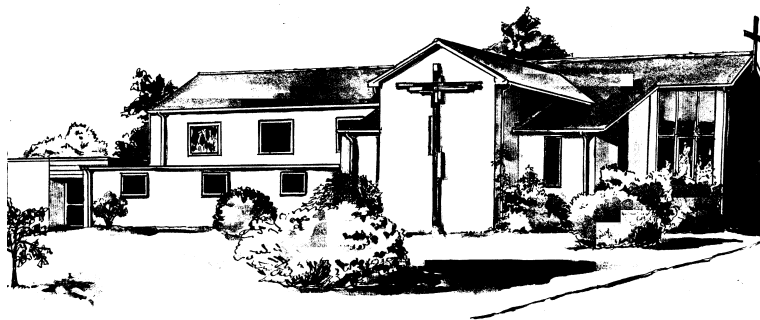


CROSSPIECE



The Parish Magazine of St James's Church, Cambridge

December 2010—January 2011

Issue No. 43

60p



The Holly bears a
prickle as sharp
as any thorn,

And Mary bore
sweet Jesus
Christ on Christ-
mas Day in the
morn.

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Words from the Vicarage for December 2010/January 2011

Today the candles for the church Advent wreath arrived. Tomorrow will be the Stir-up children's workshop when we put the wreath together in time for the first Sunday of Advent, and the children will be engaged in a range of activities in preparation for Christmas.

ADVENT is the season of preparation and expectation: we are preparing for Christmas, when we once again celebrate God coming among us as a human being; we are also preparing and longing for the second coming of Christ when his kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven, when our longing for justice and peace, for healing and wholeness will be fulfilled. We are encouraged to pay attention to our spiritual lives and to make time for our relationship with God.

'Take heed! Watch' is the particular invitation of the first week of Advent.

Perhaps we could spend a bit of time thinking about what our longings are.

Why not take a few minutes to ask ourselves what it is we are longing for at this moment in time. And then, hold this longing before God – speaking to God about it and noticing how we feel. What would help us with our longings? It may help to set some time aside each day to pray and speak to God; it may help to have a chat with someone – your spouse or a friend or priest – about what is going on inside you; it may involve making more time for people you love and care about; it may mean having a bit of time to read and have spiri-

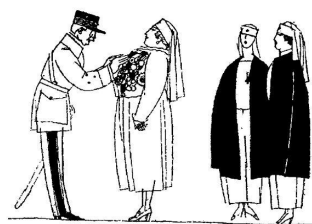
tual nourishment; it may help to give yourself 15 minutes each day to make yourself a cuppa and sit quietly or listen to your favourite music; it may mean taking time to play, read Christmas stories or make things with your children – the important thing is to make use of this special season which is there to help us grow in our relationship and understanding of God.

You will find reviews of two advent books in this issue of Crosspiece (pp 5 and 9). One of them is a small book by Bishop Stephen Cottrell *Do Nothing Christmas is Coming – an Advent calendar with a difference*, which gives short, practical steps you can take each day to slow down and take time out. The second one is *Joyful Christianity* by the Revd Dr. Cally Hammond, the Dean of Gonville and Caius College. Her book focuses on the familiar Christmas stories as told in Luke's gospel from the annunciation in Luke 1.26 to finding the young Jesus in the temple in Luke 2.52.

She found that spending time with these stories, paying attention to the detail and contemplating them with her imagination has deepened her appreciation and understanding of these joyful events. I am very happy to help you get hold of copies of these books.

I pray that this Advent season will be a time of blessing and hope for you and your loved ones, and that Christmas will bring you much joy and peace.

The Reverend Jutta Brueck



Red Cross officer: "For bravery above and beyond the call of duty – extinguishing three oranges on fire at the Christingle service".



Political and Theological responses to the new Atheism

A crowd of 1,200 people filled Great St. Mary's church on Friday November 19 to hear Professor Terry Eagleton and Archbishop Rowan Williams lead a discussion on the New Atheism.

Terry Eagleton started by noting the striking fact that during the past decade, God had become front page news – a hot topic. He attributed this to the terrorist atrocity of 9/11 in New York, which had made people realize that some forms of religious faith could be very toxic indeed and have consequences for their own lives. Militant atheists like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens had rushed to attack religious belief in popular books such as *The God Delusion* which had become a best-seller. Eagleton himself had famously compared *The God Delusion* to a book on Biology, written by someone whose sole knowledge of the subject comes from having once read *The Book of British Birds*. He said that he had great respect for those atheists who had arrived at that position having genuinely studied and thought deeply about the alternative; but he had little time for polemicists whose reasoning was superficial and simplistic. He said that to say “I believe in God” was not the equivalent of saying “I believe in the Yeti”.

Rowan Williams looked at the reasons which atheists gave for rejecting belief in God. He suggested that they seemed to consider belief in God to be either a strategy, which believers use to cope with major adverse life events, or an explanation for things that they did not understand. He felt that neither of these would be a good basis for faith. Faith in God is much more complex than a strategy or an explanation. Belief in God is not irrational; but it is hard to engage in rational discussion when your opponent does not respect your position or understand its language.

When the discussion was thrown open to the audience there were complaints from an atheist, who had evidently not read the poster advertising the event, that the atheist viewpoint had not been presented, and that there had been too much agreement between the speakers. Another speaker asked why nothing had been said about Jesus, the Bible, gay relationships or women bishops. The Archbishop replied that there were different faiths, and that not all Christians thought alike; in a discussion of atheism he had tried to avoid contentious subjects.

There were other questions about whether there was a conflict between science and faith in God. The Archbishop replied that science dealt with other things, that could be tested by experiments, but that science was always a human activity.

Chris and I attended this meeting, which was organised by the Faraday Institute, and we noticed Geoffrey Howard and Dominic Coad were also there. We both found this a stimulating discussion. Rowan Williams impressed us with his clarity and gentle reasonableness - far from the strident tone of some of the militant atheists. This was not a sermon, still less an evangelistic meeting; it was not even a debate with opposing protagonists, but a serious and wide-ranging discussion.

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, based at St. Edmund's College, organises regular lunchtime seminars during University terms, and occasional public meetings. Its director, Dr. Denis Alexander, lives in the parish. For further information see www.faraday-institute.org.

Mary Calladine

Two poems by Linda Appleby:

Paradise

*Old may seem odd yet
But when they get to the hill
They will fly*

*Do you want that witch?
Or a wise one divining wa-
ter?*

*Heaven is where you lay
down
Your vintage despair and
sing*

*Oh who would be a fool
Not to want that paradise?*

*Come, write like love,
Out, you must, and swim
with the lonely bird.*

Autumn Trends

*Fashion dyed by carotenoids
of ornate ochre, radiant or-
ange, copper
The trees wear a rainbow
suit, with last season's green
Pink earth, duck egg, sky.*

Well done, good and faithful servants.....

..... and most of you are still going strong!



Standing: Ray Revell,
David Briggs and Ron
Ferrari

Seated: Tony Chap-
man and Judy Ferrari

On November 21st the 10am Sunday Eucharist service ended with a presentation to five stalwarts of St James's, as they received their Long Service Awards for Music. Anyone who has contributed to parish music for 25 years or more is eligible for an award. The five had been unable to attend the awards ceremony at Ely Cathedral in the summer, so on the Sunday in question the congregation were able to express their thanks and congratulations as the musicians were presented with their awards.

Tony Chapman, who was previously Director of Music at St James's, fulfilling the roles of organist and choirmaster, had spent over 50 years in the service of parish music. Those who had served in the choir of St James's were David Briggs (32 years), Judy Ferrari (30 years), Ray Revell (27 years) and Ron Ferrari (26 years). During this total of 165 years they have enriched the Sunday worship, and their dedication is greatly appreciated.

Tony Chapman, because of his exceptionally long service, mainly at St James's but also at St John's and elsewhere, received not only a certificate but a magnificent medal.

This is an opportunity for the editors to thank not only these experienced musicians



but to express how much we owe to young and old alike in the choir, in the monthly music group and not forgetting those who at present take turns to play the organ and conduct.



Hopefully our search for a new Director of Music will allow us before long to find someone to work with and build on the skills of all our musicians.

Bible Study Group

We are pleased our ordinand, Dominic, is able to join us most Wednesday mornings. He adds to the discussion, we learn from him and he from us. We recently had an interesting session about the prophet Job, following the reading *Job 19 vs 23 – 27*.

Beginning with All Saints Day and ending with St Andrew's Day, and in between amongst others St Martin, St Edmund the King, Cecilia, Clement and Catherine, the November calendar has many holy days, not forgetting Remembrance Sunday. For our hymnody we looked at N.E.H. No 417, "*O God our help in ages past*", meaningful words befitting Remembrancetide. It was written over three hundred years ago by Isaac Watts D.D. The tune *St Anne* is a melody from a supplement to the new version dated 1708, and was probably supplied by William Croft (1678 – 1727). There is much written about Isaac Watts. He was born in Southampton in 1674. At this time his father, a dissenter, was in prison due to his religious beliefs. Isaac was barred from Oxford and Cambridge and attended a dissenting academy in Stoke Newington, London. He was minister of the Independent



Isaac Watts by an unknown artist

Chapel in Mark Lane but due to ill health had to give up the post at the age of 38. He died in 1748 and was buried in the Puritan Burial Ground, Bunhill Fields in East London, and later a monument was raised in Westminster Abbey.



Watts tomb in Bunhill Fields

There is lots more in John Betjeman's book "*Sweet Songs of Zion*" and in "*The New Methodist Hymn Book Illustrated*" by John Telford.

Some members of the group told how the month of November feels sad, sombre and bleak. The trees are bare, their leaves having fallen after lovely autumn colour, flowers fade away, the gardens get ready for winter sleep. Now in the season of Advent we must prepare for and celebrate with joy Christmas, the birth of baby Jesus.

Review of "Do nothing, Christmas is coming" by Stephen Cottrell

This little book, written by the Bishop of Reading, is intended as a counterpoint to the hustle and bustle of the preparations for Christmas. Like an advent calendar, it steps day by day through the days of December, offering thoughts and also practical steps that you can take to slow down, take time out (and still get ready for the Big Day). It is perfect for the busy working parent, and many of its comments are focused on the issues that those of us in that group confront at Christmas (and it seems most of the rest of the

year!) but I would recommend it to anyone who finds themselves wondering whatever happened to the Christ in Christmas.

Sue Wilson



CHILDREN'S PAGE



A LIGHT TO WELCOME

Just 30 years ago all people had were decorated trees and a few paper-chains at Christmas, but now we have wreaths on the front door, outdoor lights in gardens; and the most recent addition, those arched candle-sticks with 7 or more electric candles to stand on windowsills.

This custom came to us from Scandinavia. The story is that in weeks before Christmas, like that first Christmas nearly 2,000 years ago, Mary and Joseph wander the world looking for a place where they will be safe. They



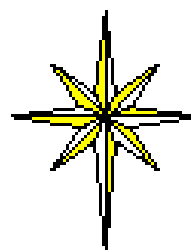
look for a welcome light in the window. And that is why we put the lights in our window: to invite the Holy Family into our homes at the darkest and coldest part of the year. The candles say that Christ is welcome in our homes, to be born in our hearts and that we invite him to stay with us - not just for Christmas but for all time.

SKY LIGHTS

Stars are another source of light and the wise men and shepherds followed a star to the baby Jesus.

The answers to this quiz all start with the letters STAR so can you say which Star...

1. is the right-hand side of a ship?
2. is a bird?
3. is used to stiffen things?
4. is to look with wide open eyes?
5. is the US flag?
6. is someone who sets a race off?
7. is suddenly surprised?



What carol is heard in the dessert?

Camel ye faithful.



What's impossible to overtake at Christmas?

The three wise men.



Answers: 1 starboard 2 starling 3 starch
4 stare 5 Stars & Stripes
6 starter 7 startled

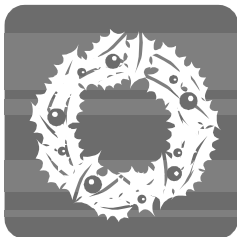


This event has been organised by the Queen Edith Community Forum. The Mayor of Cambridge will officially turn on the lights at 6pm. The St James choir, their numbers swelled by other singers, will be there taking part.

Come and sing or just enjoy yourselves as our community prepares for Christmas.

GOD IS WITH US

*God is with us,
He knows the earth
and all its life,
not only as one who admires
what he has made,
but also by birth.
Our hopes and our desires
he knows, and our fears;
our sighs
and silent cries
in the shadows he hears.
God is with us
as the Gloria
is in the singing,
as the full tone
of the bell
is in the ringing,
as the full circle
is in the evergreen wreath,
as the gold
is in the ribbon underneath,
as the blood red
of the holly berries
hangs over the manger bed,
as the lamb's peace,
crossbred,
is in the rejoicing
that will spread.*



Judith Pinhey
(from "The Song of Hope", pub. BRF)

Dear Editors

I felt that I should write to the magazine thanking the people of St James's Church and the surrounding parish for the help I have received from them during the last year. Not only physical but inward help as well, to keep me going.

My Outpatients appointment at Papworth was successful and the surgeon Mr Tsui told me I had made an excellent recovery, which is satisfying.

Finally you should soon be seeing another shadow behind me, a tabby whose name is Jasper and who seems to be inheriting some of Smudge's habits.

Thank you all again for your help

Yours sincerely

Doreen Brown



Looking ahead.....

Next year, 2011, marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. We hope to mark this in our next edition of *Crosspiece*.

We would especially welcome any contributions from our readers that have a Biblical focus.

We would also point out that annual subscriptions to *Crosspiece* will be due in the new year, and we would be happy to give details of how to subscribe if you are not yet a regular reader.

Eds

Another St James



I know we are nearing the end of our journey to visit our daughter and family in North Lincs when I see the tall spire of St James's Church, which dominates the old market town of Louth. This spire, 295ft tall, is the tallest of any Anglican medieval parish church in England, and the parish is very proud of this, as was pointed out by the enthusiastic guide who showed John and me round the church during a recent visit.

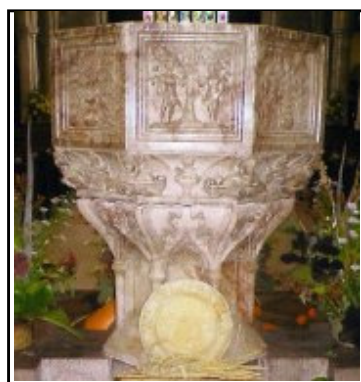
Unlocking the vestry door he also showed us another of the church's treasures: the Sudbury Hutch (wooden chest) presented in 1503, displaying on its doors carved portraits of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York with the crowned Tudor rose between.



There are other carved hutches in which the church valuables are safely stored, since the church has treasure plate from 1585 and 1724. Churchwardens' reports date from 1474 and record all the rebuildings in the 13th and 15th centuries and the great changes that took place due to the Reformation and Counter Reformation, as well as details of the Lincolnshire rising, precursor of the Pilgrimage of Grace, which started in Louth in 1536 and ended the following year when the vicar of Louth was executed at Tyburn.

A very noticeable feature is the roof of the nave. Made of Baltic pine, it was restored in 1988 to its original colour by the removal of black varnish coating and the angels and bosses repainted in Georgian colours, pink, grey and blue! A local craftsman carved animals and birds on the front pews and also carved the pulpit, depicting eleven disciples with their emblems. Judas Iscariot's face is among the foliage in the stonework below.

The ceiling of the tower is decorated as a sunburst, the emblem of Edward IV, and conceals the trapdoor to the ringing chamber. Through this door and winched up by a very old 12ft diameter wooden wheel (called the Wild Mare) with sixty fathoms of rope are the eight church bells. They also served as a clock, one bell for rising and another for the curfew. At the base of the tower are two fountains, the largest with panels showing Christ's baptism and crucifixion, Adam and Eve and Noah's Ark.



"The most perfect Perpendicular Gothic steeple in England" (according to Simon Jenkins) took fourteen years to complete and cost £307-7-4d in 1515, and the first weathercock on top was made from a great copper basin taken from the Scots at Flodden Field in 1513. Truly a historic church!

Jackie Bartholomew

Joyful Christianity by Cally Hammond (SPCK)



“The aim of this book,” writes the Rev. Dr Cally Hammond in the introduction to *Joyful Christianity*, our recommended reading for Advent this year, is “to work out what kind of a thing our Christian belief is, by making use of an ancient prayer called the ‘joyful mysteries’”. So the five chapters of her succinct and stimulating book deal successively with The Annunciation, the Visitation (Our Lady’s journey to and sojourn with her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist), The Nativity, Our Lord’s Presentation in the Temple and The Finding in the Temple.

Dr Hammond is the Dean of Caius and she sets about her task with zeal and clarity, her style utterly devoid of pedantry or abstruse abstractions, and constantly displaying a razor-sharp mind that not only knows Holy Scripture but has clearly ‘read, marked, learned and inwardly digested’ it—

despite frequent apparent inconsistencies and complexities. There is hardly a paragraph in the book’s 74 pages of text (84 if you count the clear and important introduction) which didn’t contain at least one phrase that pulled this reader at any rate up with a start of admiration and awe and an inward gasp of ‘Oh; I hadn’t thought of that!’. Moreover, she expects her readers not just to put the book down and forget it; she wants and encourages them to think things out for themselves. So she sets five simple but provocative and searching questions at the end of each of its five chapters, together with a prayer based on the subject of the chapter to offer guidance towards finding their own answers.

Dr Hammond places each chapter within its scriptural context by prefacing her discussion by St Luke’s account of the event itself, but though she focuses her argument mainly on the accounts in St Luke’s gospel, she is careful to draw attention to apparent discrepancies with other accounts, not in any destructive, polemical or sceptical sense, but with a truly scholarly search for basic truth and a willingness to show that what any writer considers important enough to report on depends both on the public for whom (s)he is writing and on the author’s own personal reactions to the event or phenomenon. She is in fact far more scrupulously scientific in her approach to the Faith than some who claim in the name of science to have ‘disproved’ it. Yet the final impression one gets from her highly readable book is of true joy, humanity, compassion, practicality and comfort (and for her definition of that often misunderstood or misapplied word, I commend you to page 27 of the book!)

James Day

In October we enjoyed a bring and share lunch with our friends from the Cambridge Chinese Scholars Christian Church



.....and in November we had fun at our Christmas Fair, when we managed to raise £1,300 for church funds.

Now I can recommend this rather racy video



Looks like a good bedtime read



I bet I can make more money than my Mum and my sisters



Chocolate fountain this way!



Try the apple dipped in chocolate, but watch out! Don't let the boys push in till we've had enough.



So the beer and mince pies will be waiting on the hearth? And the carrots for Rudolf?



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Contacts at St James's Church

Priest in Charge The Rev'd Jutta Brueck
07958 360564 e-mail: jb200@cam.ac.uk
Jutta's appointment is half-time; she works in the Parish Wednesday-Friday and Sunday

Churchwardens Chris Calladine, 246742
Edward Westrip, 240596

Director of Music : *the position is vacant*

The Music Group Wendy Limbert, 240044

Church Office 246419, Mon & Thurs
9.15 am - 1.45 pm

e-mail: stjameschurchcambridge@yahoo.co.uk

Church & Community Activities

Choir practice:

Mondays, Juniors 6.30 pm, Seniors 7.00 pm

Friendship Club Dawn Telfer,
575793

Parents & Toddlers (Thurs) Wendy Lane,
244850

Beavers (6-8 yrs) Claire Tolliday,
514497
Pam Butler,
07745 591235

Cubs (8-11 yrs) at QE Schl. Pam Butler,
Scouts (10½+ yrs) at QES Steve O'Keefe,
570713

Brownies (7-10 yrs) QES Sarah Vowler,

410172 (evenings)

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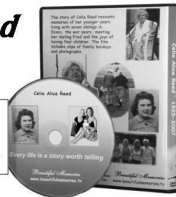
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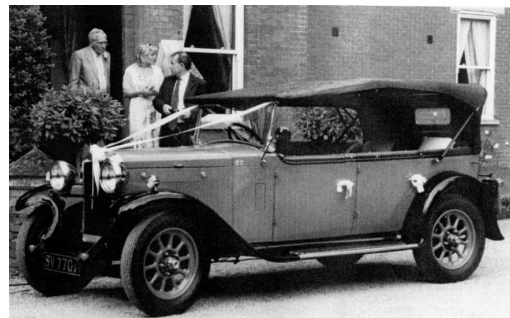
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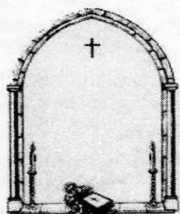
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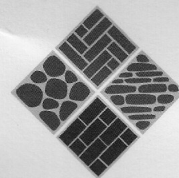
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01223 506782 ask for Clive

St James's Church, Cambridge Calendar for December—January

December

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to join with us in our Christmas services – please see below for details.

1 st	10.15 am	Eucharist at Dunstan Court
	11.00 am	Bible Study
2 nd	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
3 rd	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	7.30 pm	Taizé Prayer

5th 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 am	Eucharist
10.00 am	All Age Eucharist with Baptism

The Traidcraft stall will be open after both services

8 th	10.15 am	Eucharist
	11.00 am	Bible Study
9 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
10 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
11 th	10.30 am	Coffee Morning

12th 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 am	Eucharist
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School

14 th	6.00 pm	Carol singing and switching on of tree lights outside Wulfstan Way shops
15 th	10.15 am	Eucharist
	11.00 am	Bible Study
16 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
17 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer

19th 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 am	Eucharist
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School

	6.30 pm	Carol Service
22 nd	10.15 am	Eucharist at Dunstan Court
		No Bible Study
24 th	5.00 pm	Christingle Service

Children, please remember to bring an orange

11.00 pm Midnight Mass

25th 10.00 am Christmas Day Eucharist

26th ST STEPHEN, DEACON AND FIRST MARTYR

	10.00 am	Eucharist
29 th	10.15 am	Eucharist

January**2nd 2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

	8.00 am	Eucharist (BCP)
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist
5 th	10.15 am	Eucharist at Dunstan Court
	11.00 am	Bible Study
6 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer at St. John's, Hills Road(?)

7 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
8 th	10.30 am	Coffee Morning

9th EPIPHANY

8.00 am	Eucharist
10.00 am	All Age Eucharist

The Traidcraft stall will be open after both services

12 th	10.15 am	Eucharist
	11.00 am	Bible Study
	8.00 pm	PCC Meeting
13 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
14 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer

16th 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8.00 am	Eucharist
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School

19 th	10.15 am	Eucharist
	11.00 am	Bible Study
20 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
21 st	9.30 am	Morning Prayer

23rd 3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8.00 am	Eucharist
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School & 4 th Sunday Group

26 th	10.15 am	Eucharist
	11.00 am	Bible Study
27 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
28 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer

30th CANDLEMAS

8.00 am	Eucharist
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School

SERVICES**Sunday**

8.00 a.m. Eucharist

10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (All-age Eucharist: 1st Sunday of the month)

Wednesday

10.15 a.m. Eucharist (last Weds. of month: St Dunstan's Court)

Thursday and Friday

9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2011**ISSUE of CROSSPIECE****WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY**

The Editors welcome articles, news items and photographs for inclusion in the magazine. If possible these should be in digital form, photos and words in separate files. However we can accept typed or handwritten items and photographic prints.