CROSSPIECE



The Parish Magazine of St James's Church, Cambridge

December 2016- January 2017

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Fun at the pumpkin

Picnic



See p5

Words from the Vicarage

Are you dreaming of a white Christmas? The probability of snow falling on Christmas Day in the southern part of the UK is 15%, because it's expected to be too mild for snow in the south. Sorry to disappoint if you were hoping for snow. But of course, you never know, it still might happen.

For many of us, snow is synonymous with Christmas. Christmas cards, songs and movies all portray a 'white Christmas'. However, for most parts of the United Kingdom, Christmas is right at the beginning of the period when it's likely to snow. Looking at climate history, wintry weather is more likely between January and March than December. Snow or sleet falls on average five days in December, compared to 7.6 days in January, 6.8 days in February and six days in March.

White Christmases were more frequent in the 18th and 19th centuries. Even though none of us will recall Christmases from so long ago we might still have a longing for a flurry of snow-flakes as we draw back the curtains on Christmas morning. The statistics and reality tell us that it is unlikely but that doesn't stop us wondering if it will happen.

That's exactly what Christmas is all about. Statistics and our own experience may tell us that it is highly unlikely that a child was born to a 'virgin', that a choir of angels an-

nounced this news to some shepherds and that three wise man followed a star bringing gifts. And yet we still wonder....

If we unpicked the various details of the nativity story we might discover that it rings true in different ways. For example, the understanding of the term 'virgin' meant unmarried, and therefore it was assumed that an unmarried woman would not have children. But the reality was surely different, just as it is today. We have all grown up with preconceptions and idealised fantasies about Christmas that inform our expectations of what a 'proper' or traditional Christmas should be like.

The only genuine expectation we need to have for Christmas is that we will learn something about how much we are loved by God. That might be revealed in the singing of carols, it might be revealed through sharing time with loved ones, it might be revealed through exchanging gifts. It might even be revealed in a single snow flake falling on Christmas Eve. You never know....

Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Revd Steve Rothwell







Welcome to our two new ordinands

We are very happy that ordinand Fergus is still with us. We value all he contributes to our worship, especially his involvement with the young people on a Sunday morning. Now we are delighted to welcome Ben, training at Westcott House and Rebecca training at Ridley Hall.



I am husband to Caroline and father to Isadora (7) and Bertie (3), and we come from Stowmarket in Suffolk, although I am originally a Londoner from Waltham Forest. I studied Theatre at Coventry University the first time around, but lost interest in the theatrical world and instead worked for the family firm as a salesman, a pest control technician and finally as 'office manager' (which was an all-encompassing role!).

My life as a Christian is essentially in two sections — I was taught as a Roman Catholic by my mother and baptised by a Franciscan friar, Fr William, at St Anthony of Padua in Forest Gate, London. His gentle and smiling face and bright eyes have always been with me throughout my life, and it is a sadness that I am unable, at this point at least, to share with him the joy of my return to faith.

For many years I was angry with and ambivalent to God – childhood events began to take their toll on my life, and although I did not lose belief in God, we were not at all friends. Meeting and marrying Caroline changed all of this, however, and since the flame of faith was reignited in my heart during our wedding ceremony, Christ has led me on a narrow, painful but ultimately joyous path back towards the God who, it turns out, had never once abandoned me, but had loved me so much as to allow me to beat my fists against His chest, finally to collapse in sobs and be consoled by His loving kindness. Only then did He whisper to me, "Now then my son, I have a plan for you..."

And here I am. I only know so much of that plan, Him patiently unfolding it at a pace I can deal with, and I find myself amongst the vibrancy and friendliness of St James. Caroline, the children and I have enjoyed a warm welcome and hope to become part of the community of saints here for a while. I hope to speak to as many of you as I can, for we are each other's teachers, of course, and I am here to learn as much as I can from you all. God bless.

Ben Edwards



My name is Rebecca Tuck and I'm an ordinand from Ridley Hall. I have moved here from Chigwell, in the Diocese of Chelmsford with my husband Simon and our two children Abigail, 7 and Noah, 5. We live in Cherry Hinton, right next to the big Fulbourn Tesco and both children attend Cherry Hinton C of E Primary School.

Before starting my training I was a Primary School Teacher for 15 years and as an Early Years Specialist worked in schools, children's centres and as a consultant. In my sending parish of Chigwell and Chigwell Row I was involved with children's ministry,

(Continued on page 4)

teaching, mission and evangelism. Simon was a Bus Controller in Central London and was very happy to move to Cambridge, not only for a change of occupation, but also because he is a very keen cyclist.

Unlike Simon, who grew up in Croydon, my formative years were not spent in a suburban environment, but in a small rural village in North Norfolk. It was there that I attended Sunday school and was introduced to the Christian faith. But it wasn't until much later that I decided I wanted to fully commit my life to Christ. That decision was made during a sermon on the Trinity on 26th May 2013.

Not long before this I had started going to church because Abigail, upon seeing a church building one day asked me if it was a castle. So it was really from that moment that we as a whole family came to know Jesus and began to accept his call on our lives.

For me that has included embarking upon training for Ordained Ministry this term. We are really excited to be here and to be joining St James

Church. Abigail and Noah will be baptized here in the New Year and Simon is going to be confirmed after that.

Our story reminds me a little of the whole families mentioned in the Bible who were baptised together. Like that of Lydia, the purple cloth merchant. "...she and her household were baptized..." Acts 16:15 (NRSV)

In our case it hasn't been quite so instant, but it has felt that way for me, I think. So much has changed for us in such a short period of time. I feel as if I can hardly keep up with all the work that God is doing in our lives right now. It's been surprising and exciting.

We are so thankful for the warm welcome we have had so far here at St James and we are glad be a part of this loving church family. We pray that our journey together will continue to be both surprising and exciting.

Rebecca Tuck

All the fun of the Christmas Fair







Pumpkin picnic 2016

In 2015, we were approached by Cambridge sustainable foods to ask if we would take part in their Pumpkin celebrations, which we agreed to do. Max and Charlotte took on this project and successfully organised a Pumpkin Picnic.

This year, due to the success of last year, we agreed to hold it again. After discussion with Max, Fergus and I put together a programme and along with the help of Mary Smale, Ben, Rebecca and Emma we put it into action.

The day exceeded our expectations: over 70 children plus adults, making over 100

people, took part in the picnic. The events and entertainment included pumpkin carving, craft activities, parachute games and singing, and we finished with a chocolate pumpkin treasure hunt. We also provided food, with Mary doing the catering. There was pumpkin soup and bread, pumpkin pie, along with the *bring and share* food brought by the parents.

The whole thing was a complete success, everyone appeared to enjoy the day. This was due to all the help and hard work put in by those involved. Many thanks to you all.

Pam Butler



Pumpkin art



Pumpkin soup:

made by Mary,

served by Fergus,

enjoyed by Joanna

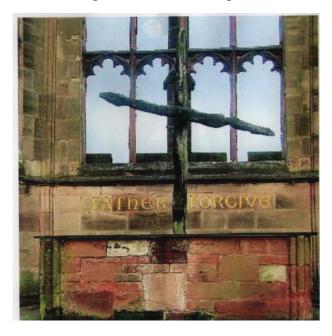


Remembrance and Reconciliation – Coventry Cathedral and the Community of the Cross of nails

Early November is a time of remembrance. We celebrate three festivals of remembrance in the church year, All Saints on the 1st, All Souls on 2nd and Armistice Day on 11th November. Remembrance Sunday is the Sunday nearest to Armistice Day itself.



Our foyer display this year, as in 2013, focused on reconciliation, and told the story of Coventry Cathedral. On the night of 14 November 1940, the city of Coventry was devastated by a Luftwaffe bombing raid. The medieval cathedral of St Michael was hit by several incendiary bombs and burned with the city. Next morning the Provost, Richard Howard, went into the still smouldering ruins, and standing in the midst of



Oak cross made from the charred roof timbers in the sanctuary of the old cathedral ruins

the rubble wrote the words "Father forgive" on the sanctuary wall.

Shortly thereafter, the cathedral stonemason, Jock Forbes, noticed that two of the charred roof timbers had fallen in the shape of a cross. He set them up in the ruined sanctuary where they were later placed on an altar of rubble in front of the words "Father forgive". Another cross was fashioned from three medieval nails found in the rubble by local priest Arthur Wales. The Cross of nails has become the symbol of Coventry's ministry of reconciliation.



Cross of nails on the high altar of the new cathedral

The decision to rebuild the cathedral was taken the morning after its destruction. It was the vision of Provost Dick Howard that it should be a sign of faith, trust and hope for the future of the world, and it led the people of Coventry away from feelings of bitterness and hatred. This has led on to the cathedral's ministry of peace and reconciliation, which provides spiritual and practical support in areas of conflict throughout the world. A major part of this ministry is the "Community of the Cross of Nails", which today is an international network of over 170 partners in 35 countries committed to a shared ministry of reconciliation.



Cross of nails in the rebuilt Frauenkirche in Dresden

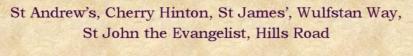
Especially close bonds have been forged with the German cities of Dresden and Hamburg, which suffered severe destruction and loss of life in allied bombing raids.

The new cathedral building, designed by Sir Basil Spence, was consecrated on 25 May 1962. The ruins remain hallowed ground and together the two create one living Cathedral.



Remembrance Sunday display in the sanctuary of our own St James Church, reflecting Coventry's ministry of reconciliation

Mary Calladine



STUDY COURSE FOR A DVFNT



Advent Art

2.00-3.30 Tuesday 29th November 7.30-9.00 Wednesday 30th November (St John the Evangelist, Hills Road)

Advent Poetry

2.00-3.00 Wednesday 7th December 7.30-9.00 Thursday 8th December (St Andrew's, Cherry Hinton)

Advent Music

2.00-3.30 Tuesday 13th December 7.30-9.00 Wednesday 14th December (St James', Wulfstan Way)

ALL WELCOME

A Wonderful Opportunity for Study and Christian growth

Here at St James we are aiming to reintroduce the kind of enriching studies that were run by the former Focus Christian Institute. The first venture will be a Focus course next term, starting on **Tuesday 17th January, 2017**.

The title of the course will be "The Gospel of John for today" and we want it to be for anyone who wants to go deeper into the Christian faith.

The teaching and discussion will be led by David F Ford (Regis Professor of Divinity Emeritus). The evening sessions will start with tea and coffee served from 7:45 pm, before a prompt start at 8:00 pm, and will finish at 9:30 pm.

The title of the individual sessions will be:

- (1) Learning to Read the Gospel of John, Tuesday 17th January
- (2) Learning to Pray the Gospel of John, Tuesday 31st January
- (3) Learning to Live the Gospel of John, Tuesday 14th February
- (4) Learning to Be a Community, Tuesday 28th February

These will be followed by a day session in preparation for Holy Week, running from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday 8th April, with the title "Deeper into St John's Passion"

The intention is to charge a fee of £20 to cover the course, or £5 to attend a one-off evening session, or £10 for the final day session.

Bill Broadhurst

The Ginger Jar

The squat ginger jar is cracked The lid is split The pieces lie on the ledge Only wanting a strong glue

Over the years the fat jar signalled its deficiency The body of the jar and its two crocks A broken gift, cracked like its boss A fearful hint of what might have been

Short, bulbous jar, bevelled with raised Chinese conformations
Cut and set in pink embossment
Ornamented with raised work
A symmetrical womb

But now I see
The pieces go together
No sign of fracture
The lid fits on the base

A timely Christmas gift Fruit of the healing womb Adding unbroken omens to a welcoming home

Linda Appleby



Flying the nest!

When Caroline, our youngest, was about 10 years old she told Grae that she was going to study Maths at Cambridge and he would therefore have to leave. Well, last year she got an offer from Cambridge (Murray Edwards College) to study Natural Sciences, so, to fulfill our end of the bargain, we left to spend a sabbatical year at Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut USA, where Grae was given a visiting professorship. The year has flown by!

Much of our year was spent travelling, starting with a week in Oaxaca, Mexico over my 50th birthday, where we managed some dancing in the street to live music and had some quite exotic insects to eat! Oaxaca was a real surprise. It has an amazing Ethnobotanical Garden, which was championed by Mexico's most famous artist, Francisco Toledo, rather than by a botanist, and so has quite a different layout to many botanic gardens. It is only 20 years old but they have nonetheless managed to fill it with very old, mature indigenous plants. We also visited the frozen waterfalls near Oaxaca at Hierve el Agua, which are not waterfalls at all but rather deposits of calcium carbonate that are formed like stalactites and quite breathtaking.



We also took a month out of our visit to Yale for Grae to teach at the African Institute for Mathematical Studies (AIMS) in Muizenburg,

South Africa. AIMS brings together graduate students from very diverse backgrounds all over Africa to study courses taught by mathematicians from all over the world. The Institute is housed in a former hotel, where the students all live, eat and study together for one year. It was an amazing experience all round as we also lived and ate with the students and they kindly shared their culture with us. Interestingly, it was hard to agree on which country had the best food! One weekend, we took a 4-hour drive north of Cape Town to Clanwilliam in the Western Cape, which is on the edge of the beautiful Cederberg mountain range. Early the next morning (it was very hot at 40C so we needed to be out early) we joined a guide and were taken on a 5-mile walk to see ancient San rock art. The paintings were amazingly clear and our guide very knowledgeable - he had a wonderful way of telling the Bushman stories and describing how the paintings had been created and what to look for. It was well worth the long drive. Our time in South Africa finished with the wedding in Johannesburg of our nephew, Luke. You may remember Luke visiting St. James a few years ago - he gave a talk on the Iona community.

Of course, being away from the community of St. James, we wanted to find a place to worship for the year. We were very lucky that, after just 10 days, we came across St. Thomas's church (Sue and Stan Wilson came with me to check it out one Friday lunchtime), which was just a 10-minute walk along the road from our apartment. St. Thomas's felt like home from home! The very first service we attended had the choir singing Stanford's Beati Quorum Via, a favourite of ours and, as it was an All-Age Eucharist, the sermon was a retelling of Dr. Seuss's Yurtle the Turtle! The wonderful mix of gentle chaos and beautiful music made us feel at home immediately. At the coffee hour afterwards we discovered that, like St. James Cambridge, St. Thomas New Haven had just entered into an

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interregnum. Their priest had left after 30 years, and a series of conversations was in full swing regarding what would happen next. Unlike the UK, where parishes have to fend for themselves with a rota of visiting priests or, as in St. James's case, relying on the amazing support of associated and retired clergy, St. Thomas's very quickly appointed someone to the position of Priest-in-Charge (PIC). The PIC is a temporary appointment in the USA for 3-5 years only. It may or may not lead to a permanent appointment but it is made with the intention that the ministry of the PIC is to help the parish explore who they are, where they are going and what type of leadership is needed for the congregation to move into a new future. Revd Keri Aubert started her tenure in November and it felt as if we had known her for years. She was both challenging and strong while maintaining great respect and integrity for all that had been before in the parish; someone who had great prayerfulness and vitality.

As many of you know, music is very important to us and we were doubly fortunate to have found a church with an amazing choir. Having heard them sing the Stanford on the first Sunday, we immediately asked if we might be able to join the choir. Their music director had been organ scholar at Christ's College, Cambridge, and at Westminster Abbey and so they were steeped in English Church Choral music. We sang some amazing music throughout the year but the highlight came when St. Thomas's choir New Haven was invited to sing the morning service at St. Thomas's Church 5th Avenue, New York on 10 July 2016 – a real honour.



And of course we had visits from our girls at both Christmas (all four of them) and then again in August (just three of them). We spent the last 8 weeks of our year living in Woods Hole on Cape Cod with a beautiful view over the harbour, looking out to Martha's Vineyard (summer retreat for the rich and famous US politicians — Clinton, Trump and Obama were all there one weekend!). Woods Hole is a very special place for us. We spent a summer there with our girls about 10 years ago and it is probably Grae's favourite holiday destination: it's warm and sunny; on the coast with sailing op-

portunities; and houses the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), where every year there is a summer school based in a little cottage, where academics in fluid mechanics and oceanography gather to teach PhD students and run research projects, sitting on the veranda. It is a very relaxed and stimulating environment — a real time of refreshment. Woods Hole also has the best public library I have ever been to with really exciting talks (I went to a series on Dance!) and the freedom to borrow as many books as you can carry.

We did many more things in the year (Robben Island in Cape Town, Ground Zero in New York, driving from New Haven to Montreal through Vermont, visits from family and friends to name but a few) and of course it is always challenging living in a new place, so there were some ups and downs. Although it was a wonderful way to begin our life post-children, it is great to be back in Cambridge and exciting to be starting a new chapter in our married life, reconnecting with old friends and to be home again.

Jacqui Worster

Contacts at St James's Church

Priest in charge: The Revd Steve Rothwell

email: s.rothwell3@btinternet.com

Brownies (7-10 yrs) QES Kerrie Thackray

email: 40thbrownies@gmail.com

Beavers (6-8 yrs) Brendan Murrill

Cubs (8-11 yrs) at QE School

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07548 765421

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email: deborahford@gmail.com

Churchwardens Pam Butler, 07745 591235

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Pastoral Assistants: Mary Calladine 246742

Rosemary Monk 246421

Church Office 246419, Mon, Wed & Thur

9.15 am -1.15 pm

e-mail: stjameschurchcambridge@yahoo.co.uk

Website: http://stjamescambridge.org.uk

Director of Music: Position vacant

Church & Community Activities

Choir practice: (Mon) Juniors 6.30pm

Parents & Toddlers (Thurs) Wendy Lane, 244850

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

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DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY— **MARCH 2017** ISSUE of **CROSSPIECE**

Thursday 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.

21st

10.15 am

9.30 am

Eucharist

Morning Prayer (tbc)

St James's Church, Cambridge: Calendar for December 2016—January 2017

		3			,
Λ ωα	m welcome i	s extended to everyone to join us for		7.30 pm	Home Group
A warm welcome is extended to everyone to join us for				9.30 am	Morning Prayer (tbc)
our Christmas services – please see below for details.			23 rd	5.00 pm	Crib Service
				11.00 pm	Midnight Mass
Morning Prayer is said on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9.30 am. Everyone is welcome.			25 th	CHRISTMAS	=
and F	ridays at 9.30	am. Everyone is welcome.		10.00 am	All Age Eucharist
D			28 th	20100 0111	No mid week Eucharist
Dece	<u>mber</u>		_0		<u></u>
1"	9.00 am	Joint Morning Prayer with St	Janua	ry 2017	
		Andrew's and St John's here at St			a Happy New Year
2 nd	0.20.25	James'		•	•••
2	9.30 am	Morning Prayer Meditation Group	1st	The 2 nd SUN	DAY OF CHRISTMAS
3 rd	12.30 pm 10.00 am	•			No 8.00 am Eucharist
5	10.00 am	Children's Activity Morning (formerly Stir-up Saturday) for children up to		10.00 am	Sung Eucharist
		11 years old	4 th	10.15 am	Eucharist at Dunstan Court
		11 years old	5 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
4th	2nd SHNDAN	OF ADVENT	6 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
701	8.00 am	Eucharist (BCP)		12.30 pm	Meditation Group
	10.00 am	All Age Eucharist and Baptism			
		raft stall will be open after both	8th	EPIPHANY	
	services	and the second s		8.00 am	Eucharist (BCP)
7 th	10.15 am	Eucharist at Dunstan Court		10.00 am	All Age Eucharist and Baptism
8 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	a a th		ft stall will be open after both services
	2.30 pm	Christmas Hymn Service at Hinton	11 th	10.15 am	Eucharist
		Grange Care Home	12 th 13 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	7.30 pm	Home Group	13	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
9 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer		12.30 pm	Meditation Group
	12.30 pm	Meditation Group	15th	2nd SLINDAY	OF EPIPHANY
10 th	10.15 am	Coffee Morning	13(11	8.00 am	Eucharist
	5.00pm	Carols around the tree by shop		10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
		parade in Wulfstan Way	17 th	7.30 pm	Focus course on John's Gospel
th			-,	7.50 pm	begins
11 th	3rd SUNDAY		18 th	10.15 am	Eucharist
	8.00 am	Eucharist	19 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
		Advent breakfast in the Study Centre	20 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
13 th	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School Advent Study Course, <i>Music</i> , in the		12.30 pm	Meditation Group
13	2.30 pm	Nave			
14 th	10.15 am	Eucharist	22nd	3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	
14	2.30 pm	Christmas Hymn Service at Cherry		8.00 am	Eucharist
	2.50 pm	Hinton Nursing Home		10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
	7.30 pm	Advent Study Course, <i>Music</i> , in the	25 th	10.15 am	Eucharist
	7.00 p	Nave		8.00 pm	PCC Meeting in either Milton
15 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	+h		Room/Transept
16 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	26 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	12.30 pm	Meditation Group	27 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
	•	·		12.30 pm	Meditation Group
18th	h 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT			ALL CLUSTER	V OF EDIDLIANS
	8.00 am	Eucharist	29th		Y OF EPIPHANY
	8.45 am	Advent breakfast in the Study		8.00 am	Eucharist
		Centre	31 st	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School Focus course
	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School	21	7.30 pm	i ocus course
	6.30 pm	Carol Service followed by mulled			
21st		wine and mince pies			
175	10 1E am	Fucharist			