
TRINITY TIMES

HOLY TRINITY KEW

Anglican Church of Australia



CHRISTMAS 2023

From the Vicar

Dear Parishioners,

An excerpt from the Letter to Titus (2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

As the world today welcomes the newborn king of the Jews, we must realise that while we bask in the glory of God made man, God chose to become human like us in all things but sin. We, as Christians, bear a significant responsibility. St Paul in his letter to Titus tells us that we must do our part by leading upstanding lives, to be an example, and thereby lead others to Christ. It is a responsibility we must not fail to engage, to be the best person our abilities will allow us to be.

The central message of the passage tells us that the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all people. We know that the Christmas story is central to God's plan of salvation history. From the time God called Abraham, through the formation of the Israelite people, the great exodus, the periods of the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah and the prophets, and even the infamous Babylonian exile, God continued to provide evidence to the fact that a plan was in progress to bring God's people the gift of eternal life. Jesus' arrival in history begins the process that leads to his salvific death and resurrection.

St Paul says that while we await the manifestation of God's glory, to be made present upon Jesus' return, we have several significant responsibilities. We are initially called to renewal and to cast out worldly passions. The message of Christ must have a significant bearing on our lives. We must demonstrate in our lives of faith that the message of Christ has made a difference. Worldly passions are an everyday enticement. The allure of the created world is strong. Since the attraction of the world is so strong and pervasive, we must overtly choose to take another path.

Daily for most of us our lives we have been urged, lured and enticed to march in a totally different direction. According to the world around us, life's goal is to be happy, satisfied, rich, forever young, and beautiful. And the way to achieve that goal is all around us for a price. If we spend the money, heartache and heartburn need never be ours. If we buy the right product, popularity and success are assured. Daily we have been told that our value and worth are easily determined just look at what we eat, drink, drive, wear or own.

We as Christians are required to be countercultural, to place value on things of God and faith over the materialism of the world. People will think us odd, even foolish in our rejection of what the majority of our first-world society considers indispensable, yet this is precisely what being countercultural means. We must be a sign in an alienated world of a value system that is contrary to that of the world. Such a stance will require courage



because the rewards that are so readily apparent and tangible for those who choose the world are hidden and latent for the Christian who chooses to shun worldly ties. Yet, our faith teaches us of the necessity of holding fast. Saint Paul puts it powerfully and beautifully in 1 Corinthians 2:9: "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him."

St Paul tells us in the present age, and thus for all ages, we are to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives. In other words we must live lives consistent with our Christian vocation. We are to set an example that others would want to follow. If that life is consistent with Christ's message then we become a beacon of light, like the star, which draws others to Christ.

Jesus came into our world, as we celebrate at Christmas, to bring light, hope, and to show us how to lead our lives in a way that is pleasing to God. He came to fulfil and complete the law, initiated on Mount Sinai with Moses. Christ did his share, but the work was only initiated during his life. We, his followers, have the privilege and responsibility to continue his work in our world.

Jesus is the light who comes to dispel the darkness. We must carry the light in a proactive way. We must be willing to take some risks in providing the light to others. We cannot abdicate this serious responsibility nor think we are not qualified to be Christ's representatives in our world. We must avoid the hesitation and reticence that, if we are not careful, can creep into our lives.

The Advent season, a period of patient expectation, is ending and soon we welcome Jesus, the light, the Prince of Peace, and our source of salvation. As we rejoice in the Incarnation and the great privileges initiated for us who bear the name of Christian, we must always be mindful that responsibility is an essential element of the Christian life. The letter to Titus today suggests our need to be countercultural, to move away from the teachings of the world's passions, materialism, and self-autonomy, which twenty-first-century Australia tells us is normative, and seek instead an attitude of community and greater simplicity of life.

Additionally, we are challenged to exercise self-control and to live upright lives according to the message that Jesus proclaimed. In other words, we are called to be good examples, to be the light of Christ to others. Our words, actions, and attitudes should bring people closer to Christ. It is an awesome and extremely important responsibility. As we celebrate the arrival of the light that no darkness can overcome, let us be the light to others. May the miracle of the Incarnation, God made man, transform our lives forever!

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you,



Fr Robert
Vicar, Holy Trinity Kew

A Reflection on My Priestly Ordination

By the Reverend Ruth Li, Assistant Curate Holy Trinity Kew

What a great holy occasion it was at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne on Saturday, 25 November 2023 at 10:30 am to be ordained as a priest into the Church of God at Holy Trinity Kew, the household of God! What a heavenly achievement our parish has achieved in this holy Ministry! The calling to be a priest comes from God in the Church. Our parish, Holy Trinity Kew, sincerely supported the holy Order of Priests, especially Fr Robert's holy and godly supervision and leadership, which made the calling of God to my life to be a priest of the household of God come true. We are standing together for the Church of God and the Kingdom of God. We praise the Lord for our parish to continue to follow the heavenly vision of the Lord Jesus for calling His faithful servants into the Church to serve Him for His holy word, His holy sacraments and His people. By doing so, our parish's holy ministry is strengthened and expanded, and the name of the Lord Jesus is glorified.

On the morning, of the 22nd, November, we as deacons started the rehearsal preparing for processing down the aisle on 25th of November and say "I will, by God's grace!" to being a priest in the household of God! Then, we met Bishop Kate in the Cornerstone Room to say and sign the Oath and Declarations sincerely,

seriously, and humbly. After Bishop Kate's blessings were given, we went to the Community of The Holy Name for our Retreat.

As one of the thirteen priestly candidates, I reflect on this holy occasion of priestly Ordination, I praise our living God for you, the parish of Holy Trinity Kew. And I liked what

Archbishop Philip said to us in his Letter that "the vocation and ministry of a priest are serious spiritual and pastoral responsibilities." To be prepared for the ordination day at St Paul's Cathedral, from the 22nd to the 25th of November, I went on retreat at the Community of The Holy Name and followed the rhythm of Morning Prayer, reading the scriptures, attending the sessions, reflecting, meditating, praying, Evening Prayer, Compline, and resting. During the Retreat, each

of us was on the Services of Worship Roster.

My heart lifted closer to God for what a priestly life would be after the Holy Communion Service especially remembering St Cecilia at 5:00 pm. After the dinner, at 7:30 pm, Bishop Denise Ferguson, who came from the Diocese of Adelaide, gave us her first session of the retreat. She shared her stories of the calling to be a priest and a bishop. She believed that to be a priest is a commitment to follow God's calling. On her



ministry journey she experienced that God always is the God of surprise in many different ways! The phrase “God is the God of surprising” echoed throughout her stories. She identified that the order of a priest is for life, just as baptism is for life. After her talk Bishop Denise led the first Compline at 8:00 pm and we started silent retreat.

During the first night of our retreat at the Community of the Holy Name, I reflected on our Session One: “Our vocation is a gift from God. We have a responsibility to be good stewards of that gift. Ordination is a Particular expression of our vocation. It is the outcome of a collective discernment and affirmation of the

vocation by God, the Church, and ourselves.”

After I prayed on my knees, I hand-wrote my reflection that night as below:

Ordination is for life to be consecrated to God living as a living sacrifice, set apart from the world for God to live a holy life for God’s glory, and to strengthen God’s people as the Lord Jesus wants us to be (John 17:11); to fully trust in God’s leading and follow the Lord Jesus’ footsteps by clothing myself with humility, humbleness, obedience and discipline, to be constant in prayers and service as a model for God’s people, studying the scripture wholeheartedly; to proclaim the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ; to teach the word of God and build up the body of Christ, the Church; to correct the wrongs; to faithfully minister the sacraments of God’s grace; to declare God’s forgiveness and blessing; to love, serve, and care for God’s people as the Greatest

Shepherd did for His people; to take part in life and councils of the Church with the Archbishop, our area bishop, and all bishops and other ministers to work and live as oneness for Christ Jesus’ body, the Church, to stand for His holiness and righteousness under Fr Robert’s leadership and supervision with the Field Committee and the supports of our parish, Holy Trinity Kew.

The next day, Thursday, 23 November, I continued the rhythm of Morning Prayer, reading the scripture, attending the Session, reflecting, meditating, praying, Evening Prayer, Compline, and resting. Bishop Denise gave us her second Session “A Ministry of Visibility and

Presence”. In my ministry experiences, I agree with Bishop Denise’s exhortation to us that our response to God’s call is a sacred, life-long, serious commitment.

Our ordained ministry will be as priest in the Church of God, but the function, the outworking of that ministry will always be as a public representative of God in the world because it is God’s ministry. A ministry of visibility, a ministry of presence, and a ministry of leadership are three faces of our public ministry for our duty of care and responsibility of that Sacred Trust. Priestly ministry is an incredible gift and a significant responsibility. It is life-changing and life challenging. We cannot fulfil this call on our own. We can only do this through the grace of God, with the permission of the Church and the generosity of the Communities of Faith in which we are to



exercise our ordained ministry. Together, we are glorifying God through our Church life and every gathering. Bishop Denise also mentioned to us how to take care of ourselves to avoid burnout by Getting Seven Types of Rest through Dr. Saundra Dalton-Smith's article and Mark D. Roberts' "Self- Reflection and the Prayer of Examen".

The next day, Friday, 24 November, my life continued to follow the rhythm of Morning Prayer, reading the scripture attending the session, reflecting, meditating, praying, Evening Prayer, Compline, and resting. We were joyful to see Archbishop Philip and Bishop Kate come in,

have a cup of tea with us, and talk to us for over an hour through exhortation and examination, to confirm each of us that we are priests forever. I examined myself



and answered the question that I believe I am called to this ministry, as well as other questions that "I will, by God's grace" as a commitment to the call of the Lord into the priestly ministry. They also gave us time to ask them any questions in their supportive ways. We watched the Archbishop and Bishop Kate's leave and were looking forward to meeting them tomorrow at St Paul's Cathedral for the Ordination.

It was so amazing to me that by God's grace, I met Bishop Denise at 2:30 pm for a conversation by her invitation on Thursday 23 November morning after the second session. It was a very friendly and joyful talk, sharing my stories of God's calling to the priestly ministry. It was my privilege that Bishop Denise asked me if she could say a prayer for me at the end of the

meeting. She prayed for me, and I prayed for her. And then, Bishop Denise asked me if she could use oil to anoint me. I felt amazed that I could be anointed for my ordination as a priest because I had confirmed that there will be no anointing during the Ordination of Priests Service on 25 November. I knelt on the floor and Bishop Denise anointed me three times. Each time of anointing on my forehead, I felt the first time that the power through the oil and the cross came into my forehead. Through the anointing, the power was diffusing to bigger and bigger circles on my forehead. I thank God for His promise and power given to us to stand for Him and serve Him in His Church among

His people.

On Friday, 24 November, I was on the Roster for Compline. I discussed with Bishop Denise after Morning Prayer if I could take the

Compline Service by singing in plainchant. And Bishop Denise was happy for me to do it. Because of the last night of our Retreat, Bishop Denise decided our Compline would go straight ahead at 7:00pm instead of 8:00pm after the dinner at 6:00pm, to give us enough time to rest and pack up everything for our Morning Prayer at 7:15 am before heading to St Paul's Cathedral for the Ordination. The Compline Service was sung in plainchant without stopping. It lifted up our hearts and souls to the Lord for this heavenly holy ministry to live for Him only.

On Saturday of 25th of November, I got up at 5:00 am to pray and have a purified shower as usual using oil to anoint the body. Then said goodbye to my "GENEROSITY" room by hanging the key on the board putting my

luggage in the car and readying for the Morning Prayer at 7:15 am. I felt that it made sense to be without breakfast for the Ordination. After Morning Prayer and a photo taken, I drove to our Church to park there, for I felt that the parish of Holy Trinity Kew is my spiritual home, it is the right place from here, for me, to go forward to St Paul's Cathedral for the Ordination of Priests Service. After riding tram 48 I arrived at St Paul's Cathedral and into the David Penman Room at 9:20am. Two of the other candidates had arrived also. I was filled with joy to see the examining chaplains who walked in to say "Hello" to each of us and have some holy hugs and chats to support us. All the function rooms of St Paul's Cathedral were filled with the holy people of God: The Priests (including Fr Robert Newton), Bishops, examining Chaplains, and all different Servants to attend the Ordination of Priests Service.



During the Service, I was promised to the Lord in front of the holy congregation in St Paul's Cathedral by answering the Archbishop's questions. Somehow and in some way, I felt that it was like making the oaths at the wedding with the Lord. The hands of the Archbishop, Fr Robert, and all the priests of God laid hands on my head was both a great holy symbolic and formal method of invoking the Holy Spirit to come upon me and for the Church recognising the holy admission of each of our candidates as a newly ordained priest to the priesthood. I felt

so glorious, somehow, we were like joining all the saints worshipping the Lord in the heavenly realms while we were singing hymns. During the Greeting of Peace and after the service, I was very moved to see many of our parishioners attending the service to support our parish's ordained ministry. And it was so blessed and joyful for the Archbishop to see our parish, Holy Trinity Kew's big congregation, in supporting the ordination of priestly ministry. I

trust that your support made the heavenly kingdom expand to glorify our victorious Lord Jesus Christ.

As I reflect on my priestly ordination on 25 November, there are not enough words to say thank you to you all, the parish of Holy Trinity Kew, for your support, generosity, and holiness. I sincerely want to say that it is my privilege to share my ministry in our Parish, Holy Trinity Kew. And it is my pleasure to say thank you, the Parish of Holy Trinity Kew, for

supporting my Ordination at St Paul's Cathedral on 25 November and my first Eucharist celebration on Wednesday, 29 November 2023.

I want to pay my tribute to Fr Robert for having me in his parish, Holy Trinity Kew, and for his godly, holy, sincere, and humble ministry and stewardship models in supervising, leading, teaching, preaching, pastoral caring, and governing in the godly and holy constructive ways.

I am grateful for our dear parishioner, Jane Sullivan, who passed on a white priest stole to me. The stole belonged to our parish's first female priest, the Reverend Helen Granowski, which the Rev'd Dr. Helen wore on her ordinations as a deacon and priest and throughout her life long Ministry. I will continue to follow the Lord's calling as all God's faithful ministers did, by the grace of God and under the leadership of Fr Robert to serve the Lord faithfully, humbly, and sincerely.

I am so blessed to have the fellowship with you, the congregation of Holy Trinity Kew. I also appreciate your holy gift of the Cross necklace, the Home Communion Stole, its Cross, and the big congratulations card with signed good wishes and names for my priestly ministry, as well as Fr Robert's family's holy gifts of a Celtic Cross and a holy white silk scarf, and the biggest *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* from Mr. and Mrs. Kelly to me as a great treasure of the godly words, also for our dear sister Pam Hughes for passing on her portable Communion Kits, liturgical home communion service sheets, and prayer sheets and also for the Rev'd Joy's congratulations card and a book of David Adam's *Prayers of Intercession*. Your

support made possible to my ordination as a priest in the household of our living God.

The reflection on my priestly ordination on 25 November 2023 will continue throughout my life. What a great holy occasion it was to be ordained as a priest into the Church of Holy Trinity Kew, the household of God! What a heavenly achievement our parish has achieved in this holy Ministry! As I commit my life to the Sacred Trust of the Lord and the Church to me, I will continue to learn to serve the Lord among you and care for you under all the regulations of our Diocese of Melbourne and the leadership and supervision of Fr Robert and the members of the Field Committee with all the Churchwardens and Parish Council members and all God's faithful people to continue to love the Lord and live for the Lord until we see Him face to face.

May the joy of this great holy occasion of the Ordination of Priests continue to brighten you, especially through this special Christmas celebration of Our Saviour Jesus Christ's Birth be fulfilled with His peace, joy, and glorious hope in your lives, your homes, and your families.

FROM THE THEOLOGIAN

American Episcopal priest Robert Farrar Capon once said "... one unpardonable sin is to withhold pardon from others."

ANGLICARE VICTORIA AT HOLY TRINITY KEW

Margaret Kelly

Co-ordinator Holy Trinity Kew AVPG (Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group)

How does one choose a charity to support? Most are worthy causes to aid some particular need, disease or cause. At this time of year the requests come thick and fast.

Anglicare Victoria is committed to providing support for families through a vast variety of dedicated programs which they have researched after identifying specific needs.

One such program, Empowering Families, is aimed at breaking the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage. With no previous role models to guide you, the close contact with your individual case worker becomes a lifeline for change.

A success story in the current edition of **Our People, Our Stories** is of a first-time mum who had been in and out of child protection throughout her own life. “Molly” built up a strong relationship with her caseworker who got to know her interests and hope and dreams for her baby. Molly was determined that her baby would have a better start in life but did not know how to make it happen. The case worker and Molly worked closely together to build a good sleeping and feeding routine for the baby. The baby is thriving, Molly is empowered in her parenting ability, and is now confident she can care for the baby on her own, without support. She recently told her case worker that she feels very proud of herself.

Anglicare Victoria also distribute Baby Packs (bottles, nappies and bath products)

Here at Holy Trinity Kew the Parish supports the Emergency Relief Program at Mission House in Fitzroy by bringing non-perishable items to church for distribution to needy families.

We also support the Broadmeadows Women’s Community House which provides support and companionship for migrant women and the local community.

Donations to Anglicare Victoria may be made via the Collection Plate or the Anglicare Victoria website.



Rosslyn Chapel (Roslin, Midlothian, Scotland)

Julie -Anne Barnes

While in Edinburgh (2016), we visited the Rosslyn Chapel, in the village of Roslin. With the nearby castle, it is part of the estate of the present Earl, Peter St Clair-Erskine.

The chapel was begun in 1446 by William St Clair (Sinclair), Baron of Rosslyn, who meant it to be a family chapel. He died, however, before its completion and his son finished the building in a truncated version of the original design. The finished segment appears to be the Chancel, part of the Choir and a Lady Chapel.

Built entirely of stone, it is like a cathedral in miniature, with Bible and Golden Legend stories illustrated in stone on every surface. There is, for example, an illustration of the Seven Deadly Sins forming a procession of sinners ending at the gaping mouth of Hell, with the Devil awaiting them. This is balanced by another frieze, of the Seven Virtues. There is an ornately carved pillar near the Lady Chapel, fluted and entwined by a vine. Legend has that it was carved by an apprentice while the master mason was absent and that, on his return, he



was so amazed by the beauty of the column, and the skill it demonstrated, that he killed the young man in a fit of jealous rage.

Among the profuse interior decoration, there are many 'green man' carvings, on

capitals, window ledges, bosses and arches. Some have quite a menacing appearance, but they are common in Gothic cathedrals in Britain and in Europe. The figure is a man's face, generally grotesque, with leaves, branches or roots growing out of his mouth, ears and cheeks. It is said that the figures represent an attempt to tie old pagan stories to Christianity (Easter), through the rebirth of nature that happens in Spring.



Interestingly, a more friendly version was illustrated on invitations (which can be seen online), to the recent coronation, presumably as recognition of the beginning of the new reign.



The chapel was damaged during the Reformation by Protestant soldiers who objected to 'papal imagery'; they used it as a stable during their siege of the castle. The stone carvings also suffered weather damage inside and out due to broken windows and a severe climate. After about two centuries, however, the chapel was re-consecrated and partly restored; stained glass was put into the windows again (in the Victorian style). Recently, it has been made weatherproof and thoroughly restored. The chapel is again the family chapel and a functioning church.

“GETTING TO KNOW” CORNER

My name is Judy Goodes – I returned to Holy Trinity Kew in May this year after an absence of 20 years. I have lived in Kew for 81 of my 85 years. My family regarded HTK as our family Parish and there have been many important ceremonies for us there – marriages, baptisms, Confirmations and funerals; I treasure those memories.

I commenced Sunday School when I was 8 and went on to teach until I was 20, when I left to attend another parish. I met my husband there and after we were married we moved from Kew to Camberwell where we were both involved with parish life at St. John's.

Eventually we bought a house in Kew where our four children, continuing to worship at St. John's. However in 1988 I returned to Holy Trinity; Fr. Andrew St. John (now Bishop St. John) organised a Franciscan Mission for the parish led by Franciscan monks Brother Paul and Brother James.

This was a turning point in my life! A Chaplain's Assistant Training Course was advertised in The Melbourne Anglican and Fr. Andrew encouraged me to apply. We met at the Alfred Hospital once a week and had hospital placements one day a week. I

was assigned to the Royal Women's Hospital, where The Rev. Nan Good was the Anglican Chaplain.

When I had completed the twelve month training course, I was offered a Chaplaincy position at the Freemasons', Mercy Private and Mercy Public hospitals – funded by the Melbourne Diocese and Holy Trinity East Melbourne. I continued my voluntary day at The Royal Womens' and three years later I was offered a three-days position as a non-denominational chaplain, funded by the hospital.

I was also a Lay Minister at Holy Trinity Kew and worked there one day a week as Pastoral Care Worker, visiting sick or aged parishioners, and three Nursing Homes.

In 2000 my husband's health deteriorated, so I retired from the Royal Womens' but continued as Lay Minister in the parish. In 2002 I left Holy Trinity Kew to become a parishioner at Holy Trinity Surrey Hills, where I continued in my Pastoral Care Ministry. My husband died 15 years ago, and in recent years I have had health issues.

In May 2023 I decided to return to Holy Trinity Kew – to come back home in this last stage of my life.

A VISIT TO THE HOLY LAND

Robert Athey, Retired Psychiatrist

About three years ago, at a time when covid was still a myth and overseas travel was still possible, my wife and I attended a conference in London. We decided to have a side trip to Jerusalem and then onto Norway. I am now of the opinion that only Australians could make such a journey as the journey covers too much ground.

We were booked to Tel Aviv airport on a flight from London, landing at Bucharest to change aircraft. At Bucharest the customs and immigration official wanted to know why we were not staying in Romania as they too had many castles and scenic areas, and we nearly missed our connecting flight to Israel. Hazel, my wife solved the problem by stating they did not have the same historical Christian sites as Jerusalem, and we wanted to see the Holy Land. This excuse was accepted, and we were permitted to board our plane.

When we arrived at Tel Aviv, we were confronted with an enormous airport. No problems with customs and Immigration, but finding our pre-booked taxi was a challenge.

We eventually found it, at about 2 am, and set off on a journey of some 80km to Jerusalem. We did not know that our first adventure would soon occur. We encountered a roadblock with heavily armed guards. The guards pointed large rifles at us through the car window and demanded our passports.

The roadblock was about halfway to Jerusalem. The guards were heavily armed and peered into the back seat of the taxi, aiming their weapons at us. The guards appeared anxious. An anxious guard with a big rifle is really quite frightening. After this passport check we continued to Jerusalem, arriving at our hotel at about 3 am, only to find the hotel did not have a record of

our booking. I paid for the three nights; we were exhausted. The hotel later refunded my money.

Next day the weather was very hot, and the tour guide for the old city tour was surly as we were slightly late. Nevertheless, we went ahead with the tour. We walked through the Jaffa Gate and on to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which was well worth seeing. The church was very crowded, and at times felt like the entire population of Japan were travelling with us. The church is partly owned by the Orthodox churches and partly by the Catholic. The guard of the church is a Muslim. We then followed the Via Dolorosa, stopping at some Stations of the Cross. The guide felt this bit of the tour was a waste of time as the real Stations of the Cross were several metres under us. There were several stalls along the way and many had rifles within reach of the shopkeeper. Our next stop was the Western Wall, and another security check with metal detectors and more guns. The Wall itself was smaller than I expected and was segregated into male and female sections. I was invited to pray as long as I wore a white skull cap. I still could see armed guards in the distance, and I did not want to find out what would happen if I refused. At the wall I was told "PRAY!". I prayed the only prayer I could think of – the Lord's Prayer. I do not know whether this was acceptable or not. However, nothing happened to me. I was told by a rabbi miracles still occurred at the Western Wall. The exit from the western Wall was a very long stairway. We attempted the climb, but it was a very hot day and the climb became difficult. My wife Hazel ended up being carried by two athletic American ladies. We were very grateful, but there was something possibly miraculous about their sudden arrival.

That afternoon we went to Bethlehem. Our first surprise was that Bethlehem was not in Israel, but in Palestine. This meant getting out of the tourist bus and into taxies. The Church of the Nativity was under repair, but still very interesting. The birthplace of Christ turned out to be a cave under the church. Whether this was correct or not, I was told by our guide that the ancient Aramaic word was the same for both stable and cave. I do not know if that is correct or not, maybe Christmas cards showing a stable are all wrong?

The next day we saw the Israel Museum, a very good museum, but again there were guards carrying big guns. We then did some sightseeing and caught a tram back to our hotel. On the tram (yes, Jerusalem has trams) a young soldier sat next to me. He sat carrying a machine gun in his right hand, which he rested on lap, then started happily talking on a mobile phone. I am not sure whether his gun was loaded or not, I did not want to find out.

That night we had dinner at the YMCA, next door to our hotel. There were a large number of teenagers there, many in Moslem outfits, all having a good time.

We asked our waitress who they were; she told us they were from a graduation class.

Our waitress was a most delightful young lady who spoke perfect English. She introduced herself as Noor, which meant life, and told us she was studying medicine at the University and wanted to study psychiatry after graduation. When she found out I was a psychiatrist, we formed a brief friendship. To

my surprise she told us she was an Arab, a Modern Moslem who did not wear traditional clothing. She had a very similar outlook on life to Hazel and myself, and told us that Christmas was a great time for her. She and her friends, Moslem, Jewish and Christian all went to Bethlehem, took part in the Christian services at the Church of the Nativity and then partied. I wish there were more people like her. The meeting with Noor made up for all the frustrations and guns in Jerusalem.

The next day we left for Norway. I experienced problems getting out of Israel as I have a cardiac pacemaker and security were worried it may explode. However, an airport official found me and directed me to my plane.

My feelings about Jerusalem are mixed. The history is wonderful, the ancient buildings spectacular, but the number of guns everywhere we went to leaves me wondering. The presence of guns increases the risk of someone giving in to temptation.

However, with such a heavily armed population there is always a risk of a stray shot causing damage. Each time a gun is fired the risk of further guns is increased.

Unless there is a very large change in this attitude I fear for the future. I would not go back to Israel under any circumstances until there is a large policy change in regard to guns of all sorts, together with a reciprocal reduction in the people who oppose the presence of Israel and some effective control over the use of lethal weapons the problem of hostility will continue indefinitely. I pray an answer will be found.

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Follow the Star

Jesus' welcoming committee included Eastern scholars who learned about His birth through their study of astrology. I can't help thinking that the arrival of these people at Bethlehem is a link between a very early form of science (albeit mixed in with their own form of religion) and Christian faith. What better way to discover God than to explore the world and follow the evidence wherever it leads? But what exactly was the star of Bethlehem? Scientists have investigated this question over the centuries, coming up with a variety of answers.

First, there is the idea of a supernova: the massively bright explosion caused by a dying star. On rare occasions a supernova can be seen from Earth with the naked eye, remaining visible for several months. We now know that Herod the Great died around 4BC, so the actual date of Jesus' birth must be a little earlier. The supernovae that might match this timing were one in the Andromeda galaxy between March 8BC and September 7BC, and another in the constellation of Capricorn in the Spring of 5BC.

Next, comes a planetary conjunction. The alignment most commonly associated with the star of Bethlehem was between Jupiter and

Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 7BC, but not everyone is sure whether this would be extraordinary enough to be the 'star' mentioned in the Bible.

Finally, the bright astronomical object that drew the Magi could have been a comet. This idea came from Sir Colin Humphreys, Professor of Materials Science at Cambridge University, and Oxford astronomer WG Waddington, who found that a comet was recorded by Chinese astronomers between March and May, 5BC. Humphreys then speculated that the 'no room at the inn' scenario came about because Jesus was born during Passover, and the Magi visited Jesus in May or June.

People interpret the biblical account of Jesus' birth in all sorts of ways, but there's very little argument from serious historians that Jesus of Nazareth actually existed. Whatever the true explanation for the 'star of Bethlehem' may be, there's plenty of evidence that an astronomical event could have happened at the time of His birth.

I think it makes perfect sense that if God was going to enter His own creation and take on the form of one of His own creatures, it should be marked by a very significant physical event!

From the Director of Music

Stephen Kerr

As we embrace the Christmas season, our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, along with the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, serve as moments of togetherness and outreach. These occasions extend a warm welcome to the community,

enveloping them in the embrace of our church, where joyful and reflective sounds and messages abound.

The choir's commitment to refining their sound and taking on more challenging repertoire this year has been most pleasing. I have had many comments about the quality of our choristers this year.



I continue to enjoy supporting the congregational singing from the pipe organ. The instrument seems to be sounding better than ever, with recent tunings and the open area in front of the pipes allowing for a beautiful resonance from a very fine instrument. We are very lucky to have such quality instruments at the church which are well maintained and serve well the needs of congregational singing and choral accompaniment.



As the year concludes, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a Christmas filled with harmony, both in music and in our coming together at this special time. I look forward to the coming year bringing further musical joy, sharing with the congregation and wider parish.

THE GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY FROM NEW TESTAMENT TIMES MISSION - LOVE FROM THE HEART OF GOD Part 2

by Deirdre Baker

In Part 1 of my article on Mission, we focussed on the OT call of God to his chosen people of Israel. More than 30 passages record these calls and associated prophecies about the Lord God's promised Messiah or Christ. This part 2 deals with the themes of the New Covenant, Incarnation, growth of the Church, witness to Christ and the missionary task committed to all Christians by Jesus in Matthew 27.

NB short forms are used for Bible books: OT NT; Matt,Mk,Lk,Jn; Rom, Col, etc. These references are for any readers who choose to delve deeper into the Bible text.

As Christians we have the blessing and privilege of having the written Word of God. Holy Scripture was inspired by the Holy Spirit to nourish us spiritually and be our handbook as we share the Good News with others (2Tim3:16). The whole NT from the Gospels to Revelation is fundamental to the Christian Faith (the Way). Other writings about of Jesus (such as by Josephus and Tacitus) contain some historical proof, but may have been amended later to include specific Christian references.

HOW DID WE GET THE GOSPELS AND WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT?

Even before the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus of Nazareth, oral accounts of his life developed locally. Some might have derided them, called them gossip or colourful exaggerations about a new itinerant rabbi from Nazareth. Around the year 33AD in Palestine, and especially after the Crucifixion on Golgotha and the Jewish Passover festival in Jerusalem, the stories about Jesus grew. They spread rapidly around the Near East and later around the Mediterranean basin. This very human person-to-person process has been termed the 'spreadability' of the Gospel (BBC RE.website). The oral traditions later became the foundation sources of the Gospels, written in koine Greek, the everyday language of the time.

The long gap between 33AD and Mk's Gospel in 66 AD means that the first generation of Christians had already died, naturally or by martyrdom. As no authors were named, nor were any of them eyewitnesses of Jesus's life on

earth, the titles for each Gospel were established by tradition. Estimates of the dates when the Gospels were probably written are: Mk 66-70 AD; Matt & Lk 85-90 AD; Jn 90-110 or later. (Questions about Jn's Gospel are so complex, the Britannica website is helpful).

The Gospel genre was unusual in being a mix of narrative and teaching, but all four focussed on Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah prophesied in the OT. The variations between the three Synoptic Gospels (Mk, Matt and Lk) would be due to oral transmission over several decades; also by being written for different contexts and audiences. Matthew and Luke had access to another source (known as Q) than Mark had. Matthew addresses Jewish Christians (Matt1:1-17) as does Hebrews 1. On the other hand Luke's Gospel (Lk 1:1-4) and Acts (1:1-12) were clearly written for Gentile converts in the Jerusalem area and later further afield as the earliest missionaries travelled more widely. Mark is the shortest and most compact Gospel, and assumed to be the first written. The four Gospels are extraordinary because they have a rare stamp of authenticity. The main characters are depicted 'warts and all', such as Peter, Thomas, James and John, Judas and Paul. They are not eulogies for faultless heroes; Peter denies Christ, James and John bickered over precedence in the coming Kingdom, Thomas was troubled by doubt, Paul was Saul the Pharisee determined to exterminate Christians everywhere, and Judas sold his Lord for 30 silver coins. Even cynical comments about Christianity are noted and the people who

turned away from following Jesus (Matt19:16-22).

Jesus's choice of Apostles did not seem a good start for a new religious launch, especially as he had divine perception of the hearts and thoughts of human beings (Jn 2:24). Clearly Jesus recognised the potential of the twelve men to become leaders of the Church he founded, so he set about training them for missionary work, sending 12 of them out in pairs (Matt 10) and later 70 followers (Lk10:1-24). They were to learn mission on the job!

WHO IS THE GOSPEL FOR?

Belief in the Gospel is for every human being, not just the clever, privileged, socially superior, or beautiful (1Cor 3:9). There are not two classes of Christian: 1st class for missionaries – the 'professionals' – those called to serve overseas or among our First Nations, and the 2nd class consisting of all the others! Paul writes: 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise'. (Gal 3:26-29). Countless millions of people have found new life, hope, peace and joy by responding to God's eternal love revealed in Christ. After reading the Gospels, there have been remarkable conversions of criminals (like one murderer crucified with Jesus) convicted prisoners, liars and cheats, alongside atheists, agnostics and sceptics: St. Augustine took years to believe, as did Constantine the Emperor, and in more modern times: numbers of intellectuals, scientists and astrologers – Isaac Newton and astronomer Fred Hoyle, CS Lewis, academic E.V. Rieu (after translating the four Gospels for Penguin Books).

JESUS AND THE NEW COVENANT

(Part 1 studied the OT Covenant and its failure, because of Israel's sinfulness). Jesus announced the New Covenant in Jerusalem, at the last Passover meal with his twelve Apostles. He

declared this as he took bread and wine and spoke the words we use for the Sacrament at Holy Communion (Mk14:22-25; Lk22:20; Matt26:27-29). The OT prophecies of a promised Redeemer (Joel 2:13; Isai 61:1-11) are recorded as fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Matt 27 and Acts1:1-5).

REVELATION OF JESUS AS THE PROMISED SAVIOUR

Christians believe Jesus eternally is the Son of God and the third person of the Holy Trinity, as expressed in the Apostles' Creed. The Gospels describe in detail the many times the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus as the Saviour, from the time of Zechariah until John the Baptist, and from Jesus's own declarations to his followers, especially in John's Gospel and before his arrest by the authorities (Jn1:32-34; Jn 4:25-26; Jn12 onwards). From childhood Jesus was spiritually nourished in family worship, in thorough OT learning and regular synagogue teachings.

ARE THE NT LAWS EASIER TO KEEP THAN THE OT LAWS?

No and Yes! NO because every one of us is still a sinner. We fail to obey God's Laws day by day, because we are fallible human beings! Following Christ is not taking the easy path. We are called to 'take up the cross' and warned there will be scorn, mockery, persecution and even death; we are 'not of this world' (Jn15:18-20). Jesus warned his disciples that if he himself faced death by crucifixion, because of his teaching and good deeds, his disciples should be prepared for the same. (Lk9:23; Matt 16:24; Jn 16:1-4). The most notorious persecutor of Christians was Saul. After his miraculous conversion on the road to Damascus, he was known as Paul and became the most widely travelled of all the disciples (Acts 9).

The way Jesus named and faced his suffering and death proved a stumbling block for the disciples. They reacted often with denial or puzzlement. During his ministry Jesus was

often grieved by their lack of understanding. In Mark's gospel there are six instances of this, especially when, en route to Jerusalem, Jesus predicts his suffering and death.

YES, because God makes it easier for us - although we are still sinners - to keep the New Covenant. He is at work to enable all believing Christians to obey the Lord and grow in faith and commitment (Phil. 2:13). If we love him, we will obey him and the Comforter, the spirit of truth (Jn14:15-17a). Jesus knows our weakness and in Matthew 11:29-30 he promises to lighten our burden, comparing this with the yoke placed on two oxen when set to plough the furrows.

1) The greatest gift for the Christian disciple is the Holy Bible, because without it we would only know a few myths and legends, having nothing true to believe and put our faith in.

2) Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit during his last Passover meal with the twelve Apostles in Jerusalem (Jn16:1-4). The actual event is described in Acts 2. Not only the Apostles but 120 God-fearing Jews from far and wide all experienced the same extraordinary phenomena: violent wind, separate tongues of fire descending of each one's head, and speaking in tongues.

3) The Holy Spirit works in our hearts with spiritual gifts such as 'apostleship, prophecy, teaching, evangelism, exhortation, discerning spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpreting tongues'. Gifts of service include leadership, help, mercy, giving, faith, healing, and miracles. (1Cor 12:28; Rom 12).

HOW DOES JESUS HELP US TO LIVE HOLY LIVES AS FORGIVEN SINNERS?

Our sins are many, but most common are: pride, selfishness, envy, laziness, hardness of heart, indifference, self-deception, greed, lust etc. These we may trivialise or excuse, while

admitting there are bigger sins like murder, homicide, heresy and betrayal. Jesus singled out sinning against the Holy Spirit as unforgivable because it is an eternal sin, like calling good evil and evil good. This is the absolute rejection of God himself, his love and free forgiveness (Mk 3:29; Matt 12:31-32).

We have to acknowledge honestly there has always been much to betray the Christian message of unity, love and peace. For example: The Inquisition, torture and persecution, hypocrisy, inter-church conflict, poaching, sale of high offices, heresy, spiritual and moral sins like arrogance, greed and pride. Due to lack of sound teaching, there was also much ignorance of the true Gospel as taught by our Lord. It is tragic that when millions long for good news, hope, truth and freedom from sin, there has been such betrayal of God's gracious message of forgiveness, salvation and eternal love.

As Paul wrote in 1Cor12:1-11, the Holy Spirit endows all believers with spiritual gifts for God's glory and the building up Christ's Church on earth. The greatest commandment is to love God and to love others as we love our own selves (Matt22:36-40) .

Jesus used OT harvest imagery (Joel 3:1-3), to teach his disciples the vital importance of prayer for mission workers (Matt 9:38 ; Lk 10:2). Mission is God's will for all believers. In the NT we may tend to focus on the 'Great Commission' (Matt28:19) as grounds for Christian mission. However throughout the Gospel narratives, Jesus commanded his disciples to share the Good News 'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:15-16).

During the several years Jesus spent with his disciples, he constantly modelled the new life of love that they were called to follow. One of his best known preachings is the 'Benedicite' which completely reverses the usual concepts of

happiness from self-centredness (Matt5:1-12). At the last Passover meal, Jesus washed the disciples feet, demonstrating the ministry of loving service (Jn13:1-17).

Because of Christ's unique self-sacrifice for us, we are called, enabled by the Holy Spirit, and sent out to witness to our Lord.

HOW DID JESUS CHANGE THE WORLD?

Jesus challenged and refocussed the moral and ethical laws of Judaism. For example, he declared that the multitude of burdensome OT rules and regulations were often petty and meaningless and not about serving a God of love. They just enhanced the power and tyranny of the Lawyers (Scribes) and Pharisees.

He was condemned for healing a man on the Sabbath, rubbing and eating grain; He was reproved when he healed a cripple on the Sabbath; when he and his disciples neglected ceremonial washing before meals; when he forgave sins; when he spoke to women, and when he said that he and God were One.

When challenged by a devious Pharisee (Matt22:35-40) Jesus replied that love was the greatest Commandment, love of others the second.

Learning on the job is considered the best and quickest way to learn, so Jesus soon sent 12 disciples in pairs out to the nearby villages, to prepare them for the Lord's coming visit. 'Repent, be baptised and show fruits of repentance'. He also sent 72 disciples ahead of his planned visits, declaring 'The kingdom of God has come near to you' (Matt 10:1-42; Lk10:1-23).

MISSION AND THE BEST RECORD OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Mission is God's will for all believers. Following Christ means *Believing, praying, giving and witnessing*. This agenda for the Church was set by Christ himself. How it worked out is best explored in St. Luke's second book 'The Acts of

the Apostles'. It is the best record we have of the early growth of the Christian faith. beginning with Jesus's Ascension into glory, the first martyrdom - Stephen, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter's great sermon in Ch2, the arrest and jailing of Peter and his companions. Acts ends with Ch 28 where Paul in prison in Rome declares that his mission is now to the Gentiles, since the Jews had rejected the Gospel of salvation. The rest of the NT fills in many details of early missionary work, especially Paul's Epistles. His letters have always been a rich mine of blessing and Christian teaching, along with other letters inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Christianity has spread to every continent during the following centuries and has continued to spread worldwide over the two millennia until today. The greatest growth is in Africa today, but there are still much mission work remaining. Approximately 17,400 ethnic people groups are considered unreached i.e. less than 2% Christ-follower and less than 5% Professing Christian.

WAYS OF LOVING AND SERVING OTHERS

At the last Passover meal, Jesus demonstrated the ministry of loving service to others (Jn13:1-17). He commanded us to pray for many more workers who would bring countless new believers to know God's saving love. That means at home and far afield. There are many Christian organisations worldwide, demonstrating Christ's healing love to all in need. Some of the biggest ones include: The Salvation Army, Christian Blind Mission, Mission Australia, Hope International, the Samaritan's Purse, Christian Aid, Wesley Mission, The Leprosy Mission and many others. Since 1983, A Rocha founded in Portugal has become a global Christian family concerned with Creation Care. They seek to show by example and encouragement how to care better for God's creation, equipping local farmers and gardeners to test new methods and adapt the

better way of cultivation. They also do scientific research, theological and other education.

Mission starts in the human heart in obedient response to God's love. Just as much as for missionaries overseas, Christian believers at home have many good opportunities to witness in our 'post-Christian' cover-commercialised world. We may be hesitant or even reluctant to speak to others about our Christian life experience, but Jesus asks us to be constantly conscious of the 'harvest of souls'. For example, there may well be seekers among those we daily rub shoulders with: the person who sells you your Christmas decorations, delivers your groceries or is lost in a shopping centre. God may lead you to someone you meet on the bus or plane, your taxi driver or car mechanic, a newcomer in church, or some lonely person in your coffee shop. A kind approach, a smile, a sensitive encouraging word could open the door to sharing our faith and joy in our Christian life and making a new friend.

OVERSEAS AND NT MISSION

Over the centuries, Christian missionaries have learned some hard lessons. Missionary work and witness should be offered but never forced (Acts 16:9). It is now the aim not to 'rule the roost' but for missionaries to work themselves out of a job! They are now trained in the culture, language and religious beliefs of the people and area they are assigned to. They plan to hand over the task of witness and mission to confident indigenous Christians who will spread the Good News.

CMS for example has a rigorous standard for selection, a semester in the St Andrew's Hall Training College in Parkville, theological qualifications, and links formed with a number of parishes in order to establish regular prayer and financial support. Before going on the field, all missionaries spend time in Australia with their link parishes before leaving for their selected placement. CMS plans for long term

connections, not FIFO workers! Two or three overseas terms are usual. Three years are spent on location before returning for debriefing, seeing family and friends, possibly further academic studies and more deputation with link parishes. HTK was one of Alec's and my parishes from 1993-96!

There is such a demand for missionaries to help groups of newly converted believers that many appeals cannot be met. Much missionary work is concerned with teaching and training clergy, pastors and leaders, especially in isolated and rural areas, including the Northern Territory. Many missionaries are clergy, theological lecturers, youth workers, and Bible translators. However the full range of skills that missionaries currently offer to CMS is astonishing: doctors of various kinds, all levels of teacher including ESL, physiotherapists, nurses, musicians, speech pathologists, farmers, builders, linguistics teachers, engineers, IT managers, accountants, agricultural advisors, conservationists and others. Such skills enrich the whole community, not just the Churches.

Around the world thousands of missionaries are fulfilling the Lord's plan to bring in his harvest of souls. (Lk 10:20). Nearly 2,000 years ago, Paul had a vision of a man in Macedonia across the Aegean Sea, calling him to come over and help his people. Paul responded and the Christian faith began its spread right across the Mediterranean world.

HOW HAS THE CHURCH REACHED OUT?

In an era of limited literacy, church windows showed the Bible story in beautiful stained-glass windows for illiterate believers. However the Church also uses its very buildings, public notice boards, worship services, Palm Sunday processions, adverts and newspaper articles, open musical events in the church. Nowadays witness uses modern platforms like TV, social

media, blogs, and summer camps run by Scripture Union and others. The importance of the written word has been promoted by many societies such as the Bible League, the Bible Society, The Gideons, translation specialists like Wycliffe etc.

Although the NT canon had been fully established by the 5th century, the mechanical printing press, invented in Germany c.1440 by Gutenberg, could produce thousands of copies of the Bible, making it available in many languages and versions, not just the every day Greek used for the first written NT books).

WHAT ABOUT GIVING FOR MISSION WORK?

Jesus reminded us that we must beware of 'serving Mammon' and not misusing money that God has given us to use (Matt 6:19-21,24). Remember Jesus and the widow's mite- the lowest value coin at the time (Mk 12:41-44). He knew she was very poor but loved the Lord enough to give generously. So how much should we give? 10% is often quoted as a good tithe, but this may include material gifts like clothing, food, housing, preferably when distributed in Christ's name. Important relief is carried out by different agencies and churches worldwide: Salvation Army, The Samaritan's Purse, Christian Blind Mission, Hope International, Wesley Mission et cetera. Our Anglican agencies are also very much engaged in 'love your neighbour' such as Anglicare in Australia, Anglican Overseas Aid, Bush Church Aid, A Rocha (focussing on the environment from a Christian approach), Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Relief and Development Fund, and others. Let us pray and give in any way God calls us.

Spreading the Word of God with the sword of the conqueror or greed of the coloniser has frequently betrayed God's love. Sad examples are deadly conflict between different major denominations or of churchmanship 'levels'

within one denomination. The Church worldwide has shown pride, hypocrisy, poaching, persecution, sale of high offices, heresy and often appalling degrees of ignorance of the true Gospel as taught by our Lord.

WHO WERE FIRST CALLED TO MISSION?

After the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, the very first witnesses were the five women who, early on the day after the Sabbath, took spices and wrappings to Jesus's tomb in Gethsemane (Lk 24:1-25). They hurried back to share the news with the disciples, who were huddled in grief and fear behind locked doors. The other important story is about two grief-stricken disciples, walking to Emmaus after Jesus's crucifixion, met a stranger. (Lk 24:13-35) After Jesus had revealed himself as the fulfilment of the OT prophecies and had supper with them, he disappeared. The amazed pair rushed straight back to Jerusalem, becoming early witnesses to the Apostles and other disciples.

The Acts of the Apostles, by the Evangelist Luke, follows the remarkable missionary work of Peter, James and many others. Stephen, James, Peter and probably Paul, figure among the earliest martyrs. The tally of martyrs is far too high to assess in this space but the horror of Nero's reign is well known; Christians have continued to be martyred every century since Christ died.

In Acts 8:26-40 we read how an angel sent Philip to a desert road; there he was asked by an Ethiopian sitting in his chariot to explain the OT prophecies he was reading. God used this educated servant of the Queen's court to take the Gospel to Africa (Acts 8:26-40). Paul, with Timothy, Barnabas, and Luke were also widely involved in the spread of the Christian faith to Cyprus, Turkey and beyond. Parts of the western Mediterranean area, such as Rome, received the Good News by Christian converts travelling there. By AD 380 the Emperor

Constantine made all religions legal so Christians were free to thrive.

Vital to the missionary task are faith in the Holy Spirit's enabling, whole-hearted commitment, trust in God's guidance and perseverance.

THE WORLD-WIDE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

Historical evidence also shows how the Gospel spread over the last two millennia, reaching every continent on earth. Half of the world's Christians are Roman Catholic, the largest other groups are Protestant and Orthodox, but there are many smaller Christian groups and other nontrinitarian bodies. NB. The statistics available include 'nominal' Christians (not committed regular members). The greatest growth of the Christian faith is now happening in Africa, despite severe persecution. The Barnabas Fund helps Christians suffering for their faith; this persecution including killing is increasing worldwide, committed by political parties and other major religious bodies (Gal 6:10). One latest attack on Christians is the removal of the cross on church buildings and elsewhere.

There have been and still are millions of outstanding male and female missionaries from every denomination, nationality, race and social class. Their work was supported practically,

financially and by prayer. Missionary workers were also deeply involved in language learning and translation - essential tools for any missionary work. For example, William Carey, James Hudson Taylor, Wycliffe works alongside communities around the world, training local people to translate the Bible, while also developing specialist software to accelerate the urgent work of Bible translation.

Some missions rely solely on prayer, rather than appealing for funding. Though Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs, many unmarried women (like Mary Slessor who fearlessly went to Nigeria) went to a particular group, an aboriginal people or certain countries. St Columba went to Scotland, St Patrick to Ireland, St Augustine to England, St Denis to France, John Wesley to the rural people and industrial workers in England. Hudson Taylor of CIM went to the Chinese people, David Livingstone to Africa, Schweitzer to Germany...

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:15-16).

Acknowledgements for material in this article derived from Wikipedia and a number of Chris(an) websites.

Venus and Adonis by John Blow

John Gregory (President, Kew Philharmonic Society)



The Kew Philharmonic Chamber Choir broke new ground in their latest concert in the beautiful setting of Holy Trinity Kew on Saturday October 28th. The choir's first performance of a complete opera, it may also lay claim to having been the first-ever public performance of this rarely heard work in Melbourne.

John Blow (1649-1708), born in the year Charles I was executed, came to prominence after the restoration of the English monarchy in 1660, and appears to have written *Venus and Adonis*, described as "a Masque for the entertainment of the King," shortly before 1683, when it was staged for Charles II. A few years later, the young Henry Purcell (1659-95) took inspiration

from his teacher to write his own more famous opera *Dido and Aeneas*.

KPCC's semi-staged performance of *Venus and Adonis*, using props, costumes, and some cunningly disguised choral scores, was a delight, making use of the comic gags and witty asides spelt out in the score, while also providing a suitably solemn conclusion, as Venus mourns her slain lover. The choir was more than adequately supported by rising stars Amanda Hargreaves (Venus), Alex Owens (Adonis) and Eliza Bennetts O'Connor (Cupid),



and a fine band of instrumentalists including Dylan Quinlan-Baskett (harpsichord), Maddison Furlan (viola da gamba) and instrumentalists from early music group Progetto Corelli. The production was enhanced by production and costume designer Susan Baker, dancer Darcey Newton, and musical director Stephen Kerr. Afterwards, the enthusiastic audience enjoyed afternoon tea in the Parish Centre (many thanks to Holy Trinity for their hospitality).

GOD in the Arts

Editor: Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of art. You can see the image at: https://www.wikigallery.org/wiki/painting_143485/Carlos-Schwabe/The-Virgin-of-the-Lilies

'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe

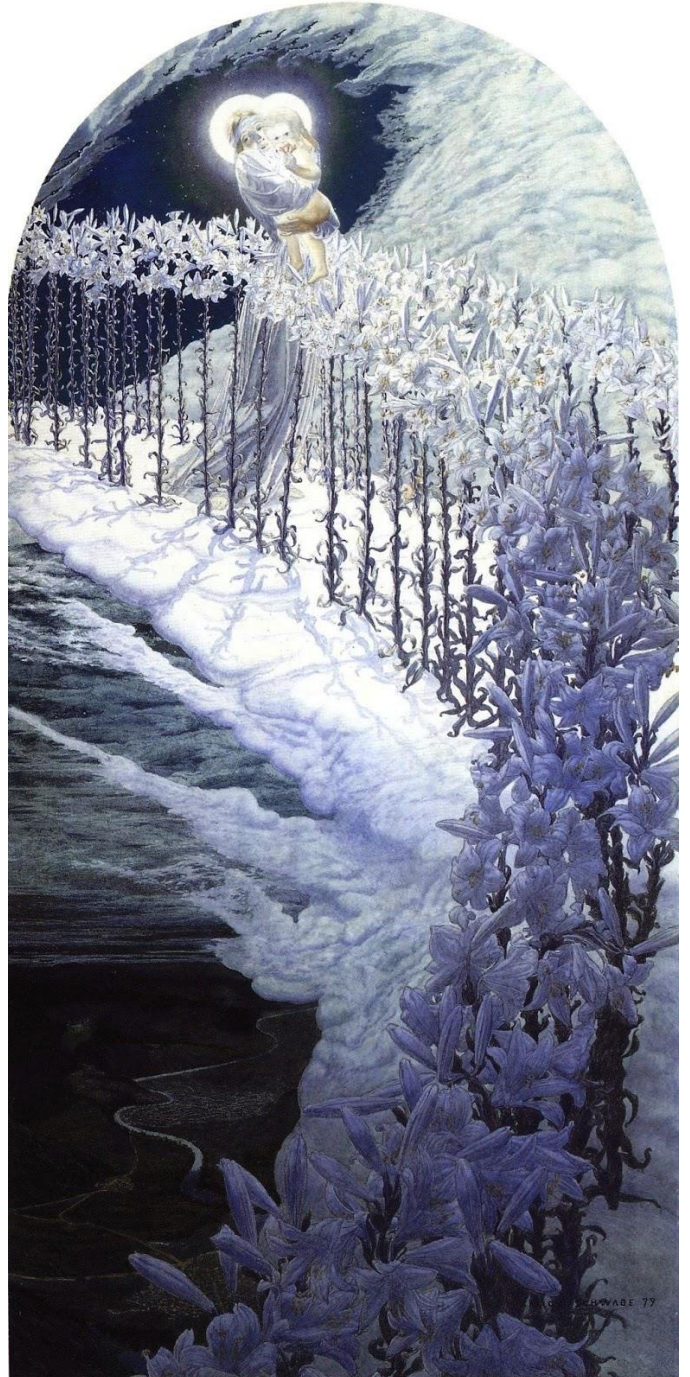
During this year we have been exploring how art can celebrate the wonder of this world. This month with our Lady and Jesus we stand above the world: high on the clouds with a glorious path of tall, elegant lilies that lead like a stairway to the earth beneath. This is 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe. He was born in Germany and then lived in Switzerland and France, painting this canvas in 1899 when he was 33 years old.

It is like a scene caught when we look out of the window in an aeroplane. We can see the earth beneath and spot hills and valleys, roads and settlements, and a river weaving its way through the countryside. Mary and Jesus are haloed in a lunar-like radiance. The lilies are symbols of purity and obedience, the qualities that will take them to that scene at Bethlehem which we give thanks for at Christmas. The heavenly light shining out in the painting brings hope and joy to the world below, transforming lives with the wonder of the Saviour's birth.

Jesus holds three nails in his hand as a sign that His life will be tempered by rejection, suffering and death. But the lilies growing tall and straight in the skies are signs of new life and resurrection. The light come down to earth at Christmas can never be extinguished. That light and love are expressed in this vivid, moving painting of Carlos Schwabe as they are caught up in the carol of Christina Rossetti we sing at this time:

Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,

Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.



Editorial

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." (C S Lewis)

In celebrating the Incarnation, we marvel at the greatest story ever told, mysterious but so breathtaking and sublime. Yet as in numerous previous eras, once more many are moved to diminish Christmas, with some local Councils prohibiting any signs or reference to it.

Some of the blame for this lies within the Church itself: criminally wicked "Christians", liberal theologians denying basics of the Creeds, some insipid leadership, and some lazy Christians, to list just a few reasons for declining influence.

The words of Dr. Visser 't Hooft, the first General Secretary of the World Council of Churches are relevant still today:

"A Christianity which has lost its vertical dimension has lost its salt, and is not only insipid, but is useless to the world. But a Christianity which would use the vertical dimension as a means of escape from responsibility for, and in, the common life of men is a denial of the incarnation of God's life for the world manifested in Christ."

Likewise, a Christianity that only uses the *lateral* dimension - of "Good Works" - as a means of escape from the necessity to preach the Gospel of salvation, is ignoring the liberating words which are nowhere better expressed than in St. John's Gospel 3:17:

"For God sent not the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

A Church which *only* strives to bring it about the Social Gospel runs the great danger thereby that it can ignore Christ's words when he said:

"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
(Mark 8:36-37)



The anxiety of St. Joseph, Tissot

The so-called *Social Gospel* - if not approached in ways based on that vertical dimension - removes the primacy of Salvation, excising Bethlehem, Good Friday and the Empty Tomb from the Creeds. It must be remembered that our word 'vertical' comes from the Latin word *vertex*, which means 'crown', 'summit', 'peak'. This 'vertical dimension' leads then to nothing less than Humankind's highest imaginable goal: to become children of God; a striving which belongs at the centre, not the periphery of the Church's life and teaching.

The Church must never lose sight of Jesus's Great Commission:

"...All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28: 18-20)



Simeon's adoration (Luke 2:25-33)
Arent de Gelder

The Incarnation, the Cross and the Resurrection are the foundations for the Church's work throughout the world; they are the dynamite necessary and sufficient for those very last words in St. Matthew's

Gospel for us to embrace with joy. They point to the Vertex, and guide us how to help those in need.

Following Jesus will necessitate Good Works - but in that order.

Like the old refrain, "You can't have one without the other."

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A Day in the Life of the HTK Parish Office...

spoiler, it's not all admin work!

by Oscar Liu, Parish Office Administrator

Our locum priest, Father Ray McInnes put it well this year, "the office works like a well-oiled machine". I still strongly believe that he was being too kind since half the time, the team in the office usually plays each day by ear as we go along. Professionalism at its best? You bet.

When I received a very rudimentary Apple Pages written document with 12 brief dot points and seeing in one of those points say: "organise filing cabinets related to office work", I was extremely sceptical of beginning my tenure until I remembered why our Parish meant so much to me. Being part of Trinity Grammar's chamber and senior choirs for over 10 years and serving as the school's only organ scholar for 4 years, Holy Trinity has meant so much to me with my time being spent in the Parish having special school services in the church and then eventually regularly using our historic organ for practice during the week for several years. I have many fond memories such as Fr. Robert's first Easter Service at Holy Trinity in 2014 and him handing me an Easter Egg at the altar explaining in his unique engaging way on how important the egg was in representing the resurrection of Jesus, 10-year-old me was loving every moment. I also remember how Fr. Robert

and one of our previous Office Managers, Sam Grayson, had to navigate me on the phone (to their extreme annoyance in my opinion) on how to turn on the Church lights back in the day. Yes, I nearly cut the power to the 1 Pakington Street area of the site since I went to the actual switchboard... Little did I know that all of this was only the tip of the iceberg for what I would dive into this year being officially appointed as an Office Manager myself.

A typical day would see me arriving at 9:30am and immediately opening up the computer to check the emails sent to our Parish email address. I would then do whatever necessary payments, printing, and replying with the computer and then sit around the office once this was all complete. Pretty typical responsibilities and jobs if you ask me but there's always a lot more than that. This year, we've received numerous emails and phone calls that have led onto a lot of hands-on work around the site. I would say the back end of every shift would see me on my feet with touring a new contractor hired to maintain our beautiful site or on the more negative side, dealing with our carpark being used as a public thoroughfare...



You might be wondering, what have some of the more memorable moments on the job for me this year? Well, there's too many to really talk about all at once so I'll highlight the best ones in my opinion.

Very recently, a skip bin was ordered to the site to throw away old and water damaged furniture from the under-croft under the Parish Centre, fondly nicknamed by the office staff, "The Dungeon". The skip bin day has probably been one of my favourite days if not favourite overall with how much fun was had loading the bin up and throughout the process, making light-hearted conversations with John Carnie, Fr. Robert, and Talia whom all stood outside the skip while I was waist deep in rubbish in the skip itself. Please bail these three people up if you think this wasn't fair... The skip bin day is one of many events that occur throughout the week being in the office and jobs like these ensure that the job has wide variety of different things to do which keep my efficiency and interest in check!

Being a part of creating our new comprehensive fire evacuation plan and compliance plan with our 2023 Churchwardens; John, Ben, and Jeremy along with Fr. Robert has been one of my proudest moments in office so far. The incredible feeling of how you can be a part of making the site safer and making a positive impact for all the Parishioners and tenants that reside on site is truly special and has opened my eyes up personally on how

important the work of serving the Parish is. Thankfully, this wasn't all just paperwork and I got to meet and greet our new contractor's

team, AESM (Australian Essential Services

Maintenance)

throughout the process of obtaining our quote and creating the plan. It's moments like these where the people aspect of the job comes into play and I've been blessed to have been able to make many so many new friends from you, the Parishioners, tenants, and contractors alike.

On the topic of people, I'd like to end my brief

article on the part of this job which makes it the best one to ever have, the people. Starting out this year, I've only really ever known Fr. Robert, Stephen Kerr, and Jack Bland albeit vaguely with the connection I've had to these amazing people with my involvement in music and worship at Trinity Grammar. From the outset, the people that we have onsite during week and the Parishioners that I see every week are all outstanding, caring, and some of the kindest

people I know. Thank you all for making Holy Trinity what it is. I'd also like to thank Talia Giannarelli, Darcey Newton, Rick Kelly, Cathy Denovan, and Jack Bland/the Vicarage lads for all their work in the office/site as well as a tight-knit team and would like say that they also have their own stories with being around the Parish every week.

The Churchwardens, Parish Council, and treasurer Dinesh have also had a stronger connection to us in the office that has never been





Have you ever been on the Parish Centre roof?
This is the view at sunset!

around the site goes beyond anything I've ever seen before and without him, I wouldn't be able to have my incredibly fun jobs around site, receive some of the best life advice, or have someone to have a good chat to during shift.

Feel free to have a look at some of the photos I've collected over this year, especially one funny one which obviously shows Fr. Robert doing no work with the skip bin!

Have a very Merry Christmas, safe travels if you're going anywhere, and a Happy New Year!

stronger so I would like to thank them as well for all their ongoing support for our work as well. A lot of work happens outside of hours and behind the scenes and all of these people work tirelessly behind the scenes, they don't make it obvious!

Finally, the one we've all been waiting for, I'd sincerely like to thank Fr. Robert who has been the biggest mentor and friend to me and countless others. The work that he puts in for all of us including guests and tenants that reside



Robert A. Johnson, Inner Gold: Understanding Psychological Projection

"Dante was standing near the Ponte Vecchio, a bridge that crosses the Arno River in Florence. It was just before 1300... Dante saw Beatrice standing on the bridge. He was a young man, she even younger, and that vision contained the whole of eternity for him.

Dante did not speak to her and saw her very little. And then Beatrice died, carried off by plague. Dante was stricken with the loss of his vision. She was the connection between his soul and Heaven itself, and from it the Divine Comedy was born.

Six hundred fifty years later, during World War II, the Americans were chasing the German army up the Italian peninsula. The Germans were blowing up everything of aid to the

progression of the American army, including the bridges across the Arno River. But no one wanted to blow up the Ponte Vecchio, because Beatrice had stood on it and Dante had written about her. So the German commandant made radio contact with the Americans and, in plain language, said they would leave the Ponte Vecchio intact if the Americans would promise not to use it. The promise was held. The bridge was not blown up, and not one American soldier or piece of equipment went across it. We're such hard bitten people that we need hard bitten proof of things, and this is the most hard bitten fact I know to present to you. The bridge was spared, in a modern, ruthless war, because Beatrice had stood upon it."

Thanks go to Deirdre Baker for the following

which was written by an 8 year old, Danny Dutton of Chula Vista, CA, for his third grade homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God. I just wonder if any of us could do as well???

EXPLANATION OF GOD

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers."

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers.. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off."

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church."

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't

know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K."

"His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important."

"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time."

"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God."

Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids."

"But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases."

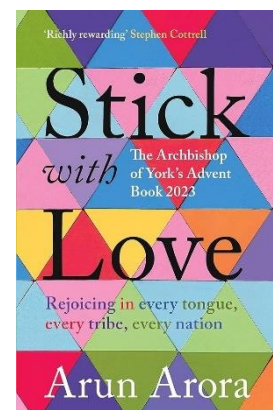
And...that's why I believe in God."

Book Reviews

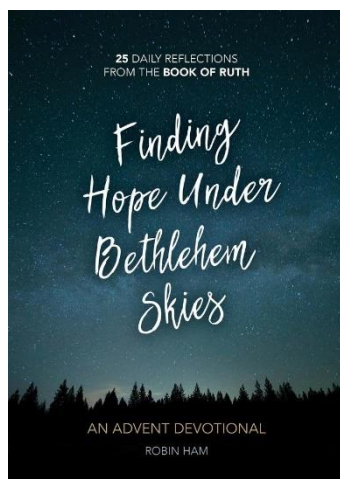
Stick with Love - Rejoicing in Every Tongue, Every Tribe, Every Nation **The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2023** **By Arun Arora, SPCK, £10.99**

Martin Luther King famously declared that 'I have decided to stick with love... Hate is too great a burden to bear'. In these helpful daily readings, Arun Arora considers the biblical picture of the Church as the people of God, drawn from every tribe, every tongue and every nation.

Themes of racial justice, hospitality and welcome are explored alongside the stories of saints from across the globe. Beginning with reflections from Isaiah and Revelation, the meditations lead us on to consider the missionaries, martyrs and mystics who light our Advent way.



Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies - 25 Daily Reflections from the Book of Ruth **By Robin Ham, 10Publishing, £4.99**



We're all familiar with the Christmas story, but do you know the 'story behind the story'?

Tucked away in the Bible, hundreds of years before Mary, Joseph and the birth of Jesus, is the story of a girl called Ruth. It's a story that rings true to our world – a story of sadness and tears, even of death, but also a story of where hope can be found in the darkest places. A story that points us forward to the promise of a king.

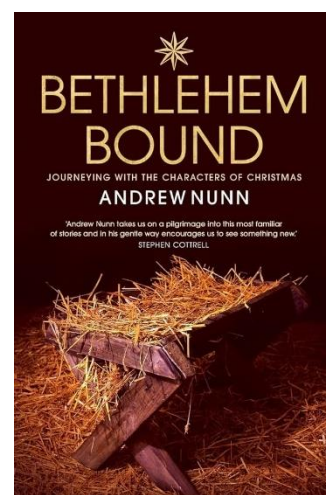
This book takes the reader on an Advent journey through 25 daily reflections. Each day has a short devotion, a suggested prayer, and links to a response song. Come along to Bethlehem, and discover the hope that shines brightly, even on the darkest of nights.

Bethlehem Bound - Journeying with the Characters of Christmas **By Andrew Nunn, Canterbury Press, £12.99**

It was not only Mary and Joseph who journeyed to Bethlehem – all the characters and creatures we meet in the nativity stories found their way to the manger, summoned by stars, angels or political circumstance.

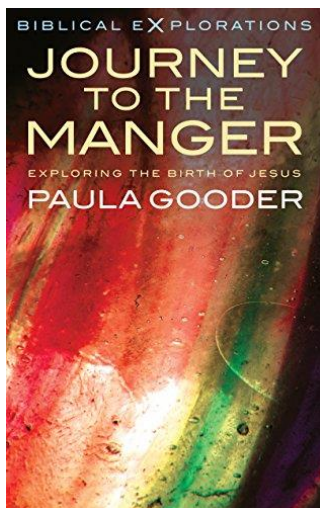
Each time we celebrate Christmas, we travel there too, and open ourselves to the season; beginning with the great Advent antiphons that herald the feast, and ending with the Presentation in the Temple. Each day this book travels with a different character from Scripture and the Christian tradition – Jesse, Anna, Gabriel, the donkey, the innkeeper and his wife, the shepherds, the martyrs we commemorate at Christmas and many more.

The journey had its challenges for the original characters, but at its end was a wondrous gift from God - God's own self in a baby laid in a manger. *Bethlehem Bound* invites us to embrace that gift afresh.



Journey to the Manger - Exploring the Birth of Jesus

By Paula Gooder, Canterbury Press, £12.99



Journey to the Manger explores the New Testament's various accounts of the birth of Jesus: their origins in Old Testament prophecies, the genealogies, the angelic announcements, the journeys and arrivals, and the aftermath of Jesus' birth for the powerful and the poor alike.

Although many biblical scholars have puzzled over historical details in the accounts, Paula Gooder argues that in doing this, they risk missing the point. Engaging seriously with biblical and historical criticism, she uncovers key similarities running through the Gospel writers' accounts and focuses on their shared understanding of the significant events they describe.

Her detailed exploration of the texts is a goldmine for preaching and teaching, and it will breathe new life into the familiar Christmas stories heard year after year in churches, carol services and nativity plays. Devotional reflections and discussion questions also make this ideal for personal and group study. All in all, an accessible and informed study of the best loved texts in Scripture.

Sharing the Christmas Story

By Sally Welch, BRF, £8.99

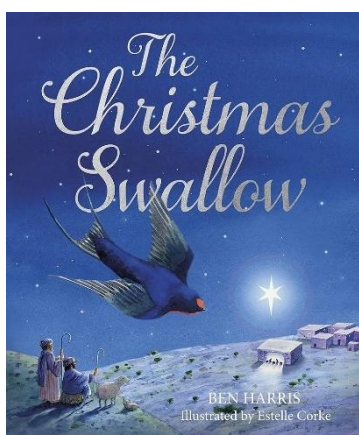
In this year's BRF Advent book Sally Welch explores two questions: What is the Christmas story really about, and how do we share it? Through each week of Advent, a different aspect of the Christmas story is examined: light, promise, mystery, love, peace, and hope.

Within each week, the days are focused on the ways in which the Christmas story is shared: prophecies, journeys, new life, signs, poems, stories and conversations. Each day offers a Bible passage, followed by a reflection and prayer activity. Suggestions for group study and group study questions are also included.



The Christmas Swallow

By Ben Harris, SPCK, £9.99



A classic retelling of the Christmas story from a bird's eye viewpoint. This picture book has a well-written narrative that uses repetitive phrases to engage young readers, introducing biblical truths about the birth of Jesus, as rescuer and born from God. The excitement of the shepherds and the heart-warming visit of the wise men are brought to life with vibrantly coloured illustrations by Estelle Corke.

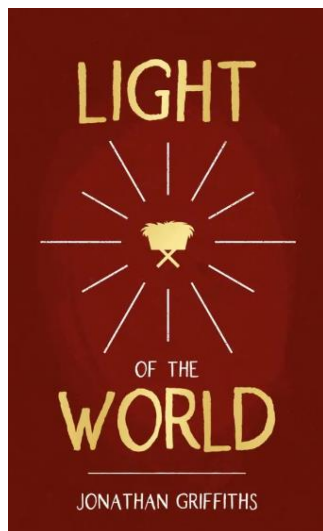
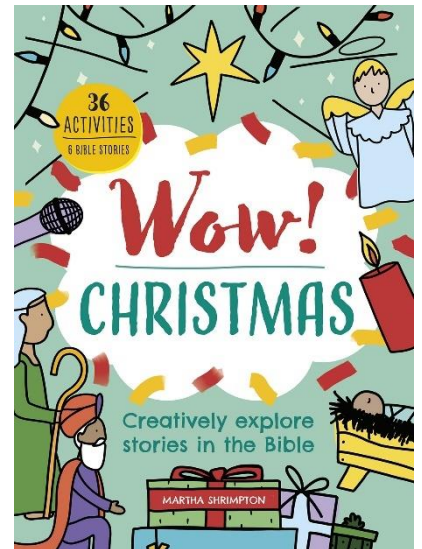
Ideal for sharing with young children aged 3+ years during the Christmas season.

Wow! Christmas – creatively explore stories in the Bible

By Martha Shrimpton, SPCK, £10.99

Here is a well designed, colourful, and creative Christmas activity book for children.

The book explores six aspects about the birth of Jesus, including Jesus as the light of the world, ordinary yet extraordinary shepherds, the journey of the wise men, the giving of gifts, the excitement and anticipation waiting for Christmas, and why Christmas is something to celebrate. Each story is explored through offering innovative activities including engaging prayer, craft and create, acting the scene, time for reflection, ideas for discussion, and creative praise.



Light of the World - Short, evangelistic giveaway

By Jonathan Griffiths, 10Publishing, £3.99

Many people are seeking for meaning or peace or hope. This Christmas, some may wonder where Jesus Christ – the figure at the heart of Christmas – fits amongst it all. The traditional image of a baby in a manger is a tender one, but we miss out on the significance of Jesus if we reduce Him to just one small part of the festivities.

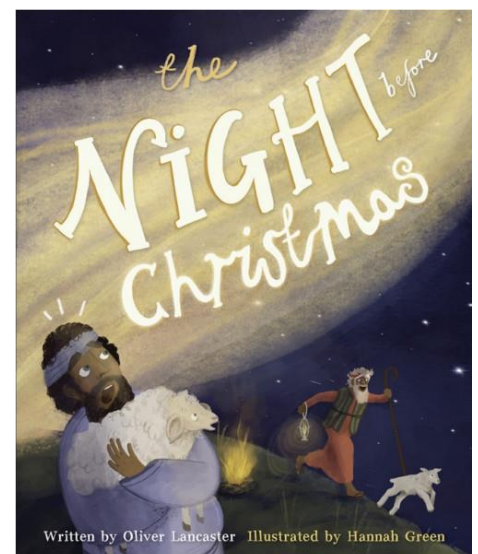
This 'giveaway' considers the events of the first Christmas, and how they can bring us the light and life we all search for. It explains the profound impact that Jesus' story can have on our lives.

The Night Before Christmas - A nativity spin on the classic poem

By Oliver Lancaster, 10Publishing, £6.99

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the stable
every creature was stirring. This ain't a fable!
No stockings were hung, no chimney in sight,
but one thing's for sure - The Lord came that night!*

Children will love this rollicking retelling of the Christmas story, based on the classic festive poem. They will join in the chaos and the wonder of the very first 'night before Christmas' - when everything was far from silent and still!



Prayers and Poems

Everyday Christmas

(Mal 4:2, Mt 1:23)

Light a candle,
Look into the light,
Pray.

*Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings*

As the flame rises,
Smooth, bright,
Know the comfort of Christ
In the carol speaking
Afresh.
Bringing Jesus
Into heart and prayer.

Emmanuel, God with us.
Light of the world,
Out of the stable
Into our situations.

Because of Jesus
Christmas is everyday.

The Lord is here.
Hallelujah.

By Daphne Kitching

Christmas Prayer 2023

Almighty Father,

Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world. Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred –

and change the hearts of those who do not love you or their neighbours.

We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will deliver your people from evil, and that Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will *always* shine in the darkness and the darkness will *never* be able to extinguish it.

Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always.
In Jesus 'saving and powerful name.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Christmas 2023

The night before Christmas when all are abed,
As reindeer and sleigh bells are heard overhead,
Children still sleeping will early arise,
With shouts of delights as they open each prize.

A doll for Amanda, a toy soldier for Jo?
Ah, these are toys of long ago!
Now it's computers, a party dress,
Gifts so expensive they're meant to impress.

But the real joy of Christmas forever will stay,
As church bells and carols proclaim that glad day,
As wise man and shepherds recount what they saw,
Of Mary, her Baby – and a bed full of straw.

By Megan Carter

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: Sadly, one lesson we learn as we get older is that those we love are not always going to be there next year and all we have left are memories. So, this Christmas we should treasure those moments with our loved ones...

Your Christmas Dinner Table

Gaze around your dinner table
As you dine on Christmas Day
Treasure them while you are able -
One day they may well go away.

Love is really hard to measure,
Love's not easy to define,
But memory's the only treasure
That will stand the test of time.

So, treasure all that Christmas laughter,
Hold it close - that's my advice.
For there may come a time soon after
When memory is worth great price.

It is sad that life is temporary,
Happy times will disappear;
When those you treasure are a memory,
The memory is a treasure dear.

By Nigel Beeton

Babies do that to you

After the lights and the kisses,
the visits and the visitors,
the presents and the promises,
only a Baby remains;
and parents who have never
been this way before.

After the dreams and the whispers,
the angels and the merrymakers,
comes the silence;
comes crying in the night,

a long, interrupted journey,
along a strange path.

Things will never be
as they were before

Babies do that to you;
Jesus does that to you.
But He comes with you all the way,
carrying love in His tiny hand,
holding heaven in His heart.

by Tim Lenton

The Pulley

By George Herbert

When God at first made man,
Having a glass of blessings standing by,
"Let us," said he, "pour on him all we can.
Let the world's riches, which dispersèd lie,
Contract into a span."

So strength first made a way;
Then beauty flowed, then wisdom, honour,
pleasure.
When almost all was out, God made a stay,
Perceiving that, alone of all his treasure,
Rest in the bottom lay.

"For if I should," said he,
"Bestow this jewel also on my creature,
He would adore my gifts instead of me,
And rest in Nature, not the God of Nature;
So both should losers be.

"Yet let him keep the rest,
But keep them with repining restlessness;
Let him be rich and weary, that at least,
If goodness lead him not, yet weariness
May toss him to my breast."

Smile Lines

Christmas in my heart

Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and, thanks to credit cards, it's also on my Visa card statement twelve months a year.

Turkey

He ate so much over the holidays that he decided to quit cold turkey.

Sums up Christmas

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: 'Peace on Earth'; 'Goodwill to Men'; and 'Batteries not included'.

Red

What's red and white, red and white, and red and white? Father Christmas rolling down a hill.

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

Santa

What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.

Snowman

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

Wise

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!" "What part?" asked his mother. "I'm one of the three wise guys!"

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of what she would like for Christmas.

The little girl gasped and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Church rules

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

Mother in a storm

One cold winter night, during a violent storm, a mother was tucking her small, frightened little boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he said with a tremor in his voice: "Mummy, will you stay with me tonight?"

Mummy smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy." A long silence - and then came his shaky reply: "The big coward!"

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me

I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard

As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

Getting ready for Christmas...

In this season of endless parties, socialising and constant hospitality, please remember:

- ~ No woman ever yet shot her husband while he was washing the dishes.
- ~ Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- ~ He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- ~ Everyone has a photographic memory. But sadly, some don't have film.
- ~ Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves, for they will never cease to be amused.
- ~ Many people's ambition: to be weighed and found wanting.
- ~ Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.

Quotes

With Christmas in mind...

For history the really strong argument in favour of the virgin birth is the difficulty of accounting for the story otherwise than on the assumption of its truth. - *H R Mackintosh*

At Christmas, play and make good cheer; for Christmas comes but once a year. - *Thomas Tusser*

Christ veiled His deity, but He did not void it. - *Anon*

The Son came out from the Father to help us to come out from the world; He descended to us to enable us to ascend to Him. - *Anthony of Padua*

Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is. - *Athanasius*

The God who took a motherless woman out of the side of a man took a fatherless man out of the body of a woman. - *Matthew Henry*

In Jesus Christ heaven meets earth and earth ascends to heaven. - *Anon*

With parties and family visiting over Christmas in mind:

The times we find ourselves having to wait on others may be the perfect opportunities to train ourselves to wait on the Lord. - *Joni Eareckson Tada*

Happiness is more than a grin on one's face, it is the glory in one's heart. - *R Parlette*

He that gives his heart will not deny his money. - *Anon*

There are only two families in the world, the Haves and the Have-nots. - *Miguel de Cervantes*

From acquaintances we conceal our real selves. To our friends we reveal our weaknesses. - *Basil Hume OSB*

Old age, believe me, is a good and pleasant time. It is true that you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator, and, if you really have played your part, you are more content to sit down and watch. - *Jane Harrison*

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. - *Albert Schweitzer*

Looking back on the year...

War loves to seek its victims in the young. - *Sophocles*

Everyone is interested in the future, in what lies ahead, and particularly this is true in business. - *Wayne A Johnston*

My political ideal is democracy. Everyone should be respected as an individual, but no one idolized. - *Albert Einstein*

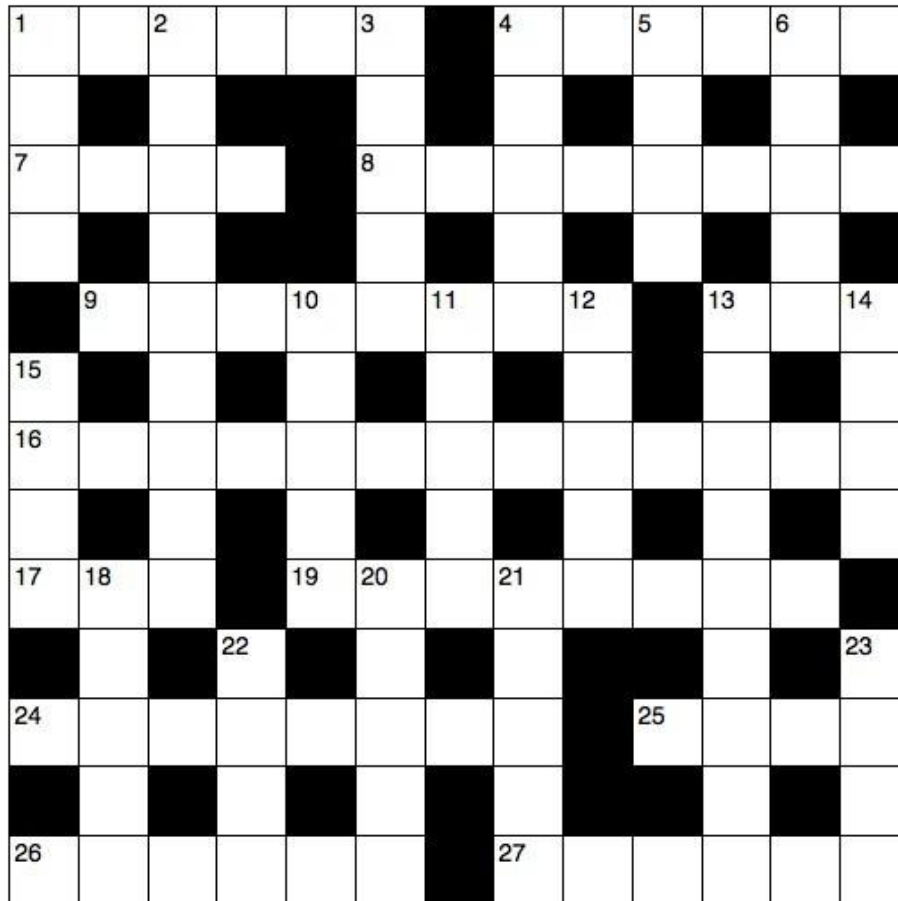
Any event, once it has occurred, can be made to appear inevitable by a competent historian. - *Lee Simonson*

History repeats itself, that's one of the things that's wrong with history. - *Clarence Darrow*

It is ideas, not vested interests, which are dangerous for good or evil. - *John Maynard Keynes*

Unquestionably, there is progress. The average worker now pays out twice as much in taxes as he formerly got in wages. - *Henry L Mencken*

CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

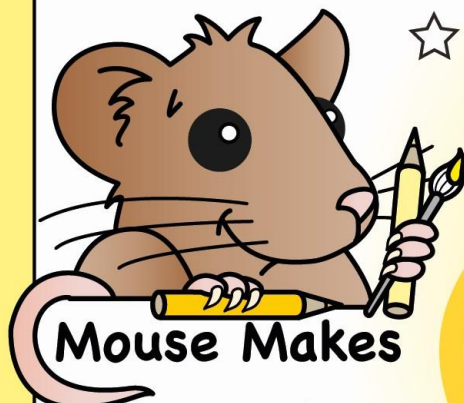
Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)

- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
 21 Avarice — one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

Solution at back

Kid's Corner



Mouse Makes



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

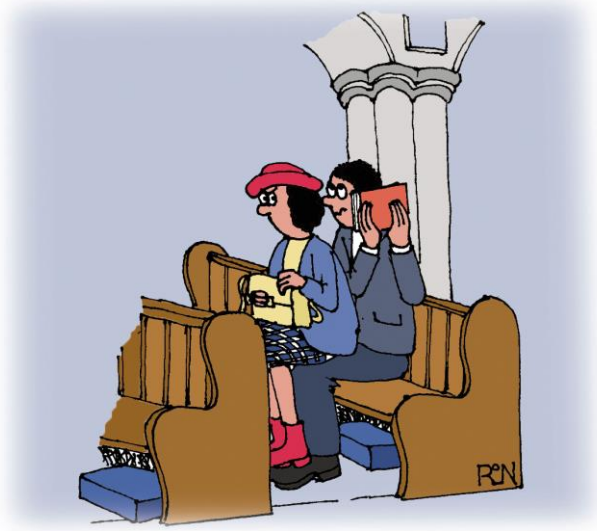
V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
L	A	N	G	E	L	S	R	G	O	D	V
I	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	T	D	S	M
F	P	G	I	V	E	N	A	H	U	O	A
E	E	H	G	A	V	E	S	R	W	N	R
S	A	E	G	R	E	A	T	O	N	L	Y
O	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	N	J	O
N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B

Sudoku

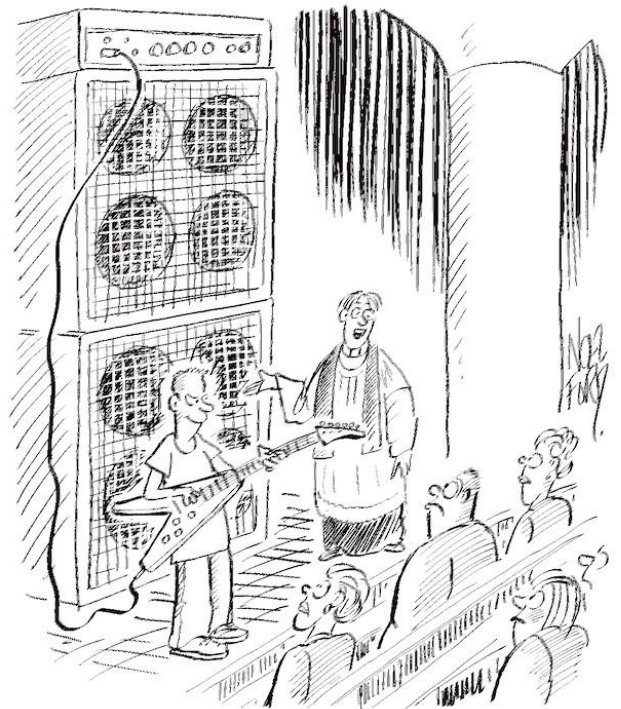
6	1			7				
					4	5		2
				8				3
	7		8			9		
		2				6		
		3			2		8	
4				5				
1		6	3					
				4			9	7

Solution at back

Humour



"Charlie didn't know it was Mrs Tredgett's pew"



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."



The treasurer still had a trick up his sleeve

St James the Least of All

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

On the absurdity of a vicar ever retiring

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answerphones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone - ever. My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend -preferably on another planet - on the day he suggested.

I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts - although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to drift somewhere above his head.

He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for *my* Queen Anne rectory to be sold and *my* five acres of garden be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as if they were told that Buckingham Palace was to be converted into a sports centre.

The matter, I was told, was confidential - which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counter attack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we've had in years. Retirement indeed! I'm sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Puzzle Solutions:

Crossword Solution

D	E	P	E	N	D		C	A	N	O	P	Y
E		E			R		U		U		U	
B	E	A	K		I	R	R	I	T	A	T	E
T		C			N		I		S		I	
	Z	E	D	E	K	I	A	H		A	T	E
I		A		X		S		O		T		Z
J	O	B	S	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	E	R
O		L		E		A		F		E		A
N	A	E		L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E	
	S		G		B		R			T		L
B	L	O	C	K	A	D	E		F	I	V	E
	A		M		N		E			O		A
E	N	I	G	M	A		D	R	E	N	C	H

Sudoku Solution:

6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	9	1	6	4	5	7	2
7	2	4	5	8	9	1	6	3
5	7	1	8	3	6	9	2	4
8	4	2	7	9	5	6	3	1
9	6	3	4	1	2	7	8	5
4	3	7	9	5	8	2	1	6
1	9	6	3	2	7	4	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	3	9	7

SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY KEW

www.facebook.com/holytrinitykew

SUNDAY

8am Holy Eucharist in Church

10am Choral Eucharist in Church

WEDNESDAY

11am Holy Eucharist in Memorial Chapel

Memorial Chapel open Tue-Fri 10am-12.30pm for private prayer and reflection.

Mandarin Chinese Congregation Saturdays 10.30am Memorial Chapel

TRINITY TIMES

Editor: Rick Kelly

Sub-Editor: Stephen Kerr

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Cnr High & Pakington Streets, Kew

P.O. Box 37, Kew, Vic 3101

www.holytrinitykew.org.au

email: office@holytrinitykew.org.au

Vicar

The Reverend Robert Newton KSJ

Ph: 9855 0630

vicar@holytrinitykew.org.au

Honorary Parish Deacon

The Reverend Lesley Dixon DSJ

Associate Priest

The Reverend Rick Cheung

Assistant Curate

The Reverend Ruth Li

Verger

Jack Bland

Church Office

Telephone: 9853 7158

P.O. Box 37, Kew, 3101

Tuesday to Friday, 9:30am—12:30pm

Churchwardens

John Carnie

Jeremy Bland

Amanda McLeod

Child Safe Officer

Jack Bland 0427 458 258

Director of Music:

Stephen Kerr, 0422 524 574

music@holytrinitykew.org.au

Assistant Organist: Tom Cade

HTK Choral Scholars:

Darcey Newton, David Huang.

Thought about placing Holy Trinity Kew in your will?

Previous generations of parishioners have shown an amazing love, sacrifice and commitment for Holy Trinity which we are the inheritors of and custodians. With this selfless, sacrificial generosity in mind I ask you to consider Holy Trinity Kew in your will by form of a bequest. A consideration by you in your will for Holy Trinity would have the same cumulative effect as an endowment of preservation/support that previous generations have given us with our beautifully adorned church building and grounds. If you should like to pursue this further or require any further information, feel free to contact the Vicar for a confidential chat.