

The magazine of
the Week St Mary Circle of Churches

Together

December 2017



United we stand

From the Rectory

As many of you will know by now, I have been offered, and accepted, the post of *Interim Priest in Charge of St Nicolas, Pevensey*, in Chichester Diocese. My last Sunday in Cornwall will be 18 February, with the licensing in Sussex on 13 March.

It will be a very different kind of ministry, in that although Pevensey is technically a village, it's connected in all sorts of ways to the nearby large town of Eastbourne, which is where we will be living.

And instead of having responsibility for eight churches, there are just two – and one PCC, rather than five.

Within the next three years, the parish will join with the adjoining one – which is of a very different tradition. A lot of work needs doing to prepare the ground – and is why the interim ministry post has been created (and why it is time-limited).

I'd not been looking for another job, but was approached and asked to consider it – and it felt right. We know the area well, as it's where I grew up, where all our children were born, and where I taught for 24 years.

When I was little, I remember being told that you should always leave the table feeling you could eat some more. It seemed counter-intuitive – but was a point well made.

And it's true in other respects – which is why it makes sense, if possible, to move on whilst whatever it is you're doing is still enjoyable and interesting – rather than waiting until it's begun to pall.

But change invariably involves challenge, as it means leaving your personal comfort zone – which is what I will be doing, by beginning a new phase of ministry, when most clergy of my vintage have long since retired.

Because although I certainly want more time for things that have for many years got rather squeezed out, I'm not looking to hang up my cassock just yet. So the fact that this a half-time appointment makes it particularly attractive.

But I've not gone yet – and our main focus over these coming weeks is obviously going to be on Advent, followed immediately by Christmas.

The story of the birth of Jesus is such a profound exploration of the many facets of our humanity, that there's something desperately sad about the way it's become seen as simply a bit of escapism – of interest primarily for children.

As a result, huge numbers of intelligent and thoughtful adults only engage with it in a cursory way, rather than looking to embrace and enter the mystery and wonder that come so naturally to the young, but which tend to get lost, as world-weariness sets in.

Most of us find the tradition and sheer familiarity of the Christmas celebrations (not excluding the gastronomic elements) immensely important. In a fast-changing world there's a need for at least some religious and cultural anchors – which is why doing (and singing) pretty much (if not exactly) the same thing as we always do at this season, helps to root us, helps us to find something solid on which to stand.

But the crucial thing about Christmas is *not* that everyone understands it in the same kind of way – but that everyone is able to find *some* way of engaging with it that works for them.

The problem is that this 'something' can't be put into words of one syllable (or even two), and is only available to those who give themselves over wholeheartedly to the spirit of the season.

This is why it is (surely?) well nigh impossible to celebrate Christmas in anything other than a superficial way, without getting involved in the sort of stuff that goes on in churches. Many people try (just as I used to) – but the outcome is rarely entirely satisfying.

It's the difference between peering through the windows of a restaurant and watching the diners – or being one of those actually enjoying the food.

Given how well we're able to dine (spiritually!) at Christmas, our task is to do all we can to make the idea of going inside seem positively irresistible.

As the liturgical current carries us merrily along, I wish you all a reflective Advent, and a joy-filled Christmas!

Rev'd Tony

DIARY DATES

For Church services see centre pages. For more details see the page listed.

Wed 29 Nov Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)

DECEMBER

Sun 3 Advent Carols, Songs of Praise, Week St Mary Church 6.30 pm

Sun 3 Carol Service at Jacobstow with St Gennys Band 7 pm (p 4)

Sun 3 Carol Evening, St Anne's Hall Whitstone, local musicians 7 pm (p 10)

Mon 4 Meet & Eat, WSM Parish Hall 12.30 pm (p 5)

Tue 5 Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)

Tue 5 Adventure Church Christmas Tree Party. All welcome 4.30 pm (p 4)

Wed 6 Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)

Fri 8 Carol Service & Christmas tea, Widemouth Bay, 3.00 pm (p 13)

Fri 8 Mulled Wine Evening WSM 7-9 pm (p 4)

Sun 10 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, Bangors Chapel, 11.00 am (p 13)

Mon 11 Rectory Christmas Party for WSM. All welcome. 7.00 pm

Tue 12 Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)

Tue 12 Adventure Church, WSM, 4.30 pm (p 4)

Tue 12 Rectory Party for Warbstow, Jacobstow, Treneglos, Whitstone. All welcome 7.00 pm

Wed 13 Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)

Wed 13 Rectory Party for Poundstock & Widemouth Bay, St Gennys. All welcome 7.00 pm

Fri 15 NO CAMEO in December (p 5)

Sun 17 Carols by Candlelight followed by mince pies and mulled wine, Poundstock, 3.00 pm (p 13)

Sun 17 Carol singing around Poundstock parish. Meet Bangors. 6.00 pm (p 13)

Mon 18 Whist Drive, St Anne's Hall, Whitstone 7.30 pm (p 10)

Tue 19 Mother & Toddler Coffee Pot Club, WSM Parish Hall, 10-12 (p 5)

Tue 19 Adventure Church, WSM, 4.30 pm (p 4)

Tue 19 'Twas the night before Christmas...' WSM, 7.30 pm (p 10)

Wed 20 Summerhouse Study Group, Widemouth Bay, 2.15 pm (p 11)

Wed 20 Carols at the Manor, Widemouth Manor, 8.00 pm (p 13)



St Mary's Church

Christmas Tree Party



**Come and help to decorate
our Church Christmas Tree
Have Tea and Biscuits with us
Sing some Christmas Songs
4.30 pm Tuesday 5th December**

St Mary's Church

Mulled Wine Evening

**Mulled Wine and Nibbles
Christmas Bring & Buy Table
Raffle**



**Friday 8th December 7 - 9 pm
at Wyke House,**

By invitation of Linda Collinson

JACOBSTOW CHURCH



CAROL SERVICE

**Sunday 3 December at 7.00 pm
With St Gennys Band
Followed by supper in the
Parish Hall**

*Note that the Carol Service replaces
Evensong 3 December*

Jacobstow and St Gennys Winter Evensong Time Changes

From NOVEMBER evensong time at Jacobstow Church will be 4pm and at St Gennys Church it will be 4.30pm throughout the winter instead of 6.30 pm

Meet 'n' Eat

Usually held in WSM Parish Hall at 12.30pm on the first
Monday of each month (next is 4 Dec)

Everyone is most Welcome



CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other

No meeting in December

Contact: Linda Cobbledick (01288 341468)



MOTHER* & TODDLER COFFEE POT CLUB

Meets every Tuesday from 10.00 to 12.00 in Week St Mary Parish
Hall. Contact Emma Woolfe or Kathy Jeffrey
(Search for Coffee pots in Facebook Groups)

* Grannies, Granddads, Aunties, Carers etc all welcome!

STRATTON DEANERY BOOK CLUB

In December we will be discussing:

Mothers, Mystics and Merrymakers by

Sarah Hopper for discussion in January.'



First Monday of each month at 14 Monterey Close, Bude,
EX23 8DX at 7.30pm

Gail Brace: 01288 352412 New members always welcome.

Persecuted Christians in Turkey December 2017

Turkey is familiar to us in the Bible as Asia Minor. Here Paul, Barnabas and others in the early Church established Christian groups in many of the towns and cities. In Acts and the pastoral letters in the New Testament we read about the spread of Christianity in this area. In spite of frequent bouts of persecution Christianity became established, eventually becoming the main religion of the Roman empire under Constantine in the 4th century. With the arrival of the Islamic faith in the area, the rise and spread of the Arabian empire and the decline in the Roman empire, in the 6th and 7th centuries, the Christian presence and influence shrank. This led eventually to the establishment of the Ottoman Empire in the 14th century ruling the area till it collapsed during and soon after the turmoil of World War 1. During this turmoil some 3 million Christians were killed or deported, mostly from ethnic groups notably Armenian, Assyrian and Greek. With the establishment of the modern Turkish state, the antipathy towards Christians and non-Turkish communities has continued to this day, and the number of indigenous Christians is now only about 160,000, out of a population of some 80 million.

Under the present government, Turkey has taken a further swing towards becoming an Islamic State in spite of its supposed secular stance and constitution. Under crippling government restrictions, the rights of churches to own property, conduct services, open other facilities, train leaders, manage its own affairs and carry out evangelism and education are severely limited, especially for non traditional denominations.

In spite of this, there has been a gradual increase in the number of new converts to Christianity from Islam, even though they can be viewed as traitors by hard line Muslims.

The plight of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian Christian refugees is uncertain, and many report that they are ignored and actively suffer discrimination by the Turkish authorities and much of the population.

Prayers

- Give thanks to God for the small remaining Christian groups and churches, and pray for their protection from Islamic extremism.
- Pray for the new Converts to Christianity from Islam for strength of faith and fortitude as they come under pressure from their families and friends.
- Pray the government's programme of Islamisation, particularly among the young, will be restrained by bold opposition voices.
- Pray that restrictions on Christians will be reversed, and that believers will no longer be portrayed negatively in the media and in school text books.
- Pray for all the Christian refugees from neighbouring countries that they will receive the help and shelter that they seek and need. Michael Davey

Week St Mary Circle Services December 2017

(**AMW**: Revd Tony Windross, **RD**: Revd Canon Rob Dickenson, **RY**: Revd Rob Yeomans, **PJ**: Revd Peter Judson, **MM**: Methodist Minister, **GS**: Gloria Street, **CG**: Carol Goundry, **DP**: Drue Pratt, **AA**: Audrey Atkin, **WT**: Worship Team **HC**: Holy Communion, **MP**: Morning Prayer, **ES**: Evening Service; **FS**: Family Service, **AM**: Anglo-Methodist Service, **COMP**: Compline, **UBS**: United Benefice Service)

3rd December

First Sunday of Advent	0800	Widemouth B	HC	AMW
<i>purple</i>	0930	Poundstock	HC	AMW
	1100	St Gennys	HC	AMW
Isaiah 64: 1-9;	1830	Week St Mary	Adv Carols WT	
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9;	1900	Jacobstow	CS	AMW
Mark 13: 24-end;				
Psalms 80: 1-8				

<i>Wednesday 6th December</i>	0830	Widemouth B	HC	RD
<i>Thursday 7th December</i>	1100	St Anne's	HC	RD
<i>Friday 8th December</i>	1500	Widemouth B	CS	AMW

10th December

Second Sunday of Advent	0800	Widemouth B	HC	AMW
<i>purple</i>	0930	Jacobstow	MP	CG
	0930	Warbstow	HC	AMW
	1100	Whitstone	HC	AMW
Isaiah 40: 1-11;	1100	Poundstock	MP	Bongors
2 Peter 3: 8-15;	1830	Week St Mary	ES	RD
Mark 1: 1-8;	1900	St Gennys	CS	AMW
Psalms 85: 8-end				

<i>Wednesday 13th December</i>	0830	Widemouth B	HC	AMW
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Week St Mary Circle Services December 2017

17th December

Third Sunday of Advent

purple

1030

Jacobstow UB5

AMW

Isalah 61: 1-4, 8-end;

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24;

John 1: 6-8, 19-28;

Psalms 126

1500

Poundstock

CS

AMW

Wednesday 20th December

0830

Widemouth B

HC AMW

24th December

Christmas Eve

1500

St Gennys

Crib Service

AMW

1700

Week St Mary

Crib Service

WT/RD

white

2145

Whitstone

Midnight Mass

RD

Isalah 52: 7-10;

2330

St Gennys

Midnight Mass

AMW

Hebrews 1: 1-4;

2330

Week St Mary

Midnight Mass

RD

John 1: 1-14

25th December

Christmas Day

white

0800

Widemouth B

HC

AMW

0930

Jacobstow

HC

AMW

Isalah 9: 2-7;

0930

Poundstock

HC

RD

Titus 2: 11-14;

1100

Warbstow

HC

AMW

Luke 2: 1-14

Wednesday 27th December

0830

NO SERVICES

RECTORY PARTIES - All welcome on the dates shown in the Diary Dates page 3 - if you can't make it on your own parish's suggested night, come along another night

Week St Mary Circle Services **December 2017-January 2018**

31st December

First Sunday of Christmas

white

	1030	Poundstock	UBS	AMW
Isalah 61: 10- 62: 3;				
Galatians 4: 4-7;				
Luke 2: 15-21;				
Psalm 148				

<i>Wednesday 3rd January</i>	<i>0830</i>	<i>Widemouth B</i>	<i>HC</i>	<i>RD</i>
<i>Thursday 4th January</i>	<i>1100</i>	<i>St Anne's</i>	<i>HC</i>	<i>RD</i>

7th January

Epiphany

white

	0800	Widemouth B	HC	AMW
	0930	Week St Mary	FS	WT
	0930	Poundstock	HC	AMW
Isalah 60: 1-6;	1100	St Gennys	HC	AMW
Ephesians 3: 1-12;	1600	Jacobstow	ES	DP
Matthew 2: 1-12;				
Psalm 72: 10-15				

Rev'd Tony and Pat

We suspect that we are all still reeling from the surprise news that Tony and Pat will be moving on to a new parish in the New Year and all members of our Benefice will be concerned about what this means in the current climate of austerity in the Diocese. We are sure, however, that we all wish them every happiness as they return to their roots in East Sussex and thank them for their valued support in the time they have been with us.

G Jones (Benefice Lay Chair), L Booker (Benefice Sec.)

Carol Evening



Sunday 3rd December

At St ANNES HALL, Whitstone

7.00pm

Chair - Barry Bryne

Featuring local musicians

All Welcome - Mince Pies to Follow

Proceeds in aid of church funds



Tuesday
19th December
7.30pm

**" 'Twas the night
before Christmas..."**

*Local musicians
singing carols
and songs for
the Christmas season*

**An informal evening in our candle-lit church with
Cup and a Pudd.**

**Bring your own mince pies and
readers of your choice**

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, Whitstone

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE

Monday 18th December 2017

7.30pm

In St Anne's Hall, Whitstone

Proceeds to Church Funds



Sunday, 06:00 on BBC Radio Cornwall 95.2 FM / 103.9 FM

Sunday Breakfast, BBC Cornwall's Faith Programme

Donna Birrell looks at various faiths and ethics across the county and beyond.

Together

Material for the **January** magazine by **Mon 18th December** please, to: weekstmarycircle@gmail.com

This will be the address for all magazine correspondence.
PLEASE SEND YOUR COPY IN PLENTY OF TIME & ELECT A CORRESPONDENT WHO CAN SUPPLY THIS BY EMAIL TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE - THANK YOU



Widemouth Bay Summerhouse Study Group

meet on **Wednesdays at 2.15pm**
Currently reading

The Great Spiritual Migration by Brian McLaren
Ring Hilda on 01288 361323 for more details

ALL SOULS SERVICE REPORT

Rev. Tony led a Eucharistic Service for All Souls at Week St Mary this year on Thursday 2nd November. Around twenty people from across the Benefice attended and it provided a quiet opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed way and to share their names with those present.



Widemouth Bay Summerhouse Activities

Every other Friday at 2.00 pm
December activity will be the Carol Service & Christmas Tea 8th December 3pm

All welcome - ring Jann on 01288 361931 for more details

BENEFICE WEBSITE www.weekstmarycircleofchurches.org.uk

BENEFICE EMAIL for Magazine etc. weekstmarycircle@gmail.com

Advent Sunday at Week St Mary 3rd December

Week St Mary Church will be making a change to the usual pattern of services on Advent Sunday by holding an Evening Advent Carol Service in a Songs of Praise style and during which the Crib Figures will start their Journey around the village. This will replace the usual Family Service but we do hope that families will support the evening which will be centred on All Age Worship and include a variety of activities to get us in the mood for the run up to Christmas. Do please join us if you can, suitable refreshments provided of course!

Do you play a musical instrument?

I play Trumpet, have Grade 2 and now playing at Grade 3–4 level and would like to find a few people to play together for fun and a joint learning experience.

Could share lessons.

Classical, hymns, traditional folk, etc.



Open to suggestions and mistakes forgiven!!!

If interested please phone Pam on

01288 362115

Widemouth Bay area

Heating System at Week St Mary

Work to install a new heating system is well under way at Week St Mary Church. There has been some disruption to services but it will be well worth all the dust when we switch on some time during November! Thank you everyone for your patience and to St Gennys for taking our turn at the United Benefice Service - we will make it up to you as soon as we can!

Christmas in Poundstock and Widemouth Bay

Fri 8 Dec 3.00 pm

Carol Service and Christmas Tea, Our Lady and St Anne's, Widemouth Bay. Funds raised for St Petroc's

Sun 10 Dec 11.00 am

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Bangors Chapel. From the King James Bible

Sun 17 Dec 3.00 pm

Carols by Candlelight, St Winwaloe's.

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Gildhouse



Mon 18 Dec 6.00 pm

Carols singing around the parish,
Meet at Bangors car park



Wed 20 Dec 8.00 – 8.30 pm

Carols at the Manor, Carol singing
at Widemouth Manor

Mon 25 Dec 8.00 am

Christmas Morning

Communion, Our Lady and St Anne's, Widemouth Bay



Mon 25 Dec 9.30 am

Christmas Day Communion,
St Winwaloe's

Everyone is very welcome to all these events

THE CHURCH YEAR: Thoughts for December

The month begins the Season of Advent, four Sundays leading to the Celebration of the Birth of Christ. During this period we are asked to 'Stay awake' by Mark on the first week. On the second week, Mark gives us the ministry of John in the wilderness and Jesus coming to be Baptised. The third week, in the gospel, we have the first chapter of John who gives us another way of understanding the coming of Jesus. The fourth Sunday Luke writes of the angel coming to Mary and then we have Christmas Day with all its rejoicing and wonder.

If we look at the story from a different angle it is about two people who had to go to Bethlehem to be registered. They find themselves homeless and have to sleep in a squalid (by present day standards) stable. Mary gives birth without all the 'modern day' help and a baby boy is born...

The story goes on to tell us how Herod the King was visited by three wise men. We read, Joseph took Mary and the child and fled to Egypt. They become refugees returning to settle in Nazareth after Herod had been succeeded by his son Archeleus (Matthew chapter 2).

Homelessness and refugee status is prevalent in this present time. So many people have had to flee and would love to be able to return to their own country.

Most of you know the story backwards.

When we see our Churches with the stable scene, let us remember the children that have fled from their countries, the mothers who weep for their children, and the fathers who have brought their families to our country hoping to be able to start a new life.

Christmas is about new beginnings.

Christmas is about rebirth

Re-determination to make a home in our hearts for Christ to grow.

Changing our thinking. Changing our behaviour. Being reborn

So we can say 'I am no longer mine but Thine. I am no longer here to do my will but Thine. Send me out in the power of Thy Holy Spirit to live and work to Thy praise and glory'

Enjoy the celebrations but don't leave Jesus in the Church stable. Take Him home with you.

- Prayer

We thank you for our homes,
for warmth and food
for friends and families.
Use us.

Hilda Walter

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amwindross@btinternet.com

Reader Carol Goundry 01840 230 606

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Jacobstow	01840 230 526	Mr Brian Marshall
	01840 230 350	Mrs Frankie Franklin

Poundstock	01288 361 147	Mr Graham Jones
	01288 361 504	Ms Hilary Kenny

St Gennys	01840 230 151	Mrs Hannah Clifford
	01840 230 006	Mr Robert Andrew

Treneglos	01566 781 421	Mr Peter Mitchell
	01566 781 372	Mrs Heather French

Warbstow	01566 781 835	Mrs Audrey Atkin
	01566 781 081	Mrs Helen Jeffs

Week St Mary	01288 341 221	Mrs Lesley Booker
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Widemouth Bay 01288 362 254 Miss Judy MacDonald

Whitstone	01288 341 598	Mr Mervyn Collins
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