

St James Church Magazine



*Detail from East Window
St. James Taunton*

December - February Edition

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BEING RE-CAST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

On 10th November we hosted the annual meeting of the local bellringers' association, with ringing, worship and tea. While preparing for the ringers' service it occurred to me that we are all cracked! Let me explain...

A bell which is cracked in the lower parts just clangs with no real musical note. I always think it suits the British sense of irony that our best known bell, Big Ben, has been cracked for over a hundred years, but that all attempts to suggest that it be recast are met with horror because people have got so used to its tonelessness.

The only thing to do with a badly cracked bell is to take it down, put it in a furnace and re-cast a new bell using the same metal. Then it will be vastly improved and tuneful again – indeed owing to the advances in tuning techniques, probably far better than the original ever was.

We are all born with serious flaws. It's what we call the 'fall', exemplified in Genesis 3 by Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit then hiding from God, their relationship broken. Because we are human none of us can ever attain God's expected standards of holiness, purity, harmony, justice, love or compassion.

The only way we could ever measure up is to be melted down and re-cast: the Bible likens it to being born again. By God's Holy Spirit that option is open to us at God's expense. Then we are released to be useful again, in harmony with those around us, calling people into the presence and purposes of God.

Sometimes we are content with our tonelessness. It's what we and others are used to.

But even the best bells, if left untouched in the church tower, are useless. They must be rung! Occasionally we run the danger of thinking that we are fine with God, we are renewed, we pray, we are church members – yet actually we are like museum pieces; like bells hung in a tower and left for historic reasons; the products of much expense; beautiful examples of the caster's art – but not available for regular use.

We are not here to 'support' or 'attend' God's church: it is only when we have been given new birth and are willing to be put at God's disposal that we *become* his church - in action; all our gifts available for him to use. Loud in our praises and in our witness, in harmony with our Christian brothers and sisters.

God has dealt with our cracked human nature once and for all – beginning at Bethlehem at the first Christmas and culminating some thirty years later with the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Will you willingly let him recast you, make you tuneful for him, and then set to and give your work, your family, your time and your abilities to further his kingdom? There's an Advent challenge!

You will then become a person of great beauty, one reaching the full potential that God has for you now and into eternity.

God bless,

Tim



"It's funny the way you always decide to get down and pray whenever the vicar scans the congregation for volunteers."



SUSTAIN THAT HOPE – THAT STUBBORN THING INSIDE

I was awake early this morning because I had left the radio on overnight to listen to the results of the American elections as they came in. I had vividly remembered the inauguration of the first African American President four years ago and I had been moved by the spirit of hope and promise that seemed to flood, not just across the United States, but across much of the world. ‘Yes we can’ was the cry and we all wanted to believe it!

And yet, four years on many political commentators from across the pond had seen that hope begin to ebb away and what they were discovering on the streets was less than hopeful as they contemplated an ever increasing national debt and the gap between rich and poor continues to increase.

Nevertheless Barak Obama has been re-elected as President and he continues to hope. 'Despite all the hardship we've been through; despite all the frustrations of government, I have never been more hopeful about our future and I ask you to sustain that hope. I am not talking about blind optimism, the kind of hope that ignores the challenges of the task ahead, or the roadblocks that stand in our path; I'm not talking about wishful idealism that allows us just to sit on the sidelines. I have always believed that hope is that stubborn thing inside us that insists that despite all the evidence to the contrary, something better waits us, so long as we have the courage to keep reaching and working.'

Those words take on a particular resonance for me as we prepare for the season of Advent, that time in the church's year when we look forward in hope to the coming of Christ among us, for despite all the evidence to the contrary I continue to believe in a God who longs for the well being of humanity. Such was God's hope that he sent his own Son to live among us to show us how that hope might be realised. Our hope is to be found in the one who laid down his life for us, who taught us what it means to love, who showed us the way of forgiveness and peace, who had the courage to live a life of integrity and truth. He is the one who gives meaning to it all and who invites us to do the same. As we light the first candles of Advent may we be drawn once again in a commitment to live and work in hope for a better world in which the Kingdom values of justice and mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation reign supreme.

+Peter Taunton



DIOCESE OF BATH & WELLS

Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

PRESS RELEASE

03 November 2012

The Bishop of Bath and Wells to retire

The Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Right Reverend Peter Price, today announced he is to retire. Speaking at the Diocesan Synod held in Wells Cathedral this morning, he told the congregation:

“In June of next year I will be into my 70th year and have proffered my resignation of the See of Bath and Wells as from June 30th 2013.”

“I have had the privilege of serving this diocese as its bishop for nearly 11 years. It has been among the most special periods of my life and I thank you for all that you have been and done in support of that ministry.”

Peter Price became Bishop of Bath and Wells in 2002 and a member of the House of Lords in 2008 where he takes particular interest in international aid and foreign affairs. For many years Bishop Peter has been active in issues of reconciliation, contributing to peace-making in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Zimbabwe. In 2011 he was able to revisit friends in El Salvador, including one Bishop he was instrumental in saving from execution 20 years ago.

The Archdeacon of Taunton, the Venerable John Reed, who has worked alongside Bishop Peter since 2002, praised his ministry:

“Bishop Peter’s passion for the truths of Jesus Christ has been transparent to us all. Reconciliation, justice, peace and love are key words for the Bishop. It has been a privilege and joy to serve under his leadership. Peter and his wife Dee together have lived out their commitment to hospitality and the building-up of relationships and community through their ministry and life here in Somerset. I thank God for them and will miss them greatly.”

Bishop Peter and Dee have lived at the historic Bishop's Palace in Wells since 2002 and have brought about changes in the way the public can access and engage with the Palace building and surrounding gardens. Peter Stickland, Executive Trustee of the Bishop's Palace Trust, paid tribute to Bishop Peter and Dee:

"Peter and Dee have initiated some deep-seated changes to the Palace over the past ten years and it will never be the same again. Peter's legacy to the Palace is a determination to provide a special place where people can come and be inspired; all he has done here sits alongside his achievements across a wide canvas of church and political life."

The Bishop also used this morning's address to add his support to the ordination of women "to all three offices in the Church". He added: "It is my belief that appropriate provision can and will be made for those opposed to the ordination of women to the episcopate." He sounded a stark warning of the potential damage to the Church if there is a failure to vote through the Measure when delegates meet for the General Synod in November.

About the Diocese of Bath & Wells:

Through our network of people, parishes, schools and churches, the Church of England Diocese of Bath & Wells is supporting and resourcing confident Christian communities across Somerset.

The Diocese stretches from Portishead in the north to Crewkerne in the south, Minehead in the west to Frome in the east. Our two bishops, three archdeacons, 300 clergy, 540 churches, 180 schools, 496 parishes and 370 lay Readers serve nearly 900,000 people.

Visit our website: www.bathandwells.org.uk or follow us on Twitter: @BathWells

Contact:

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Diocesan Communications Officer

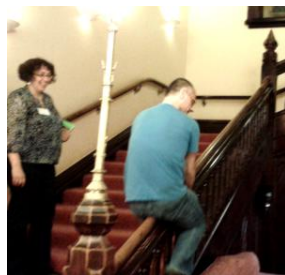
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Going for Gold Brunel 2012

It was six years since St. James had been to Brunel, so some people of the group of 68 who went had not been there before. Brunel is situated between Teignmouth and Torquay and is a house built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, designer of the Clifton Suspension Bridge. The house looks out toward the sea, and some people were fortunate to have a room with a sea view, looking out over the gardens. Not that we spent much time in our rooms over the weekend, except to sleep!



What do you expect of a church weekend – Dynamic programmes, intensive bible study, late night discussions into the wee small hours putting the world, the parish and the Vicar to rights – well if that's what expectation was then disappointment might have ensued.



Brunel 2012 was a time to be together, to learn together and to relax together in God's presence – less of corporate dynamic and more of individual learning. For those of us who



organised the weekend, we found that it came together. We started with a theme, for the sake of a name and the Olympic year seemed to provide that. However it quickly became apparent that to attempt any high flying record breaking feats of spiritual endurance to mirror the London

phenomena of 2012, was not what we were about. It was the gold we were looking for. After initially unsuccessfully looking for an outside speaker, we soon realised that we had the answer in our midst, in the person of our newly appointed Teaching Co-ordinator. Geoff was very diffident about the 'honour' and in typically Geoff-style was cautious about taking on the role. Fortunately we managed to persuade him without the need of a burning bush, that he was the right person.



MORE TEA, VICAR?

What have teaching and a cup got in common at 4.30 on the fourth Sunday of the month?

The answer is three letters - T, E and A.

At least, that's the idea. Instead of the usual 6.30pm service in the side chapel, we are planning a TEAch in . For a trial period, we are inviting as many as would like to do so, to meet in the small hall at 4.30 for tea and a piece of cake. Once consumed, a period of teaching and discussion will follow.

The first module will introduce us to the gospels in general and to St Mark's Gospel in particular. It is hoped that the approach will not be purely didactic but interactive and participative.

On January 27th we shall seek to answer such questions as
Who was the young man running in the nude through the garden?
What was Mark up to while Nero fiddled and Rome burned?
How did Mark happen to have his own ears but Peter's eyes?

This and much more on

January 27th

At 4.30 pm until 6.00 p.m.

In the small hall

It would be good to see you

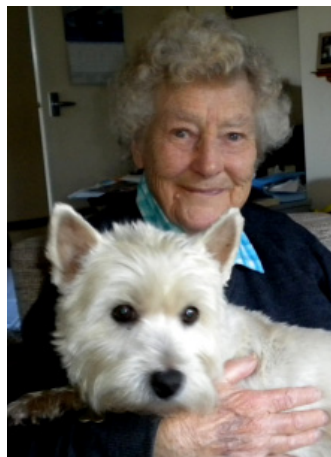
Geoff Treasure



Introducing.....

***“Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ”.***

For many of us Kay Seed needs no introduction, she has been a member of St. James for many years, but she has not always been there. She is someone who has seen and experienced many changes in her life and as a result is always willing to respond to new developments and challenges. She has a strong commitment to public service, and although she has been retired for a number of years now, she has continued to put herself forward to use her organisational skills for the benefit of others. This has included setting up a volunteer transport scheme in Cornwall, chairperson of her local residents organisation in Taunton, serving on various forums, a member of St. James PCC, leading a home group and coordinating the refreshment rota at St. James, which has only recently experienced the revolution of ‘proper coffee.’



Kay started life over the border, in Devon, living near Tavistock, the youngest in a family of three. Her family were committed Christians. Her grandfather was a Messianic Jew, who became an Anglican Clergyman, and worked in London among the Jewish community. Some of us may remember the Bible Comes to Life exhibition, which came to Taunton about 15 years ago – providing a fabulous and colourful insight into the background of the bible, and showing memorable insights into old and new testament culture. It was Kay’s grandfather that started this amazing exhibition with its collection of artefact and costumes. Although it is no longer is a travelling exhibition, CMJ still has a collection of costumes to enable churches to understand the story of the Book..

Kay was therefore brought up in a Christian home, but when she was 13 she made a personal commitment, which marked the start of her own Christian journey. She enjoyed teaching Sunday school, at the Baptist Church where her mother preached. However the war came to disrupt her life, and on leaving school at 16 she spent time in the Devon Women’s Land Army, working in a number of rural and agricultural settings. She hints that some of the influences were out of keeping with the values of her home, but we won’t dwell there!

Kay would liked to have gone into medicine or politics, but wartime limited her ability to obtain the necessary qualification, so she entered the tough and disciplined world of nursing. She was unexpectedly offered a place in London despite long waiting lists when another applicant dropped out, and she entered nursing in time to see the National Health Service take shape. Following her training, in London, which lasted 4 or 5 years, Kay returned to nurse her mother until she sadly died, and then began a career in both private and public service in Sussex and Kent rising to a senior nursing officer. Her final years before retirement were spent as the Head of a new Nursing Home for “The Distressed Gentlefolk Aid Association!.. Kay remembers these years as a challenging but enjoyable time, working with a dedicated and committed staff. Retirement has afforded more changes. She and her friend Barbara retired to Cornwall to be closer to her family, but then later moved back to Devon to be nearer Barbara’s family, before finally settling in Taunton a mere 19 years ago.

Kay is someone who has not been afraid of change, she has lived and worked in many places; she has been conscious of God moving and nudging her in different directions. She has seen the importance of broadening and deepening her faith and has read and enjoyed the insights of Christians who knew what it meant to live for God – personalities like CT Studd, Martin Lloyd Jones and Oswald Chambers – such people might be regarded as ‘old school’ but offer deep insights. Kay feels also encouraged that the church has moved from being introspective towards having a wider vision of the Christian faith and its relevance to the community.

Kay has a strong and steadfast faith, a great sense of fun (which gets a good airing at house group apparently!) a spiritual depth, a strong sense of community, and a lifelong acknowledgment of the Lord as being central to her life. This is often reflected when Kay leads prayers in church; she mentioned that it often takes her a couple of weeks to prepare for this, and her faithful attention to detail is much appreciated.

It would be impossible to write about Kay without mention of Lily, her delightful canine companion, with her knowing smile and well turned out appearance, she, like Kay, has eyes alert for the next chapter in life’s adventure

Operation Christmas Child

Boxes, boxes, boxes. This year Operation Christmas Child has announced that they hope, with everyone's help to fill their 100 millionth box, since the campaign started. That's an awful lot of boxes.



At St. James we are again supporting the project and over the 12 or so years we have been doing it we have probably sent over 600 boxes to add to the country and worldwide expression of love and concern for children. This year it is the Explorers and Climbers who are behind the box preparation, ably supported by Alison and the other leaders. So far as a church we have packed 50 boxes with the promise of more to come. Vicky Dykes has a story of meeting a young adult whose Christian journey started when he received a shoe box and was amazed that people thousands of miles away would want to send him a gift. Do ask Vicky for more details.



Also the Knitters of St. James have responded magnificently to a request from Archbishop Cranmer, our church School, to knit scarves, hats and gloves for the school's boxes. A colourful array of beautifully knitted articles have been sent to the school, where they have been received with delight. Fantastic job.

But Operation Christmas Child is only part of the work that is done by its parent organisation, Samaritans Purse. This organisation operates throughout the year supporting projects to help communities affected by poor sanitation, HIV and AIDS, emergencies and disasters. In order to support this work the Explorers helped to organise a fund raising lunch on 18th November. Thank you to all those who supported this, both practically and by coming or contributing. Over £330 was raised – well done Explorers!



Recently arrived at St. James are Roger Fenton and his wife, Elaine. Roger is the South West Coordinator for OCC, so this is a very busy time of year for him. On the 4th November, Roger spoke briefly in Church about the experience of delivering boxes to far flung communities and the wider work that is done. Do have a chat to him or Elaine to find out more of what he has been doing. You will find it really encouraging. You can also find out more on the

Samaritans Purse website.

<http://www.samaritanspurse.uk.com/>

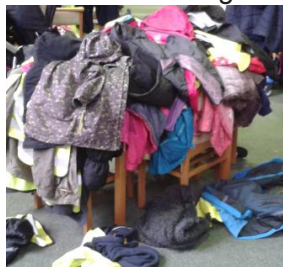




Harvest Service

Love God, Love Others
Love Ourselves

Well over 350 pupils, teachers and parents braved the rain and wind on Friday 12th October to celebrate Archbishop Cranmer School's Harvest celebration in a packed church. Coats were quickly discarded in soggy piles as the children were marshalled into their seating areas in the nave. Parents and younger children enjoyed a cup of tea at the back of church and found seats that would give them a good view of their children when they



performed.

In the front of the church there was a small mountain of tinned goods which the children had collected to be given to the Open Door project in Taunton, which provides necessary support for homeless and roofless people in the town.

Once the reception class had arrive (It takes longer for those with little legs, to make the journey from the school), the different classes each presented a piece to celebrate the Harvest theme. This included singing, readings, pictures, all presented in a lively style. Highly memorable were the scarecrows of the Reception class and a lively



song from year six .

In good time for the end of school, everyone left the church in an excited (but orderly) buzz of chatter, looking forward to the weekend.



Help us to help them by calling **0800 917 7765** and let us do the rest



No one should need to sleep rough. In B&NES, Somerset, North Somerset, Wiltshire or Swindon, there are services to support them. We can offer help. This may include:

- Giving them practical advice
- Supporting them to get back on their feet
- Help to get them back to friends and family
- Access to a range of emergency accommodation

**So if you see someone sleeping rough*
please tell us so we can help them.**

*Sleeping out in the open, in a tent, in a car, living in a makeshift shelter in the woods, sleeping in farm buildings etc.

**You can tell us about anyone sleeping rough
in your area – completely confidentially - by
contacting our 24 hour referral line **0800 917 7765**
or completing an online referral form by visiting
www.roughsleeperhelp.co.uk**

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Christmas is Coming

***Pre- Christmas Week
Services at St. James***



Family Carols

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 10.30AM

Christingle Service

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 5.00PM

Nativity Service

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER 10.30AM



Archbishop Cranmer School Carol Service

THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER 11.00AM

North Town Carol Service

FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER 10.30AM



Christmas Services at St James's

Business Carol Service

Tuesday 18th December 6.15pm

Carols By Candlelight

Sunday 23rd December 6.30pm

Carols round the Crib

Christmas Eve, Monday 24th December 4pm

Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve, Monday 24th December 11.30pm

Christmas Day Family Communion

Tuesday 25th December 10.30am



THIS LITTLE BABE

His hands are that of mercy
His toes are full of strength
His life a new beginning
That has eternal length
His skin is pure and perfect
And eyes are full of grace
What kind of king is born
In such a common place?

Our Father who art in heaven
Our Father from above
Truly is this your son
You sent for us to love?

This little babe in swaddling clothes
Lying in a manger
His innocence and purity...
He'll keep us all from danger?
Is it true if we believe in Him
He'll lead us not astray?
And you'll have mercy in your heart
When it comes the judgment day?

Oh, Alleluiah, praise and glory
As I follow I will sing
Thank you Lord Almighty for this
Blessed little King!

By Denise J Feil

ARMY OF ANGELS

Author unknown

A missionary on furlough told the following true story while visiting his home church in Michigan:

“While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, every two weeks I travelled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This was a journey of two days and required camping overnight at the halfway point. On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city where I planned to collect money from a bank, purchase medicine, and supplies, and then begin my two-day journey back to the field hospital.

Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries and at the same time talked to him about the Lord. I then travelled two days, camping overnight, and arrived home without incident...

Two weeks later I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated. He told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said, “Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and the drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that 26 armed guards surrounded you.” At this, I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone in that jungle campsite.

The young man pressed the point, however, and said, “No, sir, I was not the only person to see the guards, my friends also saw them and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone.”

At this point in the sermon, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and interrupted the missionary and asked if he could tell him the exact day this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date, and the man who interrupted told him this story.

“On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here and I was preparing to go play golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact, the urging of the Lord was so strong; I called some men in this church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. (Would all of those men who met with me on that day stand up?)”

The men who had met together to pray that day stood up. The missionary wasn’t concerned with who they were; he was too busy counting how many men he saw. There were 26 men.

This story is an incredible example of how the Spirit of the Lord moves in mysterious ways. If you ever hear such prodding, go along with it. As the above true story clearly illustrates, “with God all things are possible.” More importantly, God hears and answers the prayers of the faithful! God works in mysterious ways.



I discovered whilst clearing out my parents' home a notebook of events in the family and articles written by my grandmother (Susan Elliott - died 1926). I never met her. She owned a village shop in Devon was well loved locally and became the village confidante. Poorly educated but an intelligent lady of great faith. I would like to share some of these writings with you. Joyce Lander

4. Blessed are those who make God their confidante Written June 5th 1926
and rest on his word, never are they cast down who seek Him with their whole heart and restfully cast their cares upon Him. With my whole heart I will seek too.
Courage and patience are necessary if you are to get the best out of life. Always remember that you are the channel through which God works. His delight is in our service, which we render in love and fellowship.
We must keep in tune and harmony with the Divine.
Rejoice and be exceeding glad.

5. Lord how manifold are Thy works Written July 9th 1926

In wisdom past Thou made them all, the earth is full of Thy riches. So is the sea also and your friends your lives may be full of the Glory of God, as the water covers the sea. Look around on the beauty of the heavens and listen with the inward ear to it's sweet whispers of peace and plenty.

The earth with it's ripening harvest, the melody of birds, the glistening beauty of it's rivers and trees, flowers and fruit.

Behold God's hand in it all. What a friend to man, what a Father's lover to his children. Look around you and behold his work, and yet many see with the eyes of the body and ear, not the whispers of the Spirit, uttering not praise and thanksgiving to the Giver of all, realising not the beauty of his gifts to man.

Friends all, strive to think what the earth would be if God withheld the sunlight and warmth from the land. O Blessed be His name. He withholds nothing from us, ever evolving and rotating, always in perpetual motion. He gives that which is needful to man and beast.

Bless and praise his Holy Name.

Great and manifold are Thy wondrous works, manifesting in and through all things animate and inanimate.

Behold how great a thing it is Brethren to dwell under the shadow of the Almighty. He withholds nothing from his children.

6. How joyful a thing it is Brethren to dwell together in unity

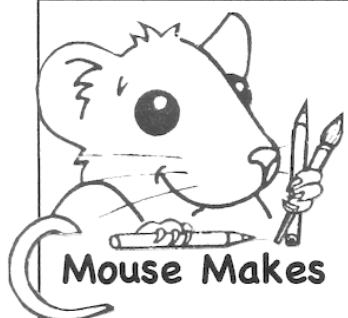
Written August 13th 1926

Do you understand the full meaning of these words?

What a different world there would be were we united in loving service each to the other.

How large a scope it would take; love and service vibrating in harmony like a mellow summer's day, when each is working and making a harmonious whole, no discord or disharmony, but like bees busy within the hives, making that which gives out sweetness and fragrance, comingly the essence of summer suns and winter rains, all combining to make food for man.

Life can be harmonious, fulfilling it's desires and destiny of man would work in harmony if man would work in harmony with all that's best in his nature, ever fulfilling the duties that lie to his hand, building for himself higher and nobler ideas of life and its significance, ultimately diffusing peace and love, bringing out all that is best within him and so filling the earth with gladness, peace and prosperity.



Mouse Makes

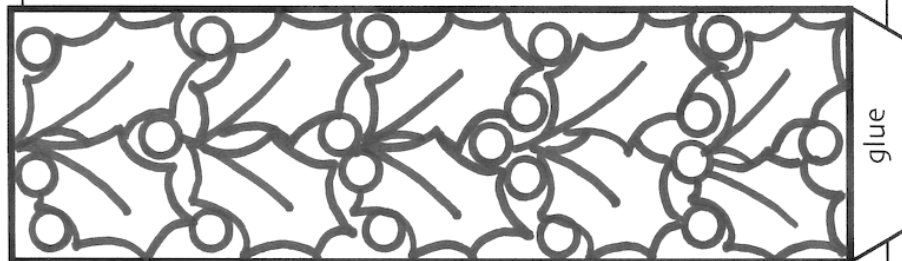
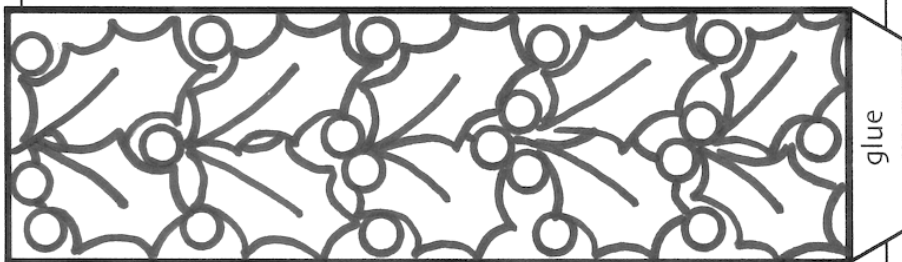
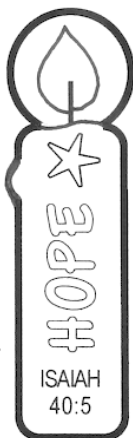
To make your Advent wreath cut out the strips of holly, colour, glue together and glue around a glass jar. Colour and cut out the candles. Glue one candle onto the jar on each Sunday in Advent.

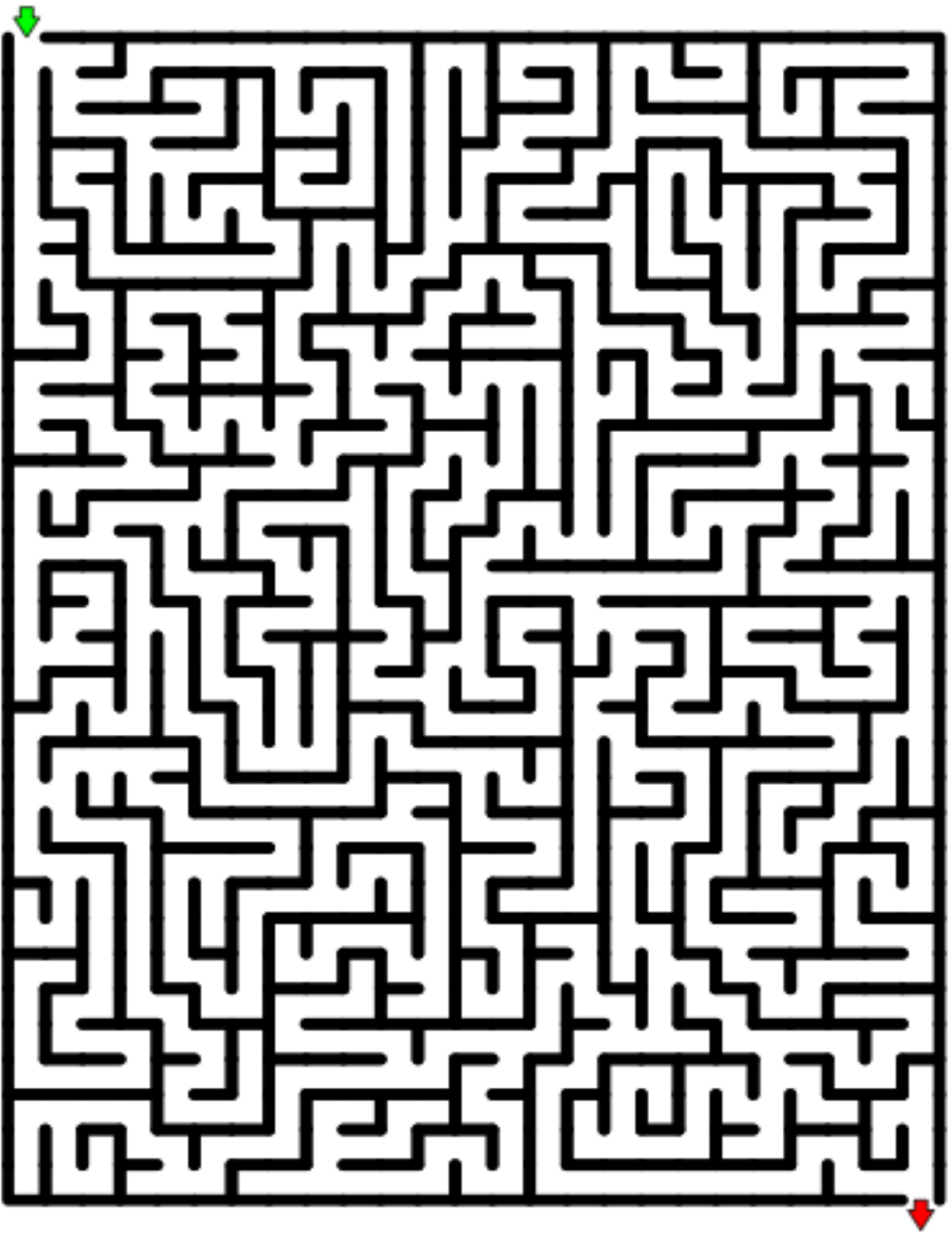


On Christmas Eve light a real candle in the jar to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

★ JESUS IS COMING! ★

ADVENT is the time before Christmas when we celebrate the arrival of **JESUS**, God's Son, our Saviour. In Advent we also look forward with **HOPE** to the time when Jesus will return to us again. We give thanks for God's **LOVE** for us, the **PEACE** we have with God through Jesus and our **JOY** at being His children.





Can you find the way through the Maze?

FIRKINS, HOGSHEADS AND LIGHT

Where do you find firkins and hogsheads? Answer- in the brewing industry. A firkin is a cask holding 9 gallons and a hogshead holds 54 gallons (all imperial measurements, metrication hasn't reached here yet). A barrel holds 36 gallons, incidentally.

In October, St James' Men, together with Oakwood church and St Peter's, went on a fascinating trip to Butcombe Brewery, near Weston Super Mare. 31 men came on the trip, including 12 guests. Butcombe produce about 50,000 barrels a year, which is an awful lot of pints. The old adage 'moderation in all things' is especially apt given that statistic!

The ingredients for beer are malted barley, hops, yeast and water through the tap from the Bristol Water Company. The water is sourced in the Mendips, and contains the ideal minerals for making beer. First the barley grains are roasted in a process called malting. The longer they are roasted, the darker the beer will be. Heating the grain fools it into thinking that spring had arrived, and it starts to germinate. At this point it is transported from Norfolk to Somerset for brewing.

Our guide on the brewery tour told us that by using energy from light through photosynthesis, plants produce carbon dioxide and glucose. The glucose units form long 'necklaces' to produce starch. Starch, a carbohydrate, is stored in twigs, buds and seeds for the next growing season. He marvelled at how wonderful nature was at storing energy like this.

During malting, enzymes (mainly amylase) from the skin of the barley grain convert the starch into maltose, which is a fermentable sugar. The enzymes are later destroyed by boiling which also makes the "wort" sterile. In ancient times, people understood that this would produce a drink which was safer than untreated water.

Hops are added to produce flavour. The longer they are boiled in the wort, the more bitterness they contribute. The hops come from Herefordshire, where they are grown vertically on long poles. Only female flowers from the top of the plant are used. Because they have to be harvested by hand, they are the most expensive ingredient.

The whole process, from mashing the barley with water to finally storing the finished beer, takes just one week. By varying the malt, production temperatures, boiling and fermentation times, beers of different taste and strength can be produced. Processes are finely controlled to ensure that quality is replicated, batch after batch.

At the end of our tour we had some great fellowship with the other guys there, Christians and non Christians mixing really well, which is how it should be. Butcombe provided some samples to drink, cheese and biscuits. The cheese comes from local farmers who donate it in return for waste barley mash. Their pigs love it.

St James' Men and other partner churches are planning to provide a range of social and other activities for 2013 as follows:

Date	Event	Organiser
January 2013	Men's Breakfast at The Lawns Social Club with a Christian speaker	Oakwood
March-April 2013	An Alpha or similar 6 week course on Christianity for enquirers	Joint
April-May 2013	Paintballing (near Bristol)	Oakwood
June-July 2013	Pick 'n Mix of social events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karting at Raceworld, near Exeter • Camping- tall tales round the camp fire • Archery taster sessions at Queen's College 	St Peter's St James St James
Sept/ Oct 2013	Men's Breakfast at The Lawns Social Club with a Christian speaker	St James

Exact dates will be advertised in St James' Bulletins in due course.

Other churches will be invited to take part. St James belongs to Christian Vision for Men (CVM). Its purpose is to introduce men to the Gospel message through social and other events which are fun, interesting and challenging. Hopefully, we will provide a range of activities in this area to which Christian men will want to invite their friends.

For more details about men's ministry please ask Martin Ingrams, Andy Hall, Stuart Melton or Graham Reid.

Andy Hall

CELEBRATE CHRISTINGLE IN BATH AND WELLS AND HELP TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Help The Children's Society celebrate Christingle and join us as we pray for some of the most disadvantaged children in our society. As we remember the story of Christ's birth, and the Holy Family facing crisis then, we hold in our prayers families in crisis today.

Last year the support from Bath and Wells was exceptional. Over 160 services were held raising more than £27,000 to help disadvantaged children.

A family can be in crisis for different reasons and the impact on children can be devastating. They can find themselves running away from home and facing increasingly dangerous situations, sometimes turning to alcohol or drugs.

Courtney ended up being taken into care after years of running away from the problems at home. Having spent the majority of her teenage years in a cycle of fear and frustration, Courtney was extremely vulnerable and in desperate need of support. The Children's Society provided her with a dedicated mentor who helped Courtney to take positive steps to change her life.

The Children's Society exists to help and support young people like Courtney and their families. Children may need someone to talk to after running away from an abusive family home, or they may need some permanence, stability and security when living in care.

The Right Revd Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover, is a supporter of Christingle and attended a service last year. He said: "I was reminded how important Christingle services are in bringing young people into church. But more than this, Christingle services are an opportunity for us all to support the work of The Children's Society as they reach out to the most vulnerable children and young people in our communities."

With over 6000 Christingle events taking place across the country, these are a magical way for children in churches, youth groups and schools to remember other children in often very difficult situations.

A Christingle event is easy to organise and fun to attend. Resources for churches and schools are written to engage children. Each child will receive a Christingle - an orange decorated with a lighted candle, red ribbon, fruit and sweets. There will also be the opportunity to hold a collection to support the vital work of The Children's Society.

Find out more and download resources at www.christingle.org.

Media Contacts

For more information, please contact Paul Martin in The Children's Society press office on 020 7841 4422 or email mea@chidsoc.org.uk. For out-of-hours enquiries please call 07810 796 508.

Notes to Editors

- The Children's Society wants to create a society where children can be children, childhood is respected and every child is valued for who they are. Our approach is driven by our Christian values and by the voices of children and young people, who are at the heart of all we do. In 2009 The Children's Society published The Good Childhood Inquiry, the UK's first independent national inquiry into childhood. Its aims were to renew society's understanding of modern childhood and to inform, improve and inspire all our relationships with children. The Children's Society is continuing to improve this understanding of issues affecting children through all of its on-going work.
- The charity has been campaigning to safeguard and protect young runaways for more than 25 years. It has nine projects working with children who run away, or are at risk of being sexually exploited, supporting more than 1,000 children every year.

New beginnings

Many people would hazard a guess that leprosy is a disease that died out soon after Jesus's time on earth. But three million people across the globe today are disabled or blind because of leprosy. It is undeniably a 21st century problem. Leprosy-affected people face a triple blow of disease, disability and discrimination. It is a disease intrinsically linked with poverty. The Leprosy Mission England and Wales is raising awareness of its work to break the cycle of poverty on Sunday 27 January – World Leprosy Day 2013.

Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, The Leprosy Mission England and Wales is able to provide a springboard for a new beginning to thousands each year in the 12 countries in Asia and Africa where it focuses its work. As well as providing opportunities for early diagnosis and treatment, The Leprosy Mission England and Wales offers gifts of healthcare, rehabilitation, education, vocational training, housing and a fresh water supply.

South Sudan – the UN's newest member state having been granted independence in 2011 – is where The Leprosy Mission England and Wales's latest challenge lies. A new country in need of renewed hope. A leprosy-affected community is living in tents having recently been displaced from land on the outskirts of the capital, Juba. These people had very little to begin with but now they are destitute with their only goal being survival. Their healthcare is woefully inadequate and access to education non-existent.

The Leprosy Mission England and Wales is working with the government of South Sudan to set up a programme to diagnose and treat leprosy before it causes irreversible disabilities or robs a person of their eyesight. It plans to improve this community's living conditions and send the children to school.

On Sunday 27 January, please pray for those affected by the devastating consequences of leprosy in South Sudan and around the world. If you can, please give a gift of hope to help The Leprosy Mission England and Wales continue its life-changing work.

For more information ring 01733 370505 or visit
www.worldleprosyday.org.uk



TOO BUSY!

I have found that often whenever we are asked to become involved in something - we are too busy!!

It's so easy to say, and we do it almost without thinking!

Moses was a busy man, looking after Jethro's herds and flocks - go back to Egypt where he was wanted for murder!!!! "Lord, send someone else!" (Exodus 4:13)

Jonah was no doubt busy with other things, perhaps he had a small business and couldn't spare the time away from it. In any case, he didn't want to go to Nineveh, so he tried to run away - in the opposite direction!!

Gideon was very busy when the angel visited him, he had a lot of threshing to do and then to hide it before the Midianites came looking for it! He was really busy! The disciples were very busy men when Jesus called them, weren't they - they were busy with their nets and their fishing, trying to make a living. Yet Jesus called them, and Praise God, they went.

Saul was a very busy man, he had serious business to do in Damascus!! He believed he was already doing the Lord's work!!

How wrong he was! The Lord had to do something dramatic to stop him in his tracks.

We all have our daily lives planned out, our time filled, and cannot see how we could possibly fit in another commitment.

However, it's not about our plans, it's about God's work.

It's about priorities.

In any case, is God's work not more important than anything we might be doing?!

It may well mean that we have to make room in our lives for this new venture, something we did before may have to go or change.

We may feel that what we are involved in already is the Lord's work, but at certain times in our lives, the Lord has something new for us to do, and we need to pray seriously about this.

It could be that what He is calling us to do, can best be done only by us! God needs us! And He may need us now, not later!

Gladys Aylward always felt that the Lord had called another to the work in China, and that call had not been answered. Then the Lord called her.

So when next you are asked to take on something new for the Lord, don't just say you are too busy without really thinking - think long and hard about it and pray!

Remember - the Holy Spirit not only guides us, He also empowers us!

Jack Edmonds

PCC Roundup

Here's a summary of the main things the Parochial Church Council looked at in September, October and November.

Strategy and Vision

Having allowed time for the new coordinators to settle in, the PCC has received the first of a series of bi-monthly reports from them.

Financial matters

The church has received a gift from Mollie Smith, which is being used to replace the church Bibles.

The PCC was pleased to offer a grant of £500 to the House of St Martin for the expansion of their bicycle refurbishment project.

The PCC was also pleased to authorise expenditure of up to £750 by the church's bellringers. They are undertaking a programme of long-outstanding repairs, much of the mechanism having last been properly overhauled in 1954, and now wearing out.

Tina and Les Andrews will be stepping down from the roles of Treasurer and Stewardship Secretary next year, after many years. The PCC has agreed to reorganising the financial jobs to spread the load; look out for the new job descriptions – volunteers needed!

St James Debt Advice Centre

Martin Ingrams and Graham Reid are continuing their project to establish a ministry to offer help with personal money management. The PCC agreed the name, "St James Debt Advice Centre". They hope to be starting the service in the new year.

Archbishop Cranmer School

The PCC was pleased to welcome Mike Dodden, the chair of the Interim Executive Board (IEB) of Archbishop Cranmer School, and Nigel Gann, one of the IEB members, to its October meeting. They explained what is happening to the governance of church schools in the diocese, and how they are responding in respect of ABC School.

The PCC has responded to a questionnaire sent out by the IEB. One suggestion is to change the school's name; the PCC has said that it "is content for a change of name to St James School, but would be equally happy for the current name to be retained. Some form of Christian connection should be readily discernible in whatever name is eventually chosen."

Use of the church hall as an emergency centre

The PCC has responded to an appeal from Somerset County Council for suitable premises for use in an emergency, such as a flood or a large fire. The hall could be used as a short term Place of Safety, or for Emergency Accommodation for up to a week. It is hoped that church members could provide some meals. SCC staff would supervise the operation.

Outward Giving

At its November meeting, the PCC began to think about its policy for giving money to other causes, such as 'missions'. This was an initial exploratory discussion, intended to identify the issues involved. A decision on how to frame a policy will be made later.

Licensing of Kate Taylor as a Reader

The PCC approved a proposal that Kate Taylor should be licensed as a Reader. She formerly served in that role at Staplegrove.

Mission to Firepool

A literacy class for residents at the new flats is being held in the halls, and some parents are coming to the Parent and Toddler group. A cookery class using the church kitchen is being planned.

Premises matters

A faculty is expected soon for the modifications to enable automatic operation of the light outside the main door of the church.

The PCC authorised work to improve the 'Garden of Remembrance', where ashes are buried. This is a well-visited part of our site.

Detailed work will begin soon on planning the installation of video screens on the church pillars, to enable members using the aisles to see the words of songs, sermon illustrations, etc.

Planning is still in hand for the refurbishment of the hall and obtaining budgetary costs. The room dividers have been removed. A new sound system for the hall will be temporarily installed ahead of the main works, as the present one is not working.

PCC minutes and agendas are displayed on a board near the coffee area, and previous minutes can be inspected in the office. The "Contact Points" leaflet is available near the photograph board; this tells you who to talk to about the various things we do as a church.

Martin Wakefield

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS LIST

Contacts for Pastoral Matters

Vicar: Rev. Tim Jones 01823 333194 e-mail: timjones@tesco.net

Pastoral Care Coordinator - Annie Reid 07812 130619

Church office: 01823 272931 e-mail: info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

Children and Family Worker - Alison Buckman 07783 883053

Magazine Editor - Andrew Slade 01823 259440 e-mail: 3waypersonalprint@gmail.com

Churchwardens - Jacky Gillingham 01823 270044 / Mandy Slade 01823 259440

Associate Churchwarden - Stan Wojcik

HOME GROUPS

EVENING GROUPS

Tuesday 8.00pm

25 Whitmore Rd Contact Kathryn Clarke 283691

Wednesday 7.30pm

13 Giffarde St Contact Mark Stevens 365714 (hosts Bethan and Tim Baigent 271655)

28 Killams Crescent Fortnightly Contact Les Andrews 254344

28 Comeytrowe Lane Contact Steve Bradford 337690 (hosts Wakefields 277318)

Wednesday 7.45pm

42 Ashley Rd Contact Richard Sainsbury 284688

Wednesday 8.00pm

Hesperia, The Avenue Contact Richard Carpenter 277916

57 Beadon Rd Contact Julie Kimber (church office) 272931 or Mark Johnson 07796525094

Thursday 7.30pm

69 Richmond Rd - **Women's group** Contact Margaret Jones 333194

Gable Cottage, West Lyng Contact Geoff Treasure 490458

94 Sherford Road Fortnightly Contact Andy Hall 274656

Thursday 8.00pm

12 The Avenue Contact Sue Doyle 271223 (host Annie Reid 07812 130619)

HOME GROUPS

DAYTIME GROUPS

Tuesday 10.30am

56 Manor Orchard Contact Celia Wojcik 443287 (host Joyce Lander 278387)

Wednesday 2.30pm

15 Barrington Close Fortnightly Contact John Gould 272597

Thursday 2.30pm

27 Priorswood Rd Contact Kay Seed 251077 (host Sue Collard 271858)

OTHER GROUPS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Mondays | Parent and Toddlers Group 10am-11.30am in the Church Hall
Contact Alison Buckman (07783 883053) |
| Tuesdays | 11+ Club 7pm – 8.30pm for young people aged over 11 years
in the Church Hall. Contact Nicky Bradford (337690) |
| Tuesdays | Bell ringing (alternate weeks) Contact Marian Gentile (275278) |
| Wednesdays | Art Group in the Church Hall Contact Church Office (272507) |
| Thursdays | Thursday Fellowship (first Thursday of the month)
in the Church Hall Contact Vicky Dykes (282507) |
| Friday | The Ark Support Group for parents/carers of children
with special needs. Meets once a fortnight.
Contact Alison Buckman (07783 883053) |



Caption Competition