

The Ven. David C. Garnett
The Vicarage, Edensor, Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1PH Tel: 01246 582130
(Church website - www.stpetersedensor.org)



December 2012

Dear Friends,

I have never been good at saying goodbye. Susanne and I will miss so many of you and your friendship will always be remembered.

Partings are difficult especially the death of a loved one. Missing someone terribly after they have gone is not "something to be got over" but an honest response to loss. If someone has been close to you they leave an ache for ever. And it is right that they do and good. We need to cherish this without letting the past take over from the present. Let the cherishing feed into the present and the future.

I retire after a lot of journeying, not least the variety of places I have sought to minister in. Since my ordination in 1969 at York Minster I have served in Hull to 1972, Cambridge to 1977 and both of us in Patterdale to '80, Manchester to '87, Chester to '92, Ellesmere Port to '96 and then to Derbyshire. How wonderful the scenery and fresh air after the chemical pollution in Ellesmere Port!

As Archdeacon of Chesterfield we lived in Taddington, Baslow and finally Edensor. Susanne taught politics at Mount St Mary's Spinkhill, theology at Cliff College and then became executive director of Village Aid in Bakewell and now works for Comic Relief as an assessor.

Now we move again with a Farewell Service on Advent Sunday 2 December. Our new address will be 5, South Crescent Ave., Filey YO14 9JN (tel. 01723 514680). We would love to hear from you or see you.

We have had quite a journey. Yet I guess life is like that. A journey of loss and gain, sadness and joy, emptiness and fulfillment as we look "to a city whose builder and architect is God".

In February we went to Madeira. At the airport in the departure lounge I was asked why a certain flight had been cancelled. I replied "I don't

know, I am not an official, but a fellow traveller like you". In this life we can have a wonderful time in the departure lounge and make many good and lasting friendships. But sooner or later your flight is called and off you go!

With love and prayer,

David.

FROM THE REGISTERS

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

WEDDING - 27 OCTOBER

Andrew James Hill & Leah Sarah Doherty

BAPTISM - 21 OCTOBER

Thomas James Hanbury

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



FROM ST. PETER'S & ST. ANNE'S

With all good wishes for Christmas & the New Year to friends,
fellow members of both congregations and readers of 'The Bridge' from:

Roger & Gloria Sherwood; Liz & Ray Bradshaw; Vernon & Pauline Mather;
Jill & Michael Gowdey; Dorothy Cooper; Bob & Julie Carter; John Bowns;
Margaret Thomas; Peter & Janet Machin; Stan Liddicot; Mavis Cunningham;
Gary & Margaret Nelson; David & Lisa Novakovic; Ann & David Hall;
Jean Clarke; Jonathan & Pauline; Freddy & Judy Harding; David & Margaret Jackson
Joe & Lynn Clark; Fiona, Alfredo Tortorici & children; Anne & Peter Kitchin;
Joan & Nigel Madin-Davies; Laura, James & Rupert Beeston; Josie;
David & Susanne Garnett; Clive & Joy Thrower; Pat & Roy Bosett

As usual we would ask you to place your donation in an envelope marked 'Christmas Greetings' and place it on the collection plate in church on any Sunday during Advent.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - DECEMBER

- 2 Dec 10.45am St. Peter's, Edensor - Farewell Service for David Garnett followed by a 'bring & share' lunch, all welcome
- 5 Dec Pilsley CofE School - *Flower Workshop 7-9pm in school*
Tickets £10
- 5 Dec *A Twilight Evening at Chatsworth* - Admission from 5.30 - 6.45
Tickets £18 (no concessions) available from
Christine Robinson 01246 582938 or 07835 561 489
- 11 Dec *Christmas Flower Demonstration* by Jonathan Moseley
(Tuesday) 2pm St. Peter's Church, Edensor. Tickets £10 available from
Christine Robinson 01246 582938 or 07835 561 489
- 11 Dec **BEELEY WI** 7.30pm Village Hall
Haddon Hall/Christmas Party Bring food for a Christmas Muddle
- 12 Dec **CHATSWORTH WI** 7pm Edensor Tea Cottage
- * 2nd Wed. CHRISTMAS PARTY Competition: Mini Door Wreath 12" max
Special Christmas Hamper Raffle

Thank You

A big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped in any way at our two churches this year. The cleaners, coffee makers, flower arrangers, readers, sidesmen, those who helped with the 'spring clean' once the lighting was completed at St. Peter's. Our organists, Lynn & Joe Clark and visiting organist Roger Briscoe; Ian and Judith at Beeley; Clive Robinson for keeping the clock wound, those who clean brasses, Richard Finney - mowing, Barry Bateman - putting out parking signs, Joy who has instigated the 'story bags' and of course, David & Vernon and the visiting preachers who helped when David was recuperating after his operation. Apologies to anyone we've left out, we do appreciate all the help you give.



Useful Telephone Numbers

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--|---------------------|
| St. Anne's | Wardens:- | Rupert Turner | 01629 732794 |
| | | Fiona Swain | <i>ex directory</i> |
| St. Peter's | Treasurer:- | Gloria Sherwood | 01629 732983 |
| | Wardens:- | Elizabeth Bradshaw | 01246 582421 |
| | | David Jackson | 01246 583452 |
| | Treasurer:- | Mark Titterton | 01246 582245 |
| | | e-mail: mtitterton@btinternet.com | |
| | Lay Reader:- | Vernon Mather M.B.E. | 01629 732317 |

‘The Bridge’
Magazine Subscription

Your magazine subscription for 2013 is now due - £7.20, please give the money to the person who delivers your magazine. If I post the magazine to you please include a book of 12 stamps with your subscription.

Unlike the Post Office, we have held the price of the magazine for the last few years, the price of stamps, however, is out of our hands!

Thank you for your continued support and remember we welcome any suitable items for possible inclusion in ‘The Bridge’.

**St. Peter’s Church 100 Club
October Draw 2012**

1st Prize £30 - no. 37 Margaret Thomas

2nd Prize £20 no. 84 Gladys Hopkins

Funds to church this month - £50

If you would like to help decorate the church for Christmas come along on Saturday 15 December at 10.30 when we’ll be decorating the tree and arranging greenery. All welcome.

Due to the printer having extra Christmas work, items for the JANUARY Magazine should reach me NO LATER THAN MONDAY 10 DECEMBER

Mail to: liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk
‘The Bridge’ Parish Magazine
60p per copy (£7.20 per year).



2013 - Gift Aid Envelopes

With 2013 not too far away, now is the time to order your 52 week set of gift aid envelopes.

These are the small blue envelopes which are individually numbered and are personal to you for you to use for your weekly offering.

There is no need to write your details on the front and they are far more convenient than using the larger yellow envelopes which are really designed for visitors and non regular members of the congregation.

If you would like a set of envelopes for the new year, please ask either Liz Bradshaw or David Jackson.



A Twilight Evening at Chatsworth

Wednesday 5th December

A great opportunity to visit Chatsworth's beautifully decorated Christmas visitor route at twilight, enjoy a glass of wine and special Christmas entertainment, with time to purchase seasonal gifts in the Orangery gift shop at the end of the evening, and a discount of 10% on all purchases.

Admission from 5.30pm to 6.45pm. Cost £18 per person (no concessions), to include a glass of wine and a mince pie, and the evening will end at around 8pm.

Tickets are available from
Christine Robinson

01246 582938 or 07835 561 489

Proceeds to St. Peter's Church Organ Fund



&

Tuesday 11th December 2pm

in St Peter's Church, Edensor

Be inspired...

Renowned flower arranger, Jonathan Moseley will delight his audience with a seasonal demonstration of flower arranging for Christmas. Jonathan is a member of both the North East and North Midlands Areas of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) and Chairman of the National Demonstrators' Committee. Jonathan's arrangements will be raffled off at the end of the demonstration, so you may even be lucky enough to take something home with you as well!

Tickets at £10 (no concessions) are available from:

Christine Robinson on 01246 582938 or 07835 561 489

Proceeds to St. Peter's Church Organ Fund

The year Gabriel burst into tears

Norma Murrain of silverfishjewellery.com recalls the year her three year-old played the angel Gabriel...

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)

One of my favourite things about the advent season is watching the children as they take part in the nativity play. It always brings a tear and a large smile.

This verse always takes me back to my youngest son, Daniel, and his first nativity play. He was just three years old and he was dressed up as the angel Gabriel - the cutest angel Gabriel I ever saw. All was going well until Mary and Joseph got to the scene where the inn keeper says “No room”.

As those words were spoken, Daniel burst into tears and rushed out to attack the little innkeeper. He was totally inconsolable! The innkeeper started to cry, and then other children started to cry. Embarrassed and apologetic, his dad and I managed to remove him

from the scene, still crying inconsolably. We left behind an audience fighting back fits of laughter....

As the angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents, I wonder if they cry, like Daniel did, when Jesus comes knocking at our hearts and finds no room. I wonder how they will feel as they watch our festivities this Christmas. Will they laugh and celebrate with us, or will our indifference to the Great Tidings of Good News break their hearts? Will you make room in your heart for Jesus? Will you make the angels smile, or cry?

Here is a Christmas prayer that will give you the best present you ever had:

‘Dear Lord Jesus, please forgive the times I’ve shut you out. My heart is open now, will you come in? Please cleanse me from anything that might cause you pain and fill my heart with your love this Christmas - and forever. In Jesus’ name, Amen.’



Shhh!

A teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to the village Christmas carol service: "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because so many people are sleeping."

**Baslow Health Centre –
Church Lane, Baslow New**

Patients Welcome

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

Telephone Numbers:

Reception: 01246 582216
District Nursing Team: 01246 584903
Surgery Fax: 01246 583867
Health Visitor: 01246 583270
Dispensary: 01246 582366

(The Dispensary line is open 12noon
– 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 3.00pm)

Normal Surgery Opening Times

Monday 7.30am - 7.30pm

Tuesday - Friday 8am to 6.30 pm
(Closed Bank Holidays)

***Please note the above times as
we receive a lot of phone calls,
just asking what time we are
open to!***

New Surgery: The Practice is still negotiating with solicitors regarding the building of the new surgery. This is proving to be a long journey and we will let you know any news as soon as we know.

Failure to Attend

Appointments: The Practice is experiencing an increase in patients booking appointments and failing to attend. Please ensure that you cancel your appointment if you don't need it and allow others to see the doctor!

Christmas & New Year Closure–

The Surgery will be closed on the following dates: 24 Dec close at 4.30pm
25th, 26th Dec & 1st Jan CLOSED

The next half day closure for training will be Wednesday afternoon, 9th Jan.

Check our Website: Booking appointments and ordering your repeat prescriptions on-line. You can only access this facility from our webpage. You now need to put **_902** at the end of your log-in ID. *Example: 1234_902* then your usual password.

Ordering Repeat Medication

All requests for repeat prescriptions must be:-

- In writing or with 'EMIS Access'
- Return form to surgery by Post/Fax/Box on Dispensary Reception
- Allow two working days before collection
- ! To ease the parking congestion, please collect your prescription between 12:00 – 4:00

Samples – if you need to leave a sample with us please ensure it is labelled with your name and date of birth and in the sealed bag.

Test Results- As we do not receive test results from hospital until lunchtimes, please ring for these after 2pm.

Urgent Calls: -

01246 582216 or 111

GOD IN MUSIC

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series looking at the music in well-known films...

'In sweet music is such art':

SILVER BELL IN THE POLAR EXPRESS

Over these months we have been exploring the place of music in film – from pianos accompanying silent films to sumptuous scores by John Williams and others, from the plaintive oboe to the string quartet, from brass bands to Gospel songs. In all this rich variety, music can reflect the scenes shown on the screen and the emotions of the actors. It has that special gift of conveying and often heightening the drama.

This month we focus on one instrument: a beautiful sounding silver bell. It is at the heart of the Christmas film released in 2004, 'The Polar Express.' The film is a computer-animated fantasy which tells how, on one Christmas Eve in the 1950s in Michigan, a little boy boards a train headed for the North Pole to meet Santa Claus at Polar City. The musical score of Alan Silvestri captures all the excitement and thrill of the journey as the train goes up and down mountains, across ice fields and tundra, and along bridges to reach its destination. Against that background the Hero Boy meets a Girl, a Lonely Boy and a Know-it-all Kid. After lots of scares and adventures, they reach Polar

City, and the Hero Boy is allowed to choose the First Gift of Christmas. He asks for the silver bell that has fallen from Santa's sleigh, and then loses it. But it is there wrapped up under the tree to be discovered on Christmas Day.

The film is a wonderful treat for Christmas, and if you can suspend all your critical faculties, you can board the train and enjoy all the spectacle and special effects. For all that, it is a story of gifts and generosity, focussed on the sound of the silver bell. The Hero Boy ends the film with the words: 'At one time most of my friends could hear the bell, but as years passed it fell silent for them.....Though I've grown old, the bell still rings for me, as it does for all who truly believe.'

At Christmas we know how children capture that excitement and wonder and mystery, whether it is in school nativity plays or pantomimes or family parties. As we get older, we feel the pressure of the world around which sees Christmas as all about getting and having. The wonder and generosity cease to ring out for us like the silver bell falling silent in the film. St Francis recognised this when he invited the people of Greccio to join him in a cave outside the town one Christmas in the 13th century. As the townsfolk looked into the cave, they saw in the candle light a mother with a new-born babe and St Joseph and the animals looking on.

The wonder and beauty of the feast was born again in their hearts and lives. We pray for those gifts in our celebration: the gift of a silver bell that can ring out in hope and joy,

and the gift of a babe in the manger whose life can ring out as a sign of love and generosity.



BAKEWELL CHRISTMAS TREEFEST

Thursday 13th to Sunday 23rd December
All Saints Parish Church, Bakewell



Open 10:30am - 5pm. Sundays from 12:30pm. Tuesday and Thursday until 8pm
Refreshments available from 11am - 4pm

The church will be full of decorated Christmas Trees and we hope every household will display a simple 'cut-out' Christmas tree in their window.

FESTIVAL EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Thursday 13th December | 7pm Christmas TreeFest Opening Event |
| Sunday 16th December | 11am Parish Sung Eucharist 2:30pm-3:30pm Town Street Nativity with Carols 3:30pm Blessing of Town Crib, Bath Gardens 6pm Taize Service 7:30pm High Peak Wind Band Concert. Tickets £5 (under 14 free) available on the door |
| Monday 17th December | 6pm Bakewell C of E Christingle Service |
| Tuesday 18th December | Church open until 8pm - enjoy the lights and a glass of mulled wine |
| Wednesday 19th December | 7:30pm Lady Manners Carol Service |
| Thursday 20th December | Church open until 8pm - enjoy the lights and a glass of mulled wine |
| Sunday 23rd December | 6pm Parish Carol Service - our closing event |

Spruce up your Christmas...

Are you off shopping for a Christmas tree soon? If you want one of the best, go for a Norway spruce. If possible, try and buy the tree in a pot, from where it can be moved into your garden (as long as it is fairly large!) Whatever tree you eventually squeeze into your car and bring home, here are some tips for good care: First, when you get your tree home, plunge the

stump into tepid water for a couple of hours - in natural surroundings, a six foot tree can take up to two pints of water a day. Then, position your tree away from heat sources, such as fires or radiators. Cooler temperatures and regular watering will help reduce the rate at which you lose the needles. Finally, if you dispose of your tree after the holidays, ask about council recycling services early in the New Year.

Advent purple 'belongs to Cadbury'

The Meaningful Chocolate Company has been forced to redesign its faith based range after it was advised that 'Advent purple belongs to Cadbury'.

Last year the Manchester-based Meaningful Chocolate Company designed chocolate tree decorations to help parents and grandparents share the Christmas story with children. The box they came in was advent purple with a picture of Mary and Jesus on the front. In the box was a copy of the Christmas story and a Nativity character sticker set, used to decorate five blank chocolate discs.

Purple is the colour worn by clergy during Advent (in preparation for Christmas) and Lent (in preparation for Easter). Many bishops wear purple shirts. However, the company has been advised by its legal team that Cadbury has secured the rights to the colour purple in the UK. And

so this year the Meaningful Chocolate Company has changed their packaging of religious Christmas Tree Decorations to a warm red.

David Marshall said that in any case, there would have been "little chance of confusion. Our box of Meaningful Christmas Tree Decorations are very different from Cadbury's own decorations in a number of ways. Our chocolate is Fairtrade, Cadbury's is not. A charitable donation is made from every sale, Cadbury's do not do this. We have Jesus, Mary and characters on the front of our box and a copy of the Christmas story inside, Cadbury have a mostly white box with a snowman on the front and secular tree decorations in a plastic cover. The reason we use purple is that it has been used for centuries by the church during advent.... but apparently no longer... it appears that the association is now with Cadbury."

Play with your children

This Christmas, the most valuable thing you can give to your children is time. Play with them. One in seven parents spend less than an hour a week playing with their own children, according to recent research.

Yet playtime is a vital part of a child's development. Children struggle to

get any quality play: as many as 46 per cent of children under the age of 11 have never played outside except during school time. This means they are no longer being stimulated to be creative or to use their imagination, experts say. Parents are thought to be essential for helping their children develop their creativity – so this Christmas, make time for them.

Canon David Winter, a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC, continues his series presenting a point of view...

The way I see it: Taking the Stress out of Christmas

We all know that turkeys don't vote for Christmas, but I suspect there's quite a few mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts and grandparents who don't either. They like the Nine Lessons and Carols bit, and the cards from friends, and the Queen on the telly, but for far too many people Christmas, instead of being an annual family delight, is a kind of nightmare. But it's a nightmare made worse because you have to keep saying how lovely it all is. When you're asked, on the first day back at work or by the supermarket checkout cashier, 'Have a nice Christmas?' it's not done to reply, 'No, awful. Glad it's all over'.

The trouble is, we have created an annual monster, a monster with a global appetite for swallowing our time and our money. It starts its pestering in mid-October and goes on, like a puppy demanding treats, right up to Christmas Eve. We all feel bound to submit to its demands. The alternative is to be a party-pooper, and who wants to be that?

Actually, in the end, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are usually pretty good: plenty of nice, soporific food and drink, some decent undemanding television, children amenable with a few hundred pounds-worth of new electronic playthings and grandpa

snoring on the sofa. But take a look at mum. She's running on empty by now - the turkey, the 'trimmings', the bread sauce, the pudding, and all produced in that kitchen that's OK for cereals and toast, or even spaghetti Bolognese, but definitely inadequate for a full-blown Christmas dinner for twelve. Not that she's going to complain, because that would spoil the day. Hopefully they'll all eventually offer to help clear away the dishes and wash up (though last year it got left to Boxing Day).

Dad's got his own problems. It's one thing to give in to the blandishments of the retailers in November and December, with their flash ads about 'the ideal gift for the new son-in-law', or the must-have new electronic doll for the granddaughter. It's quite another to pay for it in January. Last year it actually took until Easter to clear the wretched credit card bill.

So what's the clue to having a stress-free Christmas? Keep it simple, they say. Have a budget and stick to it. Don't start 'Christmas' until at least the second Sunday of Advent. Every able-bodied person must help on the day. Go carol singing on Christmas Eve. Go to church at midnight or on Christmas morning. Be grateful for the gift beyond words, the baby of Bethlehem, and all the gifts of love and kinship we celebrate in his name.

Sounds easy? Well, I've never *quite* made it myself, but someone told me it works.

GOD IN THE ARTS

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series with a look at Stephen Cox's altar in St Anselm's chapel, Canterbury Cathedral. For copyright reasons, we do not show it here, but you can easily view it by googling images of it.

Treasures old and treasures new: Stephen Cox's altar

At the end of this month Rowan Williams will retire as the Archbishop of Canterbury. He has held that important office since 2003, presiding over the church in this land and the Anglican Communion in what have often been testing and difficult times. But he has shepherded the church with integrity as a man of prayer and deep faith. Archbishop Rowan is the 104th holder of this post, and his see at Canterbury goes back to 597 when St Augustine landed on Thanet and converted King Aethelbert. His queen, Bertha, was already a Christian and worshipped at St Martin's church in Canterbury. This now stands in a graveyard with an inspiring view of Bell Harry, the great Perpendicular tower of the cathedral.

Inside the cathedral there is more Perpendicular architecture in the nave and cloisters. But there is also a Norman crypt with intricate carvings on the pillars, 12th and 13th century stained glass, and a floor of coloured stones behind the

High Altar. The cathedral flourished in the Middle Ages as pilgrims flocked to the shrine of St Thomas Becket, who was murdered there in 1170.

This month we enter the chapel of an earlier Archbishop: St Anselm. He was born in Italy and entered the Benedictine order in the monastery of Bec in France. He became Archbishop in 1093, when scholarly study took second place to his care of the diocese and nation. It was St Anselm who built the Norman crypt, and at his death in 1109, he was buried in the chapel that bears his name.

In 2007 Stephen Cox created an altar for this chapel from marble given by the people of Aosta in Italy where St Anselm was born. Stephen Cox now lives and works in Shropshire and India, but there are fine examples of his creative skill in Egypt and Italy. The altar for this chapel is a wonderful piece of veined marble: a simple rectangle standing amid the curved arcades. In its simplicity and strength it reminds us of the simplicity and strength of the Gospel, rooted and founded in the Incarnation, which we celebrate in this month of December.

While he was Archbishop, St Anselm wrote the *Proslogion* in which he charts the journey of the

soul seeking God. In chapter 14 we read, 'Let my mind meditate on you, let my tongue speak of you, let my heart love you, let my mouth preach you. Let my soul hunger for you, let my flesh thirst for you, my whole being desire you, until I enter into the joy of the Lord, who is God, Three in One, blessed for ever.' In Canterbury

Cathedral we can give thanks that St Anselm lived out that Gospel in his day as Archbishop Rowan has in ours. And we can give thanks that Jesus born of Mary feeds us at this altar as he will feed each of us, who, like St Anselm, seek the Lord and make our communion on the great feast of Christmas.



God's Tapestry

December is a time for looking back and trying to make sense of the past year of our lives... Lester Amann thinks of it as a tapestry...

A museum had acquired a new exhibit. It was an item of tapestry, and when it had been unpacked the curator noticed it didn't have a picture. Instead, it was just a jumbled mix of coloured strands. One day, the designer of this tapestry visited the museum and the curator was quick to confront him. The curator explained that the public disliked the designer's contribution. It was offensive and had to be removed.

The designer was surprised at this reaction. Later, he went to see where his work was displayed and exclaimed: "It's the wrong way round! You've hung my tapestry back to front!" When the tapestry was hung correctly, the curator now saw a magnificent picture. It

was a masterpiece – an inspired work of art.

In this story, the tapestry represents our lives. The mixture of coloured strands are symbolic of all our human experiences and feelings. When we view our lives from one perspective, it can appear to be in a mess. All we can see is a confused jumble of pain, hurts, frustrations and difficulties. Life seems to be a puzzle and has no meaning. But our Creator God sees life from another viewpoint. He turns life's tapestry around to reveal a true picture. God's perspective shows life with a purpose, peace and power.

God is the Master Designer who can change the ugly into the beautiful. He can use all the colourful aspects of our life and interweave them to fill our lives with His light and love. With God's Spirit within us, He can turn us around so that in His sight we become a picture of holiness.

Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth pt. I I : Long to Reign over us

So we move towards the end of this Jubilee Year - and what a year it has been! It's almost as though several spoonfuls of sugar have been given us to help the nasty medicine of economic recession go down. We have had the sugar of the Jubilee itself, with its processions and street parties and concerts, always with the same short, elderly but serene figure at the centre of the celebrations. There was no time to take the flags down before the Olympic Games arrived, with their astonishing opening ceremony. More than anything else, I enjoyed the comment of a major American newspaper that it was impossible to think of another Head of State in the world who would have agreed to take part in a comedy spoof to launch the Games - and this one is an octogenarian!

The Games themselves were marvellous, of course - not just the results (though they were gratifying) but the whole atmosphere surrounding them. As Boris Johnson remarked, people even spoke to strangers on the Tube. Visitors wondered whatever had happened to the reserved British. We honoured our heroes, who won gold, silver and bronze, but we also cheered those who competed but didn't win, in the very best traditions of Olympic sport.

And then came the Paralympics, and another set of heroes, perhaps led by the smiling face of the tiny swimmer Ellie Simmonds, ploughing down the final lap like a human torpedo to take yet another gold medal.

Even then it wasn't over. Andy Murray won his first Grand Slam tennis title and Europe won the Ryder Cup in an amazing turnaround. You didn't have to be a sports fan to feel that this was a year of multiple spoonfuls of that sugar!

Over it all was the reassuring presence of the Queen herself in her Jubilee year. Twice the Duke of Edinburgh had to be whisked into hospital for short periods - thankfully to re-emerge his usual determined self. But the Queen just kept on. Over and over again she (and we) heard the words 'long to reign over us' - and it will only take four more years for her to be the longest serving British monarch in history.

Finally, we had the reassuring emergence of our future royals, William and Catherine. More and more they appeared in public, sometimes beside the Queen, more often on their own, at one and the same time splendidly contemporary and yet properly 'royal'. If we can just sort out the euro, the banks and our external unbalance of payments, the future looks rosy!

Christmas: Celebrating the Incarnation

The Rev Dr Roger Roberts considers Christmas...

CS Lewis called it the Grand Miracle and the Central Miracle. He noted that “Every other miracle prepares for this, exhibits this, or results from this....The fitness, and therefore credibility, of the particular miracles depend on their relations to the Grand Miracle”.

So if you can believe in Christmas – the incarnation of the Son of God: the Grand, the Central Miracle, you should have no problem believing the miracles in the Old Testament narratives or the miracle of the Virgin Birth, the miracles Jesus performed of feeding the multitudes, of His healing the sick, raising the dead, walking on water and calming the storms. You should also have no problem of believing in the bodily resurrection of Jesus and His ascension back into the heavenly realms, where He reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

In other words, to believe the essence of the Christmas story is to believe the miracle that will open the pathway to faith and eternal life, a life of following this risen Jesus as your Lord. To understand and believe the truth of the Incarnation will not only transform your idea of Christmas—it will change

your life now and your everlasting destiny.

He, the eternal Son and Word of God, emptied himself of heavenly glory and splendour which He had with the Father for all eternity (Philippians 2:5-11). Christ entered our human situation by being born as a helpless baby. And He sought no glory for himself. He lived in humble and poor circumstances and experienced opposition and rejection from mankind, including His own people, the Jewish nation.

And His ultimate rejection was the cross, on which He experienced His horrible suffering and death as our Saviour and substitute. He relinquished His heavenly glory in His life of obedience to the Father and service to us sinners. Yet, in His outpoured life for us, His glory was revealed. It was the glory of His righteousness and perfect love. His cross was the greatest glory He revealed because in the cross we see His holiness and His amazing love. The Father raised Him from the dead and has exalted Him and crowned Him with greater glory than He had with the Father before He came to earth. Christ on the cross is the picture of a God of perfect love, mercy, grace and forgiveness. This is the glory of John 3:16.

December 6 - How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time, and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just

beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he

will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



December 24 Christmas Eve

How do you celebrate Christmas Eve? It has its own customs, the most popular of which is going to Midnight Mass, or the Christ-Mas. This is the only Mass of the year which is allowed to start after sunset. In Catholic countries such as Spain, Italy and Poland, Midnight Mass is in fact the most important church service of the entire Christmas season, and many people traditionally fast beforehand. In other countries, such as Belgium and Denmark, people dine during the evening, and then go on to the Midnight Service.

The English are behind some countries when it comes to exchanging presents: in Germany, Sweden and Portugal the custom is

to exchange presents on Christmas Eve. But the English are ahead of Serbia and Slovakia, where the Christmas tree is not even brought into the house and decorated until Christmas Eve.

Yule logs are not so popular since the decline of the fireplace, but traditionally it was lit on Christmas Eve from a bit of the previous year's log, and then would be burned non-stop until 12th Night (6th January). Tradition also decreed that any greenery such as holly, ivy or mistletoe must wait until Christmas Eve until being brought into the house.



Christmas and St Luke's Gospel

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimmittis. Imagine an Anglican evensong without the Nunc Dimmittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and

how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So – imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke!

What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile!

To read these wonderful passages go to:
Luke 1: 26-38
& 2: 1-32



Crocus Homecare Homecare with Compassion

Crocus Homecare is based in Bakewell and provides high quality care and support services to help you, or the person you care for, when it is most needed.

Crocus prides itself, and has built its reputation, on providing the highest quality care with compassion, understanding and respect for each individual and their families.

We provide support services for those living in and around Bakewell, Baslow, Matlock, Cromford and the Hope Valley.

For more information on our services, or for employment opportunities, please contact Debbie Crowhurst on [01629 812874/0781035993](tel:01629812874) or browse our website at www.crocuscare.com

SERVICES & ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2012

| <u>ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY</u> | | | <u>FLOWERS</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 2 | 9.30am | Holy Communion | Advent - no flowers |
| 9 | 9.30am | Holy Communion (Archdeacon) | “ “ |
| 16 | 9.30am | Holy Communion (Rev. Michael Gowdey) | “ “ |
| 23 | 9.30am | Holy Communion (Rev. Clive Thrower) | Christmas flowers |
| 24 | 6pm | Service of Nine Lessons & Carols | (Mrs Hopkins) |
| 25 | 9.30am | Holy Communion for Christmas Day (Rev. Richenda Leigh) | |
| 30 | 9.30am | Holy Communion (Rev. Clive Thrower) | Christmas flowers remain |
| <u>ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR</u> | | | <u>SIDESMEN</u> |
| 2 | 10.45am | Holy Communion | Mr & Mrs Jackson |
| 9 | 10.45am | Holy Communion (Archdeacon) | Mr & Mrs Machin |
| 16 | 10.45am | Service of Nine Lessons & Carols | Mr & Mrs Wardle +2 children |
| 23 | 10.45am | Holy Communion (Rev'd. Canon Dave Perkins) | R S Sherwood/Diana Walters |
| 24 | 11.30pm | Midnight Mass (Rev. Clive Thrower) | To be arranged |
| 25 | 10.45am | Holy Communion for Christmas Day (Rev. Richenda Leigh) | To be arranged |
| 30 | 10.45am | Holy Communion (Rev. Clive Thrower) | John Bowns/Michael Pindar |
| <u>COFFEE</u> | <u>CLEANING</u> | <u>FLOWERS</u> | |
| 2 | Bring & Share lunch with wine | Mrs Machin/Mrs Thomas/M Pindar | Advent - no flowers |
| 9 | Mrs Cooper/Mrs J Clarke | Mr & Mrs Jackson | “ “ |
| 16 | Mr & Mrs Bosett + helpers | Mr & Mrs Grimshaw | Christmas Decorations |
| 23 | Mr & Mrs Sherwood | Mr & Mrs Wardle | Christmas flowers |
| 30 | M Douglas/D Maskery | Mr & Mrs Carter | “ “ |
| <u>READINGS</u> | <u>ST. PETER'S</u> | <u>ST. ANNE'S & SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> | |
| 2 | Isaiah 40: 1-11 | Susanne Garnett | Rupert Turner/ Lynda Hinxman-Allegri |
| | Luke 10: 23-37 Sunday School | ADVENT :“How does He Come?” | Fiona Swain |
| 9 | Romans 15: 4-13 Luke 21: 25-33 Sunday School | Mavis Cunningham ADVENT 2 : God's Word | Sarah Porter |
| 16 | Isaiah 35 Matthew 11: 2-10 Sunday School | Carol Service ADVENT 3 : John the Baptist | Lynda Hinxman-Allegri Fiona Swain |
| 23 | Philippians 4: 4-7 John 1: 19-28 | David Jackson ADVENT 4 :“Rejoice” | Sarah Porter To be arranged No Sunday School |
| 24 | Hebrews 1: 1-12 John 1: 1-14 | To be arranged | |
| 25 | Hebrews 1: 1-12 John 1: 1-14 | To be arranged CHRISTMAS | To be arranged |
| 30 | Galatians 4: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-end | John Bowns CHRISTMAS 1:“Receive our Prayers” | Judith Fraser-Martin No Sunday School |