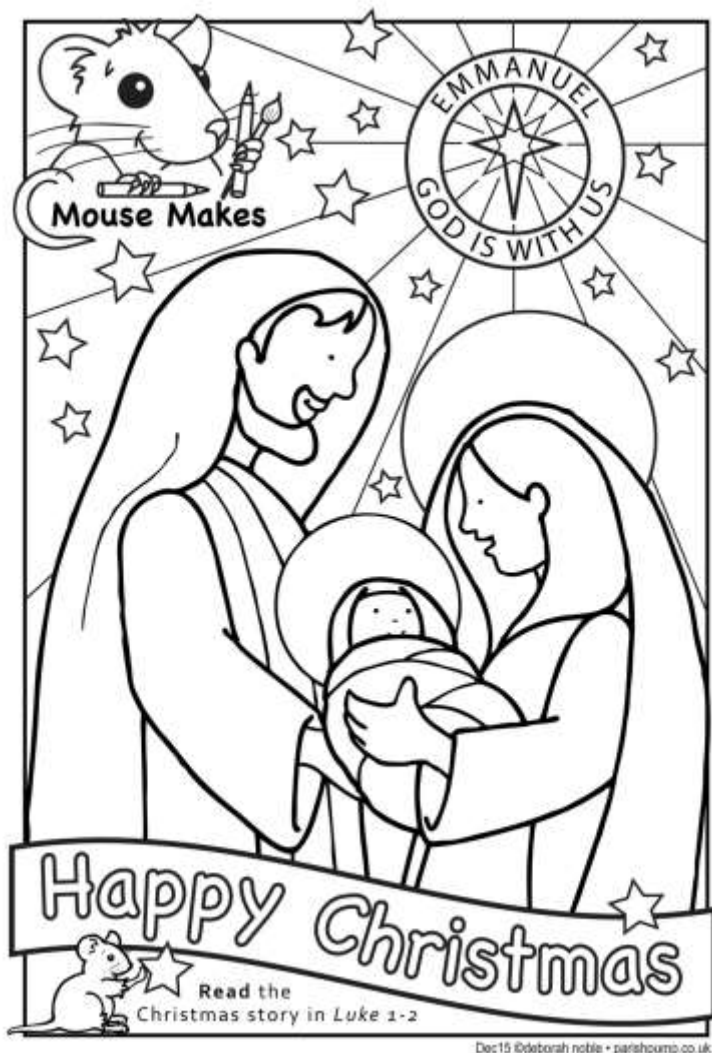
Peace on
Earth
And
Care for
Everyone Stacy (JaM)

Peace and
Expectation and
Attacks stop.
Care for
Everyone Cormeagar (JaM)

Pray
Each day.
Ask God to
Care for
Everyone Ivie (JaM)

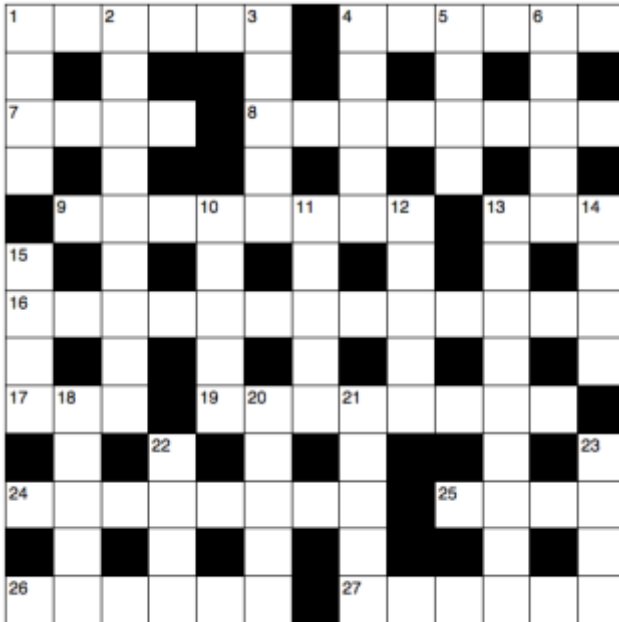


FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH THIS CROSSWORD

Solution will appear next month



Across

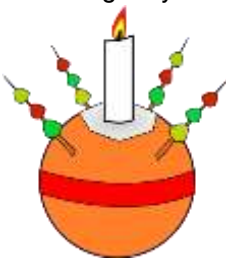
- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a – , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 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 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld – – (4, 4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 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 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their 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 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What – – that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2, 3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes 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 the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come 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)

CHRISTMAS: THE STORY OF THE CHRISTINGLE

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made: Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that.



But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

THE CRAYFISHER

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Visit: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Courtesy of www.Parishpump.co.uk

A YEAR WITH THE CROFT POETRY CLUB



I am so pleased that the Croft Poetry Club has enjoyed such a good year in 2015 and has grown its presence in our local community. In addition to meeting every month at the Croft Tea Room (from which we took our name when we started in March 2014) we have held occasional and most enjoyable meetings at the St Mary's Church Centre and at other local venues.

At Christmas we can all be reminded of some of the most wonderful poetry ever written. The radio station Classic FM holds an annual poll for listeners to nominate their favourite Christmas carols. I have no doubt that we love and value our carols because of the vivid, powerful words and poetic phrases that we hear and sing in them. *Good King Wenceslas* (the word *Wenceslas* is a delight in itself), *Once in Royal David's City*, *The First Nowell* all take a look at the joyful, lyrical verse that you can read in each of those carols, and in many more:

The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

THE CRAYFISHER

If the weather forecasters are right (I hope they are not!) we might begin 2016 with a Christina Rossetti bleak midwinter where earth stands hard as iron. To attend Poetry Club meetings, our members might need to ride on a sleigh! If you would like to join us in 2016 do please contact me or speak to the Tea Room. In the meantime and on behalf of all the members of the Poetry Club may I wish everyone at St Mary's and St Andrew's a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jerry Dowlen

AUTUMN SUFFRAGETTE WOMEN'S SPRING BY IAN PORTER - A REVIEW

This story links two events which had a tremendous effect on British society. The sinking of the Titanic with a loss of over 2000 lives was unbelievable at the time. It was the most modern of liners. Its design and manufacture were the most advanced and innovative in the world. It was regarded as indestructible. It set out on its maiden voyage in 1912 with great pomp and publicity. At that time the campaign for votes for women was becoming more violent and women were being jailed for attacks on public buildings. The Titanic disaster might even have delayed the success of their campaign because it emphasised that changes do not always succeed.



The story is about a couple, Ruby and Nashy, who meet on the Titanic. They were fortunate enough to get on board one of the lifeboats and were rescued. Ruby's father, who looked after the engines, did not survive. The first part of the novel is about Ruby's problems as she deals with the shock and horror of the shipwreck and her fight to get fair financial compensation and pension help for her widowed mother. Her encounters with the owners of the White Star shipping company demonstrated the differences in the way the upper classes and the steerage passengers were treated when financial help was being apportioned. It highlighted how unfairly and callously the company treated the crew members compared to how they treated the middle and upper class passengers. It also demonstrated how unfair society was in general. Ruby's mother was offered a pittance compared with dependants of more wealthy passengers.

Ruby and Nashy meet up again when they both become involved in the suffragettes' campaign. Although they are fictional characters most of the people they meet and work with are real. The events they get caught up in and the treatment they experienced was real and the description of the treatment of women who were jailed is true. They were treated very harshly by the establishment and in Ruby's case, were imprisoned and force-fed. The

description of this shows how horrific it was for them and in some cases they were subjected to this every day until they almost died. They were also ill-treated, humiliated and tortured by brutal warders and policemen in a way which today would be unthinkable.

The author has researched the events of that time very well and many of the events that Ruby and Nashy get caught up in are graphically described. Women were harshly dealt with when they carried out acts of civil disobedience. He also quotes many of the famous politicians of the day who were completely against women (and also working class men) being given the right to vote for men (and it was all men) who would govern their lives and make the laws.

Both the episode of the Titanic and the struggle for enfranchisement also highlights how the rich perceived the poor. The shipping company handed out as little as possible in compensation, without any sympathy for the plight of the dependants of the crew. Even when the suffragette movement began, the first groups ignored poorer women. It was largely a movement of the upper classes and it wasn't until they reached out to the poor and gained their support in large numbers that it was successful. Men, such as Winston Churchill, were forced to give in, in the face of the numbers who took up the fight.

After reading this book I found that my admiration for the women who fought and died so that I could have a say in how the country is governed, had increased greatly. Their dedication and courage was beyond measure.

A worthwhile but uncomfortable read.

Evelyn Magee

NON ANGELI SED ARCHANGELI!

Angels help us to adore him

Ye behold him face to face

Preface: Three straight As!

In my article for November I concluded by introducing an angel, St Raphael. There are three angels mentioned in the Bible and the Apocrypha: Gabriel, Michael and Raphael. They are all known as saints and archangels.

Angels are holy, celestial, spiritual, created beings. The word angel in Hebrew is **malak** and in Greek **angelos**. Both words mean *messenger*. They are God's special messengers proclaiming good news to us! Gabriel means *man of God*, Michael means *who is like God?* and Raphael means *God heals*.

Hark the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born king

When I was a child we always had a real Xmas tree at Xmas. It always had an angel on top. My mother was a lapsed Baptist and proud of it. She never went to church but she made my sister and I go every Sunday! She would never countenance an artificial tree - or a fairy! Neither of these were real. Our tree was real. Angels were real. I can still smell the pungent fragrance of that tree as it stood in its antique pewter pot, a family heirloom. Where is it now? My dad and I were sent to pick up the tree from a shop in Goose Green (not the one in the Falkland Islands, the one in East Dulwich!) After that we were forbidden to touch it. Only my mum and sister were allowed to decorate that tree. It was a family tradition.

I grew up having never believed in Father Christmas or tooth fairies. I believed in angels and St Nicholas and still do. I did grow up with a fear of the dark. I slept under the covers with the light on because I was always conscious of the unseen realm impinging. I have now learnt to embrace the darkness although I still prefer the light.

Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven and in the presence of Mary, Mother of God, St Andrew, St Nicholas and all the saints... may I wish you all a very happy Xmas!

O Lord, as your holy angels ministered to you upon earth, grant us their help in all our needs, that their loving care may keep us safe and draw us to you whom they worship unceasingly, looking upon the unclouded brightness of your face. Amen.

Malcolm L Playfoot. A Saint Francis Prayer Book. 1941

Bill Willis



A VICTORIAN HEARTFELT THOUGHT

I have been given an old book, Home Words for Heart and Hearth. It mainly consists of twelve monthly groups of contributions for 1899, by clergy and other people. It was part of an ongoing series that was apparently available for inclusion in church magazines. However, the final part of the book contains details of the monthly services, events and other items relating to St John the Evangelist, Hildenborough in its Parish Magazine and Home Words, for 1899.

The Young Folks Page of the May Home Words includes:

A deaf and dumb girl was once asked by a lady, who wrote the question on a slate, 'What is Prayer?' The little girl took a pencil and wrote the reply,

'Prayer is the wish of the heart'. So it is. Fine words and beautiful verses said to God do not make real prayer without the sincere wish of the heart.

Those heartfelt words, 116 years later, seem just as appropriate now... and not only to *young folks*!

Malcolm Deering



Funshine Group
St Andrew's

Contact: Sarah Rideout 0794 10 20 724

Funshine Club - Toddler Group

St Andrew's Church

Lower Road, St Mary Cray, Orpington.

Wednesdays 09:30 -11:00 - term time only

Autumn Term 2015

- 03/12/15* *Christmas crafts*
- 09/12/15* *Christmas party, Jolly Dinosaurs, face painting and Santa*
- 16/12/15* **NO TODDLERS**
- 23/12/15* **NO TODDLERS**
- 24/12/15* *Christingle - St Andrew's Church*
15:00 Craft
16:00 Service
Angels and shepherds very welcome
- 30/12/15* **NO TODDLERS**
- 06/01/16* *Toddlers Back*

JaM

(JESUS and ME)

JaM is our Sunday School group at St Mary's
We meet in the church centre (hall) at
10:00

You are very welcome to join us

Every week is full of activities such as art and craft, drama, games and music
Learning about Jesus and the Bible is fun
For more information please contact
Jacky Cook on 01689 810451
Come and join us if you're aged between 4 and 16

PCC VACANCY

Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, a member of the current PCC has found it necessary to resign. This has created a vacancy which needs to be filled. Is there anyone who would be willing to take this on? It isn't such an onerous task. We only meet about 6 times a year. If you are interested please speak to me and I will fill you in on the details. Many thanks.

Brenda Smith
PCC Secretary



QUIZ NIGHT
AT ST ANDREW'S
WITH FISH & CHIP
SUPPER
SATURDAY
30 JANUARY 2016

Doors open 19:00

6 only to a team £6.50 per person

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN
TICKETS ARE ON SALE
FROM 15 DECEMBER 2015





Funshine Club

St Andrew's Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time

We meet in St Andrew's Church
Lower Road.
Car Parking in St Andrew's Church Car
Park

**£1.00 per Adult,
Children free**

(Includes craft activity, tea/coffee,
squash and biscuit)

Enquiries to: Sarah Rideout 0794 1020724

We are a very friendly group for babies to
preschool children, Mums, Grans,
Dads, Grandads, Childminders & Carers.
Please come along & join in the fun.

HALL FOR HIRE
HAVE YOU THOUGHT
OF HIRING ST
ANDREW'S FULLY
EQUIPPED CHURCH
HALL FOR A
FUNCTION? IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED
PLEASE CONTACT
THE PARISH OFFICE
ON 01689 823775.
THE HALL IS
USUALLY
AVAILABLE
EVENINGS,
WEEKENDS AND
DURING THE DAY
OUT OF TERM TIME

EASYFUNDRAISING.ORG.UK

Raise money the easy way – just by shopping online!

- Shop with over 2000 retailers like M&S, Amazon, Argos and more
- Raise a free donation for us EVERY TIME you buy something
- Completely free
- Lots of money saving vouchers too!

Sign up now and start raising money for >St Mary's and St Andrew's Church <<



CHURCH HILL GARAGE LTD

76 years of dedicated experience



MOT's and All Mechanical Repairs & Servicing
Air Con Servicing & Engine Diagnostics

01689 821836

Church Hill, Orpington BR6 0HE

email: info@CHgarage.co.uk www.CHgarage.co.uk



EAL
EMTA Awards Limited

P
PART
Electrical safety

City & Guilds

Michael Cresswell - Electrician

Please contact me on 07799 767036

or mick@mc-electrician.co.uk

**All work carried out to BS 7671 2015 17th Edition
Wiring regulations**

**Inspection & testing - Rewiring - Additions -
Alterations**

Part P registered with **NAPIT who provide a 6 year
guarantee**

www.mc-electrician.co.uk