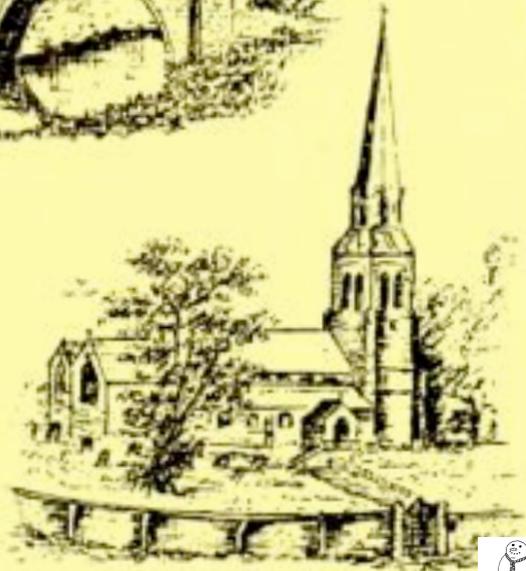




JANUARY 2015



'The Bridge'



BEELEY WITH EDENSOR

Including CHATSWORTH, CALTON LEES & PILSLEY

PARISH MAGAZINE

Rev'd Canon D. Perkins,
The Vicarage, Edensor, Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1PH Tel: 01246 386385
(Church website -www.stpetersedensor.org)



January 2015

In the wedding car on the way to the reception, Julie and Stuart chatted excitedly about their marriage service. “I was so nervous,” Julie admitted. “I was trembling like a leaf.” Stuart grinned and squeezed her hand. “Me too,” he said. “But did you see the vicar shaking?” he went on. “He couldn’t have been more nervous, could he? I mean, vicars do weddings all the time!”

Stuart was both right and wrong. Vicars do conduct lots of marriage ceremonies. But that doesn’t mean they don’t get nervous. Weddings are very special days, for all concerned. For the couple, their parents, the guests... but special too, for the vicar! Part of the job, but also a privilege and pleasure, and yes, many get nervous.

This year many couples are preparing for their wedding day. Weddings occur frequently in the Bible as images to describe something wonderful. Jesus mentioned wedding feasts in some of his parables. In those days, even more than our own, everyone had been to a wedding. Something wonderful, but also a fact of everyday life. An absolute gift for any storyteller needing a vivid metaphor.

Like the Bible writers, Jesus was a master storyteller, but he not only told stories to illustrate God’s love for us. He lived the story – in his life on earth, and his death for us. Like Old Testament prophets, he knew that actions speak louder than words. So it isn’t surprising that Jesus first chose to “reveal his glory” not by anything he said, but by something he did.

In St. John’s Gospel chapter 2 verses 1-11, we read about Jesus being a guest at a wedding at Cana in Galilee. In the story we read about Jesus performing his first miracle. The wedding gave an extra dimension to the miracle. At this everyday but wonderful event, he took something ordinary like water and changed it into something special – the very best wine. Gallons of it! With

Jesus, the everyday can become special. Not only in the Eucharist, not only in church: Jesus transforms the water of our daily lives into the sparkling new wine of his presence. If only we will allow him to do so.

And so by acknowledging his presence in our everyday lives, we can listen to what Jesus is saying to each of us individually. We are all different, thank God! We have different home situations, different jobs, different strengths and weaknesses, different gifts to use in God's service.

Whoever we are, whatever we are, Jesus is with us as we go about our everyday tasks. He will have a word for each of us, just for us – something he wants us as individuals to do for him. Something which, in turn, will enable him to work his miracle in our lives, to turn everyday lives into life, and to have a closer relationship with God. He will do this if we listen.

Weddings are wonderful. They happen to someone every day. So if God can speak to us in the story of a wedding, surely we can listen to our Creator in the things that happen to us day by day. And if Jesus can be present among us in bread and wine at the service of Holy Communion, can we not look for our Saviour in other ordinary things?

Every blessing and a very happy new year.
Canon Dave

Johnny Coppin Concert
'ALL ON A WINTER'S NIGHT'

Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend this concert had a real treat of an evening. The music was wonderful with amazing voices and instrumentals. A truly magical way to begin the run up to Christmas. After expenses we raised £1,088 for Church Funds. Thank you to everyone who helped to set out and put away the chairs in the hall.

Telephone Numbers

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| St. Anne's | Wardens:- | Rupert Turner | 01629 732794 |
| | | Fiona Swain | <i>ex directory</i> |
| | Treasurer:- | <i>to be confirmed</i> | |
| St. Peter's | Wardens:- | Elizabeth Bradshaw | 01246 582421 |
| | | David Jackson | 01246 583452 |
| | Treasurer:- | Mark Titterton | 01246 582245 |
| | | e-mail: mtitterton@btinternet.com | |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY -JANUARY

- 5** **Wedding 2pm St. Peter's Edensor** - Kyle Alexanders & Kay Bradley
- 12** **BEELEY** Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall - All welcome
- 13** **BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting** - 7.30pm Fiona Lichfield's house
Burns Night - Haggis, neaps & tatties to celebrate this special Scottish day
Tea & raffle: fiona & Fiona
- 21** **CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting** 7pm Edensor Tea Cottage
Speaker: Jean Groom 'My Spinning Life'
Competition: Snowman Christmas Card (received)



(Answers to Bible clues: 1. butter; 2. sugar; 3. honey; 4. eggs; 5. raisins; 6. figs; 7. almonds; 8. flour; 9. spices; 10. salt; 11. Leaven may be taken as baking powder or as yeast; 12. milk).

St. Peter's Church 100 Club November Draw 2014

1st Prize £30 - no. 69 Iola Symonds
 2nd Prize £20 - no. 61 Vanessa Harvey

Funds to church this month - £50

Subscriptions for 2015 are now due at £12 per number held.
 Cheques payable to:

St. Peter's Church 100 Club

New members welcome. Thank you for your continued support.

Ann Hall

Pipe Organ - St. Peter's

As you will see in the PCC Minutes on page 4, we are to have a separate fund for the restoration of the pipe organ. A member of the PCC, who wishes to remain anonymous, has very generously started that fund off with a donation of £1,000, for which we offer them many thanks.

'SPICE' Sunday

The next 'SPICE' Sunday at St. Peter's will be 11th January. Remember to bring your 5pence pieces and get the year off to a good start with this ongoing fundraising event.

Brief Notes from Edensor PCC Meeting held on 27th November 2014

11 members of the PCC were present at the meeting.

Canon Dave Perkins opened the meeting with a prayer and the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as correct.

- Canon Perkins said that the Bishop of Derby will be preaching at St Peter's Edensor on 11th January at the confirmation service of 6 members of the congregations from St Anne's Beeley, and St Peter's Edensor.
- The Remembrance Sunday Service had been well attended; £250 had been sent to the British Legion from the Remembrance Sunday collection.
- 25 ceramic poppies from the Tower of London have been bought by the Duke for St. Peter's and will become available in March/April.
- The accounts had been sent out prior to the meeting and there were no items arising from them. Mark explained that the Common fund is what every parish in the Diocese pays into via the 'Parish share' and provides funding for training, stipends, pensions and so forth and is based on the wealth of the parish, attendance at services and other factors. Our contribution next year will be £17,863 and the meeting agreed that we will pay £18,028 in order to help out other parishes who cannot raise the full amount. David Jackson wished to minute the thanks of the PCC to Margaret Nelson for her contribution to Church funds through the organising of wedding flowers.
- Fundraising - Christine Robinson reported that she has booked Hassop Hall for a fund raising dinner on Friday 24th April 2015. The guest speaker will be Emma Bridgewater. Her husband, Matthew Rice, will give a talk on church architecture the following day at St. Peter's.

Mike Pindar will book the charity stall again at Bakewell for the Spring Bank holiday.

The pipe organ at St. Peter's needs major work carrying out on it and Peter Coffey suggested that a separate fund be started for its restoration, which the PCC agreed to. It was noted that at present we have other urgent work to be carried out.

- Work has begun on the guttering over the north porch, which on removal was found to be badly damaged - this section requires 2 new lengths and new guttering to be cast by Longbottom's. Once the new die has been cast it will be there to use as necessary in the future. Peter Rogan, the architect, to be invited to the next PCC. Michael Pindar to advise on building work.
- Work on the lime trees now completed so the material for the church path could be ordered. John Bowns to carry out the work during the following week.
- David and Margaret Jackson have offered to have foam pads made and covered with fire retardant fabric for the pews, with the pew runners being placed on top.
- The date of the next PCC meeting - Thursday 12th February 2015 6.00pm.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

High Peak Women's Refuge

Throughout 2015 St. Peter's will be working in conjunction with the Chatsworth Gym collecting different items each month for the High Peak Women's Refuge, which is based in Glossop. To begin the year see the list below, but anything is appreciated, whether it's on the list or not. We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of members of our congregation and the Chesterfield Women's Refuge were hugely appreciative of the donations received from us and from the Gym. Many thanks.

January – give away your unwanted Xmas toiletries. Women who are fleeing domestic abuse have no time to pack – so when they arrive at our refuge we always give them a 'welcome pack' which includes toiletries and food essentials. Everything is appreciated including toothbrushes and toothpaste!

New Year? Best time to visit the charity shops!

Christmas gifts are not all bad: that scarf that your neighbour was given may make *him* shudder, but that doesn't mean it won't do wonders for you! So get down to your charity shop this month for the annual national swapping of Christmas gifts. Beauty really is in

the eye of the beholder when it comes to presents, and you may pick up some wonderful brand new stuff – if only to use as presents for your own friends NEXT Christmas! At the very least, you will be highly entertained – if not astonished – to see what some people give other people for presents...

'THE BRIDGE'

Magazine Subscription

Your magazine subscription for 2015 is now due - £7.20. Please give the money to the person who delivers your copy of the magazine, or if I post it to you please include a book of 12 stamps with your subscription.

Cheques should be made payable to Edensor PCC. Thank you for your continued support and remember we welcome any suitable items for possible inclusion in 'The Bridge'.

Living with Deafness

In 2006 Joyce Sutton O'Brien gave a talk to members of the Bakewell U3A on the problems of deafness. This was very well received and as a result she was asked to put her ideas in writing and so the booklet "Living with Deafness" was produced.

All her professional life, Joyce worked as a teacher of profoundly deaf and partially hearing children and hard-of-hearing adults.

It is said that deafness is the least understood and most misunderstood of human disabilities. Many of us from the age of about 40 may need glasses, at least for reading, as our eyesight deteriorates with age. If you cannot read the number plate on the front of a bus, you know you have a problem with your eyesight. Hearing also deteriorates with age but it is so easy to blame the speaker for not speaking clearly and it is much more difficult to recognise and accept that you have a hearing loss.

"Living with Deafness" aims to help partners, relatives and friends of

people who are losing or have lost their hearing but it should also help these people themselves. It should help the reader to understand more about deafness, to clear up some of the misunderstandings, and to suggest ways to overcome or partially overcome the problems.

Some years ago 150 booklets were sold. Now that renewed interest has been shown, a free download version is available on www.bakewellu3a.org.uk. Kindle and other e-reader versions may also be obtained via clive@thrower.org.uk.

For those who would prefer to have a printed booklet, please send an A5 stamped, addressed envelope to Mrs. Joyce Sutton O'Brien, Barley Croft, Main Street, Great Longstone, Bakewell DE45 1TF together with a £1.00 cheque or postal order (payable to Bakewell U3A) to cover the printing costs. There will be a short delay until we have some idea of the number of booklets required so R.S.V.P. as soon as possible.

BAKEWELL & ASHFORD FILM SOCIETY

January 11th 2015 The Medway Centre, New Street, Bakewell 7.30pm

Dallas Buyers Club (2013, USA) Cert. 15, 117mins. Biography, drama

In 1985 Dallas, electrician and hustler Ron Woodroof works around the system to help AIDS patients get the medication they need after he is himself diagnosed with the disease.

Remembering the poet T S Eliot - 50 years after his death

T S Eliot was an American, but was adopted enthusiastically as a British poet after he became a British citizen in 1927. He died 50 years ago, on 4 January 1965, having won the 1948 Nobel Prize for Literature. As well as being perhaps the outstanding poet writing in English in the 20th century, he was also a playwright, a literary critic and editor.

Thomas Stearns Eliot was born in Missouri on 26th September, 1888. He went to Harvard and then to the Sorbonne. After a year in Paris, he returned to Harvard, but settled in England in 1914, marrying Vivienne Haigh-Wood and working in London, first as a teacher, and later for Lloyd's Bank.

His long poem *The Waste Land* is considered by many to be as good as poetry gets. But he always acknowledged the input of fellow poet Ezra Pound, who encouraged him and acted as his editor. Both are referenced in Bob Dylan's key early song, *Desolation Row*.

Eliot had a huge impact on contemporary literary taste. After his conversion to orthodox Anglo-Catholic Christianity in the late thirties, his poetry was based on a conservative world view: he believed in a Christian society as a bulwark against communism and fascism, questioning the values of liberalism, which he saw as empty and corrosive.

His later poetry reflects his belief in original sin and salvation by grace. The poems came out of much personal suffering, as did his faith.

His major later poetry collections include *Ash Wednesday* (1930) and *Four Quartets* (1943); his plays included *Murder in the Cathedral* and *The Cocktail Party*.

Through Faber & Faber he published many younger poets and eventually became director of the firm. After an unhappy first marriage, Eliot separated from his wife in 1933 and married Valerie Fletcher in 1956.

Eat slower

If you want to keep your weight down, eat more slowly, take smaller bites, and chew for longer. You will be less hungry an hour later than if you had wolfed the food down. So say researchers from Texas Christian University. Slower diners also drink more water, which also helps keep you feeling full.



25th January St Paul - THE FIRST CHRISTIAN INTELLECTUAL

by Canon David Winter

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to organise a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and it replied, 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced him that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name by which history has

recognised him, Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially his death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing. He's not always easy to follow. Even the New Testament admits that: 'there are some things (in his letters) hard to understand' (2 Peter 3:16). But at the same time he gave the new faith a foundation and credibility which have stood it well down the centuries.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of

great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. He was, of course, a man of his time and culture, in days when women were disregarded in terms of status and leadership.

But read his letters, and see how large a role women play in them and how much scope he gave them to lead and teach in the Church. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! I think the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.

Biblical Cooking (Answers can be found on page 3)

If you can prepare this dish without looking up the references in the Bible, you should be on Mastermind! It is suggested the Authorised Version is used.

Ingredients :

1. ½ lb of Judges 5:25 (end);
2. ½ lb of Jeremiah 6:20;
3. 1 tablespoon of 1 Samuel 14:25;
4. 3 of Jeremiah 17:11;
5. ½ lb of 1 Samuel 30:12;
6. ½ lb of Nahum 3:12 (chopped);

7. 2 oz of Numbers 17:8 (blanched and chopped);
8. 1 lb of 1 Kings 4:22;
9. 2 Chronicles 9:9;
10. a pinch of Leviticus 2:13;
11. 1 teaspoonful of Amos 4:5
12. 3 tablespoons of Judges 4:19

Preparation: Mix 8, 9, 10 and 11, and put them aside. Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream. Still beating add 4, one at a time. Then add 5, 6 and 7 and beat again. Then add 12. Bake in a low oven for 1½ hours.

Celebrate the second half of your life, say Churches

Nowadays, growing older is often seen as a reason for sadness or regret. But the Church of England and the Methodist Church have published a new resource which urges Christians to celebrate and affirm the 'second half of life'.

'Seasons of My Soul' offers people a chance to share their lives and experiences. It ranges from our identity, memories, transition times, wisdom, roles and relationships, to the need for forgiveness and

reconciliation, death and dying, and the celebration of life.

"As I approach retirement, I become ever more conscious of the importance of Christians having constructive conversations about this potentially creative stage of life," said the Rt Revd John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford. "This invaluable resource could help turn the tide in enabling creative discussion about the second half of life – or, in my case, even the last third!"

More info at: <http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/books/9781858523989/seasons-of-my-soul?>

The Way I See It :

Canon David Winter considers our Resolutions to make things better....

ACHIEVING YOUR RESOLUTION in 2015

Every year millions of people do it - make New Year Resolutions. The most common resolves are to give up smoking or to achieve some planned weight loss. They embark on the enterprise on 1st January, but we all suspect that by the end of the month they'll be back on the fags or have resumed tucking into the burgers.

The problem is little to do with a failure of will-power, but simply that in both cases they are tilting at windmills: a serious chemical addiction, and a very natural human desire for rich food - 'marrow and fatness', as the Psalmist called it. Those who do succeed have usually had recourse to vital support, either (where smoking is concerned) medical help from a clinic or surgery, and where dieting is concerned a group like Weight-watchers or the constant vigilance of friends or family. Once achieved, the goal is often then maintained, certainly where smoking is concerned.

So are 'resolutions' useless? Do they simply expect too much of us - indeed, more than unaided human will-power can achieve? I suspect that

in the case of smoking and weight loss 'unaided' is the key word. Both resolutions require that external help (though I do have friends who have managed it without). For many people that 'external help' can be prayer - their own, and that of their supporters.

The trouble with failed resolutions is that we may then feel that the cause is lost forever. We've done our best, and it wasn't good enough. We label ourselves hopeless cases, and order the next packet of cigarettes or a box of doughnuts. In truth, taking on smoking or slimming in the context of an individual new year resolution is a bit like swimming the channel - not impossible, but jolly difficult. (And if at this moment you're trying to do it, I salute you and hope and pray that you succeed.)

But what about other resolutions? Experience tells us that there is a better chance of success if we set ourselves, initially at least, more modest but important goals. How about a resolution not to complain about the weather? Or to go to bed at a sensible time? Or to smile at the neighbour who keeps putting his bin where mine should go? Or to say 'thanks' to the bus driver as I get off?

On a slightly more exalted level, why not a resolution to make time every day for reflection, prayer and perhaps a short Bible reading? Or to go back

to church (if we've stopped going) or be a bit more positive about it if we haven't?

'Resolution' has two meanings: a 'resolve' to do something, and the result of doing it (the 'resolution' of the problem). Perhaps it might help all of us if we concentrated on the



BEATING THE WINTER CHILLS WHEN YOU ARE OLDER

If you are older, winter can be a challenging time of year. Age UK has offered the following tips to help you get through the winter in good shape:

1. Stay active. Try never to sit still for more than an hour at a time. Keep moving around - even if it is just walking to the kitchen and back a few times.
2. Eat well. Aim for at least one hot meal a day, and regular hot drinks. Stock up cupboards with basic food items well in advance, in case bad weather arrives.
3. Keep your home warm, around 21C. Being cold can increase the risk of a heart attack, stroke and breathing difficulties.
4. Keep your hands, face and feet warm. Wear several layers of clothing, as layers trap warm air.

latter rather than the former this New Year, keeping our eyes on that desirable goal rather than the difficulties of getting there. As the RAF motto says, *Per Ardua ad Astra* - through challenge to the heights!

Wool and fleecy garments are excellent.

5. Get a flu jab. Flu can develop into pneumonia, so take preventative measures!
6. Order any repeat prescriptions early, especially if bad weather is forecast. Does your pharmacy offer a delivery service?
7. Keep in regular touch with friends and family, even if just by phone or email.
8. Check your benefits. Most people born before 6 January 1952 will receive a Winter Fuel Payment.
9. Reduce your energy bills with insulation and draught-proofing. For info, call the Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300 123 1234
10. Keep on top of your energy bills – talk to your energy supplier about repayment plans or even grants.



6TH JANUARY

Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

Certainly in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who

in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol: 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as their worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because he was King of the Jews, with frankincense because he was to be worshipped as divine; and with myrrh, because he would also become a sacrifice and die for his people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for

months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, his divinity or his sacrificial death. They worshipped him through faith in God's promises about him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!



25TH JANUARY - TIME FOR HAGGIS AND BAGPIPES!

He died 'lang syne' – long ago, back in 1796, but the Scottish poet Robert Burns is still remembered each January, over many a 'Burns Night' supper of cockaleekie soup, haggis, neeps and tatties - and whisky. Scots and other Burns lovers throughout the world, from Canada to the USA to Russia, still celebrate the poems this most beloved of Scots poets wrote so long ago.

Burns wrote about ordinary things – food, love, death, friendship, and disappointment. We still quote him: 'the best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men'. And at the end of our lives, we can use his 'Prayer, in Prospect of Death': 'Thou art good; and Goodness still/Delighteth to forgive'. Indeed the Bible promises that if we put our trust in God, he will forgive us and give us new life in him. A good thought at the beginning of a new year!



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

TWO FACES OF WAR – the horrors of 1915

This past year Canon David Winter has been writing a series looking back on the Centenary of WWI. For 2015 he

is going to focus on events from the Great War as we reach the centenary of when they happened. Thus for January, he will be looking back on the first and terrible use of chlorine gas by the Germans during the war...

In the run-up to the Christmas season Sainsbury's produced an exceptional commercial. It was very long - nearly four minutes, an eternity in television terms. It was beautifully filmed and produced. It got people talking - several hundred people complained about it, but millions watched it spell-bound. One distinguished TV critic described it as the most moving piece of television of the year.

In case you missed it - presumably you would have been out of the country - it recreated an actual incident from Christmas Day 1914, when British and German soldiers gathered in no-man's land for a game of football and then joined in singing carols together - 'Silent Night' or 'Heilige Nacht' according to nationality. When it was over, they shook hands, wished each other luck and went back to their trenches. The

only 'commercial' element in it was that one of the British soldiers slipped a bar of chocolate into the pocket of a young German.

Then, of course, the next morning they were once again manning their guns or fixing their bayonets. It was a moment of peace, of a glorious shared humanity on the day when we remember that God in Jesus shared ours. But the insanity of war could not be cured by one moment of glorious sanity.

A few days later, on January 2nd, on the same front, the German army deployed deadly chlorine gas, the first time it had been used in warfare. 140 British soldiers were killed by it. Many others - among them my own father - were affected by it but not fatally. As an RAMC stretcher-bearer he cared for many of the men who were gassed - fortunately a breeze helped to disperse it.

Two stories within ten days sharply illustrate the two faces of war - and indeed the two faces of humanity. We are capable of great acts of humanity and also of great evil - not two different sets of people, but the same ones. No wonder we put a cross on soldiers' graves: the symbol of a great evil and, at the same time, of the 'greatest love'.

Our NEXT issue, for February, will include Lent, and be a time for considering Jesus after his baptism, as he goes into the wilderness to prepare for his earthly ministry. SO this month, January, might be a good time to look at the life of John the Baptist. Preb Richard Bewes considers the man who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus...

A single-purpose man

And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4) When you turn from the last page of the Old Testament to the first page of the New, you are turning over four hundred years. There had not been a real prophet in Israel since Malachi. It seemed as though in all that time heaven had nothing more to say to God's chosen people. The Roman eagle flew over everything, and such religion as there now was in Israel had become desiccated and lifeless.

And then John the Baptist arrived - a wild man from the desert! Questions were flying around. Could this be the coming 'Elijah' figure, prophesied in Malachi - who would 'turn the hearts' of people before the great and dreadful day of the Lord? It somehow seemed that John the Baptist bore the stamp of true God-given originality, with:

1. ONE THING TO DO For all of thirty years John had been preparing in a desert existence for this one

task - to fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3 - to 'prepare the way for the Lord.' As the fiery announcer of Jesus, people had heard nothing like this for centuries, and they flocked to hear him.

2. ONE THING TO SAY There it was - "Repent!" Here lay the true authority of a prophet. John was no flatterer. "You brood of vipers!" were his opening words to the Scribes and Pharisees. Nor did he need to stump the length and breadth of the country. People came out to HIM in the desert. And repentance isn't simply feeling sorry. The big question is "Will you stop doing it? If so, you've repented!"

3. ONE PERSON TO PROMOTE "Yes," says John. "I baptise you with water - but I'm not the important one!" The coming One, he said, will baptise you with the reality, of which the water could only be symbolical.

Bishop Alf Stanway of Melbourne once declared, "There are some, you know, who - wherever you put them - blessings will be there. I heard somebody say about a missionary, 'Leave him in a place long enough, and he'll turn it into gold. Whatever he touches will go that way. God's blessing will be upon him; it's just a matter of time.'"

Learn from John the Baptist - this Jesus-centred individual. Men and women with such a focus have the ability to stir great numbers of people.

GOD AND THE ARTS

Michael Burgess continues his look at GOD AND THE ARTS. You can see the image described by googling 'Steamboat in a Snowstorm'.

'HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM': JOSEPH TURNER (1775-1851)

Amid the hectic, busy lives we lead, many people fall under the control of 'the hurry syndrome.' We have to do 'A' as soon as possible, and we have get to 'B' as soon as possible. And along the way, we have phone calls to make, emails to open, and Facebook and twitter and all the social media to check. It means that we often go through the world without giving that world a second glance. This year in these articles we are going to pause, and, as the poet says, 'stand and stare.' Each month we shall be looking at a painting that celebrates the wonder, the joy, the mystery, and the marvel of the created world in which we live.

Joseph Turner (1775-1851) was one of the great artists of the 19th century. But he did little to conform to that accolade, and that is the theme of Mike Leigh's recent film, 'Mr Turner.' But no matter – he was passionate about his vision of the world around him, which inspired his art. Wherever he went, he sketched and painted. The ending of the Napoleonic wars meant that

people could travel safely through Europe, and he visited Italy many times. That country and its scenery taught him the place of light in art, which in many ways was the foundation of the paintings of his last fifteen years. Ruskin hailed Turner as 'a great angel of the Apocalypse....sent as a prophet of God to reveal to men the mysteries of the universe.' Turner was not particularly religious himself, but in the paintings of his old age, he was like a creator grappling with the elemental forces of light and sky, of water and sun.

In 1842 he painted 'Steamboat in a Snowstorm.' We see the water and the sky and the snow all cascading around each other. The clouds and driving snow, the churning of the water are there in abundance, and in the midst there is the steamboat trying to keep afloat and make its way through the forces of nature. Without that title we might think this painting is a modern abstract. With the title, we sense the wildness and wonder of the great forces of sea and sky, snow and clouds.

This month of January can bring snow which stops the traffic and maroons us in our homes. Here in the painting the snow and wind beat around the steamboat: it could be an image of human life tossed around by circumstance and event. But I think Turner wanted us to see

something of the extraordinary power the great forces of nature have over life – not to make us fatalistic and gloomy, but to proclaim that here in our world are mysteries and marvels that can stop us in our tracks. It is like the voice of God speaking to Job, who has questioned the justice of God's ways in his world. 'Where were

you when I laid the foundations of the earth?' God asks Job. 'Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?' Job's response is to question no more. He puts his hand over his mouth and looks out at the world God has created in wonder and amazement.

Remembering George Orwell of Nineteen Eighty-Four

Novelist George Orwell died 65 years ago, on 21st January, 1950. Best known for his anti-Stalinist fable, *Animal Farm*, and the bleak *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, set in an imaginary totalitarian future, Orwell was also a journalist and a critic.

Orwell was a pen name. He was born Eric Arthur Blair on 25 June 1903 in eastern India, the son of a British colonial civil servant. He was educated at Eton and, after a stint with the Indian Imperial Police in Burma, he decided to become a writer and moved to Paris.

Initially he had little success, and this was reflected in his first book, *Down and Out in Paris and London*, published in 1933. In *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937) he focused on the poor pre-war living conditions of the working class, and discussed the merits of socialism. Late in 1936, he travelled to Spain to fight for the Republicans against Franco's Nationalists but was forced to flee

from fanatical Soviet-backed communists.

During the early part of the Second World War, Orwell wrote propaganda for the BBC, and in 1943 he became literary editor of the *Tribune*, a weekly left-wing magazine.

Animal Farm, published in 1945, made his name, but *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949) is probably more widely read and quoted – particularly the catchphrase "Big Brother is Watching You", with which 21st television watchers are all too familiar.

Despite his criticism of organised Christianity – particularly the Roman Catholic Church – Orwell retained a strong religious streak and a niggling affection for the Anglican Church into which he was born. His paternal grandfather was Vicar of Milborne St. Andrew in Dorset. However, Orwell's verse beginning "[A happy vicar I might have been](#) / Two hundred years ago" is not entirely convincing. It was almost certainly not meant to be.



Traidcraft

Sales last month were £1212, helped by £35 at the Bakewell

Cancer Group Christmas Sale and £81 at the Oxfam Group's Matthew Parris Evening.

Did you know that, while smallholder farmers grow 70% of the world's food, they make up half of the world's hungriest people? That can't be fair or just. Traidcraft believes that this is something we ought to be trying to do something about. They are therefore launching a Fair Necessities Appeal, and from Jan 4th to April 3rd 2015 the UK government has agreed to match every £1 that is given pound for pound. This will be used to support smallholder families in developing countries to grow more, earn more and eat more.

With your help, Traidcraft has been working for over 35 years to help smallholders across the developing world to escape the cycle of poverty. Now, for this limited time, we have the opportunity to do even more; to help twice as many farmers, along with their families and communities too. If you would like to join in with this Appeal, please send your donation to me and it will be sent on, together with all the others at the end of March in time for them doubling up in early April.

Next month I will be able to publish the amount of sales for 2014 which I fear will be a disappointment as we are currently about £2000 down on last year.

Peter Bird (01629 813087 – pabird@gmail.com)

Who said 'thank you' this Christmas?

Remember those presents you bought and wrapped and then posted with some degree of hassle, just before Christmas? What happened to them? Have you heard back yet from the

people that you sent them to? It seems that the thank you card has become a thing of the past... so feel grateful if you even get an email or text in acknowledgement!

The research was done by Churchill Insurance.

Where did all this STUFF come from?!

Is your home full of clutter? It seems that almost a quarter of us are feeling stressed by the sheer amount of stuff in our homes. This includes unread books, old video and cassette tapes, and now, those unwanted Christmas presents. Research has discovered we are a nation of hoarders, with an average of £400 worth of unused items lying around our homes. The good news is that around two thirds of us are going to take action, and get rid of some stuff – especially the more hideous Christmas presents. The research was carried out by needaproperty.com.

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

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

New Patients Welcome

Pharmacy Application: The Practice would like to thank you for the overwhelming support that we have seen regarding the pharmacy application to open in Baslow, threatening our current service provision. We will let you know any developments as soon as we know them.

GP Appointments: can be booked up to 2 weeks in advance via the Internet and 1 week in advance via telephone/reception. **Nurse appointments** can be booked up to 3 months in advance, via telephone/reception.

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 (07:30 until 19:30) Tuesday to Friday 08:00 to 18:30 (closed Bank Holidays)

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

Surgery Closure – Our next half day closure for training is Wednesday

afternoon 21st Jan; 18th Feb & 18th March 2015.

Email- Please contact the reception and give us your email address if you would like to have the option of being contactable via email and receive the Practice and the Patient Participation Group newsletter.

Ordering Repeat Medication

All requests for repeat prescriptions must be:-

- In writing or with our on-line 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 – 16:00

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

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

For Urgent Calls: -

01246 582216 or 111



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December solution



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January Sudoku



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Celebrating 175 years of the Penny Post...

In January 1840 – just 175 years ago – the penny post was established throughout the UK and, as we know from Dickens and other novelists, letters flowed freely to and fro several times a day. It was a golden age of communication.

Sadly, this facility has now disappeared: recently the Royal Mail reported that it is struggling to deliver to every house just once a day for a price of 62p – over 150 times more than in 1840 (1p = 2½ old pennies). That's not quite as bad as it seems, of course: a penny in 1840 would be equivalent to about 35p now.

Never mind; we now have another golden age of communication, featuring the mobile phone. Mobiles

are as ubiquitous nowadays as the penny post was in 1840, and it is hard to believe that it was only 30 years ago that the first mobile phone call was made in the UK – by comedian Ernie Wise, who called Vodafone's head office in Newbury from St Katharine Docks in London on New Year's Day, 1985.

Quick off the mark as always, it was in the same month (just over a fortnight later) that British Telecom officially retired the much-missed iconic red telephone box. Maybe a bit too quick off the mark, because there are still vast tracts of Britain without a reliable mobile phone signal. Not so golden after all.



SERVICES & ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2015

| <u>ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY</u> | | <u>FLOWERS</u> | <u>CLEANING</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | 9.30am Holy Communion | Mrs Hopkins | All - post Christmas Cleaning & Decorations |
| 11 | No Service - Combined Service at St. Peter's " | | |
| 18 | 9.30am Holy Communion | Barbara Hawksworth | 14 th -17 th Rupert & Liz |
| 25 | 9.30am Holy Communion | " " | |
| <u>ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR</u> | | <u>SIDESMEN</u> | |
| 4 | 10.45am Holy Communion | Mr & Mrs Gordon | |
| 11 | 10.45am Confirmation & Holy Communion | Jean Clarke & M Jackson | |
| 18 | 10.45am Matins | Mr & Mrs Machin | |
| 25 | 10.45am Holy Communion | Mr & Mrs Wardle | |
| <u>COFFEE</u> | | <u>CLEANING</u> | <u>FLOWERS</u> |
| 4 | Clive & Joy Thrower | Mr & Mrs Nelson | Wedding & Christmas flowers |
| 11 | Mr & Mrs Bossett | Mrs Day/Mrs Walters | Diana Walters & } |
| 18 | Mr & Mrs Sherwood | Mr & Mrs Jackson | Janet Cosgrove } |
| 25 | M Douglas/Diana Maskery | Mr & Mrs Grimshaw | to be arranged |
| / Feb | Judy & Freddie Harding | Mr & Mrs Wardle | " " |
| <u>READINGS</u> | <u>ST. PETER'S</u> | <u>ST. ANNE'S & SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> | |
| 4 | Isaiah 60: 1-6 Matthew 2: 1-12 | Martin Venning <i>Feast of The Epiphany</i> | Oliver Cadogan <i>No Sunday School</i> |
| 11 | Readings to be arranged | To be arranged <i>The Baptism of Christ</i> | Joint Service |
| 18 | 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 John 1: 43-51 | Bob Carter <i>Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> | Fiona Swain <i>S.S. Sarah Porter</i> |
| 25 | Galatians 1: 11-16a Matthew 19: 27-30 | Roger Wardle <i>The Conversion of St. Paul</i> | Sarah Porter <i>S.S. Claire Cadogan</i> |
| Please note: No service at Beeley on 11th January | | | |
| Items for the February magazine should reach me NO LATER THAN MONDAY 12th January 2015 : email to: liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk 'The Bridge' Parish Magazine 60p per copy (£7.20 per year). | | | |