CROSSPIECE



The Parish Magazine of St James's Church, Cambridge

December 2013 - January 2014

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Browsing the bookstall at the Christmas Fair.

See Page 6 for suggestions for your Advent reading

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A Word from Geoffrey

Last Easter I returned to Durham. It was almost sixty years since I was last there. Rita and I, just before we were married and for some time afterwards, lived in the north-east and Durham was the place we often headed for on our days off. We did our courting strolling by the river which flows below the massive fortress of a Cathedral and we would always stop for refreshments at a boathouse transformed into a teashop. But it was in the Cathedral we spent most of our time, although neither of us belonged to the Church of England in those days.

So this Easter visit held many precious and painful memories. I lit a candle for Rita, found a quiet corner where I could be alone, said a few prayers and shed a few tears. And I remembered Alice. Not that I ever met Alice and I don't even know if that was her real name. I've christened her *Alice* because there was more than a touch of Wonderland about her.

It was the Christmas season and we joined the priest, the choir and a handful of others for evensong. The shadows were a perfect setting for the glittering Christmas tree, the golden altar and the candles which flickered in the chancel. The choir was in full flood when Alice's appearance made everyone gasp. Suddenly a dumpy little lady, wearing a silver plastic raincoat and carrying a shopping bag emerged from behind a pillar and stood before the altar, nonchalantly gazing around and apparently immune to the fact that she had erupted in the middle of a service. Taking her time she descended the altar steps, strolled

through the chancel and stopped a chorister in the middle of a canticle to ask the way out. He pointed her in the right direction and she disappeared as mysteriously as she had arrived.

It is a memory I treasure and often think about at Christmas. Indeed one Midnight Christmas service I preached on Alice. My sermon began, *Once upon a time* I am still tempted to pinch myself and ask if she really happened.

This plump, middle-aged woman reminds me of so many people who find themselves a bit lost in church at Christmas time. Maybe some barely recognised sense of nostalgia had drawn them there, a half-remembered childhood Christmas perhaps. The children or grandchildren are taking part in the Christingle service and it would be lovely to get a photo of them holding their candles. There are the carols -- there aren't many opportunities to have a good sing these days and some of the words are still familiar. What could be nicer than *Once in Royal David's City*? Or it might be a yearly ritual to attend the Midnight Mass: there is something romantic about beginning Christmas Day on the stroke of twelve.

Alice was probably one of these now-and-again visitors and many of them must share with her a bewilderment about what it all means to the regulars who are there week by week, some of whom are so familiar with what's going on that they don't even need a book. I hope some of our visitors stop to ask – not the way out, but the way in.

Rev'd Geoffrey Howard

Would you like to prepare for Confirmation – or join a group in which you can explore the Christian faith, learn more about God, the Church and the Christian tradition?

We will be offering Confirmation classes from the end of February, leading up to a Confirmation Service at St. James on 15 June 2014 with Bishop John Taylor, the retired Bishop of St. Albans, who assists in Ely Diocese.

Classes are open to anyone who will be 13 in 2014, who wants to deepen their faith, and we will offer separate classes for young people and adults.

Introducing our ordinand, Max

Max Drinkwater

I started training for ministry at Westcott House in the centre of Cambridge this autumn, and will be three years before I am (hopefully) ordained. I am back in Cambridge after a year away, having studied for my first degree at Jesus College, so Cambridge is certainly starting to feel more and more like 'home.'

I spent last year working as an assistant in a group of parishes in Hornsey, North London, which was an excellent opportunity to explore my vocation. I helped the clergy out with all sorts of aspects of parish life and worked alongside colleagues who were also discerning their vocation to ministry. Two of us in three parishes were able to run a varied programme of Sunday evening services, work with local schools, co-ordinate a shelter for homeless guests during the winter and plenty more! I was very grateful for the chance to get so involved with a Church and I know they were just as grateful to have us around. My colleague is now training for ministry in Oxford.

Before that I read Classics in Cambridge: Latin, Greek and Ancient History. Although I didn't know it at the time, the course was excellent preparation for theology. I was particularly interested in Roman history, which set the context for the growth of the early Church, but I also kept up a love of the linguistics of Greek, Latin and even a little Sanskrit (an ancient Indian language). I am enjoying the chance to study Hebrew this year. I met my fiancée, Charlotte, at Jesus College, who also read Classics and is now teaching at the Perse Upper School on Hills Road. She trained last year in Birmingham (her family home) on a mixed-mode programme, spending four days a week in the classroom and one studying in the training

centre.

My family are from Cheltenham, which is a lovely place to go back 'home' to. Although I will be the first of any recent relatives to enter the ordained ministry (I have a great-great-uncle who was a vicar in Surrey and whose Church, which we visited recently, has a stained glass window in his memory), I was brought up going to the local Anglican Church and very much enjoyed the village community which was built up around it. I have one younger brother who is studying lighting design in London at the moment, hoping to find work in the theatre.

Aside from study and prayer, I have always been a keen bell-ringer and enjoy ringing as well as the social side that often comes with it. I used to sing in the Church choir when I was younger, but haven't sung regularly since (and haven't managed to join in at St James's yet!). I've often enjoyed exploring the countryside on foot or on bike, and the lack of better hills is the only disappointment about Cambridgeshire!



The photograph is of Charlotte and me at our leaving party from Hornsey.

We hope to be able to include a profile of ordinand Monica Cameron in our next edition.

Shopping at <u>amazon</u>? If you go to the church website http://stjamescambridge.org.uk, and then to the fund-raising page, you can click on the link to **amazon**. When you make your purchase, the church will receive a commission of about 5%. This will cost you nothing and is a painless way to boost our income..

.....and not yet an ordinand

James Spence

Hi, my name is James. I am married to Emily and we have been living in Cambridge for 7 years. We have two young daughters, which means I have had to get used to a lot of pink! Our daughters are also very good at keeping us entertained and busy.

I currently work as a product manager for a computer software company, splitting my working time between Cambridge, London and our customers' offices. My job isn't as geeky as it sounds, although I do spend quite a bit of time in front of a computer and thinking about how our software can best meet the requirements of customers.

Since September I have been placed at St James' Church as part of my preparation before starting training to be a Church of England vicar in September 2014. I didn't know much about St James's before I arrived but everyone has been extremely welcoming and it is wonderful to see a group of people with a desire to love God. There



have been lots of opportunities to get involved at the church and I have already learnt a lot from my experiences here that will help me in the future.

I have been thinking and praying about becoming a vicar for a few years now. It will not be easy to give

up work and make changes to our lifestyle, like moving house. However, in a society that seems to know less about God, I think it is important to be able to teach and demonstrate God's love towards people and what he did for us through Jesus Christ. I am looking forward to starting training in order to be able to grow my faith and be better equipped to help other people grow theirs. My prayer is that as a vicar I will help people get to know Jesus better.

In my spare time I enjoy watching films and sport. I am a Liverpool FC fan so this season has been better to watch than the past few - so far! I am really looking forward to getting more involved in the life of St James' Church over the next few months and would like to thank everyone for their welcome and support thus far.

A Celebratory Drum

We wait for the one who will come not like a bauble that hangs on a tree with the aching sweetness of a sugarplum, nor like a lost tune that we try in vain to hum.

He will heal the deaf and dumb. He will bring reality to those who are numb.
He is king
and servant,
at home in palace
and in slum.
He has given us
love that throbs
in our hearts
like the beat
of a celebratory drum.

Lord, we thank you, even as we wait, for making us what we shall become.



Judith Pinhey

A visit to



In September this year Chris and I chose Brecon in South Wales for a week's guided walking holiday. The first full day, Sunday, was forecast to be cold and wet, and so we decided to go to the morning eucharist at the Cathedral rather than spend all day walking in the mountains. We chose wisely. The Cathedral was in joyous mood. There was a Festal Eucharist celebrating ninety years of the founding of the Cathedral and Diocese, together with Holy Cross day, and their Gift Day. At the same time they were celebrating the pass-

ing, by the governing body of the Church in Wales, of the motion permitting the appointment of women bishops.

Brecon Cathedral has been a site of Christian worship for more than a thousand years, dating from the time of the Celtic church before the Norman Conquest. In 1093 a Benedictine Priory, linked to Bat-

tle Abbey was established there and continued until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1537. The priory church then became the parish church of Brecon until 1923, when it was raised to Cathedral status as the mother church of the newly created Diocese of Swansea and Brecon. In 1920 the Anglican church in Wales had been disestablished and separated from the established Church of England to become an independent member of the Anglican Communion as "The Church in Wales" or "Yr Eglwys yng Nchymru".

The Cathedral is set in a walled Close, which is unique in Wales. The buildings in the Cathedral Close are the remains of the former monastic buildings, and today provide diocesan offices, housing for Cathedral clergy, a Heritage Centre and the Pilgrim Tearooms. It is set on a rise above the river Honddu, which joins the river Usk a few

hundred yards downstream (hence the Welsh name for Brecon, "Aberhonddu").

We arrived at the Cathedral in good time for a 10 am service, to discover that the Sunday morning Eucharist was at 11.00. This gave us time for a leisurely stroll around Brecon to view the mouth of the Honddu and the famous Usk bridge, and then to return for a warming morning coffee in the Pilgrim Tearooms before the service began.



The Festal Eucharist was very well attended. It opened with a welcome from the Dean before the Procession of clergy, choristers and Bishop entered to the hymn "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name." The music for the liturgy Schubert's was Mass in G. and the

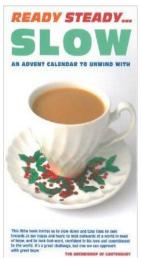
anthem was the lovely John Goss motet, "O Saviour of the world". The Dean preached about the Holy Cross (or rood) and the shocking conjunction of the word holy with an instrument of torture and execution.

After the service, we were all invited to stay for refreshments, which included a glass of champagne, and a chance to meet the clergy and other members of the congregation. We returned to our hotel refreshed in body and spirit, to enjoy our excellent packed lunch and to have a swim in the pool. Our fellow guests returned at teatime wet through and exhausted. And yes! We did walk on all the other days and enjoyed the splendid scenery of the Brecon Beacons.

Mary Calladine

ADVENT READING 2013

Ready Steady...SLOW: An Advent Calendar to Unwind with.



This little book invites us to slow down in Advent and take time to look inwards at our hopes and fears; to look outwards at a world in need of hope; and to look God-ward, confident in God's love and commitment to the world.

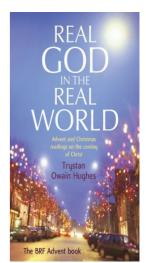


A good Advent book for busy people, with a short reflection, bible reading, prayer and practical challenge for every day - and it fits in your pocket.

If you would like a copy please let Jutta know: cost ~£4.50

Real God in the Real World by Trystan Owain Hughes, Anglican Chaplain of Cardiff University

An Advent & Christmas book with a daily reading and two page reflection for every day from 1 Dec until 6 January, aiming to help us recognise the person of Jesus in the people we meet, the conversations we have, as well as in our relationship with nature and the arts. The reflections are down to earth, rooted in our culture. Published by brf (Bible Reading Fellowship) at £7.99



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS GROUP

In December and January the home group will focus on Advent & Christmas themes:

Expecting, Coming,
Journey, Light to the Nations

Wednesdays 4 & 18 December, 8 & 22 January 7.30 pm – at 37 Kinnaird Way Sign-up sheet in the foyer

All the Fun of the Christmas Fair









DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2014 ISSUE of *CROSSPIECE* Monday 20 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.



CONCERTS AT CHRISTMAS



<u>Friday 13th December</u> - Cantus will present "A Boy Was Born" at St James Church 7.30pm. We will be singing excerpts from Britten "A boy was born", plus other seasonal choral items and audience carols.

Tickets on the door £6, under 16s free. Wine and mince pies served in the interval.

<u>Wednesday 18th December</u> - The Quest Singers present "Christmas....and all that jazz" at St James Church 7.00pm. A mixture of light choral pieces plus carols, and audience participation.

Tickets on the door £5, under 18s free. Refreshments available after the concert.

<u>Saturday 21st December</u> - Balsham Singers present their Christmas Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham at 7.30pm Programme will include excerpts from "The Messiah", plus other seasonal songs, with audience carols too.

Tickets £8, Family ticket £20. Mulled wine & mince pies served in the interval.

John Clenaghan



Salt or Yeast?

To do or to be?
Is this a false dichotomy?
To be or to do?
When will points in heaven accrue?

To be like salt or yeast?
A breath of air from west to east
To be like yeast or salt?
Quick to forgive, slow to find fault

To be like Christ and walk His way Today, tomorrow every day He gave us all that we would need And the book is there for us to read

He preached and spread His word Some knew, some learnt, some heard They lived by His example Chances to live His love are ample

Linda Appleby

Little Gidding



'Midwinter spring is its own season', says T.S. Eliot in the first line of the last of his *Four Quartets*. Well, it wasn't quite mid-winter, but only a rather sunny late autumn morning when Jennifer suggested we should get the car out and go for a mystery outing. She refused to tell me where.

The quotation was in fact quite appropriate, for we ended up at the village of Little Gidding, some twenty miles or so north-east of Cambridge. Eliot's poem was titled after the village and inspired by the history of the little church there, St John's, and the family who lived in the vicarage and worshipped there.

Ferrar House, as the one-time vicarage is now called, is named after Nicholas Ferrar, a 17th-century City bigwig and friend of the great Anglican poet George Herbert. Nicholas Ferrar was born in London, and in 1605, aged 13, he entered Clare Hall, Cambridge. He was elected a fellow-commoner at the end of his first year, took his B.A. in 1610 and appointed a Fellow the following year. It was as a Cambridge undergraduate that he first met George Herbert.

Upon returning to London after several years spent travelling abroad, Ferrar found that the family fortunes, primarily invested in Virginia, were under threat. The London Virginia Company lost its charter in May, 1624, so in 1626 Nicholas and his extended family left London, bought the manor of Little Gidding and restored the abandoned little church for their use. The household always had someone at prayer and had a strict routine. They tended to the health and education of local children, and the fame of the Ferrar household became widespread, attracting many visitors. King Charles I, for example, visited Little Gidding three times, on the last of which he briefly took refuge after the Battle of Naseby in 1645.

The Ferrar family continued their devout Christian life

there in spite of facing the hostility of the Puritans of Cromwell's time. In the small exhibition in the house there is a battered copper font recovered from a ditch after the church was vandalised during this period. The little community survived until Ferrar's immediate descendants died.

Nearly three centuries later, in 1936, the poet T.S. Eliot visited the site and was moved to reflect upon the Church and its history in the last of his *Four Quartets: Little Gidding*. Not surprisingly, there is now a meeting-room in the former vicarage called the Eliot Room, complete with portrait of the maestro himself and a most unusual crucifix. Prayers, using the Franciscan Daily Office, are said daily at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Friends of Little Gidding was founded in 1946 under the patronage of T. S. Eliot, to maintain and adorn the church at Little Gidding, and to honour the life of Nicholas Ferrar and his family and their life there. The house and the church are frequently used nowadays for retreats, for which the house, the church and the environment are ideally suited. The leaflet describing the house defines its purpose as 'to offer a

secluded hospitality to pilgrims seeking the opportunity to reflect on their journey'.

Finding Little Gidding Church is not the easiest matter, even if your map-reading skills are in good order, but it is unforgettable once you have stumbled upon it. The blurb describes it as 'a secluded place in re-Huntingdonmote shire countryside which has borne



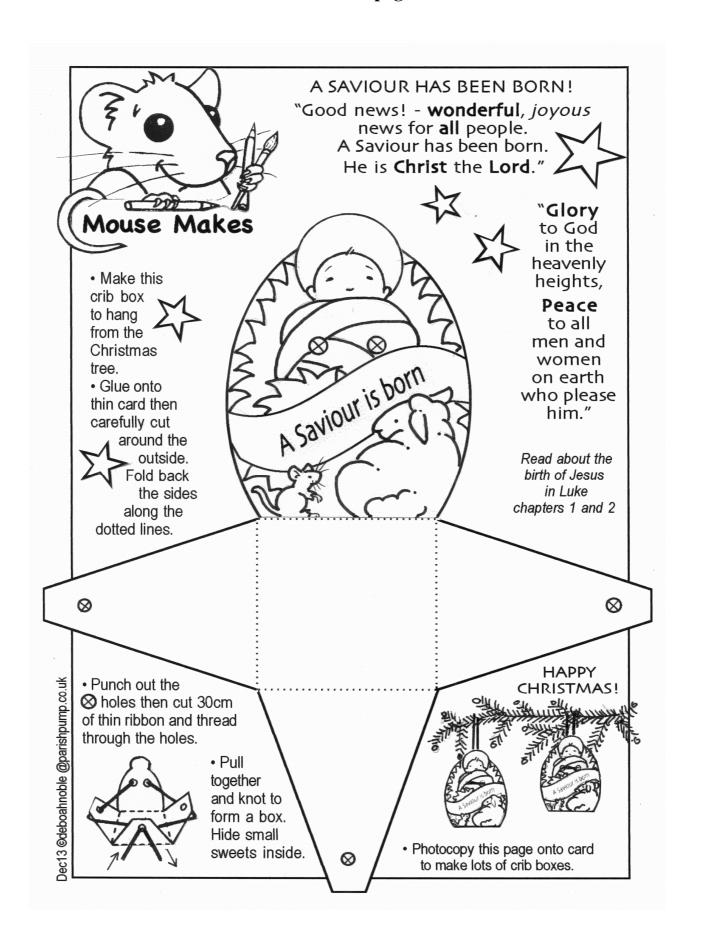
Crucifix in Ferrar House

witness to turbulent times over a thousand years with serenity, simplicity and peace', and the kindly Warden, Wendy Skirrow, is a most charming and helpful hostess.

James Dav

PS: The nearby village of Leighton Bromswold, which we went on to next, was the parish of Ferrar's friend, George Herbert, who wrote "Let All the World in Every Corner Sing", "Teach me my God and King" and "King of Glory, King of Peace." We can also recommend The Green Man pub there!

Children's page



Contacts at St James's Church

Priest in Charge The Revd 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

Associate Priest The Revd Debbie Ford, 363113

email: deborahford@gmail.com

Churchwarden Edward Westrip, 40596

Director of Music: John Clenaghan, 837955

email: john.clenaghan@sky.com

Church Office 246419, Mon & Fri

9.15 am -1.45 pm

e-mail: stjameschurchcambridge@yahoo.co.uk

Website: http://stjamescambridge.org.uk

Church & Community Activities

Choir practice: (Mon) Juniors 6.15pm, Seniors 6.45pm

Parents & Toddlers (Thurs) Wendy Lane, 244850

Brownies (7-10 yrs) QES Kerrie Thackray

email: 40thbrownies@gmail.com

Beavers (6-8 vrs) Brendan Murrill

07561 137493

Cubs (8-11 yrs) at QE School Stephen Harrison,

07548 765421

ROOM HIRE: Rooms at the church can be hired for meetings or other activities. Kitchen available. For rates and further information, please contact the Church Office (see adjacent column).

Crosspiece Editorial Board:

Mary Calladine Correspondence to: James Dav Crosspiece Editor Jennifer Day St James's Church Ron Ferrari Wulfstan Wav Cambridge CB1 8QJ

or e-mail to:

stjameschurchcambridge@yahoo.co.uk

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St James's Church, Cambridge: Calendar for December - January

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Dece	<u>mber</u>			8.00 am	Eucharist (BCP)	
A warm welcome is extended to everyone to join us				10.00 am	All Age Eucharist	
for our Christmas services – please see below for					The Traidcraft stall will be open after	
		as services – please see below for	41-		both services	
details.			8^{th}	10.15 am	Eucharist at Dunstan Court	
			- th	7.30 pm	Home Group (Focus on Christmas)	
$\mathbf{1^{st}}$		Y OF ADVENT	9 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
	8.00 am	Eucharist (BCP)		11.00 am	Hymn Service at Hinton Grange Care	
	10.00 am	All Age Eucharist	a oth		Home	
		The Traidcraft stall will be open after	10^{th}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		both services	11 th	12.30 pm	Meditation Group	
	4.00 pm	Bassoon and Piano Recital. All wel	11	10.30 am	Coffee Morning	
4th	10.15	come	12 th	THE DADT	TEM OF CUDICT	
4 th	10.15 am	Eucharist at Dunstan Court	14	8.00 am	TISM OF CHRIST Eucharist	
5 th	7.30 pm	Advent Group (Details on page)		10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School	
6 th	9.30 am 9.30 am	Morning Prayer	15 th	10.00 am	Eucharist Eucharist	
0		Morning Prayer	16 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
	12.30 pm	Meditation Group	10	8.00 pm	PCC Meeting	
8 th	2nd SUNDA	Y OF ADVENT	17^{th}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
o	8.00 am	Eucharist	17	12.30 pm	Meditation Group	
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School		12.50 pm	Weditation Group	
	7.30 pm	Advent Taizé Service	19 th	2 nd SUNDA	AY OF EPIPHANY	
11^{th}	10.15 am	Eucharist		8.00 am	Eucharist	
	6.00 pm	Lighting of Christmas tree,		10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School	
	oroo piii	Wulfstan Way shops	22^{nd}	10.15 am	Eucharist	
12^{th}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer		7.30 pm	Home Group (Focus on Epiphany)	
	11.00 am	Carol Service at Hinton Grange Care	23^{rd}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
		Home	24^{th}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
13^{th}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer		12.30 pm	Meditation Group	
	12.30 pm	Meditation Group				
$14^{\rm th}$	10.30 am	Coffee Morning	26 th		Y OF EPIPHANY	
				8.00 am	Eucharist	
15 th		Y OF ADVENT		10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School &	
	8.00 am	Eucharist		. 20	4 th Sunday Group	
41-	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School	a oth	6.30 pm	Prayer and Praise Informal Worship	
18^{th}	10.15 am	Eucharist	29 th	10.15 am	Eucharist	
4 oth	7.30 pm	Advent Group	30 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
19 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	31^{st}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
20^{th}	9.30 am	Morning Prayer		12.30 pm	Meditation Group	
	12.30 pm	Meditation Group				
22 nd	4th CLIMDA	Y OF ADVENT	February 2014			
22	8.00 am	Eucharist	_			
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School &	2 nd	CANDLE	MAS (Presentation of Christ in the	
4 th	10.00 am	Sunday Group			Temple)	
•	6.30 pm	Carol Service followed by mulled		8.00 am	Eucharist (BCP)	
	oleo pin	wine and mince pies		10.00 am	All Age Eucharist with	
24 th	CHRISTMA				Christingles (bring an orange)	
		Crib Service			The Traidcraft stall will be open	
	_	Midnight Mass			after both services	
25 th	CHRISTMA				ajter both services	
	10.00 am		SERVICES			
				Sunday		
29 th				8.00 a.m. Eucharist		
	8.00 am	Eucharist	10 a.ı	m. Paris	h Eucharist (All-age Eucharist: 1st	
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist			Sunday of the month)	
			Wednesday			

January 2014

We wish everyone a happy New Year

1st 10.15 am Eucharist (to be confirmed)

5th EPIPHANY

10.15 a.m. Eucharist (first Weds. of month:

Dunstan Court)

Thursday and Friday

9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer