

PARISH NEWS

St Cuthbert, Wells *with* St Mary Magdalene, Wookey Hole
Linked with the parish of West Livingstone, Zambia

December 2018

ADVENT
ISSUE



Dear Friends

As I write this all the various preparations for Christmas are starting to get underway in church. The special extended choir has been practicing at St Cuthbert's, and the details of events at Wookey Hole are likewise being finalised. The board advertising the Crib Festival has gone up, and we are thinking about what chairs and staging need to be up for which events, and where the choir are going to sit at St Cuthbert's when the Christmas tree has pinched their spot!

In all of these practical preparations it can be easy to lose sight of the meaning behind the festival; the reason that this season has such a hold over our wider society and draws so many in to experience what the church has to offer.

In some ways, the church is an organisation which has its own bureaucracy like any other, however much we try not to let it get in the way! Ironically it is a bureaucratic edict which begins Luke's story of the birth of Jesus, a story to which our attention turns once again at this time of year. Luke's second chapter begins with the announcement of a census: 'In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.' From what we know about large government projects today, the Roman Empire must have had the edge on our own Civil Service to even think of such a massive venture!

Luke doesn't tell us whether Augustus' census was

delivered on time or to budget, but he is keen to give us the message about a still greater project that God was enacting in the nativity of Christ, and which was decidedly not a back-office, pen-and-paper exercise.

The story of the nativity appeals because it is so very small-scale and human, just as the infant Jesus was tiny and vulnerable in his manger. But as small as that event was in the life of one family 2,000 years ago, it echoes down the centuries because it was also immeasurable and cosmic in its impact for the whole of creation. Later on in Luke's gospel, the prophet Simeon recognises the scale of this event when he praises God, saying, 'my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

It is God's way to work through the small and every-day to deliver his projects for creation. There is nothing too small, dull, or trivial which, when done in faithfulness to the will of God, cannot be a beautiful and pleasing gift to God, and can even be thought of as a kind of worship. All of us who contribute to the life of the church—whether singing, putting up Christmas trees, or anything else however mundane—are doing God's work and helping to bring about the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Saus

Bubwith Chapel

1662 Holy Communion is celebrated every Thursday at 11am in the chapel at Bubwith Almshouse.

The small group of residents and visitors who worship there each week would love you to join them.

To find the chapel go through the church yard and into the main entrance to the Bubwith site. Go along the passageway between the two buildings and turn right. Walk through the beautiful "secret" garden and the chapel is the last door on the left.

Patsy Barrow

Lift to Church

We have a number of parishioners who are finding it difficult to get to church for the Sunday morning service. We are exploring the possibility of creating a rota of people willing to offer others a lift to and from church. We realise that a weekly commitment can be too onerous, so we are looking for volunteer drivers to offer a lift one Sunday a month.

Please have a word with one of us if you think you can help.

Patsy and Antonia

Buy from Traidcraft this Christmas

As many of you know David Green and I run a monthly Traidcraft Stall at St Cuthbert's.

You may have read in last month's Parish News that Traidcraft might finish trading at the end of the year. However it has now decided to restructure to a slimmed down organisation selling a simpler range of products—mainly food items. Meanwhile we still have stock from their present range and David and Bernadette Green and I are having a Traidcraft Stall on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December during the Crib Festival. Therefore please come and buy your Christmas cards, presents and other goodies from us then.

Mary Martin

Forthcoming event

The Pastoral Team are planning to host a tea party in St Cuthbert's on Saturday December 1st from 3- 5pm..

We want to welcome old friends who are no longer able to join us for Sunday worship and fellowship.

We need your help to :

- Identify who to invite
- Offer transport to and from church
- Bake
- Join us on the day

Please see Patsy Barrow for more details or if you can help in any way. Thank you.

CTWA Services

There is no service this month, but CTWA are having a Christmas event in the Market Place all day on Saturday 15th. There will be Christmas music by Vineyard, and cards giving details of Christmas service times will be handed out,

together with Christmas tree star decorations which can be decorated at the stall.

Mary

Home Communion

If you know of anyone who is unable to get to church and would appreciate receiving Holy Communion at home, please contact either the Parish Office (01749 676906 or email office@stcuthbertswells.co.uk), or Alistair Glanville (01749 870321).

Lay Pastoral Assistants

The Team are happy to visit anyone in the Benefice who is lonely, unwell or bereaved.

Please contact us via St Cuthbert's Parish Office, telephone 01749 676906

Patsy Barrow

Cards for Good Causes

The shop is open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm daily (except Sundays or if there is a weekday service) until 9th December.

Volunteers are still needed to help on the stall on Saturday mornings; please contact Jasmine Dyer, tel. 0745 347 8183 or email jasmine.dyer@cfgc.org.uk

St Cuthbert's Ladies' Group

For our November meeting we had a social evening with Fay, Pam and Sheila giving humorous readings, and Sarah doing a quiz which was won by Jo Reast. The raffle was won by Mary and Betty, then we had tea, coffee, mince pies and chocolate biscuits. There was lots of chatter, and the evening was enjoyed by all.

Please support our coffee morning on Saturday 15th December, from 10 am to noon; if you are able donate a raffle prize, food for Bring and Buy or cakes in aid of our Charity—the Restoration of Bubwith Chapel.

Maureen

ADVENT MONDAY LUNCHES

What could be nicer on a dreary cold December Monday than delicious home-made soup, crusty bread, a hot drink - and friendly conversation?!

All this will be available in church on three Mondays in Advent from 12.00 – 1.30 pm. And for the extremely moderate cost of £4.00!

On Monday 3rd December there will also be the added excitement of the Christmas Tree lights being switched on by the Mayor of Wells!

God with us

Well, we are into the frantic pressie-buying month of December now. The American 'Black Friday' tradition appears to be firmly a part of our own pattern and has brought the search for the perfect Christmas present yet earlier in our calendar. Parish and school Christmas Fayres offer us home-made, Fairtrade, recycled and singular alternatives. And increasingly the inequalities within our economy become more apparent as people risk debt to bring a smile to their child's face.

When I was a parish priest we found that many of our single parents felt trapped by the pressure of keeping up with those around them. We tried to introduce a maximum spend for all our congregational and family present buying in order to bring some parity. It wasn't easy!

I'm reminded at this time of year of the line that we are seeing more frequently, accompanying invitations to weddings and Birthday parties: **'No presents required, just your presence!'**

It makes me think about what Christmas really means. During this time of preparation and waiting for the big day to arrive, many of us will sing the words of that Advent hymn, 'O come, O come, Emmanuel', a 12th century hymn that invites God to fulfil his prophecy to his people. Will we really take in those words?

'Emmanuel' means 'God with us', such an important and comforting phrase in these times of uncertainty and anxiety, as we wonder what the new year will bring.

Christmas we know is a time when people can feel lonely, disappointed, stressed. There are reputedly more suicides and marriage breakdowns during the course of this holiday period. One of the best Christmas presents we can offer then must surely be that of hospitality, a listening ear and simply our 'presence' among those who feel forgotten, rejected or overlooked.

In so doing we will find God's own present to us this Christmas, as in any and all other Christmases, His presence. The God to whom "every animal of the forest and the cattle on a thousand hills, belongs" (Psalm 50) has given us the best present of all - **He is with us.**

**The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton**

Christian Meditation at St Cuthbert's

The Grace of Waiting

The hours spent in the waiting rooms of life are rarely pleasant and are mostly unavoidable. It can be terribly hard to wait. We would rather push things along quickly, anxious to spare ourselves the uncertainty and helplessness of waiting. Yet life is full of unchosen, unwanted waiting – in times of change and transition, in sickness and recovery, in parenting and caring, in old age and incapacity, in dying and grieving, and in the countless ordinary delays and disruptions of daily life.

History will judge us as an impatient generation. We are in such a rush, so much of the time, unforgiving in our haste. We have come to see waiting as nothing more than a problem, an irritating pause button that breaks the illusion of our control over our life's continuity. The idea that waiting may be necessary, or occasionally valuable, seems hopelessly old-fashioned and unpopular. Yet I have learned that a time of waiting that is actively embraced can become

an opportunity for surprising spiritual growth and discovery. My belief is that ultimately, all our waiting is waiting on God. Perhaps, more importantly, in our waiting we might glimpse how God is somehow waiting for us.

(from 'The Grace of Waiting', by Margaret Whipp)

The Christian Meditation group meets in the Trinity Chapel from 9.30 to 10.30 on the first and third Thursday of the month. Each session begins with a reflection, like the one for Advent above, followed by 25 minutes of silence and a closing poem and prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us. For more information contact Carol (cjhince@btinternet.com)*

***Please note that our first meeting in December, on December 6th, will take place in the Large Meeting Room at Wells Museum, to allow for the setting up of the Crib Festival at St Cuthbert's. We will start at the slightly later time of 9.45am and refreshments will be provided afterwards.**

CHRISTMAS COFFEE AND MUSIC – SATURDAY 22ND DECEMBER

On Saturday 22nd December, Myra Carter will be playing Christmas music as a background to coffee. Come and enjoy coffee, cake and Christmas music.

CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER AT 4.00 PM

Our annual service of lessons and carols will be at 4.00 pm on Sunday 23rd December. There will be choir items and plenty of lovely carols to join in with. The service will be followed by warming drinks (including mulled wine) and festive cakes and mince pies.

Do come and join us and bring your friends!

HAVE YOU GOT A GREAT SMILE?

Several of our long-serving and loyal Welcomers are stepping down from the role, so we are looking to recruit some new members of the team.

Our vision as 'the welcoming church at the heart of Wells' is to show God's love through the welcome we give to all who come through the door. So the smile and warm welcome at the door is hugely important.

The commitment for Welcomers is one Sunday morning in five, and occasional other extra services.

Please think about joining the team – it is both a valuable and rewarding contribution to the life of the church.

Poster found in a church in France (translated)

As you visit this church this Christmas, it is possible that you may hear the call of God. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile, so thank you for turning it off. If you want to talk to God, please choose a quiet corner here, and talk to Him. If you want to see Him later, send Him a text while driving.

Letter from St Mary Magdalene

Our main November event in Wookey Hole has inevitably been focussed on Remembrance Day, which despite dire forecasts, was bright and dry. In the porch, chancel and in front of the screen dramatic arrangements of foliage and poppies glowed in the sunshine and outside we gathered around the war memorial in the welcome autumn warmth for the familiar acts of remembrance. The wreath was laid and the words of the Commendation spoken by John Ford, who as an ex-serviceman living in the village is a very appropriate successor to Tom Mason who we remember with great affection fulfilling this role until the age of 94. It was good to see Tom's daughter, Jane, visiting us from Rooksbridge to join the congregation.

Our very young trumpeter, for the second year running, was Livia Bayley from the Cathedral School who had shot up since last year and was surprised to see "the forest has gone!" In the church garden. She played beautifully with adult assurance.

We were also very grateful to her mother who turned out to be a doctor when one of our congregation was taken ill in the following service. In addition we had another visiting doctor with us, and 4 Rapid Responders and 2 ambulances turned up very rapidly indeed; so we were well served, unlike a previous incident when the ambulance insistently went to Wookey.

I don't think we will easily forget Remembrance Sunday 2018.

Elizabeth

Wookey Hole WI—November meeting

The November meeting was well attended and best wishes were sent to one of our members who had broken her arm.

Five of us had attended the recent SCFWI Annual Meeting and our delegate Sue H updated our members. It was an informative day with some excellent speakers including Jenny Bond. Myrtle and Sue B proudly carried our banner in the opening parade.

Once again our W.I. are displaying a memorial tribute in St Cuthberts Church Wells. Personal stories have been told and Jenny has made two beautiful Remembrance Wall Hangings (see *photo*). Numerous poppies were made from wool, felt, silk and even red serviettes. We included a tribute to animal victims of war. Jill thanked everyone for their contributions.



Our Speaker was Stewart Sheppard, who clearly loved his varied interests. With the aid of a musical quiz he took us through the changing years from WW2, Teddy Boys, Mods and Rockers and the Beatles.

As a collector of 'junk' he showed us items from these eras that most of us would have thrown away. He has found items in skips that have proved to be quite valuable.

Amid much laughter Sue B thanked him for entertaining us. Stewart judged our competition to make a recycled item: 1st Sue B..2nd Lesley R..3rd Jill

Our gardens are still producing lovely blooms 1st Jan....2nd Pat ...3rd Jill

Jill reminded everyone to continue to bring Christmas treats for the Food Bank.

Jill Deane

CAMERAS AT THE READY



Don't miss this amazing Festival

Where?...St Cuthberts Church Wells on Friday 7th - Sunday 9th December

10am to 4.30pm - (11.30am on Sunday)

Sparkling Stars, Beautiful Angels and Nativity Crib Sets from around the world displayed throughout the Church. Dressing up for children, (perfect for that special card for Grandma).

Music, Mulled Wine, Seasonal Refreshments and Bumper Raffle

We have all the ingredients for a special 'feel good' Christmas visit.

On Sunday the Reindeer will be in Wells so come and see us too.

The Festival ends with Wells City Band providing joyous music in the Church with their Christmas Carols and Songs.

It's not too late to let us know if you have a Nativity set or Angel that you would like to be displayed. Ring [01749 678410](tel:01749678410) or Parish Office [676906](tel:676906)

Jill Deane

Wookey Hole Ladies Circle

This month's meeting was our annual Christmas craft afternoon with our own Sue Williams. Sue brought with her countless empty loo roll tubes; we had two each, one to make a Rudolph and one for a Father Christmas. It looked daunting but Sue is good at being patient. It involved squashing in the top to make the Santa hat shape and the bottom to form his red coat and black feet. The Rudolph was surprisingly simple; it looked so difficult. Sue had drawn the shapes we needed to cut out onto every tube. The top two shapes (provided you cut it in the right place, or else it was one) we curled into antlers, and Sue had lots of red beads from which we chose our Rudolph's nose.

What can I say? We had so much fun. Hoots of laughter at our own attempts rang around the hall while Sue reassured us that they were all very professional (she's a good'un our Sue). Rudolph had big eyes, little eyes, Martian eyes and my own were decidedly a Rudolphina's and eyelashes that had to be 1960s false (auditioning with Disney next month).

There were, of course, hot drinks and biscuits enjoyed by all and we were still chattering and chuckling as we left. Thank you Sue.

Our next meeting is Christmas lunch at the Burcott Inn on December 4th. Keep away if you like peace and quiet. Peace there will be. As for quiet?

Linda Danson

How Silent Night first began - 200 years ago

One of the most popular Christmas carols, *Silent Night*, was performed for the first time 200 years ago this month, on 24th December 1818, at midnight mass at a parish church in Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria.

The carol was originally a poem, written in six verses by priest Joseph Mohr two years earlier. Because the church organ was broken, he thought it would be nice to turn the poem into a simple carol that could be played by a guitar, and so he asked church organist Franz Xaver Gruber if he could write a suitable tune. Gruber did so in a matter of hours.

That night Mohr and Gruber sang the new composition, with Mohr playing guitar.

Karl Mauracher, an organ builder working at the Oberndorf church, took the carol home with him to the Zillertal, about 100 miles away, where it was taken up and popularised by two travelling families of folk singers, the Strassers and the Rainers.

They eventually sang it in New York, where in 1859 Episcopal priest John Freeman Young wrote and published the rather free English translation that is most frequently sung today, using only three verses and changing the rhythm slightly. The carol has been translated into about 140 languages.

Christmas stamps

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. 'What denomination?' asked the clerk. 'Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?' said Maria, 'Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Church of England ones please.'

The hour-glass of Christmas

But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son..... (Galatians 4:4)

Have you ever used one of those old-fashioned glass 'egg-timers'? Thousands of sand grains sink down from the wide top of the glass until they trickle through the tapered centre, only to fill the bottom as the glass widens out once more. By then you know your egg is boiled.

It is this very 'hour-glass' that describes the shape of Christmas – and all that stems from it. At the top of the glass, the dimensions were wide: God promised that salvation would come to the whole world through His people Israel. They would act as God's 'light' to the world. Then, as the centuries went by, and Israel constantly rebelled against the Lord, the hour-glass narrowed: until by the end of the Old Testament, it was down to a faithful remnant.

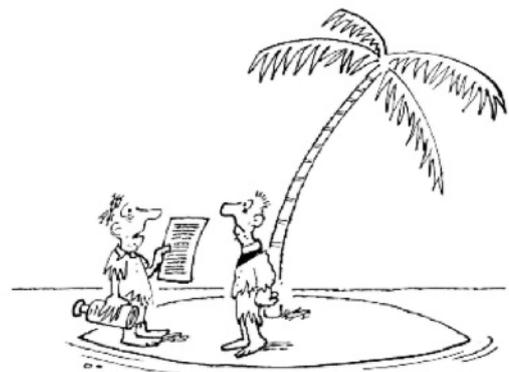
400 years more, and the sand-glass has narrowed down to a tiny hamlet by the name of Bethlehem... and the reduction now to a single grain – a manger-Child - of whom it would be said, "*He became flesh and lived among us.*"

The solitary Man from Galilee turns out to be what Israel could never have been. All rested upon Him - the personal and unique fulfilment of an eternal sacrificial plan for a dying world. The apostle Paul would one day describe Him as 'our great God and Saviour' (Titus 2:13). Here was the narrowest point in the Christmas hour-glass.

But, inevitably, the process - having narrowed in shape from Eternity down to the Child born as world-Saviour - was to widen out again. With the disciples and then the birth of the Church, the international witness spread ever-wider....to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and finally to the ends of the earth. We are still part of that widening process now!

The Man born to be King at tiny Bethlehem now stands at the right hand for us all. *He is still a man; not even an 'ex-man,' but glorified Man*, beckoning us all – beckoning YOU to follow Him onwards from this very Christmas to partake with Him in the Glory to come!

Revd Richard Bewes



It's a letter from your church. They want to know if you've done the flower rota, if you've done the brass-cleaning rota, and have you ordered the mince pies for the carol singers Christmas party?

Home Library Service

Bringing library books to the doorstep – the Home Library Service is a free service run in partnership with the Royal Voluntary Service and Somerset’s Library Service. It is available to anyone who cannot easily get to the library, often those who are vulnerable or who may have disabilities or mobility needs. This is such a great service for people who love to read but can no longer get to the library. A volunteer will deliver and collect books which the person would like.

If you know someone who would benefit from this service, please contact Kirsty Jenssen, Service Manager for the Somerset Home Library Service on mobile 07920 250834 or by e-mail on: kirsty.jenssen@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Lynn Tel: 01749 671456

WOOKEY HOLE CINEMA NOVEMBER FILM

THURSDAY 13th December

7.30pm The Magic Flute (PG)

Ingmar Bergman put his indelible stamp on Mozart’s



exquisite opera in this sublime 1975 rendering of one of the composer’s best-loved works: a celebration of love, forgiveness, and the brotherhood of man.

Perhaps the most delightful film ever made from an opera, this is a sensuous cinematic pre-Christmas treat.

Come and join us at Wookey Hole Community Hall at the bottom of School Hill

Doors open 30min before film. Tickets on the door £6, under 18’s £3

More info and a trailer at wookeyholecinemaclub.weebly.com

Emmanuel means ‘God with us’

A friend of mine was diagnosed recently with breast cancer. A bright, vivacious lady in her fifties, she took the devastating diagnosis really well, but when the time came for her mastectomy, she understandably began to feel very nervous.

Sitting with her husband in the hospital cubicle awaiting the operation she experienced for the first time ever a panic attack. She breathed slowly in and out to reduce her fear and offered the only prayer that came to her mind: ‘God is with us, God is with us.’ She repeated the words under her

breath, asking that God would give her a sign of His presence to reassure her.

Just at that moment there was some noise from the next cubicle. A doctor had arrived to see the patient. He introduced himself like this. ‘Hello, my name is Doctor Emanuel and my name means ‘God is with us.’ My friend turned to her husband, amazed, and asked him, ‘Did you hear that?’ He said he did and was also amazed at the wonderful reassurance from God.

When the nurse came in to attend to her, my friend asked, ‘Who was the doctor just now in the next cubicle?’ The nurse replied, ‘I’ve no idea, I’ve never seen him on this ward before.’ This only added to their sense of wonder at the intervention of God. The sign of His presence continues to encourage her – and others – throughout her long treatment.

Christmas reminds us that God stepped into our world, and became a human being, born as a baby at Bethlehem. In Jesus, God is with us, and He continues to come to us in our times of need, bringing us peace and reassurance. Remember, whatever situation you find yourself in, you are never alone. Jesus, our Emmanuel, is always with us. He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

Revd Tony Horsfall

Passing

‘Life is precious’ the dying woman said,
Teaching her husband
For when she would be dead.

He tried to reach –
They talked about their life,
The unconscious joy, the comfort,
The strange lack of strife,
Reviving times now dear –
Loss of parents, shared, consoled,
Each ruck and fold
Of circumstance, action, aspiration,
Fulfilled or failed
As the years rolled.
She gave a sigh.
‘You must find someone.’
‘After you, how can I?’
‘You try. You are lovable
You mustn’t be alone.’

Their journey tenderly unpacked and known,
He heard her last breath
And confessed her gone.

Maureen Forrest

On two wise men, one three-legged sheep and a tipsy tree



The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It really is time to get some new figures for the crib. After a series of accidents over the years, we are now down to two wise men, two shepherds, and one three-legged sheep that only remains upright if it is leaning against a shepherd.

Joseph, having been obliged to stand outside the shelter of the stable for the last four decades, is now comprehensively venerated with bat droppings. In a rather desperate effort to enlarge this rather frugal cast, Miss Timmins hit on the idea of introducing characters from the children's Easter garden. This would have all been very well if both sets of figures had been to the same scale, but we now have the shepherds apparently being threatened by two ten feet rabbits.

One of our local farmers – I am sure very kindly meant – donated far more straw for the stable than was necessary. Our decorators, refusing to let his generosity go to waste, used the lot. The result is that Mary and Joseph stand up to their waists, looking as if they are being engulfed by a straw snow drift. The crib, along with baby Jesus, has disappeared entirely. The latter is not entirely to be regretted, since no one can now see that Jesus has no nose and only one arm, the result of one of our children dropping Him on the floor at last year's Crib Service.

I am sure your ecologically appropriate Christmas tree, made of re-cycled dustbin liners will be much appreciated by your congregation, knowing that they are saving the planet for future generations. We however remain traditional, with a tree always donated by the local squire from his estate, even if it is at the cost of adding another degree to global warming. Not only does it look more fitting, but it gives our verger something to do on twelfth night, as he sweeps up several hundredweight of pine needles.

I sometimes wonder if it is entire coincidence that the tree is always delivered by the estate staff on a day when there has been torrential rain in the area. Carrying it into church up the aisle makes it look as if the parting of the Red Sea has unsuccessfully taken place inside St. James'. The major problem every year is getting the wretched thing to stand upright in the sanctuary. It takes so long that I sometimes feel it would be quicker to re-align all the church pillars to the same angle as the tree itself.

Last year's decision to have tree lights which flashed in succession was not a success. Those members who stared at them for too long while singing carols tended to fall over – although I suspect that Major Crump's inability to remain upright at the midnight Service was for rather different reasons. Not using flashing lights this year, the Major will have to find a different excuse.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Encouragement

The minister was having a tough time in the run-up to Christmas. He finally stretched himself out on the couch to do a bit of what he thought to be well-deserved self-pitying. He moaned to wife: 'Nobody in this church loves me ... the whole town hates me!'

His wife passed by with this encouraging word: 'That can't be true, Jim. I'm sure most people don't give you a second thought.'

Christmas present for dad

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

What she wants for Christmas

A little girl was in the kitchen watching her mother busily preparing for the following day's Christmas dinner. She asked, 'Mum, can I please have a cat for Christmas?'

Her mother replied, 'No, you'll have turkey like the rest of us.'



Blind Veterans UK

A thank you letter has been received from the Blind Veterans UK charity to thank St Cuthbert's for our recent donation of £71.00. This was a result of the Military Wives Choir concert held in St Cuthbert's in October.

Blind Veterans, previously known as St Dunstan's Blind Veterans UK, in 2015 marked 100 years service as they continue to provide a lifetime's practical and emotional support. Our donation does more than provide practical support; it is also a great morale booster for veterans who are battling blindness to know that there are people who haven't forgotten the sacrifice they have made.

Sheila Linegar, PCC secretary

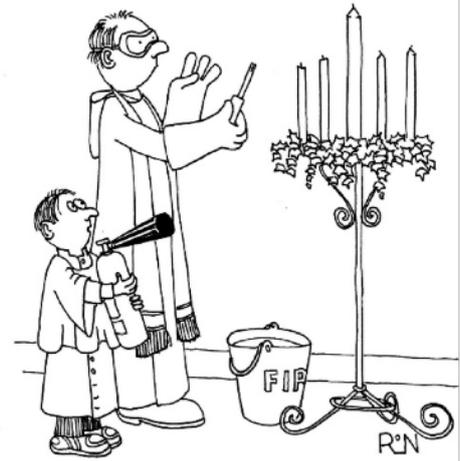


...and if you scan it, you can download my Christmas sermon!



Editorial note:

Views expressed in articles in this magazine are the views of the authors, and do not necessarily express the views of the Clergy, Churchwardens or PCC of St Cuthbert's Church.



After the first candle fiasco, Brian took no chances

Carol singing

Samantha decided to go carol singing on Christmas Eve. She knocked on the door of a house and began to sing. A man, holding a clarinet, opened the door to the house. In a few seconds tears were streaming down his face.

Samantha continued singing for at least a further 20 minutes. She sang every carol she knew. At last she stopped. 'I do understand,' she said softly. 'You are remembering your happy childhood Christmas days.'

Choking back the tears the man replied, 'It's not that...I'm a musician.'

My brother heard a woman on the bus say, as the bus passed a church with a Crib outside it, 'Oh Lor!' They bring religion into everything. Look – they're even dragging it into Christmas now!' *CS Lewis*

The best baby-sitters, of course, are the baby's grandparents. You feel completely comfortable entrusting your baby to them for long periods, which is why most grandparents flee to the south coast. *Dave Barry*

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**

Deadline for Parish News articles : the **12th** of each month,

Please support the advertisers with your custom, and tell them you found them in this magazine.

To advertise your business in these pages, please phone the editor, Bob Haigh, on 01749 677038 or email bob@thehaighs.me.uk

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2018

PARISH NEWS December 2018

Saturday	1	3.00pm	LPA Parish Tea Party
Sunday	2		Advent Sunday
		8.00am	1662 Holy Communion - St Cuthbert
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist - St Cuthbert
		11.00am	Parish Eucharist - Wookey Hole
Monday	3	9.30am	LPA meeting - St Cuthbert Wednesday
		12 noon	Advent Lunch - St Cuthbert
Tuesday	4	2.15pm	Trefoil Guild Carol Service
Wednesday	5	10.00am	Holy Communion - Trinity Chapel
		11.00am	WI choir rehearsal - St Cuthbert
		11.00am	Christian Aid Carols in the Market Place
Thursday	6	9.45am	Meditation Group meeting at the Wells Museum (change of venue for this session only)
		11.00 am	1662 Holy Communion - Bubwith Chapel
Friday	7	10am-4.30pm	Crib Festival - St Cuthbert
Saturday	8	10am-4.30pm	Crib Festival (<i>Fairtrade Stall during this event</i>) - St Cuthbert
Sunday	9		Second Sunday of Advent
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist - St Cuthbert
		11.00am	Parish Eucharist - Wookey Hole
		11.30am-4.30pm	Crib Festival - St Cuthbert (+Fairtrade Stall)
		2.30pm	Wells City Band
			'Cards for Good Causes' shop closes
Monday	10	12 noon	Advent Lunch - St Cuthbert
Tuesday	11	11.00am	Bath & Wells Clerical Society Eucharist - St Cuthbert
Wednesday	12	10.00am	Holy Communion - St Cuthbert
		11.00am	WI Choir rehearsal
		6.30pm	St John Ambulance Carol Service
Thursday	13	11.00am	1662 Holy Communion - Bubwith Chapel
Saturday	15	10.00am	Ladies' Group Coffee Morning
Sunday	16		Third Sunday of Advent
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist - St Cuthbert
		2.30pm	Carols and Cakes with the Swan Singers - St Cuthbert
		4.00pm	Carol Service - Wookey Hole
Monday	17	12 noon	Advent Lunch - St Cuthbert
Tuesday	18	2.00pm	St Cuthbert's Infants' Carol Service (St C)
Wednesday	19	10.00am	Holy Communion - Trinity Chapel
		7.00pm	Young Musicians' Winter Concert (St C)
Thursday	20	9.30am	Meditation Group - (Trinity Chapel)
		11.00am	1662 Holy Communion - Bubwith Chapel
		2.00pm	St Cuthbert's Juniors' Carol Service (St C)
Saturday	22	7.30pm	Wellensian Consort - St Cuthbert
Sunday	23		Fourth Sunday of Advent
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist - St Cuthbert
		11.00am	Parish Eucharist - Wookey Hole
		12 noon	Baptism: Beatrix Iris Burnell - St Cuthbert
		4.00pm	Carol Service - St Cuthbert
Monday	24		Christmas Eve
		4.00pm	Crib Service - St Cuthbert
		4.00pm	Crib Service - Wookey Hole
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass - St Cuthbert
		11.45pm	Midnight Mass - Wookey Hole
Tuesday	25		Christmas Day
		8.00am	1662 Holy Communion - St Cuthbert
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist - St Cuthbert
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist - Wookey Hole
Wednesday	26	10.00am	Holy Communion - St Cuthbert
Thursday	27	11.00am	1662 Holy Communion - Bubwith Chapel
Sunday	30		First Sunday of Christmas
		10.00am	Parish Eucharist - St Cuthbert
		11.00am	Parish Eucharist - Wookey Hole