

Trinity Voice

The Parish magazine for
Holy Trinity, Weymouth
Diocese of Salisbury
December/January 2021



SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Said Eucharist Holy Trinity
10.00am Parish Sung Eucharist Holy Trinity

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP. Coffee and tea are served after our 10am Sunday service. This is a great opportunity for us to talk to each other. **IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH** please introduce yourself to Canon Andrew.

GENERAL INFORMATION: For any general information please contact the Vicar 760354.

FOR ALL MATTERS RELATING to Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Confirmation and matters of pastoral care for the sick and dying as well as home visits, home communions and the Ministry of Reconciliation (Confession), please

TELEPHONE THE VICAR: Revd. Canon Andrew Gough 760354

Email: goughfr@hotmail.com

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is perpetually reserved for the sick and infirm.

Holy Trinity Website
www.holytrinityweymouth.org

General enquiries:

enquiries@holytrinityweymouth.org

Vicar: The Reverend Canon Andrew Gough B.A.

The Parish Office: 01305 760354

Email: *Goughfr@hotmail.com*

Please note that the vicar's day off is Monday

HT Churchwarden: Phil Wise 01305 759484

HT Churchwarden: Trudi Shaw 07973 560705

PCC Secretary: Angela Kerigan Email
angelakerigan@gmail.com

HT Youth worker: Connor Hansford
Con.Hans@mail.com

Sunday School: Jenny Keates: 01305 788136

Electoral Roll: Phil Wise/Liz Williams:
01305 786421

Verger: Peter Rendall: 01305
782546

Sacristan: Carole Didcock (contact via
church office)

Servers/Acolytes Janny Richards (contact via
church office)

Safeguarding Officer: Krys Fursman 07916

097606 emmaaleks04@gmail.com

Children's Society: Val Sewry 01305 776155

Flowers: Church Team (contact the church office)

Musical Director:

James Thomas MA FRCO FTCL GTCL LRAM
07971403856

Assisted by Lizzie Peacock BMus LTCL, Dip
ABRSM CT ABRSM 07551623583

Sunday pew sheet: To be sent to the vicar's office
Goughfr@hotmail.com by

Wednesday 12noon each week

Magazine Editor:

Connor Hansford

*Contributions to the February magazine by the
January 15th*



Vicar's Christmas letter



At this time of year there is always a great sense of anticipation and hope. As we make our plans for Christmas, we anticipate the variety of services which help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus: carol services, crib services and the uniquely special Christmas services.

One of my favourite stories about a school nativity service (not in our school!) is of the little boy who wanted to play the part of Joseph. He was very disappointed to be given instead the part of the innkeeper, but he appeared to accept his teacher's decision and got on with his part in the play. However, on the day of the performance, in front of a school hall packed with parents, the boy took his revenge. When Joseph and Mary asked him if there was any room in

his inn, he abandoned the script, stood back so that the door to the inn was wide open and said, 'yes there's plenty of room; come on in!'

That might not be the way the familiar story goes but I think the little boy's actions have some things to say to us at Christmas. We all are invited to 'come in' to greet the holy child, born into such very humble surroundings. All will be welcomed to the variety of different services which our churches offer at Christmas as we join together in celebrating the birth of Jesus, the One who comes to save us and bring us joy. There literally is 'room for all' because God welcomes each and every one of us. He does not want anyone to be turned away, because He loves each of us so much. God has shown the depth of that love in His unique gift to us; the gift of His Son, born as one of us, part of a loving human family; the One who was willing ultimately to give his life for us, so that we might share in his life, for ever.

We anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, not only because it is a great excuse for a bit of a party, but also because his birth gives us hope. Hope for the future. Hope in the midst of much that has changed all around us. Our Christmas celebrations lead into celebrations of the new year, with a heightened sense of anticipation for all that 2022 might bring. Many will be praying that the next year will be better than the

last; others will be going into the New Year with a deep sense of anxiety and uncertainty. However, as we approach 2022, we should remember the wonderful promise which Jesus made to us: 'remember that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time' (Matthew 28, verse 20). Jesus promises to be there with us in whatever it is that life brings; in the happy times and the sad; in the pain and also in the joy.

At Christmas, God welcomes us all to celebrate the birth of His Son, the One who brings hope to the world. God invites us to come in because He has made sure that there is room for us all.

I wish everyone a very **HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS** and a peaceful New Year.

Your vicar and friend

Canon Andrew



What follows is an extract from a letter to the parish magazine in November 1940 by the then Vicar of Holy Trinity Reverend Cecil Plaxton. His stirring reminder of God's love for us has particular resonance at this challenging time whilst giving us an insight into life during the darkest days of World War Two. I hope you enjoy. Merry Christmas!

The Vicarage,
November 21st, 1940.

...I have always liked to feel what a happy family we have been in Holy Trinity Parish. Well, now that family spirit is more real than ever. If the enemy imagines that he has done himself any good by hurting our Parish, he has made a big mistake. We are gritting our teeth, and with a smile on our faces we are feeling more determined than ever to stick it out. Let us turn to God more and more and more for our help and strength. Let us commit ourselves and our loved ones to His keeping, knowing that "underneath are the Everlasting Arms."

Christmas is coming once again. I wish you all a happy Christmas. This is no empty hollow, insincere wish. Don't say "I can't have a happy Christmas this year. Yes you can" We may not be able to have all the jolly things we usually have at Christmas, but we can rejoice in that which matters most at Christmas. It is Christ's Birthday; it is the day we know that God loves us – it is the day when we remember with certainty that He came down to this earth. Christ is the Hope of the world. May that hope burn ever more brightly in every heart.

Your sincere Friend and Vicar,

C. A. Plaxton



Barry was secretly proud of his part in the Nativity play

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES

ADVENT SUNDAY (Sunday 28th November)

8am Said Eucharist

10am The Parish Eucharist

ADVENT 2 (Sunday 5th December)

8am Said Eucharist

10am The Parish Eucharist



ADVENT 3 (Sunday 12th December)

8am Said Eucharist

10am The Parish Eucharist

12noon Holy Baptism

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE (Friday 17th December

7pm) Lead by the Weymouth Salvation Army Band

ADVENT 4 (Sunday 19th December)

8am Said Eucharist

10am The Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols (TBC)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

CHRISTMAS EVE (Friday 24th December)

4pm Family service for Christmas Eve with carols,

CHILDRENS NATIVITY and the blessing of the Christmas Tree.



CHRISTMAS DAY (Saturday 25th Dec.)

8am Said Eucharist for Christmas
10am The Parish Eucharist of the Holy Nativity

CHRISTMAS 1/ HOLY FAMILY (Sunday 26th Dec)

10am Said Eucharist (only)

EPIPHANY (Sunday 2nd January)

8am Said Eucharist
10am The Parish Eucharist

BAPTISM OF CHRIST (Sunday 9th January)

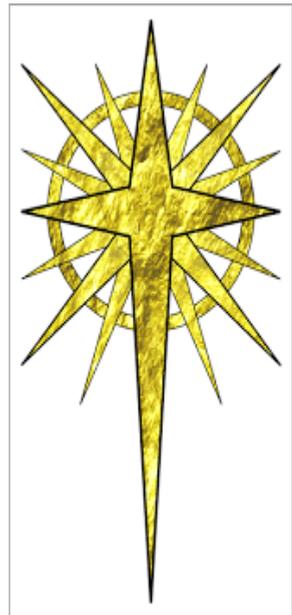
8am Said Eucharist
10am The Parish Eucharist

EPIPHANY 2 (Sunday 16th January)

8am Said Eucharist
10am The Parish Eucharist

EPIPHANY 3 (Sunday 23rd January)

8am Said Eucharist
10am Parish Eucharist





CANDLEMASS (Presentation of Christ)

(Sunday 30th January)

8am Said Eucharist

10am The Parish Eucharist

Join us for Evening Prayer LIVE on Facebook

If worship once a week isn't enough for you, you can now join either Connor or Father Andrew live on Holy Trinity's Facebook page for the Office of Evening Prayer at 5.30pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Evening Prayer usually lasts between 20 and 30 minutes and is a fantastic way to wind down after a long day. You can follow along at home using the official Daily Prayer app or by going to the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org and clicking 'Join us in a service of Daily Prayer'.

The words in bold, for example the **Lord's Prayer** and the **Apostles' Creed**, we say together. All videos are recorded so don't worry if you can't make it. If you wish us to pray

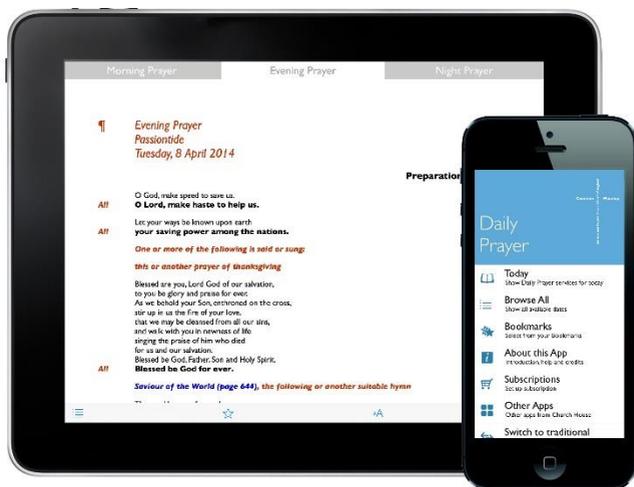
for someone in particular please comment during the Intercessions or email the vicar.

Alternatively, you can message the page Holy Trinity Weymouth with St Nicholas where you can find details of each service including Feast Days.

We use a mixture of Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer. Both are available in full via the app and online. Let us know which you prefer.

Download the app:

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/daily-prayer>



Putting Christ back into Christ-mas



It can sometimes feel like we have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas, so Trinity Voice editor and Youth Worker Connor Hansford has put together this list of things you can do at home to put Christ back into Christmas.

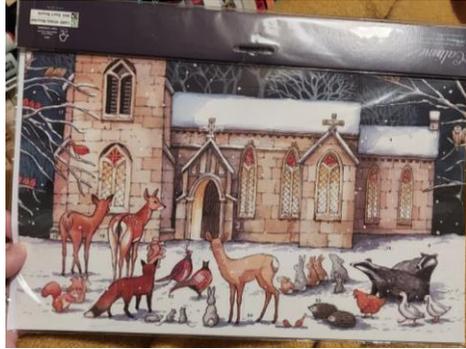
Go to church. There is no Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity this year however there is a packed programme of other services which you can find on pages 10 to 12. Many people only come to church once a year at Christmas, making now the perfect time to get stuck in and discover what it's all about. Alternately join us for Evening Prayer!



Get a Nativity set. A Nativity set is an inexpensive reminder of the Christmas Story. This year I went for this light-up 'Nativity Scene Inside Book' which is available from the Range for £24.99. Batteries not included.

Advent calendars.

WHSmith sell a variety of traditional advent calendars including this one which I purchased for £6.99. If you prefer a chocolate one and let's be honest who



wouldn't (I have both) you can get a so-called Real Advent Calendar featuring the Nativity from the Meaningful Chocolate Company or through Eden.co.uk, or if you're a bit strapped for cash M&S do one for two quid. Lovely!



Religious decorations. Online Christian shop Eden stocks a number of religious-themed Christmas decorations including these gorgeous baubles which retail at £15.98.

Read! If you need inspiration check out the fifth annual Big Church Read. There're heaps of great books to discover, including Archbishop Stephen

Cottrell's book of Advent 2021 *Music of Eternity* by Robyn Wrigley-Carr. <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/>

The adventure begins here!



On Friday November 19th Connor and others met with Kat Jenkins, regional development officer of the Boys Brigade via Zoom to discuss plans to start a 'company' at Holy Trinity. Boys' Brigade was formed in 1883 and remains to this day 'one of the biggest Christian Youth Organisations in the UK & Republic of Ireland.' Boys' Brigade provides opportunities for all children **regardless of gender** between the ages of 5 and 18.

If you are interested in volunteering or taking part please register your interest now by emailing Connor at Con.Hans@mail.com.

Connor recently completed the Basic Good Practice for working with CYP course and is close to achieving his Level 3 Youth Work Certificate. With thanks to AIMCommunity and Holy Trinity PCC.

November 20th: Dan in the Den



On Saturday November 20th Holy Trinity Church was pleased to host the Oddments Theatre Company from Yeovil for their production of 'Dan in the Den', a humorous retelling of the Book of Daniel beginning with his upbringing in Jerusalem and ending with his miraculous

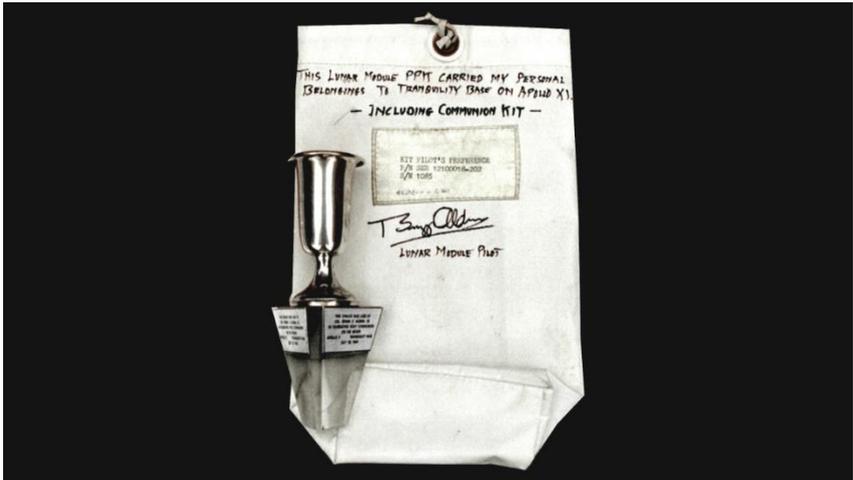
escape from the lions' den where he is imprisoned for worshipping God instead of Darius the Mede, King of Babylon.

Carole, Connor, and Connor's partner Blue were there to welcome the performers and to help them set up. The play was fun and enjoyable though the performers' decision not to use mics was a mistake! The audience was neither very large nor very small though rather unresponsive except for one boy who seemed to know more about it than the actors! It was felt that music might have encouraged the more nervous members of the audience to join in with the songs, all of which they knew from school. The actors had been expecting to use the organ transept and had to make do with the chancel which limited their performance space. They adapted to this change quickly and well, providing audience members with an hour of storytelling fun fit for the whole family.

Thank you to Helene for taking on bouncer duty and to Jenny and Toby for providing refreshments. A huge thank you to the cast, to Sarah, Joanna, Stephanie, and Sadie. Special thanks to founder and director Barry Boynton for giving us permission to perform any of the 26 original sketches found in his book *Fish and Chips* which Connor purchased from him on Holy Trinity's behalf. Last but not least thank you to all who came to 'Dan in the Dan'. We hope enjoyed it!

When God went to the Moon

By Connor Hansford



The communion bag and chalice used by Buzz Aldrin during his lunar communion. (Credit: David Frohman, President of Peachstate Historical Consulting, Inc.)

One hundred years ago planes had only just been invented, cars were not widespread, nor phones. There was no internet, no handheld mobile devices, no video games. And yet not long after Charles Lindbergh became the first man to circumnavigate the globe by air, two intrepid former test pilots, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong, travelled millions of

miles through the vacuum of space to our nearest celestial neighbour: the Moon.

Aldrin, the only one of the three Apollo 11 astronauts still alive – Command Module pilot Michael Collins sadly passed away earlier this year – was an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church who gave the moonwalker special permission to give himself Holy Communion making this the first food and drink ever to be consumed on the lunar surface. You might remember in last month's magazine a feature about how science and religion can work together (*Should We Have Faith in Science?* Nov 2021). Human ingenuity got them there, but God was with them all the way.

Aldrin said, 'at the time I could think of no better way to acknowledge the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God.' Sadly, for Christians, Aldrin later came to regret his decision saying, 'we had come to space in the name of all mankind—be they Christians, Jews, Muslims, animists, agnostics, or atheists.' A few months before Neil Armstrong's famous 'one small step', on Christmas Day 1968 the crew of Apollo 8 beamed back from the Moon a passage from the Book of Genesis. As a result, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was sued by atheist activist Madalyn Murray O'Hair.

Still, something to think about the next time a communion wafer gets stuck in your teeth.

Review: The Most Reluctant Convert

By Connor Hansford



(Image: *The Most Reluctant Convert* movie platform)

These days C. S. Lewis is best known as the writer of the *Chronicles of Narnia*, a seven-book series about four ordinary children who become kings and queens of a magical world. But he was also a Christian whose broadcasts over the wireless brought hope to thousands during the darkest days of World War Two. *The Most*

Reluctant Convert tells the story of Lewis's conversion from atheism to Christianity.

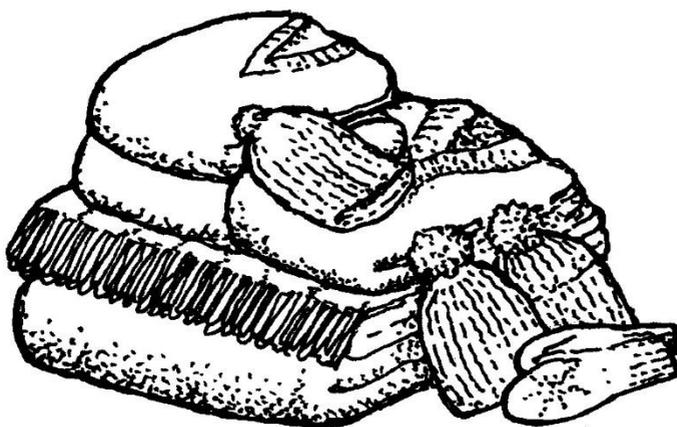
Inspired by Max McLean's play of-the-same-name, which was in turn inspired by Lewis's 1955 autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, *The Most Reluctant Convert* is a short whistle-stop tour of Lewis's life from a boy growing up in Belfast to a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, narrated by non-other than Lewis himself (played by Max McLean).

The film itself is thoughtful, exciting, and beautiful. Its unique storytelling style, spoiled slightly by the 'Making Of' documentary being shown at the beginning, distinguishes it from that other great Lewis biopic *Shadowlands* in which Sir Anthony Hopkins takes on the role of Lewis. Norman Stone's script owes much to Lewis's own writing which is where the film falls down. In my opinion the Narnia novels fail to stand up to scrutiny, and the same can also be said for Lewis's spiritual writing. He was first and foremost an academic whose defence of faith exists in opposition to obtuse concepts such as materialism. Subsequently his arguments against religion make more sense than his arguments for.

The Most Reluctant Convert is a good film, but I think it's high time Christianity found a new champion, don't you?

For showtimes or for more information head to <https://www.cslewisovie.com/home/>

Church launches consultation on plans to get to net zero carbon in just nine years



The Church of England is consulting dioceses, cathedrals, national institutions, parishes, schools, and other interested parties on a proposed route map to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.

The draft route map suggests how all parts of the Church of England can make changes together, in order to achieve the ambitious target set by General Synod in 2020: to be net zero carbon 20 years ahead of the Government's targets.

It includes recommendations for building maintenance, heating and the availability of specialist advice for each, setting alongside how the central Church and dioceses can offer support.

The draft net zero carbon route map was written by a sub-committee of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group, chaired by the Bishop of Selby, Dr John Thomson.

He said: "God's creation is in crisis, and there is an urgent call to address this at every level of our global community. "Synod has set an ambitious target. We recognise this will be challenging, however many adaptations can also be made simply and quickly, such as switching to a green energy provider, filling gaps in windows, and changing lightbulbs, all of which can help to reduce energy costs. I encourage individuals and communities to engage with these consultation proposals and to think at every level what can be done to be part of the change. We need to safeguard and care for all of God's creation."

The Government has committed to a target of net zero carbon by 2050, with an interim target of a 78 per cent reduction, set in April 2021.

Anyone can respond to the consultation online before the closing date of 28 February 2022, with responses particularly requested from Dioceses and Cathedrals.



WEYMOUTH CHORAL SOCIETY – CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2021 ‘Tidings of Joy!’

With Weymouth Concert Brass

On Saturday 18 December, Weymouth Choral Society, under Musical Director Helen Brind, is proud to present its annual Christmas concert, to be held this year at **St Paul’s Church**, Abbotsbury Road, Weymouth, DT4 0BJ. We are thrilled to once again be joined by Weymouth Concert Brass to provide that special brass band sound of Christmas, which together with choral and solo items will bring you a packed programme of seasonal items and holiday treats. As well as the traditional congregational carols, other choral items include favourites by John Rutter, the sparkling ‘Carol of the Bells’ and atmospheric ‘O Holy Night’. Accompaniment will be provided by James Lloyd Thomas on the organ and Lizzie Peacock on piano and harp. Mezzo-soprano soloist Ellen Porter will also feature. The programme promises an evening of great variety and different musical styles as we share with you the contemplative and celebratory aspects of the Christmas season.

Join Weymouth Choral Society and Weymouth Concert Brass for what promises to be a large and satisfying helping of Christmas fare!

The concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12.00 (and free to under 16s). See our website www.weymouthchoralsociety.org.uk or telephone 07712 135150 to reserve.

Daily Hope phone line receives more than 550,000 calls



Daily Hope, a free phone line which offers prayers and support for callers, receives nearly 20,000 calls every month. The service, which was launched during the Covid-19 lockdown, has spent more than 7.15 million minutes on more than 550,000 calls.

The phone line originally launched in April 2020, only to continue in response to ongoing demand once restrictions were eased.

Daily Hope set up by the Church of England nationally, has also been supported by Connections, a Missional Programme to older people based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Over the year and a half of service, Daily Hope has continued to encourage people across the country and beyond including Australia, Japan, and the United States.

Since the phone line launched, users have been able to listen to a range of audio, including the Church of England's national weekly service, hymns and daily prayer.

Many have messaged Lambeth Palace to express their thanks for the introduction of the phone line, particularly for elderly people.



November 21st: Stir-up Sunday



A huge thank you to everyone who donated money or ingredients for this year's Stir-up Sunday. Stir-up Sunday, the last Sunday before Advent, takes its name from the first line of the day's

collect, according to the Book of Common Prayer. Members of the congregation took turns 'stirring up' the community Christmas cake. Holy Trinity's own Mary Berry Cheryl Wise will be baking and decorating it in time for our Christmas Eve service so be sure to come along, details on page 10. Thank you to Cheryl for that and to Father Edward Tildesley for presiding while Father Andrew is on holiday. I bet he'll still want a slice when he gets back!

Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care proposes set of values



The Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care has launched a consultation on a set of values, informed by Christian theology and ethics, that it thinks should underpin a vision for care and support in England.

As well as consulting on the proposed values, the Commission is also asking for people's views of what is good and what is difficult, challenging or missing about care and support currently.

The Commission on Reimagining Care has been charged by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to develop a radical and inspiring long-term vision for care and support in England, underpinned by a renewed set of values and principles, drawing on Christian theology and ethics.

The focus of the Commission is on adults with disabilities and those with care and support needs in later life.

The Commission began work in June 2021 and is due to publish a final report in September 2022.

The Commission has recently published a draft set of values which draw on Christian theology and ethics. These include concepts that are not usually heard in policy discussions about care such as flourishing, loving kindness, empathy, trust, and justice.





What a Christmas

By the Ven John Barton

The Bethlehem manger, shepherds, wise men, Jesus, Mary and Joseph – it's all so familiar to older people, who are shocked to hear that younger generations may be hazy or ignorant of them. Aren't they part of everyone's education?

Yet the first Christmas was restricted to just a few. What 21st Century Christians proclaim as the most significant event in history began in a remote corner of the Roman Empire, without the pomp and publicity we associate with kingship and power. What modern media have called 'The Greatest Story Ever Told', escaped everyone's attention in first century Palestine.

This year, Christmas is going to be a busier celebration than last year, but probably not yet back to the normal fuss we usually make each December. The streets will be crowded, but shops may struggle with supplies. Parties will take place, but many people will feel reluctant join in. Family gatherings are allowed again, but the vulnerable may hesitate. Christmas services will be held, but as singing has the potential for droplet and aerosol transmission, music will be muted this year. A Christmas without many carols!

Many will struggle to hold their 'usual' Christmas. Yet God does not neglect us. This may be the very opportunity to rekindle or deepen our faith in what really matters about Christmas. Away from the hordes, perhaps completely alone this Christmas, we may sit quietly and allow our heavenly Father to draw near to us. We may picture Mary inviting us to gaze with her at her Son, born to save us from our sins. In the silence of our imagination, we may join the chorus of angels announcing His birth to the shepherds:

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.”*

It was that chorus which inspired an American Minister, Edmund Sears, to write the Christmas hymn, 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'. Sears, troubled by the world's turbulent history and failure to hear the Christmas message, was himself recovering from a breakdown. Written in 1849, his words have a timeless ring about them:

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;*

*Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.*

December 11th: Holy Trinity Church open for prayer



Holy Trinity is excited to be one of five churches participating in the Weymouth Nativity Trail on December 11th. Holy Trinity is not open as often as we would like due to lack of stewards therefore from between 1.30 and 3.30 that day you will be able to

pray, light a candle or just sit quietly and enjoy the atmosphere. Please bear in mind that other activities will be taking place elsewhere in the church at the same time and that renovations both inside and out are still ongoing. See 'Weymouth's Christmas Nativity Trail & Carols' on Facebook for more details.

LOVING, ALMIGHTY GOD,

Thank you that You came into the darkness of this broken world on that first Christmas night, pouring in your Light, in the person of your Son, Jesus.

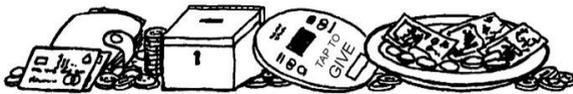
Lord, so much of our world seems dark, still. So many dreadful things we can't make sense of, the on-going pandemic, acts of violence and injustice against good people – innocent people, child poverty, employment problems, broken relationships...so many difficulties. It's easy to feel overwhelmed.

Lord, help us to focus on you this Christmas. Open our eyes to see your bigger, eternal picture. Help us to hear afresh the Good News that nothing and no-one can ever extinguish your Light.

Jesus overcame the troubles of the world by His death and resurrection. Father may we re-connect with you, through Jesus, this Christmas and know the Love, the Joy and the Peace, which are your Christmas gifts to us, as we trust Him.

We pray in Jesus' wonderful name, Amen.

By *Daphne Kitching*



NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR



How will the age we are living in be remembered? Many already refer to it as the digital age. But then we had Covid and I think more than anything the age will be remembered for this. But there is one thing that both of these things have in common – loneliness. I have never witnessed so many people as I have in the last couple of years. So maybe it maybe more appropriate to call it the age of loneliness.

According to statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development we are the loneliest country in Europe. The number of people in the UK living on their own has doubled since the 1970s. Single person households now make up a third of all homes. We are least likely to have close friendships, and a survey in 2010 found

60% of people aged between 18 and 34 described themselves as lonely. These same young people dream of fame and riches but not much else. They have hundreds of virtual friends, but not many real ones. Older people – also tired and lonely – resort to TV. Many say it is their principal source of company. And a favourite programme of late has been watching other people watch TV!

Our motorways are clogged with cars, jammed end to end and going nowhere. Most have only one person in them. It is a perfect illustration of our dependence upon technology, and the isolation it breeds. These things – cars, computers, TVs, mobile phones – they were supposed to make our lives easier, and in so many ways they have, and, no, we can't turn the clock back, but there has been a cost. We are more likely to know the names of the inhabitants of Albert Square than our own neighbours. And that is a terrible indictment on what our society has become.

Cosmologists tell us that the universe is expanding all the time, the stars and the planets moving further and further away from each other, and, one day, so far away from us that the night sky will be permanently black. Is this also what is happening to us? The expansion of our knowledge leading to a separation from our humanity? And what could we do about it?

The Christian faith teaches that God is a community of persons: Father Son and Holy Spirit; and that we human beings are made for community: with God and with each

other. Moreover, we are at our best and most happy and most fulfilled when we live in community. This isn't quite saying: no wonder we're lonely, we've lost God. But it is saying that by keeping the idea of God alive the local church also keeps the idea of community alive. The local church is probably the one place left in Britain where people of different ages, ethnicities, abilities and aspirations meet together regularly and know each other by name. The church has a particular vocation and calling to be the place where the lonely and the isolated are welcomed in and community is built.

The new year and particularly January can be a cold and lonely month. Let us reach out to our neighbours at this time of year; and may our churches be places of welcome to all.

Wishing you all a happy new year

Canon Andrew



NEW YEAR POEM

Another year I enter
Its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper,
I know I shall be blest;
“My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest.”
What will the New Year bring me?
I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;
I surely shall be blest;
“My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest.”

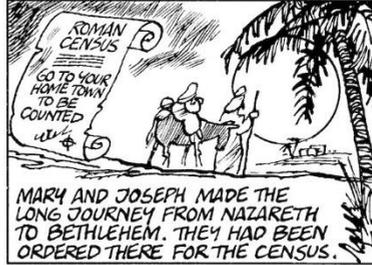


A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.

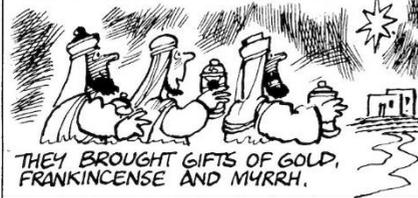


SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



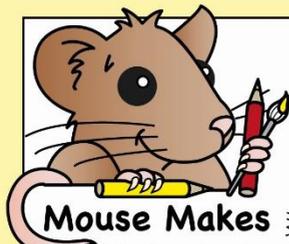
AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...





Mouse Makes

Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?

Presents at Christmas
under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking
waiting for me,

But what really is Christmas,
What is it about?
Just look and the Bible
and you will find out!

It's about **JESUS**
- the best present of all,
JESUS our **Saviour**,
God's gift to us all!

A STAR
shows the way
to Jesus
Read
Matthew 2:1-12

ANGELS
bring messages from God

Read about
Gabriel's message in
Luke 1:26-38

Read the
shepherd's story in
Luke 1:26-38

**LIGHTS
AND CANDLES**
remind us that Jesus
lights our way to God

Read *Luke 2:29-32*

PRESENTS
remind us of God's
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

s	e	c	r	e	t	l	y	n	e	w	j
u	h	e	r	o	d	i	o	c	a	e	e
p	t	j	e	r	u	s	a	l	e	m	s
s	s	b	e	t	h	l	e	h	e	m	u
e	j	e	w	s	p	r	i	e	s	t	s
t	e	a	c	h	e	r	s	g	e	c	t
p	l	o	t	t	i	n	g	u	l	h	a
w	o	r	s	h	i	p	y	i	a	i	r
k	i	l	l	e	d	h	b	d	t	l	w
b	a	f	r	a	i	d	o	i	e	d	i
l	i	t	t	l	e	n	r	n	d	z	s
h	a	t	e	d	k	i	n	g	c	b	e

upset

hated

King

star

priests

new

plotting

killed

Jerusalem

Jews

teachers

guiding

little

born

Bethlehem

elated

birthplace

worship

Herod

secretly

Jesus

child

wise

afraid

If you love reading and are interested in forming a book club please get in touch with Connor Hansford either in person or by emailing Con.Hans@mail.com.

*We can join in **The Big Church Read** or start our own, it's up to you! For more information on **The Big Church Read** head to <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/>*

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of *Trinity Voice*, the parish magazine for Holy Trinity, Weymouth. From all of us here have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you in February!...

£1